

Inventory of the

**Joliet Region**  
**Chamber of Commerce and Industry**  
Joliet, Illinois

Records

In the  
Regional History Center

**RC 157**

## INTRODUCTION

Harlan Bane, acting for the Board of Directors, donated the records of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on December 28, 1982.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. The Board of Director's Meeting Minutes from 1972 to 1977 are restricted without the prior written approval of the President and Executive Director of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce; there are no other restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 27  
Number of containers: 27  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 157

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records in this collection document the activities of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 1917 to 1979. The collection is arranged in two series.

Series I consists of bound volumes containing the records of the Chamber's board of directors including agendas, minutes of meetings, special reports, and correspondence for the years 1917-1977. Also included in many of the volumes are financial records, committee files and reports, annual meeting reports, pamphlets and press releases. Volumes for the years 1914-1916 and 1930-1933 have not been located. Researchers should note that the contents and arrangement within each volume varies. The collections also contain miscellaneous special reports, surveys, studies, and city budgets (1920-1972). The Board of Director's Meeting Minutes from 1972 to 1977 are restricted without the prior written approval of the President and Executive Director of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce.

The second series is divided into three subseries of the Joliet Chamber's subject files dating from 1950-1979. Subseries A contains the Chamber's alphabetical subject files, 1950-1979, documenting virtually every aspect of the organization's activities. Committee files found in this subseries complement the committee records located in Series I. Subseries B consists of another group of subject files but they are arranged according to the Chamber's numerical filing system. The files in this subseries are similar in content to the alphabetical file, and document the period from 1965-1975. Subseries C covers the years 1976-1979 and is arranged according to the same numerical system as the previous group of files.

The collection as a whole provides excellent documentation of the activities of a Chamber of Commerce located in a heavily industrialized urban area. Almost every major urban issue of the twentieth century is touched upon in the collection, some in considerable detail. The greatest strength of the collection is the extensive documentation of the Chamber's activities during the post World War II era. Unfortunately the records of the Joliet Chamber's earliest years, 1914-1916, have not been located and correspondence and subject files for the years 1917-1945 are sparse.

Researchers may wish to consult the Center's Guide for related holdings which complement the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry records.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the organizational successor of the Joliet Association of Commerce founded in 1914. Although records for the 1914-1916 period have not been located, the minutes of the 1918 annual meeting of the Association refer to the meeting as the fourth annual meeting of the Association. By-laws of the Association, adopted in 1918, indicated the broad purpose of the association "shall be to promote the general welfare of Joliet and surrounding territory." In 1916 membership in the Association stood at approximately 400 and activities included: promotion of good roads; attracting new industries to the area; establishing a deep waterways committee; cooperation in the war effort; preparation of an economic survey of Joliet (1922); and active promotion of the idea of a Joliet city plan. Merger discussions with related organizations had taken place during the 1919-1924 period resulting in a merger with the Commercial Club and the Merchants Association to form a new organization, the Joliet Chamber of Commerce.

Throughout the twenties the organization remained the Chamber of Commerce but early in 1934 another reorganization took place resulting in a new Joliet Association of Commerce incorporated later that same year. During these years (1934-1940) minutes of the meetings of the Board of Director's are dominated by Depression related subjects: bank closings, plant shut-downs, unemployment and New Deal "alphabet" agencies and their activities in the Joliet region. Membership in the Association declined drastically to 200 in 1938 and the closing of steel mills in the area and the resulting unemployment and poverty generated fears of violence and social unrest. With the coming of World War II Joliet, as well as the rest of the nation, began to recover from the most severe depression in American history. Joliet's heavy industrial base served it well during the war years. Ordnance plants employed approximately 13,000 persons in 1941 and provided a tremendous boost to the local economy. Despite war-time shortages of automobiles, fuel, rubber, and certain commodities, retail sales volume for 1941 was the highest in Joliet's history.

In 1946 J.E. Farrell, incoming President of the Association, called for the development of a long term plan for the JAC to serve as the basis for a Joliet city plan. This emphasis on planning became one of the dominant themes in Association work during the post-war period. The Association's members were instrumental in the development of a city plan, and in 1955 the firms that sponsored the drafting of the Joliet Plan created the Greater Joliet Committee to oversee the implementation of the Plan. That same year, 1955, partly through the Association's efforts, Joliet received an All American City Award.

The Association changed its name to the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce in 1962 and continued to expand its areas of interest through its several organizational divisions: government affairs, community development, economic development and organizational affairs. Among the Chamber's special projects instituted over the last two decades are: the World of Work in Economic Education designed to improve the skills of educators; Counties Organized for Regional Development; Salute to Industry; Court Monitors Project; Fourth of July Committee; Intra- Industry Tours; and the Downtown Development Council. In order to more accurately reflect its activities the Chamber in 1979 changed its name to the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture  
Airports  
Chamber of Commerce  
Economic Development  
Great Depression  
Joliet  
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce  
Population  
Regional Planning  
Will County  
World War I  
World War II

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Board of Directors' Records; Reports; Committee Files		
1	18 volumes	Board of Directors' Records; Reports; Committee Files, 1917-1929, (1934-1944)
2	11 volumes	Board of Directors' Records; Reports; Committee Files, 1945-1956
3	9 volumes	Board of Directors' Records; Reports; Committee Files, 1957-1965
4	8 volumes	Board of Directors' Records; Reports; Committee Files, 1966-1973
5	7 volumes	Board of Directors' Records; Reports; Committee Files, 1971-1977 (RESTRICTED: 1972-1977)
	3 volumes	Greater Joliet Committee, Inc., 1956-1958
	2 volumes	Committees, Joliet Assoc. of Commerce, A-O, 1954
6	1 volume	Committees, Joliet Assoc. of Commerce, M-Z, 1954
	1 volume	Joliet City Plan Commission, 1918-1945
	1 volume	Economic Survey of Joliet, IL, 1922
	1 volume	Major Achievements In Joliet, 1920-1924
	1-4	City of Joliet Annual Budgets, 1968-1971
	5	City of Joliet Budget Work Copies, 1971-1972
	6-12	Joliet Area Transportation Study, <u>Interim Report</u> , 1966-1968
Series II. Subject Files		
Subseries A. Alphabetical Files, 1950-1969		
7	1	Accreditation Program Committee, 1963-1969
		Airport Committee:
	2	Airports, 1964-1966
	3	Correspondence, 1965-1966
	4	Airport Directory, 1964
	5	For and Against Airports, 1966-1967
	6	Airport Metropolitan Chicago, 1966
	7-9	Airport Planning, 1960-1965
	10	Answers to Airport Questionnaires, 1966
	11	Reports on Airport, 1959-1967
	12	Airports Survey, 1963-1965
	13	Airport Usage Questionnaire, 1964-1965
	14	Aviation Committee Correspondence, 1960
	15	Aviation Committee Maps of Townships, 1959-1960
	16	Aviation Committee Printed Material, 1958-1960

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	18	All American City Award Entry, 1955, 1968		
	19	All American City - Decals, 1955		
	20	Am. Chamber of Commerce Executives, 1974		
	21	Am. Chamber of Commerce Executives, 1976-1977		
	22	Am. Chamber of Commerce Executives Corres., 1961-1967		
	23	Am. Chamber of Commerce Executives Chamber of Commerce Week, 1964-1967		
	24	Am. Chamber of Commerce Execs., Misc., 1961-1967		
	25	Am. Chamber of Commerce Execs., Executive, 1964-1967		
	26	Am. Chamber of Commerce Execs., Journal, 1945-1960		
	27-28	Am. Chamber of Commerce Execs., Membership Directories, 1960-1966		
	29	Atom Smasher Project, 1965-1966		
	30	Better Letters, 1963-1967		
	31	Carnes Reward Fund, 1964-1967		
	32-33	Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, 1964		
	8	1-5	Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., 1974-1977	
		6	Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., Corres. 1963-1967	
7		Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., "Congressional Action," 1976		
8		Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., National Institute Material, 1953-1967		
9		Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., Nation's Business, 1963- 1967		
10		Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., Publications, 1950-1964		
11		Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., 1972		
12		Chicago Assoc. of Commerce & Industry, 1967		
13		Christmas Card Lists, 1964-1967		
14		Churches - Joliet and Vicinity, 1952-1959		
15		Community Survey of Joliet, 1950; Industrial Directory, 1960		
16		Conventions (General Corres.), 1962-1965		
17		Conventions (Joliet Promotional Material), 1961-1967		
18-20		Correspondence, 1965-1968		
21		Des Plaines Valley Improvement Assoc., 1956-1966		
22		Directory of Organizations, 1952-1967		
23		Distributive Education, 1959-1963		
	Downtown Development Council:			
24-25	Advertising - General, 1970-1973			
26	American Retail Assoc., Executives, 1971-1972, 1974			
9	1	Art and Book Show, 1974		
	2	Billings, 1971-1973		
	3	Board of Directors, 1968-1973		
	4	Board Meetings, 1974		
	5	Budget, 1972-1974		
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	7	Budgets - Kalamazoo, Mich. and Danville, Ill., 1959-1972		
	8	Business Statistics, 1972		

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	10	Christmas Store Hour Survey, 1972-1974		
	11	Christmas Tree, 1972-1973		
	12	Citizens for Ill. Motor Sports, 1973-1974		
	13	Columbus Day Promotion, 1974		
	14	Consumer Nets, 1974		
	15	Correspondence, 1973-1974		
	16	County Parking Lot, 1974		
	17	Davis Center, 1972		
	18	Downtown Idea Exchange, 1972, 1974		
	19	Downtown Newsletter, 1972, 1974		
	20	Downtown Renewal Information, 1973-1974		
	21	East Side Council, 1969		
	22-23	Fashion Show, 1968-1972		
	24	General Correspondence, 1970		
	25	DPC Gift Certificates, 1972-1973		
	26	Harvest Day, 1973		
	27	Hatchet Day, 1974		
	28	Ill. Assoc. Chamber of Commerce Executives, 1972-1974		
	329	Ill. Retail Merchants Assoc., 1972, 1974		
	30	Institute, 1974		
	31	Interest on Cash Deposits, 1974		
	32	Joliet Downtown Park & Shop - Interest on C.D.'s, 1972-1973		
	33	Kiwanis, 1972-1974		
	34	Membership Rosters, 1972-1974		
	35	Downtown Development Council Minutes, 1970-1971		
	36	Moonlight Madness Pro., 1972, 1974		
	37	National Retail Merchant Assoc., 1972, 1974		
	10	1	News Release, 1972, 1974	
		2	Non-Member List, 1974	
		3	Park and Shop Audit, 1973	
		4	Park and Shop Audit Reports, 1970-1971	
		5	Park and Shop Committee, 1965-1968	
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		9	Park and Shop General Account, 1970	
10		Park and Shop General Correspondence, 1970-1972		
11		Park and Shop Meeting Ideas, 1970-1971		
12		Park and Shop Misc., 1971-1972		
13		Park and Shop Parking Pamphlets, 1973		
14		Park and Shop Participation Survey and Parking Study, 1970, 1972		
15		Park and Shop, Payments to, 1968-1970		
16		Park and Shop Program, 1970-1971		
17		Park and Shop and Ride and Shop Program, 1962		
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19		Parking Regulations: EPA, 1973-1974		
20		Rialto Theatre Summer Show, 1972		
21		S.S. Kresge, 1973-1974		

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	23	Street Lighting, 1972	
	24	Trade and Promotions Calendars, 1969-1972	
	25	Truck Routes, 1972	
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	26	Absentee Ballots, 1966	
	27	Acknowledgment for Contribution	
	28	Acknowledgment Literature, 1966-1967	
	29	Better Schools, Fund Raising, 1954-1956	
	30	Campaign Instruction	
	31	CBS Invoices, 1965-1967	
	32	CBS Statement, 1966-1967	
	33	Report of Education Needs, Citizens Advisory Council, 1960	
	34	Citizens School Survey, 1952-1953	
	35	Citizens For Better Schools, 1966-1967	
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	37	Coordinating Council on Education, 1965-1966	
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		10	Joliet Junior College Finances, 1966
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		12	Junior College Campaign Contributions, 1967
		13	Junior College Distribution of Materials, 1967
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		19	Past Elections, 1963-1966
		20	Precinct Captains and Lists, 1966-1967
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	4	Fourth of July Committee, 1954-1966	
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	14	Surface Water Protection Dist., 1966	
	15	Hickory Creek - Flood Control, 1948-1957	
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	18	Ill. Assoc. of Chamber of Commerce Executives, 1970, 1976-1977	
	19	Ill. Assoc. of Chamber of Commerce Executives, 1963-1967	
	20	Ill. Assoc. of Chamber of Commerce Executives Newsletter, 1963-1967	
	21	"Ill. Business Review," 1965-1967	
	22	"Ill. Municipal Review," 1964-1965	
23-24	Ill. State Chamber of Commerce, 1977		
13	1	Ill. State Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, 1962-1966	
	2	Ill. State Chamber of Commerce Correspondence, 1963-1967	
	3	Ill. State Chamber of Commerce Highlights, 1963-1967	
	4	Ill. State Chamber of Commerce Pamphlets, 1960-1967	
	5	Industrial Development Corres., 1964	
	6	Inland Waterways Committee, 1955-1956	
	7-12	Inquiries, 1967-1969	
	13	Joliet, City of: Annual Budget, 1972	
	14	Joliet, City of: Report on Port of Joliet, 1956	
	15	Joliet Area Bands, 1964	
		Joliet Assoc. of Commerce:	
	16	Analysis, Organization and Operation, 1961	
	17	Bulletins, 1952-1957	
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	22	Audit Reports	
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	8	General Information or Ideas, 1972	
	9	Know Your Neighbor Panel, 1966	
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	11	Mainliners 1966; Mainliners Ambassadors Club, 1963	
	12	Membership Cards, 1951-1968; Membership Rosters, 1962-1967	
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	16	Parade Information, 1972	
	17-18	Parking and Parking Commission, 1972	
	19	Proposed Program For The Construction Of Sidewalks, 1964; Westside Business Council	
	20	Joliet, History and Guides, 1955-1956	
		Joliet Plan Commission:	
	21	Announcements, Minutes, 1960-1961	
	22-23	Correspondence, 1953-1967	
	24	Meetings and Seminars, 1974	
	25	Preliminary Reports, 1956-1958; Proposed Subdivision Regulations	
	26	Labor Relations Council, 1963-1968	
	27	Land Clearance Commission, 1959-1964	
	28	Manpower, Inc. 1963-1967	
	29	Maps - Correspondence, 1955-1966	
	30	NBC Channel 5, 1967	
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	4	Northeastern Ill. Metropolitan Area Local Governmental Services Commission, 1956	
	5	Northeastern Ill. Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, 1965-1967	
	6	Northwest Storm Sewer Program, 1959-1960	
	7	Operation Bootstrap	
	8	"Our Local Governments," 1960; (League of Women Voters Booklet)	

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	10	Plat of Joliet Memorial Stadium For 1955; Pageant of Progress		
	11	Population Census - East side, 1950		
	12	Population Census - Maps, 1950		
	13	Population Census - West side, 1950		
	14	Population General, 1950-1966		
	15	Population Joliet Township, 1950		
	16	Prospective Clients Information on Joliet, 1957		
	17	Public Relations, 1967		
	18	Purchasing By Local Governments, 1964		
	19	Radio - FM Information, 1960		
	20	Railroad Information, 1954-1965		
	21	Sales Tax Information, 1953-1967		
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	27	Sculpture of Louis Joliet, 1951		
	28	Senior Citizens, 1965-1966		
	29	Sewage Treatment Plant, 1952-1957		
	30	Shopping Centers, 1952-1960		
	31	Silveri, Eugene G. , 1962-1969		
	32	Small Business Adm. , 1953-1964		
	33	Small Business Adm. Disaster Loans, 1965		
	34	Speakers-Entertainments, 1962-1967		
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		4	Stone City Incorporation, 1959	
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		8	Summer Jobs (Youth Opportunities Program), 1957, 1967	
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11-12		Tax Information, 1959-1967		
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15		Thomas Register, 1955		
16		Toll Roads, 1956		
17		Trade-Mark Classification Directory, 1959		
18		Unemployment Compensation, 1963-1965		
19		United Fund #1, 1950-1969		
20		U.S. Army Ordnance Ammunition Command, 1959-1961		
21		U.S. Dept. of Commerce, BDSA Industry Outlook Studies, 1964		
22		U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Business Statistics, 1964-1965		
23		U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Directory of National Assocs. of Businessmen, 1961		

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	25	U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Selected Service Reports, 1958	
	26	U.S. Dept. of Labor, 1954-1962	
	27-28	U.S. Post Office Dept., 1954-1966	
	29	U.S. Rubber Co., 1954-1957	
	30	U.S. Rubber Co. Newspaper, June 25, 1954	
	31	U. S. Steel Corp., 1954-1961	
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	3	Will County Churches, 1965	
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	5	Will County Forest Preserve, 1963	
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	12	Workman's Compensation, 1954-1966	
	13	You-Auto-Buy-Now-Material, 1958	
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	6	8.6.8 Drug Coordination and Information Council, 1970-1972	
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