

Finding aid for the Grand Rapids: Past, Present and Future publication photographs Collection 272

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Spring 2001
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Urban Concern, Inc.
Title	Grand Rapids: Past, Present and Future publication photographs
Date	1981
Extent	0.7 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This is a small collection containing photographs used in the book "Grand Rapids: Past, Present and Future." The book, edited by Gordon Olson, was published as a result of several Grand Rapids, Michigan citizens coming together to discuss changes in the city, resulting in the formation of a group called Urban Concern, Inc. in 1979. The photographs included in this collection are primarily from 1981 and were commissioned for the book. The photographers include Wes Morton, Michael Green, Gary Kwapil and James Knack.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

This collection was put together by Gordon Olson and Reid Holland, for Urban Concern, which published the book. The purpose of the project was to look at the history of Grand Rapids, look at the changes that were currently taking place in 1981 and to examine the future of Grand Rapids. It was started in 1979, by a group of diverse Grand Rapids citizens. They got together in a series of town meetings at Fountain Street Church. The product of these meetings was the book and photographs included here.

Some photographs included here were commissioned for the project and are seen in the book. The photographers were Wes Morton, Michael Green, Gary Kwapil, James Knack and others. Not all of the photographs used in the book, however, are included in the collection. The bulk of the photographs in the collection depict “present-day” 1981 Grand Rapids. However, there is one photo of archaeological relics and also one of the skeleton of Rix Robinson's horse.

The published photographs depict items and scenes dating back as far as 100 B.C., and include maps and drawings, as well as photos of actual scenes. These provide an historical context for the geographical setting, which eventually became Grand Rapids. Several images show Grand Rapids citizens, ca. 1981.

The book contains a series of essays by Grand Rapids experts, with a foreword by Gordon Olson, City Historian. The introduction is by Gerald Elliott and an afterword is by Reid Holland.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains the book *Grand Rapids : Past, Present & Future* / [edited by] Gordon Olson ; Reid Holland. Grand Rapids : Urban Concern, Inc., 1981. Additionally, it contains 27 black and white photographs, mostly original, created for the project, but also with a couple of copy photos from area collections. Book page numbers for the corresponding photo are given as GRPPF pg. x.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department Spring 2001

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Urban Concerns, Inc., accession numbers 1998.008, 1986.363, 1986.364.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

See also the associated “Urban Concerns” Collection 272B, which contains documents of the organization and urban design and planning reference information.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

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

Subject(s)

- Publications -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Book

Collection Inventory

Book		
	Box	Folder
Grand Rapids: Past, Present & Future	1	1
Photographs		
	Box	Folder
Copper Celts and hair pins. GRPPF pg. 5. Grand Valley State College photo. Description: Image of 4 objects recovered from the Norton Indian Mounds.	1	2
Skeleton of Rix Robinson's horse. GRPPF pg. 8. Grand Valley State College photo. Description: Skeletal remains show in the earth, at the archaeological dig.	1	3
Major downtown building projects / Michigan S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF pg. 25. Description: Shows outlines of buildings with multiple building cranes or derricks above the skyline.	1	4
The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Robinson Studio Collection photo. Archives. Grand Rapids Public Library. GRPPF pg. 27. Description: Building facade with fountain running.	1	5

Photographs

Calvin College. Calvin College photo(?). GRPPF pg. 28 Description: Students walking across campus in Spring time.	1	6
Lear Siegler, Inc. / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 31. Description: View of 2 buildings, with flat on flag pole, and business sign with logo “ Lear Siegler, Inc. Instrument Division”	1	7
John Ball Park and Zoo. Photo of a drawing from the Zoos collection. GRPPF, pg. 33. Description: Boy with woman, standing on walk beyond safety barrier, looking at a scene full of animals, with a rocky background. Tigers, Llama, parrots, cranes, ducks, etc.	1	8
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Amway photo. GRPPF, pg. 34. Description: African American in doorman in uniform, standing in driveway outside a formal entrance with columns. Marquee, lanterns, brick drive, arch with eagle(?) decorative element.	1	9
Salmon fishing on the Grand River / West Morton, photographer. GRPPF, pg. 36. Description: Rapids coming off the dam, fishermen standing in the Grand River, outline of bridge and skyline in background.	1	10
The Grand River Sculpture and Fish Ladder / James Knack, photographer. GRPPF, pg. 36. Description: Sculpture with water on the west bank of the Grand River, by Kinnebrew. Has graffiti “Welcome to my home”, written on the front wall. Tape damage, left side.	1	11
Sixth Street Bridge / James Knack, photographer. GRPPF, pg. 37. Description: Man and boy with fishing poles on safe side of barrier, trestle type bridge in background in Grand River.	1	12

Photographs

Summer day on Monroe Mall / James Knack, photographer. GRPPF, pg. 37 Description: Food vendors, crowd, casual band standing center left. View NW to Pantlind Hotel, with era buildings and constructions on the Mall.	1	13
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel Pedestrian Bridge / Michael S. Green, photographer. GRPPF, pg. 39. Description: Telescoped view of crane on Pearl St. facing East, Amway Grand on the left, garage on the right.	1	14
Eastown / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 40. Description: Era "Eastown" sign, probably at the point where Wealthy and Lake meet, toward the West. View is probably west on Wealthy, unverified. Shows pedestrians on the sidewalk, bench, street crosswalk lights, etc.	1	15
Heritage Hill multi-apartment glass mailboxes / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 42. Description: shows near view of 4 boxes in a row.	1	16
Heritage Hill home / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 43. Description: 254 xxxx, 3-story with basement.	1	17
Street prostitution / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 45.	1	18
Family roles / Wes Morton, photographer. GRPPF pg. 54. Description: Male (father?) with beard, with female (daughter?) toddler seated on his shoulder.	1	19

Photographs

Suburban shopping mall / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 54. Description: Interior, view of shoppers walking the mall. “Penneys” entrance in the background.	1	20
Grand Rapids Press computers [newsroom and staff] / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF pg. 56. Description: Interior, open office with multiple desks and users, male and female, large CRT display screens and keyboards.	1	21
28th Street traffic / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF pg. 60. Description: Autos moving toward the camera, multiple street signs, and signs for businesses along the strip. Signs include: Roger's catalog showroom, MSI gas station, MC Rocket Football Headquarters, Star Gas, etc. Possible across from current (2000) Woodland Mall area, near the East Beltline.	1	22
Experimental theater church / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF pg. 62. Description: “Stage Three”. Sale sign for Dodgson Realty. “Grand Valley State College” above door. Wood or brick in place of windows. Cars at meters on the street.	1	23
Campau Square, James Knack, photographer. GRPPF, pg. 64 Description: Monroe Mall at Campau Square, with era construction, now replaced with Rosa Parks water feature by Maya Lin. Pantlind in background. People on mall.	1	24
Heritage Hill fence iron work / Wes Morton, photographer. GRPPF, pg. 65. Description: Detail of iron work, and damage to cement gatepost, with large house just visible through the gate.	1	25

Photographs

<p>La Grand Vitesse / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 66 Description: Calder stabile.</p>	1	26
<p>Performing Arts and Convention Center / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 67. Description: View to the east side the Grand River from the west side. Pantlind Hotel/Amway Grand during this period, is center right.</p>	1	27
<p>Coffee Ranch / Michael S. Green, Grand Rapids Press photographer. GRPPF, pg. 67. Description: Interior of coffee bar, showing menu on wall, scale, grinder, cash register, etc. Signs. Appears to be a decorative ceiling at the top of the photo.</p>	1	28