

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Joliet Post Office Collection, 1879-1970

Collection Number: MSS.10

Date Range: 1879, 1938, 1952-1980

Size: 0.5 Linear Feet

Location: RR.8.2, CO.OS.6-7

Creator: Joliet Post Office

Abstract: The Joliet Post Office Collection contains financial records, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, Union Charters, and other records relating to the history of the Joliet Post Office and Postal Clerks.

Acquisition Information: Most of the materials contained in this collection were donated by Robert Govoni under accession number 2022.52. There are minimal records included from various accessions relating to the history of the Joliet Post Office.

Separated Materials: None

Citation: Item Description. MSS.10 Joliet Post Office Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed By: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History:

On March 3, 1899 Congress appropriated \$100,000 for a new Post Office building in Joliet. Construction for the post office began in 1901 and concluded in 1903. Architect James Knox Taylor designed the building and contractor Adam Groth, of Joliet, oversaw the construction. The building was located between Steele Place on the north, Scott Street on the west and Clinton Street on the south. This site operated as the Joliet Post Office from 1903 through 1981 when a new location was constructed on McDonough St.

Prior to the construction of the Post Office building on Scott St., in 1896 the Joliet postal workers joined the organization, then known as the National Association of Post Office Clerks and later to be known as the United National Association of Post Office Clerks, as Branch No. 128. A secondary postal union group emerged in the early 1900s, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, and quickly surpassed its predecessor. By 1918 the Joliet Post Office workers had left the United National Association of Post Office Clerks to join the new union group. Despite the existence of numerous postal unions they generally existed as lobbying organizations with little to no bargaining rights. As a result, postal workers were consistently underpaid. It was not until the enactment of the Postal Reorganization Act (PRA) of

1971 and the creation of the United States Postal Service that postal unions were allowed to bargain collectively for wages and better working conditions. Due largely to the enactment of the PRA, 5 of the largest postal unions, including the United National Association of Post Office Clerks and the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, combined in 1971 to form the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). After new rights were given to postal unions under the Act, APWU was founded to represent workers under one single labor organization and to create one bargaining entity. In July of 1971 the APWU granted a charter for the formation of a local union of the APWU in Joliet.

Scope and Content Arrangement:

The Joliet Post Office Collection contains financial records, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, Union Charters, and other records relating to the history of the Joliet Post Office and Postal Clerks. The collection has been arranged into 3 series by material type and then arranged chronologically in each series.

All the Union Charters included in this collection are stored in oversize storage drawer 6 and 7 located in the Curator's Office.

Series 1: Documents, 1879-1980

Series 2: Photographs, 1952-1970

Series 3: Oversized Materials

Related Materials:

MSS.02 – Dr. William Dougall Papers

Content Listing:

Series 1: Documents, 1879-1980

Location: RR.8.2

Scope: The materials contained in this series include financial records, correspondence, newspaper clippings, building histories, programs for the Illinois Federation of Post Office Clerks Woman's Auxiliary Convention, and Union Charters. Of note is a signed nomination certificate from President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointing J. Walter Lowrey to the position of Joliet Postmaster in 1935. Lowrey worked as postmaster from 1935 through 1958. This document can be found in oversized storage. The materials in this series are organized chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Financial Records of Stamps, Envelopes and Cards Sold, 1879	1	1
Postmaster J.F. Quinn Banquet Program, 1915	2	1
Joliet Post Office Misc. Documents, 1938	3	1
Illinois Federation of Post Office Clerks, Woman's Auxiliary Convention Program, 1953-1955	4	1
Correspondence, 1953-1955	5	1

Newspaper Clippings, C. 1980s	6	1
Joliet Post Office Building History, Undated	7	1

Series 2: Photographs, 1952-1970

Location: RR.8.2

Scope: The materials contained in this series include photographs of Carl H. Krause, a Joliet postal clerk, and photographs from the Illinois Federation of Post Office Clerks Convention's held in the 1950s. The materials in this series have been arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Joliet Post Office, Air Mail Photographs, 1952	8	1
Illinois Federation of Post Office Clerks Convention Photographs, 1952-1953, 1959	9	1
Carl H. Krause Postman Photographs, C, 1970s	10	1
Joliet Post Office Misc. Photographs	11	1

Series 3: Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.6-7

Folder Title:	Series #:	Box #:
Newspapers, 1953	Series 1	OS.06
Postal Workers Union Charters, 1896-1971	Series 1	OS.07
J. Walter Lowrey Postmaster Nomination Certificate, 1935	Series 1	OS.07