

Allis Chalmers Company Collection

Volume:

1 box

Processed by:

Curtis R. Mann March 2017

Background:

Allis Chalmers opened its Springfield location in 1928 after purchasing the old Monarch Tractor plant in the city's Harvard Park development. Allis Chalmers continued to make the Monarch crawler tractors until 1930 when its own trademark models were introduced. The corporation's plant steadily expanded from the 1930s through the 1960s. The workforce, at 132 people in 1928, increased to over 3,000 at peak production. During the Second World War, the company manufactured crawler tractors and the M-4 Prime Mover vehicles for the war effort. The Springfield plant was awarded the Army-Navy E Award for exceptional production performance. In 1944, the company expanded to a second site, purchasing the American Radiator Company plant at 11th and Ash streets. In the late 1960s, the executive offices of Allis Chalmers' construction machinery division were moved to Springfield, having been consolidated down to the plants in both Springfield and Deerfield, Illinois.

In 1973, Allis Chalmers and Fiat S.P.A. of Italy set up a construction machinery partnership known as Fiat-Allis. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the corporation was forced to lay off many workers due to decreased demand for construction machinery and fierce competition from similar manufacturers. Despite the layoffs, Fiat-Allis continued to lose money. In 1985 the plant closed.

Scope and Contents:

The Allis Chalmers Collection consists of photographs showing employees and the machinery manufactured at the Springfield plant. Another part of the collection consists of clippings from the company's newsletter. Most of the clippings focus on anniversaries of employees for their years of service. A small collection of memos and correspondence is also a part of the collection.

Provenance:

The Allis Chalmers Company Collection is comprised of materials donated by the Flo Boner estate in 2011.

Conservation:

Photographs and magazine clippings were dismounted from backings in a scrap book. Staples were removed from paper items.

Copyright:

Request for permission to publish materials from the collection must be submitted in writing to the manager of the Sangamon Valley Collection.

Contact Us

Sangamon Valley Collection
Lincoln Library, the public library of Springfield, IL
326 S. 7th St.
Springfield, IL 62701
217-753-4900

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