

Guide to the Radioear records, 1955-1969

Summary Information

Collection No.:	MS 2020-002
Title:	Radioear records
Inclusive Dates:	1955-1969
Author:	Nancy Martin
Repository:	Peters Township Public Library Archives 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
Creator:	Samuel F. Lybarger
Extent:	0.42 linear feet (1 box), 44 survey and construction plans
Language of materials:	All materials are in English.
Abstract:	Records created and accumulated by E.A. Myers & Sons, E.A. Myers & Sons Incorporated and the Radioear Corporation in the course of the planning, design and construction of the Radioear laboratory and office building on the Thompsonville-McMurray Road (now Valley Brook Road) from 1955-1956. Records consist primarily of correspondence, construction specifications and plans, and photographs relating to the building's construction. A few miscellaneous company records are also included.

Biography/History

E.A. Myers & Sons was founded in June of 1924 by Edward A. (E.A.) Myers (1868-1963). Myers began his career as a trial lawyer in the state of Indiana but, by 1898, he had developed a serious

hearing impairment which required him to change professions. He entered the field of automotive engineering.

E.A. moved to Pittsburgh in 1912. When commercial radio debuted in Pittsburgh in 1920 and he was unable to hear it, E.A., together with Westinghouse engineer George F. Harrington, built a vacuum tube radio that was six feet long and powered by automobile batteries.

Using a headset, E.A. listened to the June 25, 1924 broadcast of the National Democratic Convention. He was able to hear the broadcast clearly. The first 185 lb. cabinet model hearing aid was completed by September 15, 1924 and was called Radioear.

E.A.'s son Edwin (E.J.) Myers (1905-1983) joined the company soon after the introduction of the first Radioear hearing aid. Samuel F. Lybarger (1909-2000) joined the company in June of 1930. He was named chief engineer in 1932. Samuel married E.A.'s daughter Alberta in 1934 and became Myers' son-in-law. E.A.'s son Leslie McCurdy (L.M.) Myers (1897-1975) joined the company in 1942.

In September 1951, two corporations – E.A. Myers & Sons Incorporated and the Radioear Corporation - were created. E.A. Myers & Sons Inc. designed and manufactured the hearing aids while the Radioear Corporation sold and distributed them.

When the company outgrew its Mt. Lebanon location at 306 Beverly Road, E.J., Sam and L.M. built a 21,000 square foot building on a three acre lot on the Thompsonville-McMurray Road (now Valley Brook Road) in Peters Township and leased it to the two companies..

In April 1966, the two corporations merged under the name Radioear Corporation.

Radioear was sold to Esterline Corporation in 1969 and then to Page Mill I in 1978. Four long-time employees of Radioear, Harold Holsopple, Walter Piroth, Richard Holzer and Andrew Kriceri, purchased Radioear in 1982. Radioear ceased manufacturing hearing aids in the mid-1980s and concentrated on the production and sale of bone vibrators. Radioear vacated its Peters Township building in the 1980s.

Scope and Content Note

The records consist primarily of correspondence, construction specifications, architectural plans and photographs documenting the construction of the Radioear laboratory and office building in Peters Township on the Thompsonville-McMurray Road (now Valley Brook Road) between 1955 and 1956. The records also include a model of the Radioear hearing aid model 870, an electric Radioear sign, three aerial photographs of the site where the new building was to be constructed, some promotional materials for the Peters Township lab and office building, and some miscellaneous company records.

Arrangement

The records are arranged in two series:

- Series I. Records relating to the construction of the Radioear laboratory and office building in Peters Township, 1955-1967
- Series II. Miscellaneous records, 1941-1941, 1956-1969

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:

No restrictions.

Physical Access:

The whiteprints in this collection are vulnerable to fading when exposed to light. Patrons may only access those whiteprints for which no blueprint copy exists. (Those in Folder 13.)

Acquisition Information:

Gift of Samuel F. Lybarger's son Edward H. Lybarger.

Custodial History:

Records arrived at the Archives as a donation from Edward H. Lybarger.

Accruals Note:

No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Public Library Archives, MS 2020-002 Radioear records

Processing Information:

This collection was arranged by Margaret Deitzer and described by Nancy Martin in June 2024. In the absence of a usable original order, the arrangement of the papers was imposed during processing.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the Peters Township Public Library Archives.

Related Materials:

MS 2020-001 Lybarger family papers

Additional Radioear records are held by the University of Pittsburgh Archives & Special Collections

Separated Materials:

Oversized plans and construction drawings are stored separately from the other materials. Their specific location is noted in the collection's "Contents List".

Rights Statement for this Archival Description:

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Sources Consulted:

The following sources were consulted in the creation of this finding aid:

- Radioear records
- Radioear Corporation. (1956). *History of Radioear, 1924-1956*.
- Radioear. (n.d.) A century of innovation and evolution. <https://www.Radioear.us/history>
- Skafte, Marjorie D. (1994). Pioneers: A "Living Legend": Samuel F. Lybarger. *The Hearing Review*, 1(7), 6-9.
- Peters Township Public Library. (2004). *Edward Lybarger: An Oral History*.

Contents List

Series I.	Records relating to the construction of the Radioear laboratory and office building in Peters Township, 1955-1967
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Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of records relating to the planning, design and construction of the Radioear laboratory and office building in Peters Township.

This series is arranged in 5 subseries:

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| Subseries i. | Records relating to the Peters Township zoning ordinance, 1955-1964 |
| Subseries ii. | Correspondence with architects Beall & Parkins, 1955-1957 |

- Subseries iii. Construction specifications by architects Beall & Parkins, 1955-1956, 1967
- Subseries iv. Building construction plans by architects Beall & Parkins, 1955-1963
- Subseries v. Photographs of the new building and its site, 1955-1960
- Subseries vi. Promotional materials for the new building, 1956

Subseries i. Records relating to the Peters Township zoning ordinance, 1955-1964

Subseries Scope and Content Note: Subseries consists of E.A. Myers & Sons Inc. correspondence with the Peters Township Board of Supervisors and with attorneys relating to the Peters Township zoning ordinance. Subseries also includes 1956 newspaper clippings of legal notices of the proposed zoning ordinance for Peters Township, and proposed additions to the ordinance.

Box 1	
Folder 1:	Records relating to Peters Township zoning ordinances, 1955-1964

Subseries ii. Correspondence with architects Beall & Parkins, 1955-1957

Subseries Scope and Content Note: Subseries consists of correspondence with Beall & Parkins, the Washington, Pennsylvania registered architects who designed the Peters Township Radioear laboratory and office building. The project was Commission No. 735 for the firm whose offices were located at 601-02 in the Washington Trust Building. Correspondence documents all aspects of the building construction including finances, contracts, inspections, and weekly reports of job conferences between Myers, Lybarger & Myers and building contractors.

Box 1	
Folder 2:	Correspondence, 1955
Folder 3:	Correspondence, January – March 1956
Folder 4:	Correspondence, April – June 1956
Folder 5:	Correspondence, July – September 1956
Folder 6:	Correspondence, October – December 1956
Folder 7:	Correspondence, 1957

Subseries iii. Construction specifications by architects Beall & Parkins, 1955-1956, 1967

Subseries Scope and Content Note: Subseries consists of construction specifications for the Peters Township Radioear laboratory and office building prepared by Beall & Parkins, registered architects for owners Edwin J. Myers, Samuel F. Lybarger and L.M. Myers. The project was Commission No. 735 for the architectural firm whose offices were located at 601-02 in the Washington Trust Building in Washington, Pennsylvania. The specifications are documents prepared ahead of construction to describe how building should be carried out by contractors and subcontractors.

Box 1	
Folder 8:	General – Construction Specifications, December 5, 1955 General – Construction Specifications, May 10, 1956
Folder 9:	Heating and Air Conditioning Work – Construction Specifications, February 15, 1956
Folder 10:	Electric (including fixtures) – Construction Specifications, February 28, 1956
Folder 11:	Plumbing – Construction Specifications, March 23, 1956

Subseries iv. Building construction plans by architects Beall & Parkins, 1955-1963

Subseries Scope and Content Note: Subseries consists of blueprints and whiteprints of the building construction plans prepared by architects Beall & Parkins for owners E.J. Myers, Samuel F. Lybarger and L.M. Myers. Plans include plot plans, floor plans, elevations, section details, and electrical, heating and air conditioning, and plumbing drawings. Subseries also includes two property survey plans and one topographic study of the laboratory and office building site by Engelhardt & Power, registered engineers.

The plans are arranged by subject (elevations, electrical, plumbing, etc.) and then in reverse chronological order within each subject area.

Note: The whiteprints in this collection are vulnerable to fading when exposed to light. Patrons may only access those whiteprints for which no blueprint copy exists. (Those in Folder 13.)

Drawer 8	
Folder 1:	Set of 3 building construction blueprints submitted by Beall & Parkins to the Pittsburgh Office of the Division of Buildings' Bureau of Inspection which were approved and returned to the architects, with accompanying correspondence, 1955
Folder 2:	Plot plan and section details (5 blueprints) 1955-1956
Folder 3:	First floor plans (3 blueprints), 1955-1956
Folder 4:	Elevations and details (2 blueprints), 1955
Drawer 10	
Folder 5:	Plan details and sections (2 blueprints), 1955-1956
Folder 6:	Electrical layout and wiring diagrams (3 blueprints), 1956
Folder 7:	Heating and air conditioning layout plans (2 blueprints), 1956
Folder 8:	Plumbing plan (1 blueprint), 1956
Folder 9:	Retaining wall details on/near North property line (2 blueprints), 1956
Folder 10:	Concrete septic tanks plan (1 blueprint), 1956
Drawer 9	
Folder 11:	Topographic study for S.F. Lybarger, September 1955
Folder 11:	Property Survey for E. Myers, S. Lybarger and L. Myers, October 1955
Folder 11:	Property Survey for E.J. Myers, S.F. Lybarger and L.M. Myers, January 1957
Drawer 9	
Folder 12:	Plot plan and section details (1 whiteprint), 1956
Folder 12:	First floor plans (2 whiteprints), 1955-1956
Folder 12:	Elevations and details (1 whiteprint), 1956
Folder 12:	Plan details and sections (2 whiteprints), 1955-1956
Folder 12:	Electrical layout (1 whiteprint), 1956
Folder 12:	Heating and air conditioning layout (1 whiteprint), 1956
Folder 12:	Plumbing (1 whiteprint), 1956
Folder 12:	Concrete septic tanks (1 whiteprint), 1956
Folder 12:	Retaining wall details on/near North property line (2 whiteprints), 1956
Folder 13:	Revision of grades for parking area "B" (1 whiteprint), 1955
Folder 13:	Untitled whiteprint (1 whiteprint), 1956
Folder 13:	Cut stone details (1 whiteprint), undated
Folder 13:	Untitled whiteprint (1 whiteprint) showing the Plan of incinerator and Section A-A, 1956
Folder 13:	Driveway layout (1 whiteprint), 1957
Folder 13:	Partition layout (1 whiteprint), 1967

Subseries v. Photographs of the new building, 1955-1960

Subseries Scope and Content Note: Subseries consists of photographs of each stage of the construction of the new Radioear building, and a few exterior and interior photographs of the completed building.

Box 1	
Folder 12:	Photographs of the construction of the new building, 1955-1956
Folder 13:	Photographs of the exterior and interior of the completed building, 1956-1960

Subseries vi. Promotional materials for the new building, 1956

Subseries Scope and Content Note: Subseries consists of 3 oversize black and white aerial photographs of Peters Township and the site on which the Radioear laboratory and office building was to be built on Valley Brook Road in Peters Township. Subseries also includes a professional brochure advertising Radioear's new Peters Township location, including a map of the route from its prior location on Beverly Road in Mt. Lebanon to its new location on the Thompsonville-McMurray Road (now Valley Brook Road). Newspaper clippings of advertisements of the new building are also included.

Box 1	
Folder 14:	Promotional materials for the new building, 1956
Drawer 9	
Folder 3	Three black and white aerial photographs by Waldo Russell, former business editor of <i>The Pittsburgh Press</i> , for Leonard Davis, PR Director for Radioear Corporation, 1955; one labelled reproduction of one of the photographs by Ed Lybarger

Series II. Miscellaneous records, 1941-1942, 1956-1969

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of miscellaneous records created or accumulated by E.A. Myers and Sons, E.A Myers & Sons Incorporated and the Radioear Corporation in the course of conducting their business. Series includes a *History of Radioear, 1924-1956* booklet, some miscellaneous documents including lists of building key numbers for each lock in the Peters Township lab and office building, Radioear hearing aid model 870 and an electric Radioear sign.

Box 1	
Folder 15:	<i>History of Radioear, 1924-1956</i> by Radioear Corporation
Folder 16:	Miscellaneous records, 1956-1969
Folder 17:	Model of Radioear hearing aid model 870
Folder 18:	“Dial” calendar for 1941-1942 in which E. J. Myers recorded information about the collie dogs he raised and showed. The Radioear “new vacuum tube” is advertised on the back cover of the calendar.
Box 2	
	Electric Radioear sign, undated