



Webb City Chamber of Commerce Records (R0550)

Collection Number: R0550

Collection Title: Webb City Chamber of Commerce Records

Dates: 1920-1924

Creator: Webb City Chamber of Commerce (Jasper County, Mo.)

Abstract: The Webb City Chamber of Commerce Records are minutes of meetings of the Webb City Chamber of Commerce, Jasper County, Missouri, for the years 1920 and 1924.

Collection Size: (1 roll of microfilm)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Webb City Chamber of Commerce Records* (R0550); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The records were loaned for microfilming to the University of Missouri by Webb City Public Library on June 20, 1995 (Accession No. RA0630).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Webb City Chamber of Commerce Records can be found in the following collections:

Joplin Chamber of Commerce Collection (R1063)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, September 18, 1995. Revised by Niki Cox, May 9, 2023.

Historical Note:

Webb City, along with many of the old lead and zinc mining towns in Jasper County, had suffered as the locus of mining activity shifted to the Picher Field in Oklahoma. The Webb City Chamber of Commerce applied concerted efforts to reinvent the town's local economy. Working in concert with the Southwest Missouri Mine Safety & Sanitation Association, the Webb City Chamber of Commerce explored many different avenues to retain and increase its economic base. The Chamber sponsored and organized regular "Sales Day" auctions, negotiated incentives with prospective new businesses, promoted tourism through the Ozark Playgrounds Association, and formed the Webb City & Carterville Development Company to prospect for mineral concentrations in Jasper County. The Chamber also looked into reducing freight rates by bargaining with the railroads serving the area, establishing a tourist park and an airfield in Webb City, marking the streets with appropriate signage, and keeping the Jane Chinn Hospital in operation by transforming it into a tuberculosis sanitarium.

The presidents of the Chamber in 1920 and 1924 were T. C. Hayden and E. E. Wood, respectively. The Chamber had some success in 1920, attracting the Central Cigar Box Factory, but other negotiations concerning the Rock Hill Paint Company, the Webb City Creamery Company, and the Davis Toy Company were not successful. The Chamber was less active in 1924. The Webb City & Carterville Development Company was dissolved that year, but the Chamber joined the Southwest Missouri Harvest Show Association, a group promoting fall festivals throughout the region.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

These records contain minutes of meetings of the Webb City Chamber of Commerce, Jasper County, Missouri, for the years 1920 and 1924. Included are minutes of regular, directors', and committee meetings. Among the topics of discussion were economic development, advertising, tourism, road and street improvements, the financial status of the Jane Chinn Hospital, and the sponsorship of special sales and commercial events. The minutes of the Webb City Chamber of Commerce show the attempts by this small mining town to reinvent its local economy.

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