

Finding aid for the William F. Drueke photographs Collection 212

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
February 1997
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Drueke, William F, Jr., 1912-2000
Title	William F. Drueke photographs
Date [inclusive]	1958-1996
Extent	1.3 Linear feet Three boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>William F. Drueke, Jr. (1912-2000) was a Grand Rapids, Michigan businessman. He headed the family business, the Drueke Game Company. This collection contains photographs he took of various scenes in Grand Rapids from 1958 to 1979. The images depict urban renewal, including demolition of buildings. A large portion of the collection documents the construction of Interstate 96 through Grand Rapids. Also shown are many scenes of downtown Grand Rapids and the Grand River, including building projects and street scenes. Also included are a few items related to the Drueke Game Company and Drueke family genealogy.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

William F. Drueke Jr. (1912-2000) was one of two sons of William F. Drueke Sr. (1884-1956). William Drueke Sr., from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was a civic leader and a games manufacturer. His father, William Peter Drueke was in the wholesale liquor business until 1918. In 1914, Drueke Sr. founded the first American company to produce chess boards. The company expanded producing many types of game boards, using high quality Grand Rapids wood craftsmanship. In 1932, his children, Marian, Joe, and Bill (William Jr.), joined the company.

During the Second World War, the Drueke Game Company received a war contract to produce games for soldiers. The company took the status of incorporated in 1954. Two years later William Sr. died unexpectedly in Kentucky at the age of 72 en route to Florida with his wife. William F. Drueke Jr. took over the family business, running it until it was sold to Low Tech in 1987. The Drueke name remained on the products even after the company was sold again in 1992 to Carrom, based in Ludington.

Bill Drueke married Doris E. McLaughlin on January 25, 1941. They had seven children: Elizabeth, William F. (3rd), Carole, David, Mary Kay, Richard and Rose. Bill developed his photographic interests from Cresence Smith, his uncle. A May 3, 2000 obituary article in the Grand Rapids Press states that Drueke had his own darkroom, with one of his favorite images being a 1969 photo of the Calder sculpture, La Grande Vitesse, not part of this collection at this time.

Scope and Contents note

One third of the collection contains photographs of the construction of Interstate 96 in Grand Rapids between 1959 and 1966. Many stages of the construction process are shown. Approximately another third of the collection documents building construction and urban renewal in downtown Grand Rapids in the sixties and seventies. Most of the urban renewal is found in box 2. The third box contains photographs of people and events, however very few of the people are identified. The third box also contains information on the Drueke family and business.

A poster "Lakeside Club Bouquet," located in the flat files, is shown in a photo in Box 3, Folder 11 of this collection, but may not belong to this accession.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department February 1997

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

William F. Druke, accession number 1996.002

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 084, Furniture Manufacturers Association Collection has nine 1959 photos of Druke chess game pieces, perhaps carved by the same carvers who worked for the Grand Rapids furniture industry.

Coll. 263, GRPL Small Manuscript Collection, includes a biography of William Druke. Another copy may also be located in the departmental biography files.

Coll. 273, Father Dennis Morrow Collection. Father Morrow has included images from the Druke Coll. 212 in his slide presentations.

Jane Druke Biggins website <http://www.peterspioneers.com/IAJDB.htm>

Druke Company site. History <http://www.carrom.com/Site-Content/druke>

William Peter and Elizabeth Berles Druke Family family history site. William Peter was the grandfather of the donor, William F. Druke, Jr. <http://www.peterspioneers.com/WEBD.htm>

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Druke Games.
- Wm. F. Druke & Sons, Inc.

Genre(s)

- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Express highways -- Michigan -- History -- 20th century
- Urban renewal -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Pictorial Index

Armory- b.2, f.7

Brewery- b.2, f.5

Bridge Street (looking west)- b.2, f.15

Bridge Street Bridge- b.2, f.8

City-County Building- b.2, f.4

City Hall- b.2, f.7

Fanny Farmer- b.2, f.16

Federal Building- b.2, f.15

Fishermen in Grand River- b.2, f.15

Flat Iron Building- b.2, f.16

Fulton and Division- b.2, f.14

Fulton St. Bridge- b.2, f.8

Fulton St. West- b.2, f.8

Frye Building- b.2, f.15,16.

Grand Rapids Bedding Co.- b.2, f.8

Grand Rapids Public Library- b.2, f.14
Grand Rapids Press- b.2, f.7
Grand River Bridge- b.2, f.9
Grand River looking South- b.2, f.14
Immanuel Lutheran Church- b.2, f.15
Marywood Academy- b.2, f.9
Michigan Bridge- b.2, f.9
Michigan National Weatherball- b.2, f.15
Michigan Street Hill- b.2, f.8
Monarch Road Machinery (Old Red Schoolhouse)- b.2, f.15
Monroe St.- b.2, f.7
Monroe and Ottawa- b.2, f.16
Old Kent- b.2, f.4,16
Ottawa and Lyon- b.2, f.16
Peninsular Club- b.2, f.16
Rail Road Yards- b.2, f.8
Richard's Manufacturing Co.- b.2, f.15
Sixth St. Bridge- b.2, f.14
St. Adalberts (West Side)- b.2, f.15
St. Andrews- b.2, f.9
Townhouse Motel- b.2, f.14
Trow Bridge St. NE- b.2, f.7
Union Bank and Trust- b.2, f.5,15,16
Upper Monroe- b.2, f.7
Waters Building- b.2, f.16
Welsh Auditorium- b.2, f.9
Wurzburg's Building- b.2, f.16

Photographs

Collection Inventory

Photographs		
	Box	Folder
Freeway Construction 1959	1	1
Freeway Construction 1960	1	2
Freeway Construction 1962	1	3
Freeway Construction 1963	1	4
Freeway Construction 1964	1	5
Completed Freeway 1965, 1969	1	6
Completed Freeway 1966	1	7
Demolition of MI Liquor Control 1960	2	1
Post Office Construction 1961	2	2
Post Office Construction 1962	2	3
Building Construction 1965, 1967, 1969	2	4

Photographs

Building Construction Downtown 1966	2	5
Building Repairs (Chase Bowling) 1967	2	6
Urban Renewal: Various Scenes 1958-1969	2	7
Views of Grand River from Bridge 1960	2	8
Downtown: Church, Shops, River 1961	2	9
Residential 1961	2	10
Damaged Building, Urban Renewal 1961	2	11
Aerial Photo (West Side) 1963	2	12
Building Demolition for Freeway 1964	2	13
Downtown and Grand River 1964	2	14
Downtown and Grand River 1972	2	15
Bubble Lens Photos 1973	2	16
Razing of Wurzburg Building 1973	2	17
Grand River-Winter 1974	2	18

Druke company and family

Bob Griffin 1960	3	1
Kids Skating 1962	3	2
March of Dimes at Mall 1963	3	3
People, Unidentified, High School 1966	3	4
Motorcycle Rally 1971	3	5
Building Fire 1971	3	6
WLAV Raft Race 1972	3	7
WLAV Raft Race 1972	3	8
Kids on a Tobagan n.d.	3	9
Old Car n.d.	3	10
Druke company and family		
	Box	Folder
Druke Photos 1964, 1974, 1979	3	11
Druke Games Catalogs	3	12

Druke company and family

Drueke Family Tree 1996	3	13
Biographical and historical reference information on the Drueke family and company, added by staff.	3	13
	Collection	Box
Lakeside Club Bouquet : a whiskey of rare distillation, Wm. Drueke Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Chicago : The Meyer Cord Co. Vitrolite. N.d. [Poster, encapsulated. Rehoused, 3/6/2002]	224	16