

**Title:** Harnischfeger Corporation

**Call Number:** Mss-0497

**Bulk:** 26.8 cu. ft.

**Inclusive Dates:** 1879 – 1984

**Location:** NE, Sh. 021-029; MV F11; OS SM “H”

**Abstract:**

The collection includes correspondence and biographies for Henry Harnischfeger (1855 – 1930) and Walter Harnischfeger (1895 – 1973). Speeches and writing and personal business papers are also included in the collection. Papers from the Harnischfeger Corporation include: histories, correspondence, business papers, newspaper clippings, anniversary celebrations, employee and retiree activities, product publication, photographs, and crane contracts.

**Historical Note:**

Henry Harnischfeger was born in Salmuenster Kreislichtern, Hessen Nassau, Germany, on July 10, 1855. His father was Constantine Harnischfeger, a tanner and farmer, and his mother's maiden name was Christina Adrian. At thirteen, Henry was indentured as an apprentice to a locksmith. In 1872 he and six friends decided to immigrate to the United States, and they landed at Castle Gardens, New York, on April 9.

Through a cousin he secured work with the Singer Sewing Machine Co. Six months he went to Providence, Rhode Island. Harnischfeger worked at the Rhode Island Locomotive Works and then with Browne & Sharpe. After being laid off, he returned to Singer and worked in the tool department of their new plant in Elizabeth, New Jersey from 1874 to 1881. Through friends he met at the Turnverein who had moved to Milwaukee in 1877, he learned of a new company being formed called the Whitehill Sewing Company. He obtained a job as a foreman in their milling department and moved to Milwaukee in November 1881.

It was at Whitehill that Harnischfeger met Alonzo Pawling. Pawling was born in Chicago in 1856 and had worked in Milwaukee at Filer & Stowell and in Racine at the J.I case Company before becoming a wood patternmaker at Whitehill. Also at Whitehill was Maurice Weiss, who had come from New York with Harnischfeger. In 1883, these three decided to go into business for themselves, and they started the Milwaukee Tool & Pattern Shop. Mr. Weiss left in 1884 to return to New York, and the partnership of Pawling and Harnischfeger was formed. Pawling relinquished his interest in 1911, and he died in 1914. In 1924 the company became H. Harnischfeger Company, later the Harnischfeger Corporation, but kept P & H as its trademark.

**Administrative Note:**

The collection was processed on August 16, 1993 by H. Vaeth. Material was added to the collection on June 4, 1994 and Feb. 8, 1996 and processed by Steve Daily. Additional material was added to the collection on March 2000 and processed by Kevin Abing. The collection was reprocessed on November 1, 2011 by Jenny Stevenson.

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Death and funeral, 1930	1	3

<i>Erinnerungen an Salmunster</i> . Harnischfeger, Adam. 1970 (2 copies)	1	Loose in box
Groundhog Mountain Anthracite Syndicate, 1914 – 1916	1	4
Kawertz Family	1	5
Membership cards and receipts, 1911 – 1930	1	6
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Resolutions to Express Sorrow Harnischfeger Corp. Board of Directors National Association of Manufacturers (2 volumes)	1	Loose in box
Retirement letters, 1970 – 1971	1	14
Speeches and writings, 1948 – 1968	1	15
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Drives	3	50
Excavators and back fillers, 1915 – 1957	3	51
Hoists, 1903- 1960	3	52
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Miscellaneous, 1913 – 1924 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Plant and its Products, 1913</li> <li>- Motor Specifications</li> <li>- P &amp; H Electric Transfer Car, 1922.</li> <li>- The Single Line Grab Bucket, 1919, 1924.</li> <li>- Standard Beam Trolleys, 1918.</li> </ul>	3	54
Miscellaneous, 1945-1955 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parking System, 1955</li> <li>- Scrap Handling Equipment, 1949</li> <li>- Sierra Loader, 1954</li> <li>- “Thru-the-Air” Handling, 1946, 1949</li> <li>- Soil Stabilizer, n.d.</li> <li>- Welcome to P.H., n.d.</li> <li>- Welding Positioners, 1945, 1950</li> </ul>	3	55
Miscellaneous, 1911 – 1984 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Form letter. “Safeguarding of Machinery” 1911.</li> <li>- Blueprint. Backfiller, March 1, 1928.</li> <li>- Diary with Diagrams. Installing clamshell and dragline in Astakos, Greece, March 24-May 28, 1928</li> <li>- Pamphlets: “One Year of War” 1942</li> <li>- “P &amp; H. We’re in to Win” 1942</li> <li>- National Assn. of Manufacturers. “Industry Believes” 1946</li> <li>- U.S. Senate Luncheon Menu, April 10, 1946. (Copy) (Original in Mss Not For Public Use File)</li> <li>- de Oliveirs, J. Spanish Course for Beginners. Direct Method, Book 1. U.S. Military Acad. 1948</li> <li>- West Milwaukee’s Golden Year, 1906-1956.</li> <li>- Milwaukee School of Engineering. Industrial Advisory Council Annual Meeting, Feb.1962</li> <li>- Letter, June 26, 1984, with early P &amp; H stickers attached</li> <li>- Desarrollo Nacional Mayo 1982. P &amp; H ad p.68-70.File 52. Misc. Manuals</li> <li>- The Metal and Non-Metallic Mining, Milling, Smelting, and Refining Industries, as a market for overhead</li> </ul>	3	56
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Walter Harnischfeger Memorial Album	NE Sh. 029	
P & H <i>Excavator News</i> 1958, 1959	MV F11	
P & H <i>Shovel News</i> Nos. 158, 558, 657, 957	MV F11	
<i>Electric Shovel News</i> Nos. 9141, 10141, 11241, 12241	MV F11	
P & H <i>Lift</i> 1951, 1953	MV F11	
50th anniversary certificate of membership in Milwaukee Turners of Henry Harnischfeger, 1928	OS SM "H"	
Photo album 60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Walter Harnischfeger	NE Sh. 029	
Shovel News bound editions	NE Sh. 029	
P & H <i>Lift</i> bound editions 1946-1949	NE Sh. 029	
P & H <i>Lift &amp; Weld News</i> bound editions 1948-1954	NE Sh. 029	
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Product number: 851 – 14164	101	NE Sh. 028
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