

Title: William Reckmeyer Company

Call Number: Mss-0269

Inclusive Dates: 1895 – 1988

Bulk: 2.81 cu. ft.

Location: WC, Sh. 005 and 010 (2.0 cu. ft.)
RC20, Sh. 001-004 (0.8 cu. ft.)
MV, F35

History: The William Reckmeyer Company was one of the most enduring furriers in Milwaukee. William Reckmeyer, founder of the company, left his hometown of Haderslev, Denmark, in 1884 to avoid forced military service in the Prussian army. He initially located in Canada and put his knowledge of the fur business, which he had learned from his father, to work. He then moved to Detroit and helped older brother Adolph with his fur shop before eventually settling in Milwaukee. In 1886, William established his own fur business on the third floor of the Windsor Hotel on Milwaukee Street. Word of William's expertise quickly spread, and the business soon outgrew its cramped quarters. The following year, William relocated the company to 410 Milwaukee Street. The venture continued to thrive and moved into a new space at 327 E. Wisconsin Avenue in 1891. In 1901, William's younger brother, Emil, emigrated to Milwaukee and joined the company. That same year, the firm, needing still larger accommodations, moved into a new store at 301 E. Wisconsin. There the store remained, until Victor Reckmeyer moved the store to a new five-story building at 331 E. Wisconsin in 1955. The company eventually passed on to Victor's son, William, who managed the firm until it closed its doors in 1999.

Scope and Content:

The bulk of the records consist of clippings of newspaper advertisements, but it also includes several scrapbooks, invoices and photos.

Administration Note:

The collection was processed in December 14, 1999 by Kevin Abing.

Contents	Box #	Folder #
Historical Information-75th Anniversary, 1961	1	1
Capital Stock Certificates, 1905-1943	1	2
Receipts/Invoices, A-L (1895-1898)	1	3
Receipts/Invoices, M-Z (1895-1898)	1	4
Advertisements, 1947-1950	1	5
Advertisements, 1951-1952	1	6
Advertisements, 1953-1954	1	7
Advertisements, 1955	1	8
Advertisements, 1956	1	9
Advertisements, 1957	1	10
Advertisements, 1958-1959	1	11

Advertisements, 1960-1961	1	12
Advertisements, 1962-1963	1	13
Advertisements, 1964-1965	1	15
Advertisements, 1968-1970	1	16
Miscellaneous Business Records: Order Forms; Receipts, 1969-1970, 1977-1978; Fire Insurance Map, 1944	1	17
Miscellaneous Blank Forms	1	18
Scrapbooks	Location	
Newspaper advertisements, fliers, brochures and correspondence from Reckmeyers; advertisements from other fur companies, 1898-1925	RC #20, Sh. 1-4	
Newspaper advertisements and other miscellaneous clippings from Reckmeyers, 1900-1905	RC #20, Sh. 1-4	
Newspaper advertisements, post cards and photos from Reckmeyers, 1954-1974, 1979	RC #20, Sh. 1-4	
Newspaper advertisements, fliers and correspondence from Reckmeyers relating to "automobile coats," 1912-1913	RC #20, Sh. 1-4	
Newspaper advertisements, newsworthy clippings, other stories and photographs, 1897-1953	WC, Sh. 010	
Oversize	Location	
Catalogue, "Nouveautes De Fourrures," Paris, 1913	MV, Drawer F35	
Photos: See M-161, OS #2129, 2130		