

**AMF Midway Postal Retirement  
Organization Archives  
2006/04**

**Finding aid prepared by Beth Loch and Emily Minehart**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Chicago Public Library: Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection

May 8, 2013

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Chicago Public Library: Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection
<b>Title</b>	AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Archives
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1957-2010
<b>Extent</b>	5.25 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The first African Americans allowed to work at Midway Airport's AMF postal facility founded the AMF Midway Organization in 1991. They worked on trains, distributing mail throughout the Midwest. AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Archives include materials relating to the experience of AMF Midway (PTS)'s employees and the formation and history of AMF Midway Organization. The collection is organized into four series: "AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Records and Events," "AMF Midway Postal Employee Records and Memorabilia," "Serials," and "Photographs."</p>

## Historical note

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The members of the AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization included the first African Americans allowed to work at Midway Airport's AMF postal facility. They worked on trains, distributing mail throughout the Midwest. The AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization was officially chartered in 1991 to document the history of African Americans who worked in the AMF Midway mailroom.

AMF Midway Organization's first unofficial meeting was held at Burger King on April 29, 1989, though there had been discussion about starting the group for about ten years before that meeting. Marion Byrd and James Knox originally organized the meeting as a social gathering. During the organization's early meetings Marion Byrd was the Acting President and James Knox was the Acting Secretary.

Eventually, Edgar Martine secured permission for the club to meet at Foster Park Fieldhouse on a permanent basis. The first meeting at the Fieldhouse was held March 23, 1991, and it was at this meeting that Club Officers were elected and a formal name was chosen for the group. The organization elected its founding members as the first Club Officers, Marion Byrd as President and James Knox as Secretary. The name of the organization was chosen by using the official title of the Midway Airport Mailroom, "AMF Midway (PTS)," where PTS refers to Postal Transportation System; the Organization dropped (PTS) from the name at some point in its early years. The organization was chartered by the state of Illinois on March 29, 1991. Edward Jackson established the group's newsletter and the first issue was published September 1991. Jackson also created the newsletter's airplane logo, as well as the birthday and anniversary column that became a staple in the newsletters. In April 1993, the club registered as an Illinois charitable organization. The organization's bylaws were written in 1993, and stated that all former mail clerks who were employed at any time at AMF Midway were eligible for membership.

AMF Midway Retirement Organization had an active social committee that planned fundraisers for both themselves and other local groups. The club's first fundraiser on May 23, 1992, was a raffle drawing with twenty-eight members in attendance. The organization also planned social gatherings for members and their families. The first party they hosted was a dinner dance at the Martinique Restaurant, held on November 4, 1992. The organization also made monetary donations to support local athletics; for example, one donation was given to the Foster Park Small Fry Basketball team to help with team expenses.

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## Scope and Contents note

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AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Archives include materials relating to the experience of AMF Midway (PTS) employees and the formation and history of AMF Midway Retirement Organization. The collection is organized into four series: "AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Records and Events," "AMF Midway Postal Employee Records," "Serials," "Memorabilia," and "Photographs."

The collection will be of value to researchers interested in the history of African Americans in the postal service and transportation.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Chicago Public Library: Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection May 8, 2013

### **Restrictions**

None

### **Processing Information note**

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

None

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Chicago, Ill.

**Personal Name(s)**

- Horne, Albert
- Knox, James

**Subject(s)**

- African American postal service employees
- AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization
- Railroad
- Transportation--United States
- United States Postal Service

## Series I. AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Records and Events,

**Collection Inventory****Series I. AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Records and Events, 1958-2010****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains records, founding documents, and postal service records collected by AMF Midway Organization members. Also included is Air Mail Field/Railway Mails/Other Postal Work and Life Experiences, a collective memoir of AMF Midway Organization members' reflections on their time working for the United States Postal Service.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Postal Service records of pouches received and dispatched 1958	1	1
AMF Midway Organization, history undated	1	2
Air Mail Field/Railway Mails/Other Postal Work and Life Experiences 2006	1	3
Postal Service mobile unit trip report – payroll section 1959-1961	1	4
Postal Service mail schemes 1960-1962	1	5
Postal Service clerk's memo for trip report 1962	1	6
Postal Service registry dispatch record 1962	1	7

## Series I. AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Records and Events,

Postal Service diagram of the second case 1963	1	8
Postal Service Illinois Sectional Center Scheme 1963	1	9
Postal Service Illinois Sectional Center Scheme 1964	1	10
Postal Service registers 1964	1	11
Lists of postal workers by location 1967, undated	1	12
AMF Midway rosters 1991-2004	1	13
AMF Midway meeting minutes 1991-2009, undated	1	14
AMF Midway Organization Newsletters 1992-2003	1	15
AMF Midway Organization Newsletters 2004-2010	1	16
AMF Midway Organization Newsletter mock-ups and mailing labels 1996-2003, undated	1	17
AMF Midway Organization incorporation materials and bylaws 1993, undated	2	1
Funeral programs 1997-2003	2	2
Message from the President circa 1998	2	3



## Series I. AMF Midway Postal Retirement Organization Records and Events,

AMF Midway Organization special occasion cards 2001-2003, undated	2	4
AMF Midway Organization annual reports 2002-2004	2	5
AMF Midway retirement rosters 2003, undated	2	6
AMF Organization correspondence 2003-2009	2	7
AMF Midway Organization contact information 2008, undated	2	8
AMF Midway cash receipt 2009	2	9
Illinois Railway Museum visit materials 2009	2	10
AMF Midway Organization, birthdays and anniversaries undated	2	11
AMF Midway Organization, letterhead undated	2	12
Kansas alphabetical list of cities undated	2	13
Postal Service list of cities and abbreviations undated	2	14
Postal Service lists of cities by state undated	2	15
Postal Service Personnel Seniority List undated	2	16
Postal Service Record of Duties in Higher Level undated	2	17

## Series II. AMF Midway Postal Employee Records,

Postal Service registers undated	2	18
Postal Service routing slips undated	2	19

### Series II. AMF Midway Postal Employee Records, 1961-2009

#### Scope and Contents note

This series is comprised of employment records and memorabilia from two AMF Midway postal workers, Clarence C. James and Albert V. Horne, Jr. The bulk of the material pertains to Horne and includes job assignments, schematics, timecards, examination results, pay stubs, and rosters. The series is arranged chronologically.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Clarence C. James, employment records 1961-1966, undated	3	1
Horne, job assignment 1962	3	2
Horne, scheme examination notices 1962	3	3
Horne, timecards 1962	3	4
Horne, salary change notices 1962-1964	3	5
Horne, examination statements 1963-1968	3	6
Horne, routing slips 1963, undated	3	7

## Series II. AMF Midway Postal Employee Records,

Horne, operation instructions 1964	3	8
Horne, Air Service Methods book 1966	3	9
Horne, employee suggestions 1967-1968	3	10
Horne, personnel action notice 1968	3	11
Horne, salary adjustment notice 1968, undated	3	12
Horne, assignment orders 1976	3	13
Horne, Letter of Commendation 1976	3	14
Horne, Beacon newsletter 1982	3	15
Horne, pay stub 1982	3	16
Horne, retirement counseling 1984, undated	3	17
Horne, WCIA News 2007	3	18
Horne, correspondence with AMF Midway Organization 2007-2009, undated	3	19
Horne, "Gunplay at the Mail Car" article 2009	3	20

**Series III. Serials,**

Horne, seniority roster undated	3	21
Horne, sick-Leave request slips undated	3	22
Horne, superintendent envelopes undated	3	23

**Series III. Serials, 1973-2009****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains bulletins and newsletters related to the postal service. Of particular interest may be the newsletter Illowa Bulletin, called Illowa News after 1986. Illowa News is the newsletter of the American Postal Workers Union, a division of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, and pertains to the Illinois and Iowa branches of the railway mail system.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Illowa Bulletin 1973-1986	4	1
Illowa News 1987-2000	4	2
Illowa News 2001-2009	4	3
National Alliance magazine 2004	4	4
Postal newsletters 1980-1983, undated	4	5

**Series IV. Memorabilia, 1950-1967**

## Series IV. Memorabilia,

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains Albert Horne, Jr.'s postal box scheme case, as well as the contents of his "RPO Clerk's Grip." A grip is the suitcase-like bag in which a postal clerk kept the supplies necessary to process mail. The box scheme case is in Box 5, while Box 6 contains the contents of Horne's grip.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Horne, Cardboard Postal Box Scheme Case circa 1950	5	1
Postal service city tags undated	6	1
Horne, square labels (1 of 2) undated	6	2
Horne, square labels (2 of 2) undated	6	3
Horne, uncut direction labels undated	6	4
Horne, mail stamps undated	6	5
Horne, Special Handling tag 1961	6	6
Horne, Special Delivery tags 1957	6	7
Horne, First Class tags 1958	6	8
Horne, Perishable tags 1958	6	9
Horne, stamped labels 1967	6	10

**Series IV. Photographs,**

Horne, AMF O'Hare labels undated	6	11
Horne, Defective labels undated	6	12
Horne, Short labels (1 of 2) undated	6	13
Horne, Short labels (2 of 2) undated	6	14
Horne, directional labels undated	6	15
Horne, banks clyde labels undated	6	16
Horne, Full labels undated	6	17
Horne, mail carrier's hat undated	6	18

**Series IV. Photographs, 1967-2009****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains 90 photographs, which are mostly images of AMF Midway Organization members and events. A small number of photographs document AMF Midway Organization members working on railcars.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Photographs 1967-2009, undated	7	N/A