

Information Sheet

R **Webb City Chamber of Commerce (Webb City, Mo.).**
550 **Minutes, 1920-1924.**
 Two folders.

MICROFILM

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These are minutes of meetings of the Webb City Chamber of Commerce, Jasper County, Missouri, for the years 1920 and 1924. Included are minutes of regular, directors', and committee meetings. Among the topics of discussion were economic development, advertising, tourism, road and street improvements, the financial status of the Jane Chinn Hospital, and the sponsorship of special sales and commercial events.

Webb City, along with many of the old lead and zinc mining towns in Jasper County, had suffered as the locus of mining activity shifted to the Picher Field in Oklahoma. The minutes of the Webb City Chamber of Commerce show the attempts by this small mining town to reinvent its local economy. Working in concert with the Southwest Missouri Mine Safety & Sanitation Association, the Webb City Chamber of Commerce explored many different avenues to retain and increase its economic base. The Chamber sponsored and organized regular "Sales Day" auctions, negotiated incentives with prospective new businesses, promoted tourism through the Ozark Playgrounds Association, and formed the Webb City & Carterville Development Company to prospect for mineral concentrations in Jasper County. The Chamber also looked into reducing freight rates by bargaining with the railroads serving the area, establishing a tourist park and an airfield in Webb City, marking the streets with appropriate signage, and keeping the Jane Chinn Hospital in operation by transforming it into a tuberculosis sanitarium.

The presidents of the Chamber in 1920 and 1924 were T. C. Hayden and E. E. Wood, respectively. The Chamber had some success in 1920, attracting the Central Cigar Box Factory, but other negotiations concerning the Rock Hill Paint Company, the Webb City Creamery Company, and the Davis Toy Company were not successful. The Chamber was less active in 1924. The Webb City & Carterville Development Company was dissolved that year, but the Chamber joined the Southwest Missouri Harvest Show Association, a group promoting fall festivals throughout the region.

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Shelf List

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Folder 1: Minutes of meetings, 1 January—9 September 1920

Folder 2: Minutes of meetings, 10 January—18 December 1924

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