

McLean County Museum of History

## Illinois Tractor Company Collection

### Table of Contents

Collection Information  
Historical Sketch  
Scope and Content Note  
Folder Inventory  
Loose Items

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### Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1913-1998
PROVENANCE:	Gift
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:	None

### Historical Sketch

The Illinois Tractor Company was in business in Bloomington for a brief period, likely between 1913 and 1924. Super-Drive tractors were assembled at a site on the corner of Lincoln and Clayton streets from purchased parts, including Climax engines. Today, Illinois Super-Drive tractors are rare collector's items.

## Scope and Content Note

The Illinois Tractor Company collection consists primarily of business documents and advertisements from 1916 through 1922.

The folders contain a newspaper article about a Bloomington collector of Illinois Super-Drive tractors, company documents such as standard parts records and service reports, and illustrated advertisements for Illinois Tractors.

The loose items include an illustrated instruction and parts manual for the Model "C" Illinois Super-Drive tractor and a photo book featuring the tractor being operated in the fields. There is also a book pertaining to Kelsey Wheel Co. Inc. of Detroit, Michigan, which might have supplied parts for the Illinois Tractor Company.

## Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Newspaper Articles

- 1.1.1 "Collector restores a bit of forgotten history" by Chris Anderson, August 12, 1998, *Pantagraph*, 2 pages.

### Folder 2: Company Documents

- 1.2.1 Letter from Illinois Tractor Co. to A. W. Tipton on company stationary, February 18, 1922, 1 page.
- 1.2.2 Climax Engineering Co. Price List of Parts brochure for Models T and TU Engine, September 1921, Clinton, Iowa
- 1.2.3 Brochure on the Parrett Tractor
- 1.2.4 Service Report for the Illinois Tractor Company, 3 pages.
- 1.2.5 Standard Parts Record for the Illinois Tractor Company, 6 sheets.

### Folder 3: Advertisements

- 1.3.1 Advertisement to see the Illinois Tractor at a tractor demonstration during the week, *Daily Bulletin*, August 23, 1916, 1 page.
- 1.3.2 "Something that Everyone Interested in the Commercial Growth of Bloomington Should Know," advertisement for The Illinois Silo and Tractor Company, the *Pantagraph*, March 1917, includes list of sales from January 1 to March 1, 1917, 2 pages.
- 1.3.3 Advertisement for the Illinois Super Drive "The Master Drive 3-4 Plow Farm Tractor of America," the *Pantagraph*, March 4, 1920, 1 page.
- 1.3.4 Advertisement for the Illinois Super-Drive Tractor, undated, includes pictures and descriptions of the tractor, 4 pages.

### Folder 4: Miscellaneous

1.4.1 City Directory Search for the Illinois Silo and Tractor Co., 1913-1924, 1 page.

## **Loose Items**

- Photo Book: Illinois Super-Drive Instruction Book and Parts List**  
Instruction manual for the Illinois Super Drive Tractor that includes a general description of the Model “C” tractor, directions for its use and care, a “Do and Don’t” list, as well as maintenance and repair information—all with illustrations and diagrams. The manual also contains an illustrated parts list. Dated March 15, 1919. 213 pages.
- Photo Book: Illinois Super-Drive Tractor**  
Book features pictures of the Illinois Super-Drive tractor and its parts. There are also pictures of the tractor in use in the fields and one depicting the place where it was assembled. 31 pictures.
- Photo Book: Kelsey Wheel Co. Inc. Detroit, Michigan**  
Book features pictures of vehicles and parts. Illinois Tractor Company might have used parts from this company. 23 pictures.