

Finding Aid for the Haskelite Papers and Smedley Family Photographs Collection 441

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Haskelite Papers and Smedley Family Photographs
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1918-1919
Date [inclusive]	1913 to 1919
Extent	0.5 Linear feet 1 Box
Language	English
Abstract	This collection contains many unidentified photographs of the Smedley family in Grand Rapids as well as many business records for the Haskelite Manufacturing Corp.

Biographical/Historical note

The Haskelite Manufacturing Corporation was located at 1850-1950 Broadway Ave. They manufactured 'Haskelite' waterproof plywood materials (most known for their molded trays) and was headquartered in Chicago from 1917-1958. This collection contains materials concerning the Grand Rapids location from 1918 and 1919.

William Lowe Smedley lived at 615 N. Prospect with his family where he was a foreman at Columbian Storage Co. He was born in 1912 and passed away in Grand Rapids in 1987. His wife was named Amert (Amy) and he had two sons, William Lowe Smedley Jr. and James Edward Smedley. His father, Clyde E. Smedley was a draftsman for Haskelite and is mentioned in some of these materials.

Scope and Contents note

Within the box is about 30 unidentified photographs of the William L. Smedley family, a bank book, and birth announcement. There are a few sketches and notes from a Mr. Smedley concerning the materials and techniques use by the Haskelite Manufacturing Corporation. Many records, financial ledgers, and minutes concerning the state of the Corporation in 1918 and 1919 are also included.

The organization of these materials have not changed since they were donated. The quality of the photographs have not changed and are rather worn. The accession sheet notes that they were discovered in the basement of a home being remodeled.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department September 2015

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift from Dan Zondervan, accession number 1986.424

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Collection #046 - Grand Rapids Chamber Of Commerce Records

Collection #063 - J. Gerald Vinkemulder Aviation Collection

Collection #125 - Robinson Studio Collection

Collection #230 - Dale and Marius Rooks Studio collection

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

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

Subject(s)

- Business records -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Manufacturing industries -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Approximately 30 unidentified photographs	1	1
Stork Drawing and Birth Announcement for William Lowe Smedley	1	2
Peoples National Bank of Ellwood City, PA book. 1913	1	3
Haskelite Manufacturing Corporation ledgers. Estimated annual operating expense for first year. 1919	1	4
Letter from Basquiu (?) concerning Haskelite manufacturing techniques. Feb 1, 1919	1	5
Haskelite Report: Effect of Variation of Thickness of Cores Upon the Strength of Glue Joints. April 7, 1919.	1	6
Haskelite estimates for material and factory costs.	1	7
Haskelite Manufacturing Corporation Notes of Organization Conference. May 8, 1918.	1	8
Haskelite Manufacturing Corporation Notes of Organization Conference. May 29, 1918. Contains Drawings.	1	9