

**Archive
Lakeshore Museum Center
George Morrell Corporation Finding Aid**

Collection: George Morrell Corporation (GMC)

Object ID Numbers: 2006.045.001 to 2006.045.027

Location: CM Archive, room 204, shelf S 7

Dates: 1920-1990

Quantity: 2 large document boxes, 14 ledgers and 10 booklets

Restrictions: Files and ledgers containing Social Security Numbers are restricted.

Abstract: The George Morrell Corporation started as a custom molder, and assisted customers in the design of parts, tools, and manufacturing. GMC molded to high quality specifications and handled individual requirements including, corrosion resistant, high strength, and non-burning moldings. This collection provides researchers with information about products produced, personnel, GMC stocks and shares certificate information, fiscal and administrative information, as well as a better understanding how GMC grew and changed over time.

Historical Information: The George Morrell Corporation (GMC) was founded in Muskegon, Michigan in 1928, and was located on Sherman Boulevard. The company started in Leominster, Massachusetts in 1920, and made celluloid umbrella tips, chains for holding fur capes, and beads. A related firm, the Kyloid Company, formed in 1923 to make billiard balls for Brunswick but the firm soon moved on to manufacturing buttons. The two firms combined and became GMC, which was incorporated into the state of Michigan on June 28, 1928.

In 1940, GMC ordered presses to automate molding buttons. Button imports increased as local production decreased. Their capability extended from tiny caps to laundry tubs. In 1954, GMC entered into the fiberglass molding field to utilize the presses idled by foreign button competition. The button division was eliminated in 1970. In the 1970s, there were 11 presses for production and 70 workers. In 1984, the George Morrell Corporation became GMI Composites, and remains in the same location.

During formative and growth years, President John R. Reardon led the company and served a total of twenty-five years until his death in 1973.

The first directors of GMC were: Harold J. Bluhm, J. Ward Healy, Anthony Howson, Albert Lyonnais, J.O. Matteson, Edna Folk Morrell, George Morrell, William Munroe, and Eric Zachau.

Foremost Customers include: Frigidaire division of General Motors, Duncan Electric Company, McGraw-Edison Company, Square D. Company, General Filters Company, Brunswick Company, Geerpres Wringer, and Incorporated.

Scope and Contents: This collection provides researchers with a better understanding of the operations of the George Morrell Corporation (GMC) and how the company changed over time. This collection consists of archival materials, fourteen ledgers, ten shares and stock certificate booklets, and two photographs.

The archival materials are organized into 6 series and several sub-series. The series include: Administrative, Fiscal, Personnel, Stockholders, Plans/Procedures/ Manuals, and Publications/Ads/Letterheads.

The Administrative series includes records regarding legal agreements, collective bargaining agreements, reports and minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, president's report, correspondence and IRS forms regarding Art In Button, Incorporated, general legal paperwork, and customer lists and orders.

The Fiscal series includes the financial records of GMC and includes corporate income tax return forms, Michigan intangible tax return forms, operating statements, balance sheets, general financial matters, GMC reports, and remittance statements.

The Personnel series includes the timesheets, withholding receipts and tax information for the employees of GMC. This entire series is restricted as the materials contain the Social Security numbers of the employees.

The Stockholder's series includes a list of names and number of shares for all stockholders, minutes and reports from the annual meeting, shares, proxies, and an indemnity agreement. The Plans/Procedures/Manuals series includes operational and building information, and a manual for various molding procedures.

The Publications/ Ads/ Letterhead series includes promotional materials for GMC and the company stationary.

The fourteen ledgers contain information about the annual meeting of GMC stockholders minutes, notices, letters of action; minutes of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of GMC, minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Directors of GMC; the following Exhibits: Plan of Complete Liquidation; Assets Purchase Agreement; Terms of Employment; Summary of the Transaction; Proxy- received and signed, plus a template, and affidavit of mailing; Articles of Association, By-Laws and Amendments; Pay Roll sheets which includes GMC employee names, amount paid, hours worked, and pay date; and administrative and fiscal information arranged into the following categories; Assets, Liabilities, Sales, Manufacturing Expense, Selling Expense, and Administrative Expense.

The ten shares and stock certificate booklets contain orange and white certificates, and list the number of shares, authorized capital, name of the owner of the shares, date, and the signatures of the secretary and president. To the left of the certificate, on the opposite side of the perforation, are lines for certificate number, number of shares, to whom issued, date, from whom transferred, notarized with signature of witnesses on back. Some of the certificates are marked or stamped "cancelled" near the right bottom corner and include legal papers associated with certain certificates.

The two photographs are of the exterior of GMC taken in the 1930s.

This collection does not provide information about how GMC became GMI Composites or how the two companies might differ. Rather, the collection provides a general overview of the financial and administrative operations and how they changed over time.

Arrangement: This collection was donated by GMI Composites. Archival and curatorial staff viewed the collection at its original location. Due to the size of the original collection, Muskegon County Museum staff selected the best representation of the collection. The collection is arranged into series and sub-series and stored in archival boxes or stored flat on acid free folders. The collection is stored on shelf S 7. Nine of the ledgers, 2006.045.002 to 2006.045 .010, are stored in a large white archival box. One of the restricted ledgers is covered in acid-free paper and clearly marked RESTRICTED. The remaining ledgers and booklets are stacked on the shelf according to size and weight. There are acid-free folders placed in between the artifacts to best protect them and assure proper handling. The archival materials are organized into six series and were placed into one large white archival box. The photographs, 2006.045.026 and 2006.045.027, are stored in drawer J 4. The entire collection is catalogued on PastPerfect and each catalog record provides more information.

Contents

2006.045.001- Archival Materials
Dates- 1920 -1990

Series 1: Administration

Sub-series: Legal
1941-1971

Sub-Series: General Legal

Sub-series: Annual Meeting of Stockholders
1932-1963

Sub-series: Art In Buttons, Incorporated
1925-1951

Sub-series: Customer list and orders

Series 2: Fiscal

Sub-series: Corporate Income Tax Returns
1926-1976

Sub-series: Michigan Intangible Tax Return
1941-1943

Sub-series: Michigan Annual Report
1930-1981

Sub-Series: Operating Statements
1973-1975

Sub-series: Balance Sheets
1930-1969

Sub-series: General

Sub-series: Remittance Statements
1958-1961

Sub-series: GM Corporate Reports
1940-1946

Sub-series: Property Ledger Control Sheets
1935-1944

Series 3: Personnel *RESTRICTED*

Sub-series: Timesheets

1953-1984

Sub-series: IRS Income Tax Returns

1934-1942

Sub-series: Withholding Receipts

1943-1944

Sub-series: IRS General

Series 4: Series: Stockholders

1943-1982

Series 5: Plans/ Procedures/ Manuals

1959, 1961

Series 6: Publications/ Ads/ Letterhead

2006.045.002- Ledger-Corporate Records

Dates: 1968-1984

2006.045.003- Ledger- Corporate Records

Dates: 1955-1967

2006.045.004- Ledger- Corporate Records

Dates: 1928-1938

2006.045.005- Ledger- Corporate Records

Dates: 1947-1955

2006.045.006- Ledger- Pay Roll

Dates: 1928-1933

2006.045.007- Ledger- Pay Roll

Dates: 1933-1934

2006.045.008- Ledger- Pay Roll

Dates: 1934-1935

2006.045.009- Ledger- Pay Roll

Dates: 1935

2006.045.010- Ledger- Pay Roll

Dates: 1929

- 2006.045.011- Ledger- Pay Roll
Dates: 1938-1939
- 2006.045.012- Ledger- Pay Roll
Dates: 1937-1938
- 2006.045.013- Ledger- Employee Information
Dates: 1937-1939
RESTRICTED
- 2006.045.014- Ledger- Corporate Records
Dates: 1973
- 2006.045.015- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1928
- 2006.045.016- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1928-1929
- 2006.045.017- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1929
- 2006.045.018- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1929-1933
- 2006.045.019- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1933-1939
- 2006.045.020- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1939-1947
- 2006.045.021- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1947-1958
- 2006.045.022- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1959-1967
- 2006.045.023- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1967-1971
- 2006.045.024- Booklet- Stocks and Shares
Dates: 1975-1979
- 2006.045.025- Ledger- Owners of Stocks and Shares
Dates: Unknown

