

McLean County Museum of History

General Electric Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 Boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1943-2010
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See Photos- Subject- General Electric, Bloomington

Historical Sketch

General Electric opened in Bloomington in 1955 at 1601 GE Road in then-rural east Bloomington. The plant, which employed some 1,000 in the early years, was part of a post-World War II movement that saw factories leave the core of inner cities for more lush suburban surroundings. It also was among the first Twin City businesses to provide higher-paying employment opportunities for blacks.

General Electric decided to close the Bloomington plant by the end of 2010 because of the slowing, shifting economy. The plant made electrical control equipment but was operating well under capacity. The steady shrinking of the plant is owed to outsourcing jobs to other plants in the United States and abroad (such as Puerto Rico), changing technology, and increasingly automated assembly. In October 2010, 66 people were employed, down from 96 the year before. All but one of the employees who left took early retirement.

The GE Employees Club will continue to operate its private recreation area along GE Road after the closure.

Adapted from articles “GE announces plan to close Bloomington plant” and “After long fade, local GE plant nears closing time” located in Folder 1.

Scope Note

This collection is mostly comprised of hundreds of issues from multiple Bloomington GE newsletters from 1955-2005 plus newsletters from plants across the country. Also included are 6 folders containing scrapbook pages with newspaper clippings, all related to GE employees and company news. Also included are two phonograph records and lyrics to the song “GE Control Country,” one 1943 catalog, and 4 display boards from the GE lobby.

Box 1 Folder Inventory

Folder 1: GE Lobby Display Boards & History

- 1.1.1 Mechanical Limit Switches
- 1.1.2 Control Relays
- 1.1.3 Definite Purpose Controls
- 1.1.4 Terminal Boards
- 1.1.5 “The NEAR Receiver by the GE Co.,” 2 pg. manuscript by W.R. Miller, August 1999.
- 1.1.6 “GE announces plan to close Bloomington plant” October 30, 2009
- 1.1.7 “After long fade, local GE plant nears closing time” October 1, 2010

Folder 2: GE Control Catalog

- 1.2.1 1943, 155 pages

Folder 3: Booklets

- 1.3.1 General Purpose Control Product Department booklet. Includes agenda for Board of Directors Meeting, Bloomington, April 27, 1973. 17 pages.
- 1.3.2 2 “Welcome to the new plant of the General Purpose Control Department” Bloomington, Illinois booklets.

Folder 4: Marketing

- 1.4.1 4 page personnel chart of the General Purpose Department Marketing Organization and 3 page recap of media objective

Folder 5: Phonograph Records

- 1.5.1 GE Control Country (33 1/3 RPM), includes printed lyrics
- 1.5.2 GE Control Country (33 1/3 RPM)
- 1.5.3 GE Control Country (33 1/3 RPM)

Folder 6: People in Control

- 1.6.1 Directory of Sales and Service
- 1.6.2 Directory of Sales and Service
- 1.6.3 General Purpose Control Department
- 1.6.4 Postcard: Two New GPCPD Sales Managers (1975)
- 1.6.5 People in Control (June 26, Year has been cut out)

- 1.6.6 Control Magazine (January, 1974)
- 1.6.7 Control Magazine (June, 1974)
- 1.6.8 Control Magazine (September, 1975)
- 1.6.9 Control Magazine (November, 1975)
- 1.6.10 Control Magazine (February, 1976)
- 1.6.11 Control Magazine (No year provided)
- 1.6.12 People in Control – Family Open House (June 26, 1983)
- 1.6.13 GPC Holiday Control Program (December 6, 1985)
- 1.6.14 GPC Holiday Control Program (December 10, 1985)
- 1.6.15 GPC Holiday Control Program (December 20, 1985)

Folder 7: Internal Communications

- 1.7.1 Direct Line (June 6, 1983)
- 1.7.2 ED&C Bloomington Reporter (No year provided)
- 1.7.3 Message from Mike Irwin (2005)
- 1.7.4 Message from Jeff Sommer (2005)
- 1.7.5 Message from Lloyd Trotter (2005)

Folder 8: Emergency Plan

- 1.8.1 Emergency Plan for General Electric Company – General Purpose Control Department (March 8, 1982)

Folder 9: Celebration Clippings

- 1.9.1 Clippings of photos from Celebrations with captions
- 1.9.2 Clippings of photos from Celebrations with captions
- 1.9.3 Clippings of photos from Celebrations with captions

Folder 10: Department History 1948 – 1987

- 1.10.1 Department History and Timeline with cover letter (October 13, 1987)
- 1.10.2 Department History and Timeline
- 1.10.3 Department History and Observations with cover letter (October 27, 1981)

Folder 11: Control Highlights Newspaper

- 1.11.1 “Bloomington’s Roll of Control” November, 1954

Folder 12: GE Daily Reporter 1955

Newsletters every day from January to June 1955

Folder 13: GE Daily Reporter 1955

Newsletters every day from June to December 1955

Folder 14: GE Daily Reporter 1958

Newsletters every day from January to June 1958

Folder 15: GE Daily Reporter 1958

Newsletters every day from June to December 1958

Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings 1960-1966

75 scrapbook pages of newspaper clippings. Clippings are mostly from the *Pantagraph* on various topics such as strikes, union news, promotions, obituaries, court rulings, etc.

Folder 17: Progress 1964-1965

17 Progress newsletters

Folder 18: GE Daily Reporter 1966

5 newsletters

Folder 19: Progress 1965-1967

15 Progress newsletters

Folder 20: Newspaper Clippings 1967-1969

41 scrapbook pages of newspaper clippings. Clippings are mostly from the *Pantagraph* but also includes 2 copies of a press release from August 1967. Newspaper articles on various topics such as unions, new posts, strikes, obituaries, GE computers at ISU, advertisements, etc.

Folder 21: Reporters, 1969

9 newsletters (Several have clippings taken out)

Folder 22: Newspaper Clippings 1970-1973

54 scrapbook pages of newspaper clippings. Clippings are mostly from the *Pantagraph*, and are on various topics such as work clothing, obituaries, blood donations, promotions, lay-offs, water main break, talks with Firestone, injuries, etc.

Folder 23: Daily Reporter 1973 and 1978

1 issue of the Daily Reporter. April 27, 1973

3 issues of the Christmas Edition of the Reporter

Folder 24: Newspaper Clippings 1974-5

Approx. 58 scrapbook pages of newspaper clippings. Clippings are mostly from the *Pantagraph* regarding blood donations, injuries, strikes, court notes, United Way campaigns, elected officers, thefts,

Folder 25: Reporter, 1976

1 issue of the Daily Reporter (December 15, 1976)

Folder 26: Newspaper Clippings 1976-1977

Approx. 41 scrapbook pages of newspaper clippings. Clippings are mostly from *Pantagraph* regarding topics such as United Way gifts, blood donations, theft, deaths, injuries, earning, etc.

Folder 27: Other Plants Reporter 1978

14 issues from Carbondale; 15 issues from Houston; 14 issues from Miami; 45 issues from Tucson;

1 issue from Puerto Rico

Scrapbook 1: General Electric News

Scrap book of articles ranging from 1954 – 1956

Book 1: General Purpose Control

Information on GE facilities and employees.

Book 2: National Agreement

National Agreement Between General Electric Company and IUE-CWA, The Industrial Division of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC and its Affiliated GE IUE-CWA, AFL-CIO, CLC Locals (2003-2007)

Book 3: Agreement

Agreement Between General Electric Company at Bloomington, Illinois and Lodge 1000 International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (AFL-CIO) – Effective June 18, 2007 and shall continue to June 19, 2011

Box 2 Folder Inventory**Folder 28: Newspaper Clippings 1978-1982**

47 scrapbook pages of newspaper clippings, mostly from the *Pantagraph* regarding election, GE awards, GE employees, layoffs, paint spill, blood donations, employee injuries, strikes, etc.

Folder 29: Newspaper- 1981

13.1 GE Sesquicentennial page in *Pantagraph* April 21, 1981

Folder 30: P9 Selector Switch

Selector Switch 1980-1988

Folder 31: Daily Reporter January – June 1980

121 Issues of the Daily Reporter

Folder 32: Daily Reporter June – December 1980

92 Issues of the Daily Reporter

Folder 33: Reporters 1981 – 1985

9 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 34: Reporter 1986

23 Issues of the reporters

Folder 35: Reporter 1987

39 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 36: Reporter 1988

23 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 37: Reporter 1989

51 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 38: Reporter 1990

51 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 39: Reporter 1991

52 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 40: Reporter 1992

51 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 41: Reporter 1993

48 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 42: Reporter 1994

51 Issues of the Reporter

Folder 43: ED&C Bloomington Reporter 1992-1998

13 newsletters

Folder 44: Reporter 1996

24 newsletters

Folder 45: Reporter 1997

24 newsletters

Folder 46: Reporter 1998

24 newsletters

Folder 47: Reporter 1999

24 newsletters

Folder 48: Reporter 2000

24 newsletters

Folder 49: Focus and In the News 2003-2005

24 newsletters

1 internet print out titled "Bloomington Recognized by United Way"

Folder 50: The Reporter 2001-2003

33 Newsletters

Folder 51: The Reporter 2004-2005

25 newsletters

Folder 52: Fiscal Calendar

2011 Fiscal Calendar