



**West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company South Carolina records, 1937- ca. 2000
SCHS Call # 433.00**

Description: 2 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: The son of a master paper maker in Aberdeen, Scotland, William Luke, arrived in American in 1852. Together, Luke and his sons John and David developed the first commercially successful method of manufacturing chemical wood pulp in this country. In 1887, under the auspices of the newly established Piedmont Pulp and Paper Company, the Lukes opened a paper mill on the West Virginia- Maryland border along the Potomac River. The company held its first stockholders meeting in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia on October 27, 1888. Ten years later, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company was officially incorporated after the Luke family enterprise had grown to consist of three mills, two in West Virginia and one in Maryland. Subsequent mergers with papermakers in Tyrone, Pennsylvania and Williamsburg, Virginia expanded operations. By 1910 the company had begun devoting resources toward the acquisition of timber rich lands and the scientific study of cultivating pines and hardwoods. Located on a five hundred acre site along the west bank of the Cooper River, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper mill at Charleston went into operation in July of 1937. In addition to the manufacture of bleached paperboard, the Charleston mill was also a hub for research and development focusing primarily on the chemistry and engineering of pulping and bleaching, the development of tall oil, lignin, and activated carbon products, and process control systems.

Scope and Content: Articles, unpublished manuscripts, newsletters, historical information, newspapers, clippings, recruitment literature, bound volumes, corporate financial and stock reports, promotional materials, and photographs pertaining to operations of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company mill in Charleston, S.C.

Records compiled and created by the Information Services Center at the Charleston mill include a bound Library Manual drafted in 1956 which outlines duties of ISC personnel as well as procedures for dealing with photostats and microfilm, record report cards, author index cards, subject definition cards, pamphlets, books, patents, company trade literature as well. Additional ISC related documents include pamphlets on the internal flow of technical information and records at West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company.

Also included are sixteen issues of "The Paper Mill Athletic Association Observer" (1950-1952), a newspaper published by the Charleston area West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company employee recreational association. The Paper Mill Athletic Association (PMAA) was formed in 1947 and was governed by a board of managers. In addition to operating a club house, the PMAA scheduled regular activities such as weekly dances and game nights as well as a softball league. Group outings for golf, tennis, bowling, horse shoes, and archery were also sponsored by the PMAA. The newspaper was a natural outgrowth of these activities and it served as a sort of community bulletin containing special announcements, updates on employees

and equipment, publicity for charity benefits, and other work and recreation related information.

Clippings (1950-2001, bulk 1973) from magazines and newspapers relate to air pollution, the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency, forestry, depth of Charleston Harbor, company stock holdings and shares and the company merger with the United States Envelope Company.

Photographs (bulk 1945-1972) depict facilities, grounds and employees at the Charleston mill.

Preferred citation: West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company records, 1937- ca. 2000. (433.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Subject headings:

Paper industry -- South Carolina.

Paper mills -- South Carolina.

Papermaking -- South Carolina.

Paper industry workers -- South Carolina.

Corporations -- South Carolina.

Athletic clubs -- South Carolina.

South Carolina -- industries.

South Carolina -- Manufacturers.

Correspondence

Newspapers

Articles

Photographs

Promotional materials

Inventory:

Box/Folder

1/1 Bound volume containing manuscript entitled "The Story of West Virginia Pulp & Paper by J. Wrench, n.d.

1/2 Materials relating to the history of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company including both published and unpublished information on the Luke family, early formation of the company, and details of patents and developments during the 20th century . Includes "An Unofficial Historical Outline of Westvaco Corporation Research Facilities, 1911-1992", excerpts from an article in *Paper Trade Journal* (Volume 124, No. 27, 1947) which details the paper making trade in the history of the Luke family all the way back to Scotland as well as excerpts from Roy Clarkson's "On Beyond Leatherbark: The Cass Saga" (McClain Printing Company, 1997). Other items include a manuscript timeline of Westvaco, 1826-1975 and an article entitled "Westvaco South Carolina" published in the company's "News Brief Update" 50th Anniversary Issue.

1/3 Material relating to the Charleston mill including clippings and miscellaneous published items

- 1/4 "The P.M.A.A. Observer", 1950-1952 . A newspaper published by the Charleston area West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company employee recreational association, the Paper Mill Athletic Association (PMAA), formed in 1947. The association was governed by a board of managers and along with operating a club house, the PMAA scheduled regular activities such as weekly dances and game nights as well as a softball league. Group outings for golf, tennis, bowling, horse shoes, and archery were also sponsored by the PMAA. The newspaper was a natural outgrowth of these activities and it served as a sort of community bulletin containing special announcements, updates on employees and equipment, publicity for charity benefits, and other work and recreation related information.
- 1/5 Westvaco "News and Views", 1978-1984. "News and Views" was an official organ of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company and was published on a quarterly basis for the purpose of moving towards "better communication and understanding for all employees." In addition to a cover story on an industry-related topic such as energy, production, research or production, each newsletter included work-related announcements, employee spotlights and awards, photographs of staff on and off the job, and a regular column by Safety Administrator Clyde Harris entitled "Safely Speaking".
- 2/1 Records compiled and created by the Information Services Center (ISC) at the Charleston mill. The ISC was a "centralized location for storage, retrieval and communication of information among the company's various divisions and departments". In addition to collecting and indexing all company reports, the ISC also assisted in locating published information outside the company for the purposes of research. The ISC was staffed by "research chemists trained in indexing, literature searching, library functions, abstracting, classifying and editing." File contains a bound "Library Manual" drafted in 1956 which outlines duties of ISC personnel, as well as procedures for dealing with photostats and microfilm, record report cards, author index cards, subject definition cards, pamphlets, books, patents, company trade literature as well.
- 2/2 File contains a pamphlet entitled "Coordinating the Flow of Technical Information" by F.J. Ball and F.M. Cargill, literature chemists at the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company's Charleston Research Laboratory and a report by Joseph A. O'Connor & Company consulting firm entitled "The Communication of Technical Information within the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company."
- 2/3 Materials related to the George Olmsted Award given by the American Paper Institute and later the American Forest and Paper Association, 1969-1998. Materials were compiled by staff in the ICS department of the Charleston mill. Folder includes complete listing of award winners and the titles of their papers and news releases pertaining Westvaco employees who received the award.
- 2/4 Materials related to the George Olmsted Award given by the American Paper Institute and later the American Forest and Paper Association, 1969-1998. Materials were compiled by staff in the ICS department of the Charleston mill. Copies of submitted research papers, 1969-1986.

- 2/5 Materials related to the George Olmsted Award given by the American Paper Institute and later the American Forest and Paper Association, 1969-1998. Materials were compiled by staff in the ICS department of the Charleston mill. Copies of submitted research papers, 1987-1999.
- 2/6 Clippings, 1949-2001(bulk 1973) include information on air pollution, Clean Water Act, EPA, forestry, depth of Charleston Harbor, company stock holdings & shares and the United States Envelope Company merger
- 3/1 Biographical information on owners, personnel and associates of Westvaco Corporation. (with emphasis on Charleston Mill Charleston). File contains mostly clippings i.e. excerpts from magazines and newspapers. Individuals represented include Frank Jervey Ball, Alfred H. Nissan, John A. Luke and David L. Luke III.
- 3/2 Business materials relating to stocks and corporate finances
- 3/3 Westvaco marketing and promotional materials, 1969-
- 3/4 Information on plants in Tyrone, PA and Covington, VA
- 3/5 Mill reports for Luke, MD plant, 1978-1987
- 3/6 Clippings and mill reports for Luke, MD plant, 1988-1994
- 4/1 West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company photographs, 1945-1956
- 4/2 West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company photographs, 1956 -
- 4/3 West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company photographs, 1956 -
- 4/4 West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company/Westvaco photographs, 1957-1972
- 4/5 West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company photographs, 1945
- 4/6 Westvaco photographs- Scrapbook, 1987
- 4/7 West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company /Westvaco photographs- loose items