

Drovers Telegram Ledger (SC119)

Introduction

The Drovers Telegram ledger consists of “Articles of Incorporation” for the Drovers Telegram Company; minutes from directors’ meetings; a list of salaries, expenses, and earnings; and newspaper articles.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Jay H. Neff, George N. Neff, and Walter P. Neff
Title: Drovers Telegram Ledger
Dates: April 2, 1902 – February 19, 1924
Size: .21 linear feet, 1 box
Collection Number: SC119

Donor Information

Found in collection.

Citation Note

Drovers Telegram Ledger (SC119), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Related Collections: Additional materials on the Drovers Telegram include an issue of the *Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram*, March 9, 1931 (MVSC F 636.09 K16); a biographical sketch of Walter P. Neff found in *Citizens Historical Association: Biographical Data of Kansas Citizens* (MVSC Q091 C58); and information on Jay H. Neff found in “Vertical File: Neff, Jay Holcomb.” Further information related to employees of the Drovers Telegram and articles on the building once occupied by the Drovers Telegram may be found by searching the Missouri Valley Special Collections local history collections.

Historical Sketch

A livestock paper under the name *Daily Drovers Telegram* began in about 1881. On April 2, 1902, it was incorporated as the Drovers Telegram Company under stockholders Jay H. Neff, George N. Neff, and Walter P. Neff. In 1917 Jay Neff acquired the *Chicago Daily Drovers Journal* and merged the two publications. The paper was renamed the *Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram* in 1923. The publication was eventually bought out by Vance Publishing, which also owns *The Packer*, and became a monthly publication renamed as *Drovers, America's Beef Business Source*.

The purpose of the publication was to report on the Kansas City Stockyards and livestock business. Meeting minutes include reference to keeping alcohol related advertisements out of the publication due to prohibition, raising subscription fees due to wartime prices of newspaper supplies, and the acquisition of the *Chicago Daily Drovers Journal* by the directors of the Drovers Telegram Company.

On January 1, 1901 an issue of the *Daily Drovers Telegram* ran an editorial by Walter P. Neff about the National Hereford Exhibition in which he wrote, “call it the American Royal,” after a livestock judge had compared the event to the British Agricultural Royal in England. This name stuck and the exhibition was thereafter named the American Royal.

The Drovers Telegram Company’s building was located in the West Bottoms of Kansas City, Missouri at 1505 Genessee Street. Today the building still stands and “Telegram” can be seen etched into its front façade.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of one volume measuring 8 x 10.5 in. and one folder of photocopies to be used by researchers. The volume contains “Articles of Incorporation” and meeting minutes for the years 1902 through 1924.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Ledger, 1902 – 1924 (photocopies)
- f. 2 Ledger, 1902 – 1924

Index

Chicago Daily Drovers Journal

Chicago Farmers

Chicago Live Stock World

Cook, Samuel B.

Corn Belt Farm Dailies

Davenport, A. C.

Drovers Journal

Journal Stockman Company of Omaha

Powell, Harold A.

Reporter Publishing Company of National Yards

Neff, George N.

Neff, Jay H.

Neff, Walter P.

Neff, Ward A.

Nierman, Frank P.

Wade, Earl R.

Processed by Kara Evans, Special Collections Librarian/Archivist, March 2015