

Record Group 27
Pere Marquette Railroad
1888-1991
1 Manuscript Box

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI
Finding Aid Written by Ashley Engelberg, on 13, January 2010
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Creator: Plymouth Historical Museum Archives
Acquisition: The Pere Marquette Railroad collection was deposited in the archives in various groupings from 1972 until 2002
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Abstract

The Pere Marquette Railway was formed by the incorporation of three Michigan railroad companies in 1899. The merging of the Flint and Pere Marquette, the Detroit, Grand Rapids and Western, and the Chicago and West Michigan began operations on January 1, 1900. On July 20, 1907 a train carrying 800 passengers collided with a freight train, near Salem; and is to date Michigan's worst railroad crash. The Pere Marquette ran tracks across Michigan, into New York, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Ontario, with car ferries across Lake Michigan, the Detroit River and St. Clair river.

Scope and Content

The Pere Marquette Railroad collection is composed of correspondence, clippings, photographs and other materials related to the trains, bridges, traffic and crashes on the railway. The majority of the correspondence covers the 1916 bridge program. The newspaper clippings are largely related to the 1907 train wreck, but also articles regarding specific engines. The collection contains a large variety of photographs on locomotives, crashes, stations and a roundhouse.

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Important Subjects

Bridges
Locomotives--History
Pere Marquette Railroad Company
Train wrecks

Entry 1:Correspondence

Shelf 101

Box 1, Folder 1

January 14, 1916 is a description of the proposed bridge D 24.2 to replace bridge built in 1889 by the Detroit Bridge & Iron Works. The 1916 bridge program, replacements of steel bridges was recommended, i.e.,

D 14.0 Oak -- D 24.2 Plymouth -- T 54.7 Northville

The bridge at Oak is not represented in this Pere Marquette file. The correspondence relates specifically to the bridge at Plymouth, and Northville to a lesser degree.

Acc.# 92.92.2L

Correspondence dating from January 14, 1916 - August 28, 1916 of Walter S. Newhall Co., Engineering and Construction, Cincinnati, Indianapolis & Western R.R.Co.; George F. Bristol, Detroit Iron & Steel Works; Iliff Brothers Contractors; Engineer of Bridges & Structures; Pere Marquette Railroad Company; Blaw Steel Construction Co.; M. Rabbitt & Sons; W .E. Tench & Co.; Wyandotte Portland Cement Co. Acc. # 92.92.L

Description of bridge known as D.24.2. Acc. # 92.92.L

Folder 2

Correspondence dating from September 2, 1916 - December 20, 1916.

Acc. # 92.92.L

September 6, 1916 includes pencil sketch of an abutment and pier. Acc.# 92.92.L

October 17, 1916 - cars received and unloaded at bridge D 24.2 to date.

October 30, 1916 - pencil drawing of pier from footing to bank. Acc. # 92.92.L

Folder 3

Correspondence dating from January 2, 1917 - March 3, 1917. Acc. # 92.92.L

Partial estimate for work during December 1916. Acc. # 92.92.L

Folder 4

May 16, 1916 – cover letter. Acc. # 92.92.L.

Blueprint of bridge, known as D 24.2. Acc. # 92.92.L

Folder 5

Contract for building of bridge D 24.2. Acc. # 92.92.L

Invoices and expenses relative to building bridge D 24.2. Acc. # 92.92.L

Folder 6

Letters and recommendations of Engineers. Acc. # 92.92.L

Entry 2: Newspaper Clippings

Box 1, Folder 7 : News Clippings

October 17, 1990. Michigan State Trust for Railway Preservation Inc.

Acc. #2002.218.03

November 10, 1944 Pere Marquette, Rebuilding Depot,

October 24, 1990. Historic steam engine No. 1225. Acc. # 2002.218.06

October 25, 1990. Restored 1225 steam-powered train engine Acc. #2002.218.04.

“Two Freight Wrecks Occur at Plymouth Within Half a Week” August 21, 1913.

The Observer and Eccentric September 20, 1990 “Precious Cargo Rides the Rails:

Prosperity Tracks Through Time -- Partial acc. #79.1.-----

“The Big Diamond-Plymouth Story of C & O’s Railroad Operations,” *Plymouth Mail*,

Jan. 15, 1953

Newspaper photos of the coal tipple demolition from The Detroit News, February 3, 1954

(Acc# 2009.153.04)

Entry 3: Booklets and Newsletters

Box 1, Folder 8 : Booklets, Newsletters and Folders

Booklet Published by Pere Marquette Railway Services, 1926-1927.

Acc. #2002.6476

Folder of statistics for Pere Marquette No. 1225. Acc. # 2002.218.08

September 1990, Newsletter –“1225 to Return to the Pere Marquette Main Line this
. Fall” Acc. # 2002.218.02

January 1946, Time Table No. 67. Acc. #78.35.3L

South Lyon Area Historical Society Newsletter Vol. 17, #2. Mar.1993; Memories
of the Railroad. Acc. #2260

Pere Marquette Bulletin, March 15, 1913. Acc. #78.35.7L

Report of the Flint & Pere Marquette ----Road Company, Traffic Reports;

Acc.#78.35.4L

Pere Marquette Railway log

September/October 1994, South Lyon “Witches Chatter”. Acc. #2155

Entry 4: Advertising

Box 1, Folder 9

August 26, 1900. Advertising poster “7 hours to Detroit”. Acc. #78.35.2L

October 10, year not stated. Advertising Hon. W.J. Bryan, political speaker.

June 20, 1927 Newspaper Advertisement. Acc. #L472

“Excursion to Saginaw, July 20, 1900; Acc. #L471 Located map case 2, drawer 5.

“Low Vacation Fares”, June 20, 1927

Entry 5: Pere Marquette Memorabilia

Box 1, Folder 10

Tickets. Acc. #1188 & #2007.102.01

Telephone message blanks. Acc. #78.35.5L
Time card Acc. # L411.
Postcards. Acc. #97.60.18
Business card, 2 matchbox covers, in Pere Marquette envelope.
Envelope; Acc. #6475a
Pass for Pere Marquette Line Steamers Acc. #L2387;
Pere Marquette Line Steamer ticket. Acc. #2155.L2387
Two coins run over by 1225, Saturday 20, 1990. Acc. #218.07
Pere Marquette Railroad Co. pass; Acc. #78.35.1L
Pere Marquette R.R.Co and N.Y.C Lines Memorandum Way Bill. Acc. #6474 b
Pere Marquette Train Telegram. Acc. # L475 b
Pass for Pere Marquette Line Steamers. Acc. #L2387.L476
Pere Marquette patch (Acc. #2007.40.03)
Map of Pere Marquette railway connections (Acc. #2007.40.05)
Weekday Plymouth Schedule 1927, (Acc.#2003.175.01)

Entry 6: Stock Certificates

Box 1, Folder 11

April 7, 1888; Flint-Pere Marquette Stock Certificate issued to Palmer E. Presbrey in the amount of 100 Shares; Acc. # L477
April 7, 1888; Flint-Pere Marquette Stock Shares issued to Samuel S. Sands & Co. in the amount of 100 Shares. Acc. # 81.57.179L
April 13, 1888; Flint-Pere Marquette Stock Certificates issued to Samuel S. Sands in the amount of 100 Shares. Acc. #1369
April 26, 1888; Flint – Pere Marquette Stock Certificate issued to John A.B. Cutter in the amount of 100 Shares. Acc. #849

Entry 7: Photos

Box 1, Folder 12 Photos

Shears cut west of Plymouth. Acc. #110005.380
Depot at Stark-1912. Acc. # 91.94.3L
Pere Marquette Depot at Plymouth, Michigan. Acc. #85.30.15L
Pere Marquette Station at Plymouth, Michigan. Acc. #. 73.625L
Pere Marquette Depot at Plymouth, Michigan. Acc. #. 73.625
Postcard of P.M.R.R. Yards; Acc. # 2001.087.112 .
Pere Marquette Yards, Plymouth, Mich.
Railroad trestle south of Wilcox Pond Acc. #10005-382
Pere Marquette Station, Plymouth, Michigan. Acc. # 76.141.52.b
Round-house Plymouth; Acc. # 73.24.38
Pere Marquette Depot and some of the employees. Acc. # 74.51
Candid photos of workmen.
Pere Marquette Depot, Plymouth, Michigan, print. Acc. #1000X-086
Pere Marquette engine 3235 and crew
Train on turntable-1930

Plymouth Station and train
Railroad crew at station Acc.# 79.50.7L
Three drawings of locomotives
Winter scene with locomotive 2200. Have negative 41B
Engine #402 with crew. 41C, have negative.
Men working on Pere Marquette viaduct-1934. 2200 copy of acc. # L769e
Pere Marquette Yards, Plymouth, Michigan. 2200Engine, Copy of acc. #80.19.1L
Laying track, Plymouth, Michigan. Copy of acc. #81.42.1L
Harry Brown on trailer. Acc. #2001.222.33
Pere Marquette Station, Plymouth, Michigan. Copy of acc. #73.625L
Pere Marquette R.R. Engine #84. Copy of acc. #82.43.5L
Harry Liable and son Milton. 2200. 41F- have negative.
Candid photographs of train and interior.
Train crossing trestle. Acc. #2200-L769d.
Pere Marquette Depot. Acc. #T4.54 L 809 74.51
Pere Marquette R.R. Yards, Plymouth, Michigan
Nankin Dam. Acc. #2200 77.248.9
Postcards; three identical; Pere Marquette Bridge; Plymouth MI
Acc. #s L379 2157-004, 2157-004 97.60.19, 2157-004 93.104.10
View of bridge construction. No acc. Number.
Construction of highway viaduct 1934 Acc. #L770 2000
Building viaduct and road under Pere Marquette Railroad. Acc. #L769b 2000
Pere Marquette Depot (Acc. #2007.96.08)
Engine 614 and engineer. No acc. number.
Postcard of Pere Marquette Train at Plymouth, Mich. Acc.#80.19.1L
Pere Marquette Station at Plymouth, Mich. Acc. # L806 73.625
View of overpass with train on track. Acc. #L7698. 2200
Negatives. One 8x10 and 4 Kodak TMX 5052
Pere Marquette Trestle. Acc. #73.29.36A
Engine with crew. No acc. no.
Pere Marquette Railway, Athletic Association Band, Detroit. Acc. #1000FC-283.
Located in vertical file drawer.
Railroad crew in front of #924 Acc. #2007.106.01
Postcard of dining cars on the Pere Marquette Acc. #2007.144.01
Photo of Freight House
Pamphlet of trip on Pere Marquette
Photo of Coal Pock being taken down (Acc#2009.141.02-04)
Photo of Coal Pock remnants (Acc# 2009.153.02)

Box 1, Folder 13

Photos of locomotives

Flint & Pere Marquette Engine #43, "Peggy"; Acc.# L828
One of the last steam engines in Plymouth; Acc. # 77.70.9
Postcard of an engine. Acc. # 82.43.5L
Pere Marquette Train at Plymouth, Mich. Acc. # 80.19.1L
Pere Marquette R.R. Engine # 84; Acc. # 82.43.5L

Photos (4) of Engine # 614
Pere Marquette engine # 402
Engine # 323 and crew; Acc. # 2001.087.097
Engine #323 and crew; Acc. # 41F
Pere Marquette Engine 393 on a snowy day; Acc # 41B
Eight-wheeled "American" Locomotive
"Mogul" Locomotive
Double-truck Narrow-Gauge Tank Locomotive
Pere Marquette engine # 235
Engine #230
Pere Marquette Railroad Round House gang, 1924; no acc. #.
Pere Marquette engine (Acc. #2007.40.04)
Pere Marquette engine #1199 in Plymouth (Acc# 2009.153.01)

Box 1, Folder 14.

Pere Marquette train wrecks.

Pere Marquette train wreck near Salem, Michigan in 1907; L 805a
Pere Marquette train wreck near Salem, Michigan in 1907. Acc.# 73.24.16, neg. A
Pere Marquette train wreck near Salem, Michigan. Acc.# 76.141.68 B (3 copies)
Postcard of Salem train wreck (Acc. #85.30.10L)
Photograph of wrecker at Plymouth in the round house that went to Salem train wreck
(Acc# 2009.141.05)

Construction Photographs

Construction under trestle; Acc. # L769 b through f
Laying track, Plymouth, Michigan. Copy of acc. #81.42.1L
Constructing highway viaduct east of Plymouth, Mich. 1934. No acc. #.
Train on viaduct with scaffolding. Acc. #1138C
Laying track on Pere Marquette RR, Plymouth, Mich. Acc. #81.42.1L
Work on viaduct under new highway east of Plymouth. 1934. Acc. #L769e
Series of photos showing construction on viaduct; Acc. #L769e
Work on Pere Marquette overpass. L#769c 2200
Two photos of Pere Marquette locomotive in Owasso, MI in Dec., 2004
(Acc. #2008.02.01 & #2008.02.02)

Entry 8: Roundhouse

Folder 15

Photo of roundhouse turntable
Photo of roundhouse crew prior to 1930
Photo of roundhouse (Acc. #73.24.38) (2 copies)
Inside the roundhouse (Acc. #82.4301L)
Slide of Roundhouse (Acc. #2007.193.01)

Entry 9: Articles about Salem Train Wreck

Folder

- "The Great Salem Train Wreck" pamphlet, 1991 (2 copies)
Ruler from train wreck
"Tragedy on the Tracks," *Michigan History Magazine*, Nov./Dec., 1993
"Appalling Disaster," *Plymouth Mail*, July 26, 1907
"The Pere-Marquette Train Crash"
"Two Freight Train Wrecks Occur at Plymouth Within Half a Week," *Detroit News*
"1907 railroad wreck claimed 33 dead, 100 injured," *Plymouth Observer*, Aug. 10, 1987
"Search for relatives begins after train crash," *Plymouth Observer*, Aug. 3, 1987
"Fatal Train Crash in 1907 a spur for Safety Devices," (Acc. #75.58.1)
"Verdict in The Salem Wreck," *Plymouth Mail*, Aug. 9, 1907
"Pere Marquette's Awful Wreck," *Plymouth Mail*, July 26, 1907
"Many shocked by 1907 wreck," *Observer & Eccentric*, Dec. 30, 1974
"Crew of freight train under fire for wreck," *Observer & Eccentric*, Oct. 12, 1987
"Crooked line of dots caused 1907 train tragedy," *Observer & Eccentric*, Aug. 17, 1987
"Farmer saw that trains were going to crash," *Observer & Eccentric*, July 27, 1987
"Salem wreck survivors relate narrow escapes," *Observer & Eccentric*, Oct. 5, 1987
"Town shaken by railroad tragedy 80 years ago," *Observer & Eccentric*, July 20, 1987
"Schedule problem caused crash," *Observer & Eccentric*, Jan. 6, 1975
"One more victim," *Plymouth Mail*
"Eye Witness to State's Worst Train Wreck Recalls Its Horror," *Plymouth Mail*, April 28, 1939
"Area historians keep track of railroading's past," *Observer & Eccentric*, Sept. 20, 1990
"Northville librarian to host program on 1907 train wreck," *Detroit Free Press*, Jan. 27, 2008

Additional Materials

- Ivey, Paul, Wesley, *The Pere Marquette Railroad Company*, 1919
Framed photo collage located in train station-(Acc. #75.54.15, #78.84.14L, #78.72.16L, #73.34, #76.141.68A, #73.110)

Books

- Million, Arthur B., *Passenger Car Pictorial*, 2002 (Acc. #2007.105.01)