

**Title:** Rasche, William F. Papers

**Call Number:** Mss-0789

**Inclusive Dates:** 1884 – 1971

**Bulk:** 12.36 cu. ft.

**Location:** HH, Sh. 013-015 (12.3 cu. ft.)  
MV, F37 (0.06 cu. ft.)  
OS SM “R” (20 items)

**Historical Note:** William F. Rasche was a long-time teacher, principal, and director of the Milwaukee Vocational and Adult School (now Milwaukee Area Technical College). He was born in Milwaukee on June 6, 1888. He began his teaching career in South Dakota from 1907 to 1913. He returned to Milwaukee and became director of the Cudahy Vocational School in 1916. In 1922, he became a teacher at the Milwaukee Vocational School. From 1926 to 1930, he left Milwaukee to serve as a Professor of Vocational Education at the University of Pittsburgh and as personnel director for General Motors. He returned to the Milwaukee Vocational School in 1930 as assistant director. In 1940, he was named director, and he held that post until he retired in 1958.

During his stint as director, Rasche was instrumental in the establishment of an educational television station (WMVS-Channel 10) at the vocational school. In addition to his educational work, Rasche was one of Milwaukee’s most civic-minded citizens. He belonged to numerous groups and was one of the leading forces for the establishment of the War Memorial and the Performing Arts Center and was a supporter of equal rights for Milwaukee’s African-American community. But Rasche focused his efforts on behalf of Milwaukee’s youth, serving many years on the Metropolitan Youth Commission. Rasche passed away in March 1970 of a heart attack.

**Scope and Content:** The records consist of correspondence, reports, minutes, clippings, publications, and photographs. They detail Rasche’s career in vocational education, as well as his efforts to establish an educational television station, and his many civic activities. There is also some personal material with records pertaining to Rasche’s family.

**Administrative Note:** The collection was reprocessed in February 2002 by Kevin Abing.

Blueprints/diagrams of Valhalla Cemetery buildings and of WMVS-TV transferred to Blueprint Collection.

2 Yearbooks, Riverside High School *Mercury*, 1936, 1938, transferred to Yearbook Collection

Audio Reel-to-reel Tape of William Rasche at Meeting of Vocational School Directors, February 25, 1958 transferred to Multimedia Collection (#130)

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State Teacher’s Certificate, April 17, 1920		OS SM “R”
Alumni Distinguished Service Award from Stout State University, June 3, 1967		OS SM “R”
Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Service from War & Navy Departments, 1946		OS SM “R”
Citation of Merit from Milwaukee Council for Adult Learning, 1962		OS SM “R”
Citation for Public Service from Alumni Association of the University of Chicago, n.d.		OS SM “R”
Certificate from Gov. Gaylord Nelson appointing Rasche to Metropolitan Study Commission, 1959		OS SM “R”
Certificate of honorary membership in Cosmopolitan International, Oct. 26, 1944		OS SM “R”
Reproduction of plaque of Rasche, pioneer in Public Television, 1958		OS SM “R”
Reproduction of plaque presented to Milwaukee Area Technical College recognizing Rasche Memorial Library, Feb. 4, 1972		OS SM “R”
Tribute from American Vocational Association for his services to mankind, Aug. 8, 1957 (2 copies)		OS SM “R”
Certificate of recognition from National Conference of Christians and Jews, April 30, 1958		OS SM “R”
Certificate from Milwaukee Civic Alliance for outstanding services as past president, May 21, 1958		OS SM “R”
Certificate granting Rasche status as Director Emeritus from Board of Vocational and Adult Education, May 8, 1958		OS SM “R”



Certificate of active membership for life from American Vocational Association, Dec. 12, 1930	OS SM "R"	
Citation from State Board of Vocational and Adult Education, June 23, 1958	OS SM "R"	
Diploma from South Division High School for William Rasche in general science, Jun. 21, 1906	OS SM "R"	
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OS #2219: Banquet of National Metal Trades Association, Chicago, 1929		