

McLean County Museum of History

Beich Collection

Processed by
Aingeal Stone
Spring 2013

Updated by
Jeff Dillon
Summer 2017

Collection Information

Volume of Collection:	One Box.
Collection Dates:	1890-2013
Restrictions:	Some brittle documents. Use photocopies unless authorized by Librarian / Archivist.
Reproduction Rights:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
Location:	Archives
Notes:	

Historical Sketch

Born in Wehlau, East Prussia May 22, 1864, Paul Frank Beich received his early education at Culm where his father was headmaster. He was the eldest of three sons born to August and Huldah (Volgelsang) Beich. At the age of 18 he emigrated and in February 21, 1887 became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. On March 1 of that year he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to take a place as a travelling salesman for Peckham & Co. candy manufacturers. In 1893 Beich purchased the Chisholm-Gray Company building, first conducting business in the 200 block of East Front Street, and later in the 100 block. In 1899 Beich and Oscar Buffe purchased the Lancaster Caramel Company from M.S. Hershey. By 1908 the Beich candy factory at the foot of West Grove Street, just west of Union Station, Bloomington was considered one of the city's leader industries, employing more than 200. By 1929 it employed 400 persons and the Chicago branch, opened in 1911, and employed 200. In 1919 Paul F. Beich was named president of the National Association of manufacturing Confectioners at their annual conference which was held in Springfield, Mass. In 1987 Nestle purchased the company, ending all Beich family involvement.

Beich married Catherine (Kittie) Mary Gerken September 4 1888. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. William A. Gerken of Bloomington. He died September 9 1937 and Catherine died September 15 1944. They had two sons, Otto G. (president from 1929-1945) and Albert C. both appointed chairmen of the board of their father's company. Otto G. married Harriet Kiser and had two children, Paul M. and William A. Paul became president of the company and married Katherine McNulta, fathering four children: Paul Jr., Karen, Otto and Herbert. In 1949 this family lived at 1505 East Washington Street. William, second son of Otto G. Beich, also works in the family business and married Patsy Spahr of Chicago. They had two children, Diane and Fritz, and lived at 1413 East Grove Street in 1949. Albert C. the second son of the founder, married Hulda Burke, and had three children: Betty, Mary, and Albert C. Jr. Betty married Dr. Raymond White of Chicago and they had one son by 1949; Mary was a Hollywood actress, under the name Mary Bovard, and married Rudolph Myers of Santa Monica, Calif. She was known as Mary Beich McCarthy in 1996 and was an internationally known painter, living in Paradise Valley, Ariz.; Albert C. Jr. was a Hollywood screenwriter, born in 1919 and died March 31, 1996, one son, Lawrence, predeceased him. Albert C. Sr., and Hulda divorced and Hulda and her three children moved to Los Angeles in the early 30s. Albert C. Sr. and his second wife, Julia Bell of Boston, Mass., had three children: Albert William, Julia, and Frank. Julia married James Bay of Evanston. Albert C. Sr. died in September of 1948.

Scope and Content Notes

The Beich collection consists of photocopies and original newspaper and magazine articles from 1887 to 2005, history pamphlets, price lists, promotional material, correspondence, black & white photographs, newsletter, employee listings, employee newsletters, fire newspaper articles award certificates, patents, hand-written recipe notebooks, ledgers and a VHS recording that includes a history of the Paul F. Beich Co.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: History

- 1.1 Notice on Paul F. Beich, *Pantagraph*, February 22, 1887, p. 4.
- 1.2 "The Beich Candy Manufactory is an Immense Plant," *Pantagraph*, August 21, 1908, p. 8.
- 1.3 "Paul F. Bech Names President," *Pantagraph*, May 16, 1919, p. 4.
- 1.4 "Contributes To Sweet Tooth of All Nations," *Pantagraph*, January 13, 1929, p. Eight-C
- 1.5 "Dedicate Beich's New Softball Plant Monday Night," *Pantagraph*, May 14, 1934, p. 8.
- 1.6 "Beich Family Patriarch Immigrant of 1880s," *Pantagraph*, March 20, 1949.
- 1.7 "Business in Family 61 Years; Had Start Before Civil War," *Pantagraph*, May 30, 1954, p. 18.
- 1.8 "A Century of Fine Candymaking," pamphlet, 24 pgs., c. 1954.
- 1.9 "They Put The 'Sweet' In Sweet Tooth," *Staley Journal*, February 1961, pp. 14-20.
- 1.10 "History and Souvenir 1854-1964, 110 Years," pamphlet, 14 pgs., c. 1964.
- 1.11 "Paul Frank Beich: A Close-Up of the Man and the Company Founded 113 Years Ago," source unknown, c. 1967.
- 1.12 "About Our Company, Paul F. Beich Company, Fine Candy Making Since 1854!" pamphlet, 15 pgs., c. 1974.
- 1.13 "Sweet Memories," *Pantagraph*, November 24, 2002, sec. F, p. 1, 2.
- 1.14 "Piece of history gutted," *Pantagraph*, May 26, 2005, p. 1.

Folder 2: Family

- 2.1 Information compiled by David W. Beich, "On the 25th of June, 1936 . . ." November 9, 1993.
- 2.2 Correspondence to Bureau of Immigration & naturalization, Washington, D.C., June 25, 1936 from Paul F. Beich.
- 2.3 Correspondence to P.F. Beich, July 31, 1936, from J.H. Wagner, US Dept. of Labor, Immigration & Naturalization Service, Washington.
- 2.4 Correspondence from D.W. MacCormack, US Dept of Labor, Washington, Sept. 15, 1936, including enclosures (1 application form A-2214 and 2 application forms 659), to P.F. Beich.
- 2.5 Correspondence to US Dept of Labor, Chicago, Ill., Sept 17 1936, from P.F. Beich.
- 2.6 "Paul F. Beich, leader in civic affairs, dies" *Pantagraph*, Sept 10, 1937, p. 3.
- 2.7 "Hollywood writer Albert Beich had roots in the Twin Cities" *Pantagraph*, April 19, 1996, p. D7.

Folder 3: Newspaper Advertisements (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 3.1 Fireworks supplies, July 3, 1896, p. 4.
- 3.2 Waukesha-Hygeia Ginger Ale, June 9, 1897, p. 2.
- 3.3 Boro-Lithia Table Water, June 18, 1897, p. 2.
- 3.4 Pansy Brand Fine Candies, *The Sunday Eye*, December 19, 1897.
- 3.5 Fine Candies, *Daily Bulletin*, August 12, 1898.
- 3.6 Junius Brutus Cigars, January 13, 1900.
- 3.7 Beich's Saint Regis Chocolates, July 13, 1909, p.12
- 3.8 Beich's Saint Regis Chocolates, *Daily Bulletin*, October 14, 1910.

- 3.9 Positions Open for Girls and Women, *Daily Bulletin*, June 12, 1919.
- 3.10 Beich's Epicure Assortment, November 1, 1919.
- 3.11 Sweeten the day with candy, April 23, 1929 (Pauline Frederick, actress).
- 3.12 Dollar Day Candy Special, February 14, 1936.
- 3.13 Beich Orange Slices, April 17, 1936.
- 3.14 Paul F. Beich Co., January 1, 1941 (mention of "Peter Quill" radio show).
- 3.15 At Once, Male and Female Help Wanted, April 15, 1945, p. 16.
- 3.16 Kathryn Beich Candies, Newspaper supplement for 1976 Illinois State Fair, August 1976.
- 3.17 Bike's, Paul F. Beich Company, McLean County sesquicentennial special supplement, April 21, 1981.
- 3.18 Bike's, Paul F. Beich Co., Kathryn Beich Candies, "Progress '83 supplement," June 13, 1983 (two-page ad).

Folder 4: Price List Brochures

- 4.1 Price List to Wholesalers, Chicago Factory, 20 pgs., n.d..
- 4.2 No title (begins with "Mrs. Beich's Personal Selections), 25 pgs., no date.
- 4.3 Untitled bifold price list, "Soda fountain Dept.," n.d.
- 4.4 Bulletin of Soda Water Requisites, Season of 1910, 15 pp.
- 4.5 Wholesale Price List (title on second page), 23 pgs., January 2, 1926.
- 4.6 Retail Hard Goods Price List, Chicago Factory, 11 pgs., September 15, 1926.
- 4.7 Price List Retail, Bloomington Factory, 31 pgs. (?), September 1, 1927.
- 4.8 Price List Retail, Bloomington Factory, 36 pgs, Fall 1928.
- 4.9 Beich's Package Chocolates for Mother's Day, May 12, 1929.
- 4.10 Price List Retail, Bloomington Factory (title on reverse of cover), 32 pgs., Fall 1931.
- 4.11 Armed Services Price List, 2 pgs., c. 1954.

Folder 5: Promotional Material I

- 5.1 Delicious Kathryn Beich Candies, trifold, n.d.
- 5.2 Kathryn Beich candies, [8] p., folded, n.d.
- 5.3 Kathryn Beich candies. The fast, easy way to earn \$50 to \$5,000 or more!, [8] p., folded, n.d.
- 5.4 Kathryn Beich world famous "old fashioned" confections, trifold, n.d.
- 5.5 Now, discover the best taste in fund raising, folder, 16 pieces, n.d.
- 5.6 Together, Kathryn Beich & Nestle make fund raising easier and more profitable!, bifold, n.d.
- 5.7 Kathryn Beich candies, [20]p., 1964
- 5.8 "America's most popular fund raising plan" 19 p., 1967
- 5.9 Kathryn Beich candies. America's most popular fund raising plan, 15 p., 1969
- 5.10 Kathryn Beich fund raising candies mailout, in envelope, October 1983
- 5.11 Kathryn Beich fund raising candies mailout, in envelope, February 1984
- 5.12 Kathryn Beich fund raising candies mailout, in envelope, April 1985

Folder 6: Promotional Material II

- 6.1 "Bike" Candies Whiz Banana Caramels "Bike" Candies coupon for 50% off Lady Marilyn Flawless nylon stockings, offer expires 1961
- 6.2 Nestle Beich Special Editions gourmet confections, folder, 11 pieces, 1988

- 6.3 "Bikes" Beich Candies factory tour booklet, 1982
- 6.4 Bit-O-Honey "Improvement" Announcement, April 1993

Folder 7: Miscellany

- 7.1 Check out Beich's 120-ct. display jars [stationary], n.d.
- 7.2 Correspondence to Guy Carrollton from Paul F. Beich Co., December 4, 1906
- 7.3 Correspondence to Guy Carlton from the Bloomington Caramel Works, January 15, 1907
- 7.4 3 photos of newspaper pictures showing Beich employees striking, April 30, 1937
- 7.5 2 photos of newspaper articles on Beich strike April/May 1937
- 7.6 "Sweet Talk", 15 p., March 1959
- 7.7 Retirement Trust Plan for Employees of Paul F. Beich Company, 16 p., c. 1961
- 7.8 Paul F. Beich Co., Retirement Trust "Certificate of Participation" + envelope, February 28, 1963
- 7.9 Médaille d'Argent [silver medal] certificate to Kathryn Beich Candies 1977 for Caramel filled milk chocolate
- 7.10 Médaille d'Argent [silver medal] certificate to Kathryn Beich Candies 1977 for Katydid's
- 7.11 Union privilege card application addressed to Jack Vaillancourt, 1987
- 7.12 Summary of Employee Satisfaction Survey – December 1987
- 7.13 Work Roster Caramelt Dept -April 1975
- 7.14 Outstanding Achievement recognition-Ann Sheppelman

Folder 8: Candy-Making Machinery

- 8.1 "Aloxite chocolate mills", 1 p., n.d.
- 8.2 "Chocolate data", 1 p., n.d.
- 8.3 "Cost of equipment", 1 p., n.d.
- 8.4 9 photos, b/w, of machinery. Frank Oberkoetter Studios. Includes some descriptions on backside of photos, n.d.
- 8.5 Paul F. Beich Co. letterhead "The chocolate coatings & processes referred to . . .", 1 p., n.d.
- 8.6 Photo, b/w, "B 7385-1", n.d.
- 8.7 Photo, b/w, "B7385-2 HAWKINS", n.d.
- 8.8 Photo, b/w, "B7385-4 HAWKINS", n.d.
- 8.9 Photo, b/w, "B7385-5 HAWKINS", n.d.
- 8.10 Photo, b/w, unidentified overhead view of machinery, n.d.
- 8.11 Photo, b/w, unidentified side view of machinery, n.d.
- 8.12 Technical drawing P-S370, 1 p., n.d.
- 8.13 Technical drawing P-S907, 1 p., n.d.
- 8.14 Patent 2,424,950, 3 p., July 29, 1947
- 8.15 Patent 2,459,908, 3 p., January 25, 1949
- 8.16 Patent 2,465,828, 3 p., March 29 1949
- 8.17 Mikro-atomizer test, 1 p., November 3, 1949
- 8.18 Mikro-atomizer test, 1 p., November 9, 1949
- 8.19 "Whizolater Data" on the #5a sanitary bump pump, March 30, 1950, 1p. (3 copies)
- 8.20 "Whizolater Data" on the #10 sanitary bump pump, March 30, 1950, 1 p. (3 copies)

Folder 9: Peter Quill

- 9.1. KOIL radio ad for "Peter Quill", *The Malvern Leader*, October 17, 1940
- 9.2. WGN radio ad for "Peter Quill", *Illinois Wesleyan University Argus*, October 29, 1940
- 9.3. KOIL radio ad for "Peter Quill", *The Malvern Leader*, January 2, 1941
- 9.4. KSTP radio ad for "Peter Quill", *Minneapolis Star Journal*, January 6, 1941
- 9.5. WGN radio ad for "Peter Quill", *Illinois Wesleyan University Argus*, January 14, 1941
- 9.6. WGN radio ad for "Peter Quill", *Illinois Wesleyan University Argus*, March 18, 1941
- 9.7. *Radio Recall*, Vol. 21(5), October 2004, 11 p.
- 9.8. *Radio Recall*, Vol. 30(1), February 2013, 5 p.

Folder 10: Recipe Notebooks

- 10.1. Red notebook, 3 x 5, n.d.
- 10.2. Black notebook, 5 x 7, n.d.

Both notebooks donated November 1, 2011, by Wanda Kirby, c/o Judy Hayes. The notebooks were held by John J. "Sy" Bourges and William H. "Willy" Bourges, master candy makers for Beich.

Folder 11: Factory Fire

- 11.1. Pantagraph Article May 26 & 27, 2005
- 11.2. Union News-date unknown

Folder 12: Employee Listings I

- 12.1. Listing from 1966, 1967, 1968

Folder 13: Employee Listings II

- 13.1. Listing from 1982, 1984, & 1986
- 13.2. Female Applications listing-1967
- 13.3. Male Applications -1967
- 13.4. Work roster-Carmel Dept-4/21/1975

Folder 14: Employee Newsletters

- 14.1. "Let's Get Newsy"
- 14.2. Project Cooperation

Folder 15: Striking Women, 1937-38

- 15.1. "Striking Candy Girls: Standing Together; Standing Strong!" by Susan Harsha, an Illinois State University student, undated (but uses author interviews conducted in 2000-04). Discusses background and events involving two strikes in 1937 and 1937-38. 13pp.

Loose Items

1. Red ledger, 4 x 7, 1890-1905.
2. Red ledger, 4 ½ x 7 ½, 1897-1905.

Both ledgers, which list charge accounts for sales of merchandise, were donated by David Beich, Bloomington, IL, in October 2010.

3. VHS Cassette tape: "Discovering Excellence," 21 minutes. Includes history of Paul F. Beich Co., 1984.