

McLean County Museum of History

David Salch State Farm Collection

Processed by
Kylee Winkler
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1910's through to the 1990's
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

David Salch was an insurance salesman who grew up in Bloomington, Illinois. His parents were helped establish the western branch of State Farm in California during the 1930s, and were seemingly somewhat close to the Mecherle family.

Scope

The collection includes Mr. Salch's papers and correspondence from roughly 1910 to 2000. Folder 1 spans 1908 to 1939 with mostly postcards and correspondence among family members. The second folder ranges from 1943 to 1961 and includes items addressed to David Salch's father Herman Salch from various individuals including WWI servicemen. The third folder includes genealogy of G. J. Mecherle and family, an essay Salch coauthored in 1995, and other items. Folder 4 includes undated materials such as paycheck inserts or note sheet materials that Salch would have been given by State Farm.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Postcards, correspondence, internal reports, floor roster (1908 to 1939)

- 1.1 Postcard to Miss [Goldie Lippincott?], no message. Decorative back image titled the Post Card Symphonies No. 7 published by the Pen-Art Publishing Co. Bloomington, IL. Postmarked Marshalltown IA, September 26, 1908.
- 1.2 Postcard to Edd Maynard, notating recent events of life in Marshalltown, IA. Decorative back image titled the Post Card Symphonies No. 17 published by the Pen-Art Publishing Co. Bloomington, IL. Postmarked in Marshalltown IA, February 24, 1909.
- 1.3 Postcard to Miss Litta Fitzgerald, "Why dont yu write / are you mad at me / your uncle". Decorative back image titled the Post Card Symphonies No. 9 published by the Pen-Art Publishing Co. Bloomington, IL. Postmarked Saint Louis MO & Council Bluffs IA, May 26, 1909.
- 1.4 Postcard to Miss Amelia Grath, "As I haven't heard / from you for so long..." Decorative back image titled the Post Card Symphonies No. 15 published by the Pen-Art Publishing Co. Bloomington, IL. Postmarked Reinbeck, IA, June 26, 1909.
- 1.5 Postcard to Helen Fletcher, no message. Decorative back image titled the Post Card Symphonies No. 8 published by the Pen-Art Publishing Co. Bloomington, IL. No date.
- 1.6 Postcard, blank. Decorative back image titled the Post Card Symphonies No. 16 published by the Pen-Art Publishing Co. Bloomington, IL. No date.
- 1.7 Letter to Theodore F. Campbell, State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL. Message asking to send ink-removing cream for hands. White aged

paper with cardboard support, State Farm company header from the western department, Berkeley, California. Signed Geo. E. Beedle, secretary. January 11, 1929.

- 1.8 “Take This Home with You: Convention Songs. 5th annual meeting State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Company” Two pages of lyrics on white paper with cardboard support. February 14-15, 1929
- 1.9 Second Floor Roster of the Accounting Department, images and numbered list with map of where employees sit. 1930
- 1.10 Employees of State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Co. list, notes by name start dates of employees from 1922 to approx. 1929. 2 copies of original.
- 1.11 Executives of State Farm Insurance Companies, listing of all executives with pictures, latter pages are a welcome to a course through the company, signed G. E. Mecherle, and history of the company. 1937.
- 1.12 Customer Administrative School No. 72, list of attendees. Notes name, company, and address. April 17-26, 1939.
- 1.13 “When asked by Mr. Baumann...” report on happenings and what was learned at Customer Administrative School No. 72. Most likely written by Herman G. Salch. No date.

Folder 2: Postcards, correspondence, conference proceedings, pictures (1943-1961)

- 2.1 Postcard to Tab Room, State Farm Ins. Co., notating recent life events in boot camp in Camp Wolters, TX, signed Kenny. Decorative back image published by Curt Teich & Co, Inc. Postmarked in Camp Wolters TX, September 24, 1942.
- 2.2 Postcard to Mr. Herman Salch notating recent life events in boot camp, signed Bill. Decorative back image by ColourPicture Publication, Cambridge Mass. U.S.A., Postmarked in Camp Edwards, MA, August 23, 1943.
- 2.3 Postcard to Herman Salch notating recent life events on transit to boot camp, signed Dale. Decorative back image published by Curt Teich & Co, Inc. Postmarked in Havre, MT, August 1, 1943.
- 2.4 Postcard to Mr. Herman Salch, message to Salch on the weather and his life in the military, signed Glenn. Decorative back image published by Curt Teich & Co, Inc. Postmarked in Pensacola, FL, September 17, 1943.
- 2.5 Postcard to The Gang, 2nd floor Tabulating Dept. State Farm Co., message to Salch reporting on the climate around his location (Pensacola, FL). Decorative back image from United States Navy. Postmarked in U.S. Navy September 22, 1943.

- 2.6 Postcard to Herman Salch, notating recent life events in the service, he is in England, signed Don [Fielders?]. Decorative back image published by Photocrom D. Ltd., Royal Tunbridge Wells. Postmarked February 22, 1944.
- 2.7 Postcard to The Gang, notating a joke about the card he sent and getting them his address, Pvt. Travis L. Walters. Decorative back image published by Beals, Des Moines IA. Postmarked in Amarillo, TX, April 19, 1944.
- 2.8 Postcard to The Gang, notating life happenings of his life in the military, signed Travis. Decorative back image published by Longworth Photo. Postmarked in Glendale, CA, August 22, 1944.
- 2.9 Postcard to the Tabulating Room, 2nd floor, State Farm, updating his service and saying he's going to machine records school, signed Vern. Decorative back image. Postmarked San Antonio, TX, September 7, 1944.
- 2.10 V-Mail letter to Herman Salch, updating him on his location and what he has been doing, signed Bill. Postmarked U.S. Army Postal Service, February 12, 1945
- 2.11 Postcard to Herman Salch, updating him on his time in in the military, current location France. Signed [Art or Rob?]. Postmarked U.S. Army Postal Service, February 18, 1945.
- 2.12 Postcard to Herman Salch, no message. No postmark, from Bob Sloan, March 20, 1945.
- 2.13 Postcard to the Tab. Dept. State Farm Mutual Ins. Co. 2nd Floor, Updating them on his current location and his next moves, signed Ray. Decorative back image published by C.A.P. Paris. Postmarked by U.S. Army Postal Service July 3, 1945.
- 2.14 Blank postcard, "Honest Ma – I was just watching the army go thru its manoeuvres", Art print by O'Toole. No date.
- 2.15 Blank postcard, "How do you think a rough sailor would look on me?", Art print by O'Toole. No date.
- 2.16 Blank postcard, Army and Navy Masonic Service Center – 1505 Sumter Street, Columbia, South Carolina. No Date.
- 2.17 *Alfi News*, The State Farm Insurance Companies, Volume 15, Tuesday March 13, 1951. Bloomington, Illinois. Front cover depicting George J. Mecherle, founder.
- 2.18 In Memoriam poster, Ramond P. Mecherle, February 19, 1904 - May 15, 1954. Back side has little biography for R.M. No date.
- 2.19 The West Central Endorsement, a Publication of State Farm Insurance Companies. Volume 7, Friday, May 21, 1954. Lincoln, Nebraska. Front cover an in memoriam for

Ramond P. Mecherle, founder.

- 2.20 State Farm Mutual Auto Ins. Co. IBM Rental “By Years”, Listed by year the major sub, number of policies in force, IBM machine rental, cost per policy. Latest date 1958.
- 2.21 *Alfi News*, 1960 Auditor’s Conference. Foldable with images of attendees and some writing on the conference. September 30, 1960.
- 2.22 State Farm and G.J. Mecherle, A Founder’s Month Pictorial Album. *The Reflector*, June 1961, January to May. Images of G.J.M. and some dialog explaining the images.
- 2.23 Lombardoland card for a State Farm Employees Activities party. Signed by Guy Lombardo and Kenny Gardner. Dated Friday, December 1, 1961
- 2.24 Image of Ronald Reagan on paper, cut out. Signature of former President under the image, Date on back of page 1961.
- 2.25 Postcard of Joe Dowell. No message, image on front signed by Joe Dowell. No date.

Folder 3: Journals, genealogy, correspondence, essays (1973-1996)

- 3.1 *The Journal*: A Publication of the Accounting & Statistical Department. Holiday journal with history, stories, and where traditions came from. December 1973.
- 3.2 Written by Alwillah Mecherle Loar. For Nelson Loar’s Retirement Party. Typed speech talking about the company and some history or family stories. January 1974
- 3.3 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. Data sheet noting Year, Assets, Net premiums written including membership fees, Surplus, and Number of policies in force, including and excluding standard auto. Latest date 1981.
- 3.4 The Founding of the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and Several crisis during the Mecherle Leadership 1922-1954 and the beginning of the Rust’s. Written by Willis Mecherle’s son and daughters, W. Harold Mecherle, Alwillah Mecherle Loar and Lillian Mecherle McCord. Dated N ovember 11, 1986.
- 3.5 The Mecherle Ancestry, as I know it. Potentially second piece of above entry. No writer indicated. No date.
- 3.6 Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Salch. Written to thank Salch for his “reflections” and updates him on family and what’s going on. Signed Alwillah M. Loar. Dated November 24, 1986.
- 3.7 Trait Marks: Some Casual Reminders of Who We Are and Where We Came From at State Farm. Paycheck inserts. Several different informational topics on each. Dated about every two weeks from June 29, 1988 to March 5, 1989. 21 different copies.

- 3.8 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and The NAIC Insurance Regulatory Information System 1944-1947. 30 pages essay written by David Salch and Jeff Curry, Investment Accounting. August 1995.
- 3.9 Newspaper clipping with W. Harold Mecherle's Obituary. Date of death July 30, 1996.

Folder 4: Undated, Miscellaneous items

- 4.1 Tabulating Card from State Farm Ins. Date unknown.
- 4.2 Tabulating Department card. "Look Alive!..." orange card with mildly threatening message. Card printed by Premier Southern.
- 4.3 Tabulating Department card. "We Can't Always..." Pink card with mildly threatening message. Card printed by Premier Southern.
- 4.4 Trait Marks booklet. Reprinted from earlier paycheck inserts. No author. No date.
- 4.5 Note paper "News for you from the whileaway club". White paper with red and blue ink. Images of two guys on either side.
- 4.6 Note paper "State Farm Insurance Companies Men's Club, Bloomington, Illinois". White paper with brown ink print, man with a cigarette sitting in a chair centered. Smaller size.
- 4.7 Note paper "State Farm Insurance Companies Men's Club, Bloomington, Illinois". White paper with brown ink print, man with a cigarette sitting in a chair centered. larger size.
- 4.8 Illustration titled "Machine Room". Pretty woman walking past, men turned to wolves and losing it over her. Published by Morgan & Barclay Co.