

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Joliet Pageant of Progress Collection

Collection Number: MSS.36

Date Range: 1954-1955

Size: 2 Linear Feet

Location: RR.08.02, CO.OS.01

Creator: Joliet Park District, City of Joliet

Abstract: The Joliet Pageant of Progress Collection contains planning records and photographs from the Pageant of Progress hosted in July of 1954 and 1955 at Memorial Stadium. The pageant displayed the industrial and economic growth of Joliet through industrial, commercial, and agricultural exhibits

Acquisition Information: This collection has been composed from various accessions relating to the history of the Joliet Pageant of Progress. There was no reasonable original order to these materials, so an order has been created for research purposes. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

Separated Materials: None

Citation: Item Description. MSS.36 Joliet Pageant of Progress Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History: The City of Joliet and the Joliet Park District hosted their first Pageant of Progress at Memorial Stadium in July of 1954. Over 175,000 visitors attended the event over the course of the four-day event. The pageant displayed the industrial and economic growth of Joliet through industrial, commercial, and agricultural exhibits. The pageant included a pageant queen, square dancing, musical performances, food contests, carnival rides, and more. The second Pageant of Progress was held in July of 1955 at Memorial Stadium. This celebration was recognized by the Will County Board of Supervisors as an official County Fair. The event included opening day ceremonies, day of agriculture programs, a pageant queen, youth day programming, business-industry day programming, and a day of community-international programs. In addition to the daily themes the Barnes-Carruthers Circus show was performed twice a day, as well as performances from the Mooseheart Drum and Bugle Corps and a national baton twirling contest.

Scope and Content Arrangement: The Joliet Pageant of Progress Collection contains planning records from the 1955 event, a program from the 1955 event, and various photographs. The planning records are bound volumes from the planning committee meetings and include lists of business exhibits,

financial records, meeting minutes, correspondence, and additional records. Materials in this collection were arranged into three series by record type, and each series was arranged alphabetically.

Series 1: Records

Series 2: Photographs

Series 3: Oversized Materials

Content Listing:

Series 1: Records

Location: RR.08.02

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Pageant of Progress Planning Records Vol. 1, 1954-1955	1	1
Pageant of Progress Planning Records Vol. 2, 1954-1955	2	1
Pageant of Progress Planning Records Vol. 3. 1954-1955	1	2
Pageant of Progress Program, 1955	2	2

Series 2: Photographs

Location: RR.08.02

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Agriculture Day Programs, 1955	3	2
All-America City Award, 1955	4	2
Booth and Exhibit Displays, 1955	5	2
Memorial Stadium, 1955	6	2
Opening Day Ceremonies, 1954-1955	7	2
Pageant Contest, 1955	8	2
Thrill Show, Tom and Jerry, 1955	9	2
Youth and Children's Day Programs, 1955	10	2
Misc., 1955	11	2

Series 3: Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.01

Folder Title:	Original Series:
Memorial Stadium, 1955	Series 2: Photographs