

Milton Pikarsky papers, 1942-1984, bulk 1964-1978

Descriptive Inventory for the Collection at Chicago History Museum, Research Center
By Christina Goodspeed; ed. by Peter T. Alter and Rachel Juris, 2011.

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Title: Milton Pikarsky papers [manuscript], 1942-1984, bulk 1964-1978

Main entry: Pikarsky, Milton, 1924-1989

Inclusive dates: 1942-1984, bulk 1964-1978

Size:

16.75 linear ft. (31 boxes)

1 package.

Access: This collection is open for research use.

Provenance statement: Gift of Christine Johnson (1989.0919).

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Please cite this collection as: Milton Pikarsky papers (Chicago History Museum) plus a detailed description, date, and box/folder number of a specific item.

This descriptive inventory contains the following sections:

Biographical note,

Summary description of the collection,

Description of some material related to the collection,

List of online catalog headings about the collection,

Arrangement of the collection,

Detailed description of archival series in the collection,

List of contents of the collection.

Biographical note:

Milton Pikarsky (1924-1989) was a civil engineer who served as commissioner of public works for the City of Chicago (Ill.), chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority, and was the first chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority. Pikarsky received his graduate degree in civil engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He served in the United States Navy (1944-1946), worked as an assistant engineer for New York Central Railroad in Chicago, and was a partner in the firm Plumb, Tuckett, and Pikarsky (1956-1959). Pikarsky became an engineer of public works for the City of Chicago (1960) and was promoted to commissioner of public works (1964-1973). Mayor Richard J. Daley appointed Pikarsky to the board of the Chicago Transit Authority in 1973, and he

was elected chairman of the board (1973-1975). Pikarsky was the first chairman of the newly formed Regional Transportation Authority (1975-1978). In 1978, he resigned from the RTA, and subsequently held several teaching positions, including professor and director of transportation research at the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute, and professor at the City College of New York.

Summary description of the collection:

Correspondence, speeches, and articles, 1962-1978; scrapbooks, 1965-1973; appointment books, 1974-1977; reports, newspaper clippings, awards, and other papers of Milton Pikarsky, a civil engineer who served as commissioner of public works for the City of Chicago, Illinois (1964-1973); and chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority (1973-1975) and the Regional Transportation Authority (1975-1978). The majority of the collection consists of correspondence, reports, speeches, and articles related to Pikarsky's work in the field of transportation systems and public works. Also present are biographical materials, working papers and legal records related to Pikarsky's early career; correspondence and press releases pertaining to Pikarsky's appointments as director of Transportation Research at IIT Research Institute and transportation advisor to Chicago mayor Jane Byrne; and certificates and memorabilia documenting achievements.

Description of some material related to the collection:

Related materials at Chicago History Museum, Research Center, include the Milton Pikarsky photograph collection (1992.0412); and publications by Pikarsky and photographs of him cataloged separately.

List of online catalog headings about the collection:

The following index headings for this collection were entered in the online catalog.

Subjects:

Byrne, Jane, 1933-

Daley, Richard J., 1902-1976.

Pikarsky, Milton, 1924-1989--Archives.

Chicago (Ill.). Commissioner of Public Works.

Chicago (Ill.). Dept. of Public Works.

Chicago Transit Authority.

Chicago Urban Transportation District.

IIT Research Institute. Transportation Division.

Illinois. Regional Transportation Authority.

Access to airports--Illinois--Chicago--20th century.

City planning--Illinois--Chicago--20th century.

Civil engineers--Illinois--Chicago--20th century.

Crosstown Expressway (Chicago, Ill. : Proposed)

Express highways--Illinois--Chicago Metropolitan Area--20th century.

Highway engineering--Illinois--Chicago Metropolitan Area--20th century.

Highway planning--Illinois--Chicago Metropolitan Area--20th century.

Local transit--Illinois--Chicago--Planning.

Municipal officials and employees--Illinois--Chicago--20th century.

Railroads, Elevated--Illinois--Chicago--20th century.

Transportation--Illinois--Planning.

Transportation--Research--Illinois--Chicago Metropolitan Area.

Urban transportation policy--United States--20th century.

Chicago (Ill.)--Officials and employees--20th century.
Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government--20th century.
Edens Expressway (Chicago, Ill.)

Form/genre:

Appointment books.
Articles.
Awards.
Certificates.
Correspondence.
Legal documents.
Newsletters.
Newspaper clippings.
Periodicals.
Photographic prints.
Photographic prints--Color.
Portrait paintings.
Press releases.
Reports.
Scrapbooks.
Slides--Color.
Speeches.
Theses.

Added entries:

Byrne, Jane, 1933-
Daley, Richard J., 1902-1976.
Chicago (Ill.). Commissioner of Public Works.
Chicago (Ill.). Dept. of Public Works.
Chicago Transit Authority.
Chicago Urban Transportation District.
IIT Research Institute. Transportation Division.
Illinois. Regional Transportation Authority.

Arrangement of the collection:

The collection is arranged in five series:

Series 1. Biographical and early career material, 1943-1964 (bulk 1956-1964) (box 1)
Series 2. Commissioner of public works, 1962-1973 (box 2-13)
Series 3. Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority, 1973-1975 (box 14-17)
Series 4. Chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority, 1975-1978 (box 18-24)
Series 5. Other professional papers, 1979-1984 (box 25)
Series 6. Awards, degrees, and other memorabilia, 1952-1981 (box 26-29, package)
Series 7. Publications, 1942-1983 (box 30-31)

Detailed description of archival series in the collection:

Series 1. Biographical and early career material, 1943-1964 (bulk 1956-1964) (box 1)

Series 1 contains resumes, copies of passport applications and membership cards, working papers, legal records, correspondence, and other papers of Milton Pikarsky. Included are structural analysis notes, likely for the New York Central Railroad Company; correspondence and legal papers related

to Pikarsky's employment, partnership, and termination with the firm Plumb, Tuckett & Pikarsky; and reports and photographs pertaining to a Mississippi bridge restoration project conducted by Plumb, Tuckett & Pikarsky. Also included are photographs and a commencement program from the City College of New York, and a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and photographs.

Series 2. Commissioner of Public Works, 1962-1973 (box 2-13)

Series 2 contains correspondence, reports, speeches, articles, press releases, memoranda, and other papers created during Pikarsky's tenure as Chicago commissioner of public works. Some materials pertain to Pikarsky's business travel, including the United States urban transportation delegation visit to the Soviet Union and the Chicago Metropolitan Transportation Committee European inspection tour. Travel materials include letters of introduction written by Mayor Richard J. Daley to European mayors on behalf of Pikarsky. Also present are a small quantity of records of the Transit Development Corporation, as well as drafts and a final copy of Pikarsky's master's thesis from the Illinois Institute of Technology, titled *Comprehensive Planning for the Chicago Crosstown Expressway*. The majority of the series consists of scrapbooks (1965-1973) containing newspaper clippings, brochures, articles, invitations, correspondence, and photographs; and published volumes of speeches, papers, and slides (1962-1973).

Series 3. Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority, 1973-1975 (box 14-17)

Series 3 consists of correspondence, reports, speeches, articles, press releases, memoranda, and other papers created during Pikarsky's tenure as chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The majority of papers in the series relate to the Crosstown Expressway project, including reports, studies, newspaper clippings, and other materials for and against the project. Also included are published volumes of speeches and papers (1974-1975) and daily planners (1974-1975).

Series 4. Chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority, 1975-1978 (box 18-24)

Series 4 consists of correspondence, reports, speeches, articles, press releases, memoranda, and other papers created during Pikarsky's tenure as chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Subjects include the Chicago Urban Transportation District (CUTD), the Edens Expressway, "L" line proposals, service agreements, and technical evaluations. Present are articles and editorials about the O'Hare extension of the Milwaukee "L" line. Includes some newspaper clippings, newsletters, cards, invitations, and certificates of membership. Also included are published volumes of speeches and papers (1975-1978) and daily planners (1976-1977).

Series 5. Other professional papers, 1979-1984 (box 25)

Series 5 contains correspondence, press releases, speeches, and reports. Correspondence and press releases chiefly pertain to Pikarsky's appointments as director of Transportation Research at IIT Research Institute and transportation advisor to Chicago mayor Jane Byrne. Speeches and reports are mostly authored by Pikarsky and relate to topics including urban transportation and railroads. Also included is a copy of Pikarsky's testimony before the Science and Technology Subcommittee, Commerce Committee of the United States House of Representatives on April 5, 1982, on the subject of the railroad freight industry. A manuscript draft titled *The Future of Public Transit in America* is also present.

Series 6. Awards, degrees, and other memorabilia, 1952-1981 (box 26-29, package)

Series 6 consists of certificates, plaques, pins, correspondence, photographs, and other memorabilia documenting awards and degrees received by Pikarsky. Also present is a framed oil painting portrait of Pikarsky.

Series 7. Publications, 1942-1983 (box 30-31)

Series 7 consists of a selection of publications related to Pikarsky's work, including the magazine of the City of Chicago Department of Public Works. The majority of publications feature articles written by or featuring Pikarsky and/or annotations by Pikarsky.

List of contents of the collection:

Box 1	Biographical and early career material, 1943-1964 (bulk 1956-1964)
Box 2-13	Commissioner of public works, 1962-1973
Box 14-17	Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority, 1973-1975
Box 18-24	Chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority, 1975-1978
Box 25	Other professional papers, 1979-1984
Box 26-29 & package	Awards, degrees, and other memorabilia, 1952-1981
Box 30-31	Publications, 1942-1983