

McLean County Museum of History

Roseanne Cornett – Eureka Williams Collection

Processed by
Cala Laible
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Donated by Dan Hardesty (brother of Roseanne Cornett). Roseanne was employed by The Eureka Company as a light assembler from 1966 thru 1999.
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 Diane Scheel – Eureka Williams Collection and Electrolux/Eureka Williams Collection

Brief History

The Eureka Vacuum Cleaner Company was started in 1909 by John Wardell and located in Detroit, MI. The company merged with Williams-Oil-O-Matic Corporation in 1945 to form the Eureka Williams Corporation, and was moved to 1201 E. Bell Street, Bloomington, IL. This manufacturing company had a broad spectrum of products but was best known for vacuum cleaners. Later manufacturing locations were built on Ft. Jesse Road in Normal, IL, El Paso, TX, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Corporate offices were moved to 807 N. Main, Bloomington (previous site of Mennonite Hospital) in 2000. Eureka/Electrolux ceased local production in the early 2000s and left the Bloomington area in 2010 when Electrolux's US corporate offices were consolidated to Charlotte, NC.

Roseanne Hardesty Cornett was hired by Eureka Vacuum Cleaners September 7, 1966 as a Light Assembler. After 33 years with the company, she was terminated as part of the plant closure in 1999.

Scope

The collection includes local newspaper articles related to the layoff of employees and the impact on the community, as well as corporate communications concerning business changes. In addition, there are photographs from organized union rallies and parades along with photos of coworkers and external pictures of Eureka offices and production plants. Roseanne's handwritten letters to local, state, and federal officials, and their responses, round out the collection.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 Gift agreement form, March 26, 2024 (with typed summary of donation, 1 p.)
- 1.2 Obituary, Roseanne Cornett, *Pantagraph*, October 19, 2020.

Loose Items

Binder 1: Green Clark Equipment Binder ("The Rise Up Begins")

- 1.3 *Pantagraph* articles related to Eureka Company's future in Bloomington/Normal. March 1991.
- 1.4 Eureka Vacuum Cleaner Corporate Communications regarding changes in Bloomington/Normal operations. March 1991 – May 1992.
- 1.5 Service Award Letter recognizing 25 years of service to Roseanne Cornett, August 1991, 1 pp.
- 1.6 Nybakke Vacuum Shop advertisement that includes pictures of several pictures of local Eureka employees. Undated.

Binder 2: Pink Binder

- 2.1 *Pantagraph* articles related to possible closure of The Eureka Company. July 1999 – Nov 1999.
- 2.2 Various letters to the editor (*The Pantagraph*). Undated.
- 2.3 Machinists Lodge Communication, “Notice of Special Meeting” regarding plant closure agreement and severance. Sept. 1999. 1 pp.
- 2.4 Initial Closure Schedule, 1st Round of Terminations (names & seniority), 10 November 1999, 4 pp.
- 2.5 Machinists Lodge Notice of 2nd Round of Terminations (names & seniority), 15 November 1999, 4 pp.
- 2.6 Machinists Lodge Notice of 3rd Round of Terminations (names & seniority), 22 November 1999, 2 pp.
- 2.7 Machinists Lodge Notice of 4th Round of Terminations (names & seniority), 29 November 1999, 2 pp.
- 2.8 Information from Union Hall regarding retraining and reschooling, outplacement workshops.
- 2.9 5th Round of Terminations (names & seniority), 3 January 2000, 1 pp.
- 2.10 Copy of Roseanne Cornett’s seniority card, Eureka employment card
- 2.11 Roseanne Hardesty Cornett’s Eureka Employment Application, 24 August 1966, 2pp.
- 2.12 Copy of Roseanne Hardesty’s birth certificate.
- 2.13 Letter of Reference for Roseanne Hardesty from Mrs. Ronald Smith. Undated.
- 2.14 Photographs (1999 Labor Day Parade, 1201 E. Bell Street Plant, Fort Jesse Plant, various co-workers).
- 2.15 Roseanne Cornett employee ID.

Binder 3: North American Roofing Company Gray Binder (“The Rise and Fall of The Eureka Company”)

- 3.1 Handwritten letter to local, state, federal officials regarding loss of jobs to Mexico. Written by Roseanne Cornett, 1989.
- 3.2 Response letters from local, state, and federal officials to Roseanne Cornett, 1989. 4 pp.
- 3.3 Handwritten letter to Bill Flick, *The Pantagraph*. Written by Roseanne Cornett. Undated.
- 3.4 Response note from Bill Flick, *The Pantagraph*, to Roseanne Cornett. Undated. 1 pp.
- 3.5 *Pantagraph* articles regarding Eureka layoffs and move of jobs to Mexico, 1989 – 1990.
- 3.6 Handwritten letter to News Programs (20/20, 60 Minutes, 48 Hours). Written by Roseanne Cornett. Undated. 2 pp.
- 3.7 Response from CBS Group to Roseanne Cornett. May 1990. 1 pp.
- 3.8 Union Hall Notice regarding Community Rally and Parade, 2 June 1990. 1 pp.
- 3.9 Photographs of Union Rally and Parade. 2 June 1990.
- 3.10 Additional *Pantagraph* articles regarding Eureka layoffs and move of jobs to Mexico.