

Finding Aid for the Robert Imhoff negatives Collection 399

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 13, 2021.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Creator:	Grand Rapids (Mich.). Fire Department
Title:	Robert Imhoff negatives
ID:	Collection 399
ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:	482
Date [inclusive]:	1950-1980
Physical Description:	1 Linear Feet 1 Box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Robert Imhoff negatives collection includes over 1400 negatives and prints related to the Grand Rapids Fire Department from about 1950-1980. Included are images of fire stations, fire engines, firemen and Grand Rapids Fire Department staff, fire prevention weeks, and fires at local homes and businesses.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Grand Rapids Fire Department began in 1844, when a bucket company and two hook and ladder companies were established after the county courthouse burned to the ground. In 1849, after the Wendall House burned, citizens petitioned the village board to purchase a new fire engine. Two fire companies were formally organized at this time, the Alert Fire Company No. 1 and Protection Fire Company No. 2. Early in 1850, after a fire at St. Andrew's Church claimed the first recorded deaths in a fire in Grand Rapids, the Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was formally organized. Likewise, a fire company on the west side of the river was formed in the same year, the Cataract Company Engine No. 3.

In the 1940-1970's, the era of the images in this Collection, the Grand Rapids Fire Department was able to utilize modern equipment to better increase the safety and efficiency of firefighting personnel, and by the end of 1975 all apparatus were equipped with two-way radios, self-

contained breathing apparatus, and first aid equipment. The river rescue response team was also formed during this time. In addition, seven engine houses opened and 4 closed, resulting in 14 engine houses with 21 companies by the end of 1975.

This collection was donated to the Library by Robert Imhoff, who was a firefighter with the Grand Rapids Fire Department from 1967-2000.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains over 1400 negatives from the Grand Rapids Fire Department from about 1950-1980. Included are images of fire stations, firemen, fire engines, fire prevention weeks, and fires at local homes and businesses. We have retained Mr. Imhoff's ordering and labeling of the folders.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Robert Imhoff, 2012.036

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Collection 134 - Robert Veit Fire Department Photographs

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Fires -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Fire departments -- Photographs
- Buildings -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Photographs
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- photographs

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Clean-Up Week 4-11-1957, posters, billboards	Box 1	Folder 1
Fire Prevention Demo. 1956	Box 1	Folder 2
Grand Rapids Gas Company Demo.	Box 1	Folder 3
1957 Safety Show	Box 1	Folder 4
Sportsman Show, G.R.F.D. Demo.	Box 1	Folder 5
Display at Museum	Box 1	Folder 6
Fire Prevention 1950	Box 1	Folder 7
Fire Prevention 1953	Box 1	Folder 8
Fire Prevention Week 1950	Box 1	Folder 9
Fire Prevention Week School Demonstrations	Box 1	Folder 10
Visual Aid – Class Sta. #1 (upstairs classroom behind dormitory)	Box 1	Folder 11
F.D. Training in session	Box 1	Folder 12
Fire Dispatch, Operating Room, Signal Service Personnel	Box 1	Folder 13

Finding Aid for the Robert Imhoff negatives Collection 399

Emergency Call Boxes, Dispatch Center	Box 1	Folder 14
Fire Prevention Slogans on G.R. Motor Coach Bus, 1952	Box 1	Folder 15
Demonstration #1's, Stencils for sidewalks, Fire prevention	Box 1	Folder 16
American LaFrance, Burn Demonstrations	Box 1	Folder 17
Fire Chief at Dept. Store, Radio program	Box 1	Folder 18
G.R.F.D. Booth in Civic Auditorium, 1955	Box 1	Folder 19
Fire Prevention Week 1955, J. Ball Park Fire Circus, Signs on City vehicle, Signs in store windows	Box 1	Folder 20
Old Alarm Boxes, October 1956	Box 1	Folder 21
Stairwells & Fire Escapes	Box 1	Folder 22
Midtown Theater, WJEF program with G.R.F.D. (fire prevention)	Box 1	Folder 23
Fire Dept. secretaries, Chris English, Mrs. Lancaster	Box 1	Folder 24
Ansul Extinguisher Demo.	Box 1	Folder 25
Public Museum – window, McVeigh, F.D. Display	Box 1	Folder 26
Chief Burns & slogan winners	Box 1	Folder 27
1956 Fire Chiefs Convention	Box 1	Folder 28
Circus at John Ball Park, 1955	Box 1	Folder 29
Capt. Larry Miller, visual aid demo.	Box 1	Folder 30
Fire Chief for a day	Box 1	Folder 31
Fire Prevention posters on trucks	Box 1	Folder 32
New Alarm Box, Telephone Center	Box 1	Folder 33
State Lab., Old building – new construction	Box 1	Folder 34
Air Raid Sirens	Box 1	Folder 35
Demo. at Junior College, visual aid demo.	Box 1	Folder 36
Award Dinner – Rowe Hotel	Box 1	Folder 37
Babysitters – class	Box 1	Folder 38
Home Inspection, Rope work on school bldg., Fire drill	Box 1	Folder 39
Jan. 1958 – Christmas Trees Burning	Box 1	Folder 40
Fire Inspection Bureau	Box 1	Folder 41
Fire Prevention & Demonstrations, 1950 Yearbooks	Box 1	Folder 42
Fire Prevention Week, Parade, Signs, Window – downtown	Box 1	Folder 43
Visual Aid Demo.	Box 1	Folder 44

Finding Aid for the Robert Imhoff negatives Collection 399

Radio & TV announcers	Box 1	Folder 45
'321' Club – Members	Box 1	Folder 46
Miscellaneous negatives (Office), Fire Prevention Office	Box 1	Folder 47
Fire Prevention Week 1955, G.R.J.C. Fire Drill, Demo & Tour Sta. #1, Classroom, Office	Box 1	Folder 48
'Tommy Wood' – Wood TV program, 1955	Box 1	Folder 49
Engine 13 – 1953 ALF (former G.R. Twp. Engine)	Box 1	Folder 50
Engine #8, 1952 ALF 1250gpm	Box 1	Folder 51
Engine #4, 1950 ALF 1250gpm	Box 1	Folder 52
Engine #1, from 1961-1963 & 1968	Box 1	Folder 53
Engine #12, 1949 ALF 1250gpm, 1962 & 1964	Box 1	Folder 54
E4 – Burton & Kalamazoo	Box 1	Folder 55
Tanker #14, Former G.R. Township Tanker	Box 1	Folder 56
Fire Stations	Box 1	Folder 57
Fire Stations #4 & #14	Box 1	Folder 58
Engine #8, 195[] LaFrance	Box 1	Folder 59
Truck #10, at LaGrave & Weston, at Fire Scene	Box 1	Folder 60
Squad #1, 1957 Seagrave 1000gpm, 1967	Box 1	Folder 61
Engine #3 – 1250gpm, 1965 Howe on International Chassis	Box 1	Folder 62
Truck #1 – 100' ALF, after tandem wheels added Dec. 1963 (10 negs.), T-1 before tandem (2 negs.)	Box 1	Folder 63
Truck #11 – 1958 ALF, 85' Aerial, 3/21/1960 (4 negs.), July 1964 (1 neg.)	Box 1	Folder 64
Truck #10 – 1951 ALF 100', 1967 photo	Box 1	Folder 65
Tanker #4 – 1953 1500gpm, 1965 photo (2 negs.), (became Tanker #7 in 1966 when 2's went to 4's)	Box 1	Folder 66
Fire Convention – 1948	Box 1	Folder 67
1937 Am-LaFrance Aerial, Truck #3	Box 1	Folder 68
Former E2 – 1944 LaFrance partly converted to Squad, 1967	Box 1	Folder 69
Eng. 13 – LaFrance, Truck 1 – LaFrance, Eng. 5 & 6 – LaFrance 37's, 2 – Pump testing the Howe's, Training at old 6's, 3 – Training at City Mkt., 2 – Fires	Box 1	Folder 70
Engine #15 – 1957 Ford/ALF 750gpm	Box 1	Folder 71
Engine #2 (#5641), 1926 ALF 750gpm	Box 1	Folder 72
Dodge light truck, DUWK or DUKW, Communication bus, 1966		

Finding Aid for the Robert Imhoff negatives Collection 399

	Box 1	Folder 73
Bixby Office Fire	Box 1	Folder 74
1925 Seagrave	Box 1	Folder 75
1928 ALF 750gpm, Service Truck (originally Truck 5)	Box 1	Folder 76
Chubb St. Fire at Emperor, E14 – LaFrance pumper	Box 1	Folder 77
1944 ALF 1250's, Engine #2, Engine #3 – replaced 1965, Engine #7	Box 1	Folder 78
Truck #1, 1967 Seagrave 100' Tiller (1968 photographs)	Box 1	Folder 79
Engine #7, 1967 Fire Trucks Inc. International, Test in 1968	Box 1	Folder 80
Purchase Electric Fire, 8/10/62	Box 1	Folder 81
1944 ALF 1250gpm (formerly Engine 3)	Box 1	Folder 82
Engine #7, 1944 ALF 1250gpm (1967 photo)	Box 1	Folder 83
Engine House #4 Burton & Kalamazoo (1 neg.), Engine House #10 Division & Brown, T-10 & E-10 (2 negs.)	Box 1	Folder 84
1928 LaFrance Service Truck w/ 750gpm pump, Former Truck 5 at Station #5, ALF ser. #6473	Box 1	Folder 85
13B – Jeep Grass Rig (1941)	Box 1	Folder 86
Engine #3 – 1965 Howe/Intl. 1250Gpm, May 1965, Acceptance Test	Box 1	Folder 87
Engine #3 – 1965 Howe/Intl. 1250Gpm, May 1965, Acceptance Test (4 prints)	Box 1	Folder 88
Driving testing, Ladder testing (City Market)	Box 1	Folder 89
G.R.F.D. Training at City Market (nozzles & deluge guns)	Box 1	Folder 90
Group negatives, 2 – E12, E13 & E1, 1 – E4 & E14 (all ALF engines)	Box 1	Folder 91
Truck tipped over, Orville & Sylvan (15 prints)	Box 1	Folder 92
Accident – LaGrave & Weston, 10/11/77, involving Car # & driven by Ch. D. Poll and a private automobile (10 prints)	Box 1	Folder 93
Accident – Ionia & Ransom, #1 Truck	Box 1	Folder 94
Demonstration inside Sta. #5	Box 1	Folder 95
Downtown Buildings	Box 1	Folder 96
Damaged tank car at Sewage disposal plant, Jan. '81?	Box 1	Folder 97
Engine #12, 192 LaFrance Pumper 750gpm at old motor equipment shop, originally Eng. 2	Box 1	Folder 98
Civic Auditorium demo. fire prevention (window displays), Demo. by river between Civic & Exhibitors Bldg. on Lyon St., unknown fire	Box 1	Folder 99

Finding Aid for the Robert Imhoff negatives Collection 399

Assembly of new river rescue deck & testing, Engine House #1 – inside apparatus room, Sqd. 1 - Seagrave, Eng. 1 – Ward LaFrance, Office – secretary	Box 1	Folder 100
Kent County Airport, FWD Foam truck	Box 1	Folder 101
'321' Club, Disaster Coach	Box 1	Folder 102
GRFD Demonstrations & Parade	Box 1	Folder 103
1031 [Ionia?] - Fire	Box 1	Folder 104
1967 Seagrave 100' Tiller Aerial to be put in service at Engine House #1 as Truck 1 (Oct. 1967 photo), City/County Bldg. under construction in background	Box 1	Folder 105
Engine House #1 – Tour (1955)	Box 1	Folder 106
Fire Dept. Officers	Box 1	Folder 107
Sound Car – 1952	Box 1	Folder 108
Engine #6, 1937 ALF 1250gpm	Box 1	Folder 109
Central Reformed Church fire	Box 1	Folder 110
1031 Ionia	Box 1	Folder 111
Modern Hardware Fire, Kalamazoo SE	Box 1	Folder 112
Excelsor Fire (9 prints)	Box 1	Folder 113
East Recreation Fire	Box 1	Folder 114
420 Gilbert SE – Fire	Box 1	Folder 115
SG1 – 1974 Ford SQURT (Fish Ladder in background), (2 color slides)	Box 1	Folder 116
17 Graham SW – Fire	Box 1	Folder 117
A.M.I. Fire	Box 1	Folder 118
Peterson House Fire, 908 Bridge NW	Box 1	Folder 119
1231 Plainfield – Fire	Box 1	Folder 120
1620 College SE – Fire	Box 1	Folder 121
Parade & Demo. at Bank Building	Box 1	Folder 122
Old Buildings	Box 1	Folder 123
Robert W. Irwin Fire	Box 1	Folder 124
20th Century Bowling Alley Fire	Box 1	Folder 125
Ritzema Store Fire, W. Leonard St.	Box 1	Folder 126
Nickolas & Cox Fire	Box 1	Folder 127
Masonic Temple Fire	Box 1	Folder 128

Finding Aid for the Robert Imhoff negatives Collection 399

Public Demonstrations, Creston Heights	Box 1	Folder 129
Union High School Fire, Broadway Ave.	Box 1	Folder 130
Battalion Chiefs – Clark Rockwell, Dick Morse, Jim Decker	Box 1	Folder 131
Chief Shears (Robert), Bill Wills (Civil Defense), Assembly of new Resc-U-Dek	Box 1	Folder 132
Eng. Houses	Box 1	Folder 133
Firefighters (misc.)	Box 1	Folder 134
Service Truck #11 - 1928 American LaFrance, Greenville Bean/Dodge	Box 1	Folder 135
Union High School Fire 4th and Turner NW	Box 1	Folder 136
Hose and Light Tender #1 1944 Chevy, Wolverine Upholstery Fire 6/3/1961, Grattan Fire Dept.	Box 1	Folder 137
1925 American LaFrance at Old Motor Equip. and Grandville and Hall, Old Engine #8	Box 1	Folder 138
Fire Dept. Apparatus	Box 1	Folder 139
Engine #12 American LaFrance	Box 1	Folder 140
Derailment on Wealthy at tracks	Box 1	Folder 141
1961 International: Scout Grass Rig, Drill Field on Market St.	Box 1	Folder 142
1960 American LaFrance Truck #3	Box 1	Folder 143
Accident Scene (color)	Box 1	Folder 144
Negatives, unidentified images of fire trucks and fire fighting equipment., (1950-1980)	Box 2	Folder 1-8