

Guide to the Great Western Sugar Company Collection – 2013.30

Reference Code US CoGrCGM 2013.30
Title: Great Western Sugar Company Collection
Processed by Lindsay Reuer
Finding aid prepared by Lindsay Reuer
Encoded finding aid prepared by Lindsay Reuer

Name and location of repository Hazel E. Johnson Research Center
City of Greeley Museums
714 8th Street
Greeley, Colorado 80631
Phone: (970) 336-4187
Email: museums@greeleygov.com
URL: <http://greeleymuseums.com/>

Collection Summary

Dates 1956-1982
Bulk dates 1963-1980
Level of description Collection
Extent .72 cubic feet
Creator(s) Great Western Sugar Company

Administrative/Biographical History

Six independent sugar factories in the Northern Colorado area, all built around the turn of the twentieth century, consolidated to form the Great Western Sugar Company in 1905. By 1930 Great Western was composed of 20 factories in the Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming areas. For many years, the sugar beet industry was important to the economy of Northern Colorado, including Weld County. Great Western became the national leader in beet sugar production by the 1940s. Apart from sugar production, the Company also undertook agricultural research into sugar beet practices during much of its history.

In 1967 Great Western was sold to Billy White, a Colorado businessman, and sold again in 1974 to the Hunt Brothers. In 1985 after several years of declining profits and economic instability, the downsized company was once again sold to Tate & Lyle, a British sugar company. Tate & Lyle changed the company's name to Western Sugar Company. In 2002, Western Sugar was sold to sugar beet growers from Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming, forming the Western Sugar Cooperative. The Cooperative still operates some factories, processing plants, and storage facilities in Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming today.

Since the subject matter of the overall collection is sugar beet agricultural research, and items in the collection directly reference the Great Western Sugar Company, it appears that this collection pertains to activities conducted by the Great Western Sugar Company's Agricultural Research Center located in Longmont, Colorado, from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Scope and Content

This collection contains slides, photographs, and film reels relating to the Great Western Sugar Company's agricultural research and beet processing practices from the 1950s through the 1980s. This includes documentation of local sugar beet fields and farmers, research into best practices for sugar beet farming, pesticide research, documentation of local agricultural machinery, and documentation of local beet processing factories. Also included are slides and photographs of what are presumably Great Western employees.

System of arrangement

No original order. Order imposed by object type, and then subject. Objects were further ordered chronologically where possible and appropriate.

Conditions governing access

There are no restrictions on the access of this collection.

Conditions governing reproduction and use

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Languages and scripts of the materials

English

Immediate source of acquisition

Materials in this collection were donated by Corrine Kaylor.

Notes

Preferred citation: City of Greeley Museum's Permanent Collection, #2013.30.0001

Names

Great Western Sugar Company

Places

Colorado.
Greeley (Colo.)
Weld County (Colo.)

Subjects

Agriculture—Colorado
Sugar industry—Colorado

Document Forms

Filmstrips

Photographs.
Slides (Photography)

Contents

Series I: Slides

Subseries A: Sugar Beet Agriculture and Machinery

Three folders, ordered chronologically, containing slides of sugar beet fields, tractors and other machinery, farmers, and other various images relating to sugar beet agriculture, presumably in Weld County and Northern Colorado. These slides date from 1956 to 1982, while some slides are undated or have obscured dates.

Subseries B: Sugar Beet Processing

One folder containing slides dating from 1959 to 1980 depicting sugar beet processing and factory storage, presumably in Weld County and Northern Colorado. Some slides are undated or dates have been obscured.

Subseries C: Greeley Sugar Beet Agriculture and Misc.

One folder containing slides dating from 1963 to 1970 depicting various sugar beet agricultural practices and research directly relating to the Greeley area, along with miscellaneous Greeley slides relating mainly to sugar beet processing at Greeley. Many of these slides' dates have been obscured or are unmarked.

Subseries D: Agricultural Research Presentations

Two folders containing presentation slides from various presentations Great Western associates created and gave dating from 1959-1974. Many slides are undated, while some dates have been obscured.

Series II: Photographs

One folder containing mainly unlabeled photographs of unidentified businessmen presumably related to Great Western Sugar Company in some capacity. Some pictures depict agricultural and beet processing activities or peoples in the Northern Colorado area. Dates range from 1960 to 1962, while some photographs are undated.

Series III: Film Reels

Two film reels, which have not yet been viewed, pertaining to sugar beet agriculture and research. One is dated 1968 and labeled "What's Happening in Sugar Beets," while the other is undated and labeled "Weighing, Taring, and Testing of Sugar Beets-(Colo. and Kansas)."

Container List

Series I: Slides

Subseries A: Sugar Beet Agriculture and Machinery

Box	Folder(s)
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1 1-3

Subseries B: Sugar Beet Processing

Box Folder

1 4

Subseries C: Greeley Sugar Beet Agriculture and Misc.

Box Folder

1 5

Subseries D: Agricultural Research Presentations

Box Folder(s)

1 6-7

Series II: Photographs

Box Folder

1 8

Series III: Film Reels

Oversized items housed outside box.