Name of the collection: Orlo L. Crissey

Inclusive Years: 1944-1975

Quantity: Two linear feet

ACQUISITION: The collection (donor number 089) was deposited with the Genesee Historical Collections Center in February, 1985.

ACCESS: The collection is open to research.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Six photographs have been cataloged separately.

Biography

Dr. Orlo L. Crissey was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, on December 29, 1904. He received his doctorate from the State University of Iowa and in 1937 was named the Director of the Flint Child Guidance Center. In 1942 he began working at AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors in Flint as the Educational Director and Industrial Psychologist. From 1948 until his retirement in 1970 he worked at General Motors Institute as the Director of Personnel Evaluation Services and as a special assistant to the President of GMI. After retiring, Dr. Crissey continued working as a consultant for various American industries.

Dr. Crissey's principal research interests while at AC concerned methods of selecting employees for specific jobs and helping returning veterans adjust to civilian life and employment. Under the direction of Dr. Crissey, over 14,000 men and women participated in AC's vocational guidance program. At GMI Dr. Crissey was involved in programs that focused on improving the quality of the work environment through recognition of the importance of people, their potential for development, and the need for activities and programs to develop that potential.

Dr. Crissey has been active in state and national professional organizations, especially the American Psychological Association, serving as president of the APA's Division of Business and Industrial Psychology and being named a fellow of the APA's Division of Industrial, Consulting, and Clinical Psychology. He also served as President of the Committee on Certification of the Michigan Psychological Association. He has served as a board member on the Flint Council of Social Agencies, the Flint Community Chest, and the Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Crissey has three children from his marriage to the late Jennie Crissey. In 1966 he married Marie Skodak. [Editor’s note: He died September 4, 1993, in Ann Arbor, Michigan].
Description of the Records

The Orlo L. Crissey collection consists of two linear feet of manuscript materials, covering the period from 1944 to 1975. The collection is arranged in six major subgroups. These include the Flint Guidance Center, the Michigan Industrial Training Council, AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors, General Motors Institute, Consulting Activities, and the Flint Kiwanis Club. The largest amount of materials deals with Dr. Crissey's activities at AC and GMI. The reports, speeches, and studies in these subgroups reflect Dr. Crissey's pioneering activities in the field of industrial psychology. The Flint Kiwanis Club papers include materials concerning the Kiwanis Health Camp and board correspondence.
Item List

BOX 1
FLINT GUIDANCE CENTER, 1944
MICHIGAN INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, 1943-1948
    Constitution
    Correspondence
    Membership lists
    Memoranda, reports, speeches
        (1 of 2)
        (2 of 2)
    MITC Newsletter
AC SPARK PLUG DIVISION OF GENERAL MOTORS, 1942-1948
    Correspondence
    Reports and tests
        The Use of Tests in Industry: Basic Principles, 1947
        Psychological Tests as an Aid to the Interview, Wilma T. Donahue, 1945
        Personnel Test Inventory, W. J. Thompson, 1948
        Basic Philosophies Underlying the Thinking of Our Manufacturing Supervision in Their Relations With Their Employees, AC Spark Plug Division, no date
        Working With Individuals: A Course Summary, AC Spark Plug Division Educational Department
Topical files
    Civil Service Commission
    Engineering education
    Flint Industrial Executives' Club
    Follow-up study of deaf employees at AC Gasoline rations
    General Motors Institute - Course design
    Hanman, Bert - Correspondence
    Institute for Community Research
    Midwestern Psychological Association - "Problems and Trends In Industrial Psychology as a Profession"
    Problems of civilian handicapped
    Process engineering
    Psychological Corporation
    Purdue University
BOX 2
GENERAL MOTORS INSTITUTE, 1948-1969
Correspondence
Reports and projects
General Motors Institute presentation to the Employee Relations Policy Committee
Hints on interviewing
Improving the quality of our product
Long-range managerial development
Managerial development
Nervous fatigue and boredom
Outline of planned performance approach
Personnel evaluation services
Picture of research activity
A planned performance evaluation and improvement program for management
Psychologists in Industry group
Research team basic statement
Suggested questions for interviewing
Techniques of employment interviewing

Topical Files, 1948-1969
Affirmative Action Program
Benefits of the job evaluation performance of the Harrison Radiator Division
Correspondence
Division 14 American Psychological Association
Hess Oil and Chemical Company
National Safety Congress
President's Conference on Industrial Safety
Purdue University
Wrangler's Club

CONSULTING ACTIVITIES, NO-NAME GROUP, 1972-1976

(1 of 2)

(2 of 2)

KIWANIS CLUB OF FLINT
Kiwanis Health Camp
Board correspondence
Miscellaneous