

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Meadows Manufacturing Collection**

Processed by  
Carol Genung  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1914-55.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also McLean Co. Centennial, 1930 – Programs – Vertical File. And see Photos – Set L –Thor Corp – Meadows Div.

## Brief History

John Rocke had the idea to build a grain elevator to improve the slow and laborious method of scooping grain and corn into bins. Thus, Meadows Manufacturing was founded by John Rocke in Meadows, McLean County, Illinois. Meadows operated from January 27, 1903 until their sale by auction on November 10, 1955. They manufactured grain elevators, farm scales, washing machines, tractor binder hitches, and pump jacks. During WWII, they suspended manufacturing all of their products to make parts for an anti-aircraft gun.

## Scope

The collection includes the history of the company, lists of their products and specs, their involvement in WWII manufacturing, newspaper articles and advertising, repair specs, their sale by auction, etc.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: History & Business Information

- 1.1 Stock offering with history of the business, *Pantagraph*, 8 April 1920.
- 1.2 McLean County Centennial Souvenir Program, 1930.
- 1.3 Meadows Division - Thor Corporation, list of automatic appliances and employee roster, from Bloomington Centennial 1850-1950 Souvenir Program.
- 1.4 Card, "Instructions for Operating the Meadows Washer," no date.
- 1.5 \$10,000.00 in Gold to those who explain the Modern Miracle, 17 April 1929. 2pp.

### Folder 2: World War II

- 2.1 "Meadows Rolls off Last Washer," *Pantagraph*, 16 May 1942.
- 2.2 Tiny envelope, 1943.
- 2.3 Tiny Christmas card, 1943.
- 2.4 Letter, "Success in Action," *Pantagraph*, 12 January 1943.
- 2.5 "Meadows Division Shop Rules," no date. 3pp.
- 2.6 U.S. Espionage Statute, 14 June 1940.
- 2.7 "Meadows Turns Out Washing Machines," *Pantagraph*, 8 July 1945.

### Folder 3: Newspaper Articles (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 3.1 "Much Activity At Factory Site," *Daily Bulletin*, October 1, 1919.
- 3.2 "Leveling Off Ground at Site of new Factory," October 7, 1919.
- 3.3 "Thousands of Visitors Inspect Meadows Plant At Formal Opening," *Daily Bulletin*, August 19, 1920. 2pp.
- 3.4 "Meadows Refinances; To Repay \$500,000," December 6, 1927.
- 3.5 "Meadows Acquires 2 other Companies," January 31, 1931.

- 3.6 "Meadows Firm Founder Dies," October 18, 1932.
- 3.7 "Meadows Factory To Reopen Monday," March 25, 1934.
- 3.8 "New Orders At Meadows," March 26, 1934.
- 3.9 "New Meadows Firm Formed," April 13, 1934.
- 3.10 "Meadows Contract Nears End; Reconversion Permit Sought," September 29, 1944.
- 3.11 "Meadows Plant To Turn Out Artillery Shells for Army," February 22, 1951.
- 3.12 "Thor Approves Sale of Plant To Eureka Williams," November 2, 1955.
- 3.13 "Meadows factory home," *Sesquicentennial Pantagraph Special Supplement*, April 21, 1981.
- 3.14 No headline, *Pontiac Leader*, ca. January 1993.

**Folder 4: Newspaper & Company Advertising** (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 4.1 Brochure, 1920, history of company.
- 4.2 Meadow Lark, The Meadows Mfg. Co. (2 copies), no date.
- 4.3 Safety Electric Washer, The Meadows Mfg. Co., no date.
- 4.4 *The Christian Evangel*, back cover ads, May – November 1914 & January & March 1915.
- 4.5 August 26, 1930 (two photocopies and original clipping).
- 4.6 September 19, 1935, p. 10.
- 4.7 August 28, 1937, p. 7.
- 4.8 September 9, 1937, p. 16.
- 4.9 June 4, 1939, p. 13.
- 4.10 August 23, 1945, p. 9.
- 4.11 Meadows Select-a-Speed, from 1931 Aegis, Bloomington High School yearbook.
- 4.12 Meadows Select-A-Speed from "Dad's Day: Illinois vs. Chicago" souvenir football program, presumably 1929. Original in Munce Collection.

**Folder 5: Catalogs & Product Specs**

- 5.1 "Advertising Electros and Mats, Dealer Helps," no date.
- 5.2 "Model "H" Repair Parts List," no date.
- 5.3 Meadows washers, elevators, scales, and pump jacks information, no date.
- 5.4 "Model "V" Repair Parts List," 1929.

**Folder 6: Thor Corporation Auction Sale**

- 6.1 "Public Auction Sale, Machinery and Equipment," Meadows Division of the Thor Corporation, November 10, 1955.