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MSS 191 / P191 / OVA 102

Mayor Paul Cooley Papers, 1960-1995

19 boxes, 18 cu. ft.

History

Paul Cooley was born on September 24, 1914. In 1933 he graduated from DeSoto High School and married Rebecca Faye Leyland on February 24, 1934.

Cooley worked at the Warner Gear Division of Borg Warner for twenty-three years. He was a member of U.A.W. Local 287. Cooley was active in the union, serving as steward for two years, financial secretary for three years, and president for one year. He also served as a delegate to various union councils for terms ranging from three to ten years and was a member of the contract negotiating committee for ten years.

Cooley entered local politics in 1951 when he ran for city councilman at large; won a spot on the Democratic Party ticket but failed to win a seat on the council, until 1955. He served on the council for seven years, two of which he was president. In addition, Cooley was Center Township Assessor for nine years.

In 1967 Paul Cooley was elected Mayor of Muncie. He was reelected in 1971, but was defeated in his bid for a third term in the 1975 Democratic Party primary. The major accomplishments of the two Cooley administrations include a comprehensive overhaul of the city's streets and improvements within the Police Department including the introduction of a drugs and safety education program, the creation of a Narcotics and Intelligence Unit, and updating the department's communication equipment. Finally, Cooley oversaw the construction of two city parks and the improvement of existing parks. During his two terms as Mayor Cooley took an active role in the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. He also actively involved himself in the Indiana Chapter of the American Public Works Association; he was president for two years.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of four series. The first series (boxes one through twelve) includes the files from a number of boards, committees, commissions, and other organizations associated with local or Muncie government. These files are arranged in alphabetical order. Boxes one through eleven contain letter size folders while box twelve contains legal size folders. Files with folders in both the letter size boxes and the legal size box are marked with an asterisk (*).

Boxes thirteen through fifteen contain a collection of Cooley's personal daily planning calendars from 1963 through 1995 arranged chronologically. Box fifteen contains a series of newsletters arranged alphabetically. A collection of thirty-two maps from the collection are housed in the OVC vertical file cabinet; numbered 102-1 through 102-32. The P 191 collection

contains 391 photographs, OVA 102 consists of oversize materials and Box 17 is miscellaneous political memorabilia.

Additions, R. Miller, 08/2006

MSS 191
Mayor Paul Cooley Papers

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Box 19

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