

Inventory of the

General Electric Company
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 341

INTRODUCTION

Daniel J. Olson, Operation Manager of the General Electric Company in DeKalb, Illinois donated the companies papers to the Regional History Center on March 17, 2015. Additional materials were donated in May 2015.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center, literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 14.75; 211 digital files (505 GB)
Number of containers: 20
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 341

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of the papers from the General Electric Company located in DeKalb, Illinois. The collection contains materials from 1891 to 2015, with the bulk of the material ranging from 1946 to 2015. The collection includes newsletters, club records, photographs, historical files, minutes, and artifacts. The material documents the activities and events of employees, the company, the DeKalb area. There are also records about the interior and exterior of the building as well as the products manufactured at the company. The newsletters comprise most of the collection: DeKalb Plant News (1946-1951)/General Electric News (1951-1961) and the 3-D DeKalb Daily Digest (1953-1977)/DeKalb Daily Digest (1977-1978)/DeKalb Digest (1979-1988)/DeKalb News (1989-2001). They document company and employee activity as well as happenings in the local area. Present in the collection are also Quarter Century Club records, the GE DeKalb chapter, including minutes and other administrative records. Photographs range in subject matter documenting the history of the GE DeKalb plant and the local area. The photographs in box 2 were taken by staff in 2015 as they were given a tour of the closed plant by GE Human Resource Manager Virginia Guzman. The purpose of these photos are to document the physical building, with particular attention to the layout of the plant with regard to staff areas and the manufacturing of products. Artifacts preserved in the collection are three motors manufactured by the GE DeKalb plant.

Also contained in the collection are 191 digital photographs and 17 videos of the closed plant. The images were captured by Center staff during a tour of the plant by Virginia Guzman, GE Human Resource Manager, in the summer of 2015. The digital photos and videos may be accessed in the Center's reading room. Prints made from the digital photos are in box 2.

The collection is organized into five series and two subseries arranged by material type: (1) Historical Files; (2) Photographs and Slides; (3) Newsletters: (Subseries A) DeKalb Plant News/General Electric News and (B) 3-D DeKalb Daily Digest/DeKalb Daily Digest/DeKalb

Digest/DeKalb News; (4) Quarter Century Club Records; and (5) Artifacts. The majority of the collection is composed of newsletters. The subseries consist of GE DeKalb plant newsletters that were published every two weeks from 1947 to 1961 and daily plant newsletters from 1953 to 2001. Arrangement within series is chronological and alphabetical when date is not discernible.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The General Electric company developed a plant in DeKalb, Illinois in 1946 after the building was firstly used for airplane/aircraft wartime material during War World II. The plant produced various house appliances and motors for U.S. consumers. Ever-present in the historical records is the value of employees and DeKalb County to GE. The plant closed in January 2015.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb (Ill.)
DeKalb County (Ill.)
General Electric Company
Industries--Illinois--DeKalb

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Historical Files		
1	1	25 Year Anniversary Scrapbook, 1946-1971
	2	50 Millionth Motor/ DeKalb, 1968
	3	Appliance Motor Department (AMD) 30 th Anniversary One Hundred Millionth Motor, 1976
	4	Property/Plot/Facility Information and Layout, 1981
	5	Philanthropy, 1987, 1993, 2012
	6	Airplanes made at General Electric, 1991, 1997-98, 2000, 2005
	7	50 Year Celebration, 1996
	8	Auction Sale, 2015
	9	DeKalb History
Series II. Photographs and Slides		
		Photos:
	10	DeKalb History, 1891-1957
	11	Exterior, 1957
	12	National Safety Council Award of Merit, 1958
	13	Group, 1985
	14	50 Year Celebration, 1996
	15	Closing Ceremony, January 29, 2015
	16	Aircraft/Airplanes
	17-18	Construction
	19	Interior
	20	News
	21	Water Tower
		Slides:
	22	Corn Bowl, 1975
	23	Broan Trip, October 1975
	24	Appliance Motor Department (AMD)
	25	Appliance Motor Department (AMD) Rules and Regulations
	26	Blanks/Focus
	27	Cress/Shop Tour
	28	Employee Relations
	29	Engineering
	30	Finance
	31	General Electric History
	32	Hal Robertson

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	33	Maintenance/McCrea
	34	Marketing
	35	MJS
	36	Quality Control
	37	Safety Rules
	38	Shop Operations
	39	Toolroom/McCrea
	40	Woods
		Photos:
2	1-3	General Electric Exterior, 2015
	4-7	General Electric Factory Floor, 2015
	8	General Electric Machinery, 2015
	9-11	General Electric Interior, 2015
	12	General Electric Break Room, 2015
	13	General Electric Bathrooms, 2015
	14	General Electric Signs and Posts, 2015
2-B [OV]	1-3	General Electric Exterior, Aerial view

Series III. Newsletters

Subseries A. DeKalb Plant News/General Electric News

3	1-11	DeKalb Plant News, November 22, 1946-September 21, 1951
4	1-12	The General Electric (GE) News, October 5, 1951-December 30, 1955
5	1-10	January 13, 1956-February 24, 1961

Subseries B. 3-D DeKalb Daily Digest/DeKalb Daily Digest/DeKalb Digest/DeKalb News

6	1-10	3-D DeKalb Daily Digest, October 15, 1953-March 29, 1957
7	1-12	April 1, 1957-June 23, 1960
8	1-13	July 11, 1960-June 21, 1963
9	1-11	July 16, 1963-December 28, 1966
10	1-8	January 4, 1967-December 31, 1970

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
11	1-7	January 1, 1971-June 27, 1974
12	1-7 8	July 16, 1974-August 31, 1977 DeKalb Daily Digest, September 2, 1977-December 1977
13	1-8	January 3, 1978-December 21, 1983
14	1-2 3	January 6, 1984-April 8, 1988 3-D DeKalb Daily Digest/News, 1953, 1974-1991
15	1-6	DeKalb News, April 22, 1988-June 11, 2001
Series IV. Quarter Century Club Records		
16	1-5	May 4, 1971-1985
Series V. Artifacts		
17		General Electric (GE) AC Motor Type 519, no date
18		General Electric (GE) 1,000,000 th Appliance Motor, September 30, 1966
19		General Electric (GE) 20,000,000 th Appliance Motor, no date
Artifact		“Motors produced” stand-up sign Note: Located in Artifact room. Moved to UA 11 due to the nature and size of the material.