

Inventory of the

# **Will-DuPage Service Company**

Records

In the  
Regional History Center

**RC 94**

## INTRODUCTION

Mr. Robert Van Dyke, manager of the Will-DuPage Service Company, deposited the records of the company with the Regional History Center on April 15, 1980.

Property rights to the records belong to the Will-DuPage Service Company; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the materials in the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 4  
Number of containers: 3 + 1 volume  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 94

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records partially document the business activities of the Will-DuPage Service Company in Joliet, Illinois from 1927 to 1973. Included are minutes of the Board of Directors (1927-1970), auditor's reports (1966-1972), balance books (1943-1967), a journal of purchases (1969-1970), and photographic documentation of company activities and membership (1955-1973). Of special note are records relating to the short-lived subsidiary of the Service Company, Will Du Enterprises, Incorporated. The records include minutes and auditor's reports from 1967 to 1973.

For complementary materials, researcher's may wish to consult the following collections: the DuPage County Farm Bureau Collection (RC 87), the Winnebago Farm Bureau Co-op Collection (RC 79), the Kane County Farm Bureau Collection (RC 76), and the Carroll County Farm Bureau Collection (RC 96).

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

In the early 1920's, Farm Bureau oil companies were established throughout the state of Illinois to provide fuel for farm machinery. On February 16, 1927, the Will County Farm Bureau met to discuss the possibilities of organizing a local oil company in Joliet, Illinois. A decision was made to form the Will County Farm Supply Company. Members of the Farm Bureau Executive Committee were appointed to the Board of Directors of the new cooperative. They included Mr. William Webb, President; Mr. J. W. Paterson, Vice-President; Mr. Royal Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer. Also appointed as directors were: Mr. M. J. Patterson, Mr. Arthur States, and Mr. Mark McClure. On October 1, 1927, the Will County Farm Supply Company began operations.

In its early years, the Farm Supply Company enjoyed immediate success. With emphasis on growth and expansion, Will County Farm Supply Company merged with DuPage County Farm Supply in 1935 to form the Will-DuPage Service Company. Expansion continued during the 1950's with the purchase of a feed, seed, and fertilizer business known as Will County Cooperative, Incorporated. In 1966, the WILL DU Enterprises, Incorporated was organized as a

subsidiary of the service company to promote the production and marketing of poultry eggs, and livestock. This subsidiary ceased operations in 1973.

Today the company continues to operate as a major distributor of farm supplies for Farm Bureau members in the Will-DuPage County area.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture  
 American Farm Bureau Federation  
 DuPage County (Ill.)  
 DuPage County Farm Supply  
 Farm Bureau  
 Farm Supply Industries  
 Will-DuPage Service Company  
 Will County (Ill.)  
 Will County Farm Supply  
 WILL DU Enterprises

### COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	5 volumes	Minutes, Will-DuPage County Service Company, 1927-1970, (Missing 1947-1952, 1967)
	1 volume	Corporate Record Book, WILL DU Enterprises, 1966-1973
2	1-16	Auditors' Reports, Will-DuPage County Service Company, October 1927-October 1972
	17-18	Auditors' Reports, WILL DU Enterprises, October 1966- October 1972
3	10 volumes	Trial Balances, Will-DuPage County Service Company, 1943- 1967
	1 volume	Seed Manufacturing Inventory, 1967-1969
	2 volumes	Product Manuals, 1955-1963
	2 volumes	Supplies Catalogs, 1934-1938
	3 envelopes	Photographs, Identified; 16 prints, 1935-1973, 48 prints, n.d.
Oversize	1 volume	Journal, Classification of Purchases, 1969-1970