

Information Sheet

R **Boulson, Charles E.**
404 **Papers, 1928-1990.**
 Fifty-six folders.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are personal and professional papers of an electrical engineer in Missouri. Boulson was general manager of the Sho-Me Power Corporation, 1954-1974, and member of the Board of Directors of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. The collection includes correspondence, scrap-books, professional and historical writings, speeches on rural electrification in Missouri, and corporate manuals and annual reports of Sho-Me Power Corporation and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Charles Elbert Boulson is the son of Clyde White Boulson and Blanche Ames Boulson. He was born on 26 October 1909 at Iola, Kansas, where he grew up and attended primary and secondary school, Iola High School, and Iola Junior College. The family purchased a ten-acre farm in Taney County, Missouri, and in 1931 moved to the Ridgedale community south of Hollister. The move was designed to improve Clyde Boulson's health and to capitalize on land values which were expected to increase greatly upon the completion of Table Rock Dam on the White River. However, construction on the project did not begin for many years, and the Boulsons arrived in Taney County just as the depression began to hit hardest on the local economy. The family was unprepared for rural life and endured exceeding difficult times in the four years they remained in Taney County. In 1932 the Boulsons accepted the resident management of a two hundred acre fruit farm and livestock ranch near Ridgedale. Income was augmented by Clyde Boulson's employment by the University of Missouri to assist in archaeological surveys of the White River Valley, and by Charles's employment in a tomato cannery at Ridgedale and, later, on the Ava District of the Mark Twain National Forest. Clyde Boulson took a position in 1935 with the Missouri Geological Survey at Rolla. Charles joined the family there in late 1936. He entered the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1937 and graduated in 1939 with a degree in electrical engineering. In June 1940, Boulson was employed as a staff engineer of the Missouri Electric Power Company, a predecessor of Sho-Me Power, a regional power distribution organization headquartered at Marshfield and serving south-central Missouri. Boulson continued in the same capacity after Sho-Me Power was organized in 1941, and became Chief Engineer in 1944. He was appointed acting manager in 1953, and in June 1954 was named General Manager. Boulson retired in 1974 after thirty-five years of service with Missouri Electric Power Company and Sho-Me Power Corporation.

Boulson was exceedingly active in the development of rural electrification in Missouri. In addition to his work with Sho-Me Power, he was one of the founders of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., headquartered at Springfield, Missouri. AECEI was organized in 1962 as a wholesale supplier of electric power to regional cooperatives which serve nearly all of Missouri and south-eastern Iowa. Boulson was one of the first directors of AECEI, and continued as a member of the Board of Directors to 1974. Boulson was also a member of the Missouri & Arkansas Power Cooperative, headquartered at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and the Farm Electrification Council, a national organization dedicated to the development of rural electrification.

Boulson married Inez Curnutt, a native of Douglas County, shortly before his graduation from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1939. They have resided in Marshfield since 1941. Boulson has been active in the community as a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Lions Club, and the Methodist Church, and has served on the boards of the Marshfield Public Library and the Marshfield Housing Association. He authored many speeches and articles on rural electrification for professional organizations and local service groups, and has written extensively on local history for the *Webster County Historical Society Journal*. After his retirement, Boulson authored *The Farmer*

Took A Hand In Missouri (1984), a history of the Sho-Me Power Corporation, and *History of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Webster County*, (1988).

The Boulson papers consist of an assortment of personal, professional and corporate materials primarily concerning the development of rural electrification in Missouri. They have been arranged in seven sections, including personal and biographical materials, scrapbooks, professional papers and historical writings, speeches, Sho-Me Power Corporation papers, manuals, annual reports, and interviews with key personnel of Associated Electric Cooperative Inc., and miscellaneous publications concerning the electric power industry. Of particular interest and use to local historians are Boulson's Taney and Douglas County diaries, 1933-1936, a scrapbook concerning the Missouri Electric Power's Niangua River tunnel project, 1929-1930, a publication detailing the utility and post engineer services at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 1944, and the history of the Methodist Church at St. Luke, Missouri. Researchers interested in rural electrification should consult Boulson's numerous speeches and writings, *The Farmer Took A Hand in Missouri*, and the papers and annual reports of Sho-Me Power Corporation, and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. There are also video-taped (VHS) interviews with the directors and officers of AECEI, including Truman Green, Charles Boulson, James McNabb, Luther Riddle, and Gerald Diddle. Included with the interviews is a brief history of AECEI, produced on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

r408	22 April 1988	Charles E. Boulson	Gift
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Shelf List

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Folders 1-6: Miscellaneous personal and biographical materials, 1928-1988.

01. Boulson genealogical chart, 1972
02. Taney County, Mo., diary, 1933-1936
03. School papers, 1928-1939
04. Engineering registration, 1944
05. Correspondence, 1942-1953
06. Correspondence, 1962-1988

Folders 7-11: Scrapbooks, 1928-1982.

07. Missouri Electric Power Company, Niangua River Tunnel Project, scrapbook, 1929-1930
08. Scrapbook, 1953-1967
09. Scrapbook, 1958-1968
10. Scrapbook, 1967-1971 (Oversize)
11. Scrapbook, 1938-1982 (Oversize)

Folders 12-19: Professional papers and historical writings, 1941-1989.

12. "Statistical Analysis of Distribution Systems," Missouri Electric Power Co., 1941
13. Fractured Uplift in Ozark County, Mo., 1955-1974
14. "The Cooperative and the G&T," 1979
15. "Sho-Me Power Cooperative," 1978
16. *The Farmer Took a Hand in Missouri*, 1984 (typescript copy), 1984
17. *The Farmer Took a Hand in Missouri*, 1984

18. *History of the St. Luke United Methodist Church*, Webster County, 1988
19. St. Luke United Methodist Church, Webster County, Mo., Dedication program, 1989

Folders 20-22: Speeches, 1955-1973.

20. Speeches, 1955-1965

- 1955, Sep 20: Fundamentals of Power Production and Transportation
- 1956, -- : N'yawlins Round Trip
- 1959, Aug: Conceptual Thought and Action
- 1960, Feb 24: Planning the Work To Be Done
- 1963, Feb 21: Education
- 1963, May 15: What Constitutes Management Development In Our Consumer-Owner Electric Systems?
- 1964, Feb 23: Farm Electrification
- 1964, Oct 20: Hiring Personnel
- 1965, May 5: Changed Viewpoints

21. Speeches, 1966-1971

- 1966, May 10: Automatic Data Processing
- 1966, Jun 14: Automatic Data Processing
- 1967, Apr 22: Electric Power in Rural Areas
- 1967, Aug 30: Marketing Management
- 1967, Dec 7: Long Range Objectives and Financing of Rural Electrification
- 1968, -- : Time of change
- 1968, Jun: Service in the Ozarks: A Result of Rural Electrification
- 1968, Oct 1-2: Attitude Survey Review
- 1969, May 7-8: Performance of Rural Electric Cooperatives in Key Areas of Organization, Power Supply and Electric Service
- 1970, Oct 21: Statement before Scenic Rivers of Interim Legislative Committee on Recreation and Water Resources
- 1971, Jan 21: Power for Rural Missouri
- 1971, Jan 22: Straws in the Wind
- 1971, -- : Use of Power
- 1971, Nov 18, 25: Power and Its Price
- 1971, Dec 8, 9: Associated Electric Cooperative

22. Speeches, 1972, 1973

- 1972, Jan 14: Marketing And The Manager
- 1972, Apr 11: What's Happening to the Cost of Power?
- 1972, Apr 27: Planning for Change
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- 1972, Jun 30: Electric Power, Its Nature and Its Cost
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- 1973, Sep 12: Planning Commissions: What Are They Doing for Us?
- 1973, Sep 22: Use of Power

Folders 23-47: Sho-Me Power Corporation; papers, manuals and annual reports, ca. 1950-1984

23. Organization Manual, v. 1 (Principles), ca. 1957
24. Organization Manual, v. 2 (Job Descriptions), ca. 1957
25. Organization Manual, v. 3 (Job Specifications), 1957
26. Organization Manual, v. 4 (Wage and Salary Plan), ca. 1957
27. Proposed Policy Manual, 1959
28. Policy Manual, n.d. .

29. Work Planning Review, Board of Directors and General Management, 1965
30. Work Planning and Review General Managers, n.d.
31. Key Performance Manual, n.d.
32. Management Reference Manual, ca. 1966
33. Reference Manual, 1967
34. "Trends in Power Pricing," 1972
35. Rule Book, 1974
36. Safety Manual, n.d.
37. Loan Application, 1974
38. Corporate Plan, V. I (Concepts-Objectives), n.d.
39. Corporate Plan, V. II (Long-Range Study), 1974
40. Corporate Plan, V. III (Work Programs), 1974
41. Corporate Plan, V. III (Work Programs), 1975
42. Corporate Plan, V. V (Budget), 1975
43. Corporate Plan, V. VI (Budget), 1976
44. Miscellaneous papers, ca. 1950-1974
45. Miscellaneous publications, 1968-1973
46. Annual Reports, 1952-1969
47. Annual Reports, 1970-1984

Folders 48-53: Associated Electric Cooperative; papers, interviews, and annual reports, 1975-1990

48. Miscellaneous papers, n.d.
49. Interviews with Truman Green, James E. McNabb, and Luther Riddle regarding the founding and development of AECEI, ca. 1986. (½" VHS video-tape, approximately 2 hrs.)
50. "The First Twenty-Five Years of-Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.," also interviews with C. E. Boulson and Luther Riddle, ca. 1987. (½" VHS videotape, approximately 2 hrs.)
51. Interviews of Truman Green and Charles E. Boulson with the Board of Directors of Associated Electric Cooperative, 22 May 1990. (½" VHS videotape, 1 hour, 53 minutes.)
52. Associated Electric Cooperative, Annual Reports, 1975-1984
53. Associated Electric Cooperative, Annual Reports, 1982-1988

Folders 54-56: Miscellaneous papers and publications concerning the electric power industry, 1938--1974

54. Central States Power and Light System, Accounting Code Book, 1938
55. Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Post Engineer Service Command Conference (repairs and utilities activities), 27-29 July 1944.
56. Miscellaneous publications, 1964-1974

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