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Finding Aid for the Grand Rapids Camera Club collection Collection 139

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	Grand Rapids Camera Club collection
ID:	Collection 139
Date [inclusive]:	1899-1931
Physical Description:	5.5 Linear Feet 19 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Camera Club was organized in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1898. This collection includes 251 glass plate negatives, circa 1898-1910. Many of the images depict Grand Rapids area views, while others detail various turn-of-the-century (19th) Michigan towns, including Ada, Bay City, Delton, Holland, Middleville, and Spring Lake. The Grand Rapids views include buildings, street scenes and transportation, waterways, landscapes, events and many scenes including groups of people. Of note are the views of Grand Rapids carnival, crowds turning out for local troops leaving for and returning from the Spanish-American War, the 1904 flood, and a balloon ascension. Also included in the collection are exhibit catalogs (1899-1940), and a few annual program booklets, documenting club activities.

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Biographical / Historical

Organized in 1898, the Grand Rapids Camera Club sponsored annual photographic exhibitions and provided the means for exchange of photographic information among Western Michigan residents.

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Scope and Contents

This collection includes a sample of early 20th century photographic images taken by members of the Grand Rapids Photo Club, and made available here through the original glass plate negatives. The specific date and identification of the individual photographer is unknown, and most images are unidentified. Most of the views are of scenes, though they sometimes included individuals, unidentified. Several of the images show landscapes or waterways. Several include buildings.

The Club papers accompanying the images document the annual exhibit or salon for 1899-1940. Some of these exhibit catalogs include names of club members, as well as advertising. Only three of the annual program booklets are included in the collection, 1922/23, 1939/40, and 1940/41. A few additional exhibit catalogs include Grand Rapids members participating in national exhibits or competitions.

All positive prints of the images are in black and white. Some of the prints show evidence that the glass negative is damaged. Several images (contact prints) do not provide clear definition of the objects captured in the images.

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Numbering and Arrangement

The glass negatives have been numbered sequentially using the collection number "139" as the first element. This number is given on the back of the matching print, but can easily be confused with the print location number, which also begins with "139."

The prints have been arranged by broad subject sets, in alphabetical order, rather than in numerical order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Old Collection, the Camera Club and Library purchase of contact prints.

Accession number G10.BJ17 and unknown

Provenance note

The provenance of the collection seems to be the Camera Club, based on labels on the containers in which the negatives were housed. Since these containers are not original, there is a possibility that the images may have come from a different source.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Below are archival photo collections of club members.

Coll. 018 Fitch Photo Collection

Coll. 069 Charles VanderVelde Glass Negatives and Photos Collection.

Also, Samuel Ranck, Ryerson Librarian, Coll. 219, and Frank DuMond, Director of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Coll. 019, were members.

Coll. 109, the GRPL Administrative Archives, includes a photo showing a sign for a Grand Rapids Camera Club exhibit, at the Grand Rapids Public Library, ca. 1940.

Coll. 059, #737, is also a photo of a sign for the Grand Rapids Camera Club, on the Ryerson Library Building. This view shows three trucks full of people, with the sign just visible on the front of the building in the background.

Coll. 216, the GRPL Ephemera Collection, Clubs Series, has some duplicates of the exhibit catalogs, as well as some additional years of the annual programs for the Club.

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Controlled Access Headings

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

Index

Ada (Mich.) - box 1, folder 1

AuSable River, 1902 - box 1, folder 2

Balloon ascension - box 1, folder 3

Bass Lake - box 1, folder 4

Bay City (Mich.) City Hall - box 1, folder 5

Bay City (Mich.) Harbor - box 1, folder 6

Bay city (Mich.) Train Station - box 1, folder 7

Black River - box 1, folder 8

Bos Horsemen's Party - box 1, folder 9

Bridge Street Bridge. Construction, c.1904 - box 1, folder 10

Bridges - box 1, folder 41,45

Bridges. Grand Rapids - box 1, folder 11

Bridges. Michigan box 1, folder 12

Butterworth Road box 1, folder 13

Campau Square views - box 1, folder 14,28

Carnival. Grand Rapids' first, 1897 - box 1, folder 15

Carnival. Grand Rapids' last - box 1, folder 16

Circus, Cadillac (Mich.) - box 1, folder 17

City halls - box 1, folder 5

Clam wagon - box 1, folder 18

Comstock Park (Mich.) - box 1, folder 19

Courthouses. Interiors - box 1, folder 39-40

Crescent Street view - box 1, folder 21

Delton, Mi. - box 1, folder 20

Division Ave. S. views - b.2, folder 7

Dredge. Ludlow - box 1, folder 22

Farm scene - box 1, folder 23

Fire Department equipment - box 1, folder 24

Flood, 1904 - box 1, folder 25

Grand Haven (Mich.) - box 1, folder 26

Grand Rapids Battalion encampment - box 1, folder 27

Grand Rapids Battalion leaving, 1898 - box 1, folder 28

Grand Rapids Battalion returning, 1898 box 1, folder 29

Grand Rapids chamber of Commerce trip box 1, folder 30

Grand Rapids views box 1, folder 31

Grand River views box 1, folder 32

Gull Lake (Mich.) box 1, folder 33

Harbors - box 1, folder 6

Holland (Mich.) - box 1, folder 35

Holland (Mich.). Black Lake - box 1, folder 36

Hotels - box 1, folder 36

Ionia Street views - box 1, folder 28

John Ball Park - box 1, folder 37

Kent County Courthouse - box 1, folder 38

Kent County Courthouse. Interiors, 1907 – box 1, folder 39

Kent County Democratic Stand – b.1, folder 16

Kent County Probate Court. Interiors - box 1, folder 40

Leonard Street Bridge - box 1, folder 41

Lincoln Park - box 1, folder 42

Log cabins - box 1, folder 2

Michigan Veterans Facility - box 1, folder 43

Middleville (Mich.) - box 1, folder 44

Mills - box 1, folder 19

Native American – b.1, folder 15

North Park - box 1, folder 45

North Park railroad bridge - box 1, folder 45

Ottawa Beach Inn - box 1, folder 36

People. Alger Russell A. - box 1, folder 46

People. Julian family - box 1, folder 47

Picnic - box 1, folder 20

Plaster Mill - box 1, folder 49

Probate judges - box 1, folder 50

Prohibition - box 1, folder 51

Race tracks - box 1, folder 19

Reeds Lake views – box 1, folder 52

Republican Headquarters – b.1, folder 15

Rivers - box 1, folder 2,8

Soldiers - box 1, folder 27-29

Spring Lake (Mich. - box 1, folder 53

Star Knitting Mill workers - box 1, folder 54

Steamboat. Grand - box 1, folder 55

Steamship. Holland - box 1, folder 34

Thornapple Lake - box 1, folder 56

Train stations - box 1, folder 7,44

Trains - box 1, folder 57

United States Post office - box 1, folder 58

Walker Road - box 1, folder 58

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Collection Inventory

Series I. Images

Subseries A. 8 X 10 Photo prints

Photos of S. Division buildings. (4)

Title/Description	Instances	
1. 24 S. Division. Hotel Irving, McGregors Dye Works. #139.250	Box 2	Folder 8
2. 214 S. Division. Nick Ziton Electric Shoe Repairing, Light Housekeeping Rooms at left. #139.248 Image marks indicate broken glass.	Box 2	Folder 8
3. 230 S. Division. Residential. Clyde Tuller, Teacher of Violin. #139.251	Box 2	Folder 8
4. 300 S. Division. Residential. Bolitho Transfer Co., General Trucking. #139.249	Box 2	Folder 8

Contact Prints and smaller photo prints

Title/Description	Instances	
Ada, Mich. (1 item)	Box 1	Folder 1
AuSable River, 1932. (11)	Box 1	Folder 2

Balloon ascension.(3)	Box 1	Folder 3
Bass Lake. (2)	Box 1	Folder 4
Bay City, Mich. City Hall.(1)	Box 1	Folder 5
Bay City, Mich. Harbor. (2)	Box 1	Folder 6
Bay City, Mich. Train station.(1)	Box 1	Folder 7
Black River. (9)	Box 1	Folder 8
Bos horseman's party.(4)	Box 1	Folder 9
Bridge Street bridge construction, ca. 1904.(1)	Box 1	Folder 10
Bridges - Grand Rapids. (1)	Box 1	Folder 11
Bridges - Michigan. (5)	Box 1	Folder 12
Butterworth Road. (1)	Box 1	Folder 13
Campau Square views. (1)	Box 1	Folder 14
Carnival - Grand Rapids' first, 1897.(6)	Box 1	Folder 15
Carnival - Grand Rapids' last. (12)	Box 1	Folder 16
Parrot in cage. Circus in Cadillac, Mich. (1)	Box 1	Folder 17
Clam wagon.(1)	Box 1	Folder 18
Comstock Park, Mich. Race track (2)	Box 1	Folder 19
Plumbs Mill / Creek Mill	Box 1	Folder 19
Delton, Mich.(7)	Box 1	Folder 20
Downtown Grand Rapids. Crescent Street view toward the Grand River with roof of Old County Building visible.(1)	Box 1	Folder 21
U.S. Dredge. General Ludlow.(2)	Box 1	Folder 22
Farm scene, gourds on vine.(2)	Box 1	Folder 23
Fire Department equipment, horse drawn(2)	Box 1	Folder 24

Flood, 1904. (24)

Title/Description	Instances	
Neg. 139.061 GR & I bridge	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.062 [View near Michigan Iron Works(?)]	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.063 Looking south from Fulton Bridge	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.176	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.177	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.178	Box 1	Folder 25

Neg. 139.179	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.180	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.181	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.182	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.184 [sic .183? ; unidentified Church]	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.184 original photoprint. Bridge looking east from Cadwell. March	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.1904 Has extensive description on back of photo.	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.184 c.2 contact print	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.185 [Peter Seven. Wall paper sign on building at right]	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.186 Fire station in background near center right	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.187	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.188	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.189 Star Knitting Works	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.190	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.191	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.192 [side view of church in background center]	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.193 198 Bridge St., Richard Radamacher, grocer	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.140? W. Bridge, Misner Bros (James & Martin) cigar manufacturers.	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.194	Box 1	Folder 25
Neg. 139.195 Heinrich Riechel, Deutsche Apotheke, 166-168 W. Bridge & 182 Stocking	Box 1	Folder 25
Grand Haven, Mich.	Box 1	Folder 26
<u>Custodial History:</u>		
Custodial History		
Missing in use Jan. 2000, still missing 4/2001, 1/30/2007, 4/5/2018		
Grand Rapids Battalion encampment. (13)	Box 1	Folder 27
General		
Includes the 2nd Infantry Band, Michigan National Guard, G.R.		
Grand Rapids Battalion leaving, 1898. (16)	Box 1	Folder 28

General

Includes images of crowds in Campau Square and atop buildings, Station, Union later GR Citizens Building.

Grand Rapids Battalion returning, 1898. (16)	Box 1	Folder 29
Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce trip. Hunting(6)	Box 1	Folder 30
Grand Rapids views. (1)	Box 1	Folder 31
Powers Tyson Printing Co.	Box 1	Folder 32
Dam	Box 1	Folder 32
Berkey & Gay Furniture	Box 1	Folder 32
Water Tank	Box 1	Folder 32
Gull Lake, Mich. (5)	Box 1	Folder 33
Steamship Holland.(1)	Box 1	Folder 34
Holland (Mich.) (5) Includes residences.	Box 1	Folder 35
Holland (Mich.). Black Lake (13)	Box 1	Folder 36
John Ball Park (9)	Box 1	Folder 37
Kent County Court, old. Posters hung on outside front stairway. (1)	Box 1	Folder 38
Kent County Courthouse. Interiors, 1907 (11)	Box 1	Folder 39
Kent County Probate Court. Interiors. (11)	Box 1	Folder 40
Leonard street Bridge. Covered (1)	Box 1	Folder 41
Lincoln Park. (2)	Box 1	Folder 42
Michigan Veterans Facility / Michigan Soldiers Home. (1)	Box 1	Folder 43
Middleville, Mich. (2)	Box 1	Folder 44
North Park. (4)	Box 1	Folder 45
People. Alger, Russell A. Negative only.	Box 1	Folder 46
People. Julian family. Negative only.	Box 1	Folder 47
People. Gov. Stevens T. Mason 1831-1838. Copy photo of a framed portrait (1)	Box 1	Folder 48
Plaster Mill. Railway embankment (1)	Box 1	Folder 49
Probate judges. (1)	Box 1	Folder 50
Prohibition cartoon. "If This Town Goes Dry, US Germans Vill Hang Togeder". Shows three men hung from a tree, with keg on the ground, "Brewery closed" sign on brewery building in the background. (1) Artist unknown	Box 1	Folder 51

Reeds Lake views. (9)	Box 1	Folder 52
Spring Lake (Mich. (1)	Box 1	Folder 53
Star Knitting Mill workers. (1)	Box 1	Folder 54
Steamboat Grand. (4)	Box 1	Folder 55
Thornapple Lake. (2)	Box 1	Folder 56

Trains. (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
139.246. Shuttle engine with one coach ? Workers from new Pere Marquette shops to Grandville Ave.	Box 1	Folder 57
Pere Marquette switch engine.	Box 1	Folder 57
United States Post office. OLD (1)	Box 1	Folder 58
Walker Road. (1)	Box 1	Folder 59

Subseries B. GLASS NEGATIVES

4x5s

Title/Description	Instances	
1-14.	Box 3	
14(copy)-28.	Box 4	
29-42.	Box 5	
43-52.	Box 6	
53-63.	Box 7	
64-74.	Box 8	
75-85.	Box 9	
86-96.	Box 10	
97-106.	Box 11	
107-120.	Box 12	
121-134.	Box 13	
135-144.	Box 14	
145-154.	Box 15	
155-158.	Box 16	

5x7s

Title/Description	Instances	
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159-190.	Box 17
191-222.	Box 18
223-251.	Box 19

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Series II. Papers

Title/Description	Instances
Constitution, By Laws, 1931.	Box 2 Folder 1

Programs.

Title/Description	Instances
1922-1923	Box 2 Folder 1.5
Feb. 4, 1926. YMCA Birthday Supper. Speaker is Samuel Ranck.	Box 2 Folder 1.5
1939/40	Box 2 Folder 1.5
1940/41	Box 2 Folder 1.5

Exhibit / Salon brochures

Biographical / Historical

Called "Exhibit" thru 1919, and "Salon" beginning in 1920.

1899-1910

Title/Description	Instances
2nd, 1899	Box 2 Folder 2
3rd, 1900	Box 2 Folder 2
4th, 1902	Box 2 Folder 2
8th, 1906	Box 2 Folder 2
9th, 1907	Box 2 Folder 2
10th, 1908	Box 2 Folder 2
11th, 1909	Box 2 Folder 2
12th, 1910	Box 2 Folder 2

1911-1920

Title/Description	Instances
13th, 1911	

	Box 2	Folder 3
14th, 1912	Box 2	Folder 3
15th, 1913	Box 2	Folder 3
16th, 1914	Box 2	Folder 3
17th, 1915	Box 2	Folder 3
18th, 1916	Box 2	Folder 3
19th, 1917	Box 2	Folder 3
20th, 1918	Box 2	Folder 3
21st, 1919	Box 2	Folder 3
22nd, 1920	Box 2	Folder 3

1921-1930

Title/Description	Instances	
23rd, 1921	Box 2	Folder 4
24th, 1922	Box 2	Folder 4
25th, 1923	Box 2	Folder 4
26th, 1924	Box 2	Folder 4
27th, 1925	Box 2	Folder 4
28th, 1926	Box 2	Folder 4
29th, 1927	Box 2	Folder 4
30th, 1928	Box 2	Folder 4
31st, 1929 (1 sheet)	Box 2	Folder 4
32nd, 1930	Box 2	Folder 4

1941-1936, 1938-1940

Title/Description	Instances	
33rd, 1931	Box 2	Folder 5
34th, 1932	Box 2	Folder 5
35th, 1933	Box 2	Folder 5
36th, 1934	Box 2	Folder 5
37th, 1935	Box 2	Folder 5
38th, 1936	Box 2	Folder 5
40th, 1938	Box 2	Folder 5
41st, 1939		

	Box 2	Folder 5
42nd, 1940	Box 2	Folder 5
Miscellaneous brochures, 1908-1912, n.d.		
Title/Description	Instances	
American Photographic Salon / American Federation of Photographic Societies. 3rd. 1906/07 Illustrated.	Box 2	Folder 6
American Photographic Salon / American Federation of Photographic Societies. 8th. 1912. Illustrated.	Box 2	Folder 6
Catalog of the First Exhibit of the "Elect", a photo-art club. [1903]	Box 2	Folder 6
Unidentified [cover missing, ca. 1904]	Box 2	Folder 6
Technical leaflets, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 7

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