

## Guide to the National Cash Register (NCR)/Allen-Wales Collection

*The History Center in Tompkins County*  
110 N. Tioga St., Suite 204A  
Tompkins Center for History and Culture  
607-273-8284  
[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)  
[archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net)

### Collection Number V-20-2-1

Compiled 2019

#### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Allen-Wales company was the nation's largest manufacturer of adding machines and dates back to the years just prior to the World War I. The Peters-Morse Manufacturing Corporation was established by F. L. Morse and H. C. Peters (Cornell Class of 1890) and began producing and marketing their adding machines in 1921. Peters-Morse Manufacturing initially struggled to survive until Ralph C. Allen joined the company in 1927. Allen had just purchased the bankrupt Wales Adding Machine Company, which prompted a name change from Peters-Morse to Allen-Wales. The new company survived the Great Depression and by World War II had established sales outlets around the globe. In 1943, the National Cash Register Company (later known as NCR) purchased Allen-Wales. Eventually, the name Allen-Wales was dropped and the plant became known as NCR Ithaca. Once Allen-Wales became part of NCR, it was stable and profitable for several decades. In fact, NCR Ithaca built a new plant in the late 1950s and became one of the area's largest sources of manufacturing jobs.

This collection contains a wealth of information related to Allen-Wales/NCR Ithaca. Items include scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, company newsletters, and company records, publications, and history. The scrapbooks are an excellent source of information on the growth of the company from the late 1940s to the early 1970s and include many photos; along with the newsletters and company records, this collection offers researchers a detailed look at Allen-Wales/NCR Ithaca.

#### CONTAINER LIST

<i>Box and Description</i>	<i>Folder</i>
<u>Box 1: Allen-Wales/NCR Scrapbooks (fragile), 1946-1958</u>	
Titled: "NCR scrapbook 1946-;" mix of clippings, photos, company publications and advertising (1946-1950)	1
Newspaper clippings and company publications (1950-1954)	2

Newspaper clippings and company publications (1955-1958)	3
Photos of new Ithaca plant being built (Circa 1957)	4
<u>Box 2: Allen-Wales/NCR Scrapbooks (fragile), 1957-1973</u>	
Photos of new Ithaca plant being built (Circa 1957-1958)	5
Photos and Advertisements Promoting Westinghouse and NCR collaboration to power the Ithaca plant (Circa 1959)	6
Photos of new Ithaca plant, including machinery and breakroom (Circa 1959-1965)	7
Photos of building renovations at Ithaca plant (Circa 1972-1973)	8
<u>Box 3: Newspaper Clippings: <i>Ithaca Journal</i>, <i>New York Times</i>, et al, 1951-1994</u>	
Circa 1950-Circa 1969	9
1970s (1 of 2)	10
1970s (2 of 2)	11
1980s (1 of 2)	12
1980s (2 of 2)	13
Circa 1990-Circa 1994	14
<u>Box 4: Allen-Wales Newsletters, 1929-1932</u>	
<i>Allen-Wales Adding Wheel</i> (October-December 1929)	15
<i>Allen-Wales Adding Wheel</i> (May 1929-April 1930)	16
<i>Allen-Wales Organization News</i> (Circa 1931)	17
<i>Allen-Wales Adding Wheel</i> (January-September 1930)	18
<i>Allen-Wales Adding Wheel</i> (July 1931-May 1932)	19
<u>Box 5: ADD-Venture Company Magazine, 1947-1953</u>	
Loose in box: 7 bound volumes	
<u>Box 6: ADD-Venture Company Magazine, 1954-1960</u>	
Loose in box: 7 bound volumes	
<u>Box 7: ADD-Venture Company Magazine, 1961-1967</u>	
Loose in box: 7 bound volumes	
<u>Box 8: NCR Newsletters (Ithaca), 1971-1994</u>	
<i>NCR Ithaca</i> : Monthly/Quarterly Edition (February 1971-December 1975)	20
<i>NCR Ithaca</i> : Monthly/Quarterly Edition (February 1976-December 1980)	21
<i>NCR Ithaca</i> : Bi-Weekly Edition (February 1981-June 1984)	22
<i>NCR Ithacan</i> : Monthly/Quarterly Edition (October 1986-December 1990)	23
<i>NCR Ithaca News Update</i> : Weekly Edition (July 1987-December 1988)	24
<i>NCR Ithaca News Update</i> : Weekly Edition (January-December 1989)	25
<i>NCR Ithaca News Update</i> : Weekly Edition (January 1990-August 1991)	26
<i>NCR Ithaca News Update</i> : Weekly Edition (January-December 1994)	27

<u>Box 9: Company Records, Publications, and History, Circa 1919-Circa 1993</u>	
Assorted Company History (Circa 1919-Circa 1950)	28
Assorted Photos: Adding Machines, Buildings, et al (Circa 1926-Circa 1984)	29
Court Records: Purchase of Property and Equipment (1928-1948)	30
Company Advertising and Promotion (Circa 1930-Circa 1984)	31
“Historical Outline of the Contribution of the Allen-Wales Adding Machine Corporation to the World War II Program” (August 1949)	32
Assorted NCR Publications: Ithaca Specific (1947-1993)	
<u>Box 10: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition Materials, Circa 1984</u>	
Photocopies of Exhibition Materials (Circa 1984)	33

Stored with boxes: bound volume:  
NCR Ithaca 1969 (Missing)