

S. J. McKee Archives



A.E. McKenzie Co., Limited, Seedmen

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions10146

Part Of: RG 12 Brandon and Area Photograph Collection

Description Level: Item
Series Number: 2

Item Number:BAPC 2.34Accession Number:17-2009GMD:graphic

Date Range: c. April 8, 1912 Physical Description: 3.5" x 5.5" (b/w)

Material Details: Postcard

Custodial History:

Postcard was sent to Chuck Wilson's aunt, Mrs. W.M. Wilson in Creelman, SK by the McKenzie Seed Company in 1912. Chuck Wilson found the postcard in some of his aunt's papers in 2009 and mailed it to the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Item consists of a colour postcard of the McKenzie Seed Company building located on the west side of the 100 block of 9th Street. The card was sent to Mrs. W.M. Wilson of Creelman, SK to acknowledge her order.

Writing on the front of the card reads: A.E. McKenzie Co., Limited, Seedsmen, Brandon, Man

Name Access: A.E. McKenzie Co., Limited

A.E. McKenzie Seed Company

9th Street

Subject Access: commercial buildings

businesses Agriculture downtown

Storage Location: BAPC photograph drawer

Related Material: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co., Ltd. fonds

Images





Horse and buggies travelling east on Rosser Avenue

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13769

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number:20-2009.80Accession Number:20-2009GMD:graphicDate Range:[1906]

Physical Description: 6.5" x 4.25" (b/w)

Material Details: on matting

Physical Condition: Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over

time

History / Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival, the Brandon Hardware Company, and the Arlington Hotel. A number of Aboriginal peoples are driving horse and buggies east along Rosser Avenue as large numbers of spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 298. One

photograph (20-2009.79) is glued above, another (20-2009.81) adjacent. One other is glued on the reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo

album.

Name Access: Empire Hotel

D.W. Beaubier Block

A.M. Percival

Brandon Hardware Company

Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene

Transportation

downtown grocers storefronts

dogs

Aboriginals First Nations

horses buggies

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images





Horseback riders on Rosser Avenue

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13700

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item
Series Number: McG 9

Item Number:20-2009.10Accession Number:20-2009GMD:graphicDate Range:[1906]

Physical Description: 7" x 4.5" (b/w)

Material Details: on matting

Physical Condition: Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over

time

History / Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Fleming Block include: Lowes Brothers Clothing, Robert Hall [Insurance Broker], Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival and the Brandon Hardware Company. A number of Aboriginal peoples are travelling on horseback west along Rosser Avenue as spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 293. One

photograph (20-2009.9) is glued above and two others are glued on the

reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo album.

Name Access: Fleming Block

Lowes Brothers Clothing

Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company

Empire Hotel

D.W. Beaubier Block

A.M. Percival

Brandon Hardware Company

Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene

Transportation

downtown

grocers

storefronts

Aboriginals

First Nations

horses

insurance agents

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images



Horse and buggies travelling on Rosser Avenue

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13699



Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item
Series Number: McG 9
Item Number: 20-2009.9
Accession Number: 20-2009
GMD: graphic
Date Range: [1906]

Physical Description: 6.5" x 4.25" (b/w)

Material Details: on matting

Physical Condition: Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over

time

History / Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Fleming Block include: Lowes Brothers Clothing, Robert Hall [Insurance Broker], Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival and the Brandon Hardware Company. A number of Aboriginal peoples are driving horse and buggies west along Rosser Avenue as spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 294 July 1906. One

photograph (20-2009.10) is glued below and two others are glued on the

reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo album.

Name Access: Fleming Block

Lowes Brothers Clothing

Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company

Empire Hotel

D.W. Beaubier Block

A.M. Percival

Brandon Hardware Company

Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene

Transportation

downtown

storefronts dogs

Aboriginals First Nations

horses buggies

insurance agents

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images





Horse and carriages travelling on Rosser Avenue

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13702

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Item

Series Number: McG 9

Item Number: 20-2009.12

Accession Number: 20-2009

GMD: graphic

Date Range: [1906]

Physical Description: 6.5" x 4.25" (b/w)

Material Details: on matting

Physical Condition: Photographs have been glued to a backing board that has warped over

time

History /

Biographical:

Photograph of possible Dakota from Sioux Valley in Brandon for the summer fair.

Scope and Content:

Photograph shows street view of north side of Rosser Avenue, primarily the 700 block. Businesses visible in the Fleming Block include: Lowes Brothers Clothing, Robert Hall [Insurance Broker], Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company. Businesses visible in the Beaubier Block include the Empire Hotel. Businesses east of the Empire Hotel are grocer A.M. Percival and the Brandon Hardware Company. A number of Aboriginal peoples are driving horse and carriages west along Rosser Avenue as spectators look on.

Notes: Writing on the front of the photograph matting reads: 295 July 1906. One

photograph (20-2009.11) is glued above and two others are glued on the

reverse side. Page appears to be from a photo album.

Name Access: Fleming Block

Lowes Brothers Clothing

Manitoba Farmers Hedge and Wire Fence Company

Empire Hotel

D.W. Beaubier Block

A.M. Percival

Brandon Hardware Company

Rosser Avenue

Subject Access: Street scene

Transportation

downtown

grocers

storefronts

dogs

Aboriginals

First Nations

horses

insurance agents

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Images





Wheat Market

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions9654

Part Of: RG 11 Lawrence Stuckey fonds

Description Level: Item
Series Number: 3.1

Item Number: 1-2002.3.1H1

Accession Number: 1-2002
GMD: graphic
Date Range: 1887
Physical Description: 3 1/2" x 5"

Material Details: Negative

Custodial History:

For custodial history see the collection level description of the Lawrence Stuckey collection.

Scope and Content:

The wheat market

Notes: View of Pacific Avenue looking east from 8th Street

Closest elevator: Kelly Bros. Second elevator: Parrish & Lindsay

Courtesy of The Brandon Sun.

Name Access: Wheat Market

Subject Access: Wheat

Agriculture hotels

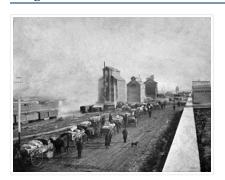
Grain elevators

Brandon Industries

Repro Restriction: The McKee Archives is the copyright holder for the Stuckey materials.

Storage Location: Lawrence Stuckey collection

Images





Brandon, the Wheat City postcard

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13864

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection
Creator: Photographer: Sandy Black

Description Level: Item
Series Number: McG 9

 Item Number:
 20-2009.174

 Accession Number:
 20-2009

 GMD:
 graphic

 Date Range:
 1980-1990s

Physical Description: 5.75" x 3.75" (colour)

Material Details: postcard

Scope and Content:

Postcard is of a combine bailing hay in the north end of Brandon at the junction of First Street and Veterans' Way. The Brandon city skyline is in the background and the orange Pioneer Grain elevator can be seen on the left side of the postcard.

Notes: Writing on the front of the postcard reads: Brandon, The Wheat City.

Back of the postcard reads: Brandon the Agricultural and Industrial center for southwestern Manitoba; Photo by Sandy Black; Printed in Brandon,

Manitoba, Canada, by Leech Printing Ltd.

Name Access: City of Brandon

Subject Access: downtown

Agriculture harvesting

farm implements

Repro Restriction: Canadian Copyright restrictions apply. Consult the Archivist.

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer 2 (hanging photos)

Arrangement:

From 20-2009 #1 File 13 Sunbeams

Images





A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4309

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Fonds

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1887-1996; predominantly 1910-1974

Physical Description: 7.47 m of textual records

500 photographs

History / Biographical:

The A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. originated with the McKenzie family Flour, Grain and Seed business, started by F. B. McKenzie in the early 1880's. When F. B. McKenzie passed away in 1896, his son, Albert Edward McKenzie, assumed control of the company, and renamed it The Brandon Seed House. With its main office and plant in Brandon, Manitoba, the company specialized in the production and sale of field seeds and service exclusively to seed buyers in the prairie provinces and British Columbia. In later years, a complete line of products including garden seeds, lawn grass, and other allied lines was developed for sale across Canada.

In 1906, the company underwent a change of name when A. E. delete determined that the growth of the country demanded a larger seed institute than could be managed by one man. As a result, the company was incorporated under provincial statutes and the federal Joint Stock Companies Act as A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., and new personnel were hired.

Under the Joint Stock Companies Act, A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was required to elect a Board of Directors of not less than three, and not more than nine individuals. Only shareholders of the company were eligible for election, and election was to take place yearly with each shareholder entitled to as many votes as shares owned in the company. The Act also dictated that the directors were, from time to time, to elect from among themselves, a president of the company. They were also able to appoint and remove all other officers of the company and to create company by-laws. The directors were not obliged to pay any dividend on shares if the company should became insolvent. Under the Act, the stock of the company was deemed a personal estate and was only transferable as such. In addition, the company could acquire, hold, and transfer real estate, and was required to submit annual statements.

A. E. McKenzie was elected President of the newly constituted company. For the memaninder of his natural life he remained in this position and supervised the operation of the company. S. A. Bradford, who was given responsibility for various company departments, filled the position of General Manager. H. L. Patmore became the Vice-President, overseeing the nursery business, while W. A. McCracken was put in charge of the warehouse stock, and shipping department. McCracken also supervised the mail order department.

The Company was intially comprised of three divisions: The Brandon Seed House, Brandon Nurseries, and Brandon Greenhouses. Each division was registered under Dominion Patents. Later, the company was divided into Retail Mail Order, Wholesale and Commission Packet Trade divisions. It also undertook some export business.

By registering the divisions of the company under under federal legislation affecting trademarks and industrial designs, McKenzie and the Board,were able to register both the company's trademarks and to protect the company's industrial techniques. Thet company could thus patent the methods and processes of its operations so that no other individual or business could duplicate them.

Located at 30 9th Street, the head office and plant of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. housed all the facilities and staff of the company, with the exception of the regional sales offices and warehouses. The business of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. was conducted from a frame warehouse until the current McKenzie building was constructed on the same site after a fire destroyed the original premises. Designed by architect Thomas Sinclair, and built by the Brandon Construction Company, the new building opened in 1911. In time, The A. E.

During the 1930's, before a new building was erected in 1945, the A. E. McKenzie Co. occupied space at five different locations in Brandon, including the Massey Harris Building, the International Harvester Building and the Security Building. The last of these premises was destroyed by fire in 1972. As a result of its proximity to the Security Building, the main McKenzie Building also suffered heavy fire and water damage. A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. also utilized a warehouse on the north side of Pacific Avenue alongside the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks between 5th and 6th streets. This building and its contents were destroyed by fire (1946). In May of 1949, the company purchased and erected a Quonset structure on the west side of 15th Street between Rosser and Pacific Avenues.

In 1908, the first branch of the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was established at Calgary. In the following sixteen years, additional branches were established in Edmonton and Saskatoon (1923), Moose Jaw, Toronto (1934) and Winnipeg (1935). Both the Edmonton and Saskatoon branches were seasonal, operating for a four-month period, March to June inclusive. Business in the Maritime Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick further extended the company's operations by the mid 1940's. In 1946, the company purchased property in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, 120 miles north of Brandon. This purchase enabled the company to handle larger quantities of Sweet Clover, a popular crop that was grown in the surrounding area. Additional offices were opened in Vancouver and Quebec City in rented premises by the early 1960's.

In the years 1944-1945, the McKenzie Foundation was created. Through the Foundation, arrangements were put in place to transfer shares of the company to the Manitoba Government for the benefit of higher education, specifically Brandon College. In return for this gift, which included 90% of all capital resources of the company together with all of the income earned each year, except for the amount retained annually to ensure sufficient operating capital, the A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. received exemption from paying Corporate Tax.

Prior to the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation, in 1945, the National Trust for the benefit of the College held the shares of McKenzie Seeds. On April 7, 1945 the Manitoba Legislature passed legislation whereby A. E. McKenzie retained effective management control of his company, but 1031 shares out of 1145 issued shares were gifted to the Provincial Government. In return, the government agreed that all financial benefits from the shares would go to Brandon College through the A. E. McKenzie Foundation. When Mr. McKenzie passed away in 1964, the primary responsibility of appointing the Board of Directors for McKenzie Seeds passed to the Provincial government.

The remaining 114 shares of the Company were turned over to the Crown on July 16, 1975 in accordance with an agreement between Brandon University, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. and the Manitoba government. The same agreement also turned the McKenzie Foundation over to Brandon University. Therefore, since 1975 the crown has held all shares of the McKenzie Co. through the Province of Manitoba.

A.E. McKenzie died on September 25, 1964 at the age of 94 and was succeeded as President of the company by J. Lasby Lowes. When Mr. Lowes retired in 1968, A. R. Swanson was appointed by the government to fill the position and was responsible for all operations of the company under a Board of Directors comprised mainly of appointees of the government. It has proven impossible to establish a complete list of those individuals who held the positions of President/General Manager of McKenzie Seeds after 1964. A partial account is as follows: Anthony J. Maruca became President of A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. in 1972. In 1975, the Board of Directors appointed William Moore General Manager, creating a new position to relieve the President of the company from management of plant operations. At the same time, Pat Kelleher was named new interim President. Following the resignation of Kelleher, William Moore assumed the role of President as well. Moore left the company in the early 1980s. He was later convicted of criminal misconduct as President of the company. Keith Guelpa

became President/General Manager in the mid 1980's; Raymond West was his successor.

Beginning in 1969, the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. began phasing out the Field Seed division of their company, including business related to forage crops and cereals. Seed cleaning equipment located in Brandon and and the company's Calgary and Toronto cleaning plants was sold. The Company concentration its resources on the production and sale of vegetable and flower seeds, and lawn and turf grasses. It acted as a wholesaler and conducted business through chain stores, grocery, hardware and general stores.

Late in 1971, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. purchased its largest competition in packaged seeds - Steele Briggs Seed Co. from Maple Leaf Mills Inc. for two million dollars. At the time of the acquisition the company changed its name to A. E. McKenzie Co. - Steele Briggs Seeds, in order to benefit from the favorable reputation held by Steele Briggs Seeds across Canada. In the early 1970s, the acquisition of Brett-Young Seeds Ltd., a Winnipeg company that dealt exclusively in the production and sale of field seed, brought the A. E. McKenzie Co. back into the field seed market.

In 1994 the Manitoba Government sold the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, Canada's largest non-retail mail-order catalogue company, which is owned by MDC Corporation of Toronto.

In 2001, McKenzie Seeds is Canada's leading supplier of packaged seeds and related gardening products. It is divided into a Retail Consumer Products division which features well known seed brands including McKenzie Seeds, Pike Seeds and Thompson & Morgan Seeds from England. As well, this division also carries a complete range of lawn seeds and perishables. It also continues to ship the seed racks invented by A.E. McKenzie to numerous retail stores. The second division, Direct Mail, consists of the McFayden and McConnell catalogues which reach over 500,000 Canadian homes each year.

Custodial History:

Following the sale of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, the records of McKenzie Seeds and its subsidiaries were retained in the McKenzie Plant on 9th Street. In April of 1997, the records were transferred to the McKee Archives at Brandon University. Because the company was a crown corporation, the records of McKenzie Seeds belonged to the Province of Manitoba and might have been placed in the Provincial Archives. However, Provincial Archivist Gordon Dodds permitted the retention of the records in Brandon at the S. J. McKee Archives. The minutes of the Board of Directors, previously transferred to the Provincial Archives, remain in Winnipeg. Until 1960 these minutes, by-laws of the Company, and the letters patent of incorporation (April 7, 1906) were in the possession of the Company's lawyers, Johnson, Garson, Forrester, Davidson, & Steen.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of textual records, photographs and artifacts from A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. The textual records include minutes, documents, financial records, administrative records, by-laws, legal records, catalogues, sales literature, seed packets, newspaper clippings, appraisals, publications, scrapbooks and miscellaneous sections.

In addition, some of the records within the fonds relate to the operations of McKenzie subsidiaries – Brett-Young Seeds, Steele-Briggs Seeds, Pike & Co. and McFayden Seeds -- and various properties owned by McKenzie Seeds.

Fonds contains approximately 500 photographs. These depict the operations and employees of McKenzie Seeds and the seed industry in general. Artifacts contained in the fonds include blueprints, newspaper clippings, copper printing plates, seed bags and plaques.

Fonds also includes an artificially created series of records dealing with Brandon College Inc., the A.E. McKenzie Foundation, the Brandon Allied Arts Council and the Brandon Board of Trade. These records stand outside the provenance of the McKenzie Seed Co.

Of particular interest within the textual records are the transcripts of various features of the company's history as dictated, researched and recalled by its second President/General Manager, J. Lasby Lowes. The fonds also contains a collection of company catalogue which is almost complete. Outside of the seed industry, the records dealing with both Brandon College Inc. and the McKenzie Foundation are significant records relating to the history of Brandon College/University and the City of Brandon.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2001).

Name Access: A.E. McKenzie

J. Lasby Lowes

Irene Cullen

Joseph Airey

Alan R. Mundie

Sandy Black

Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha

McFayden Seeds

Steele-Briggs Seed Co

Pike & Co

Davidson & Gowen

Davidson Studio

Frank Gowen

Dean Photo Service

Jerrett's Photo-Art Studio/Jerrett's Photo Service

Crawford Drug Store

Leech Printing Ltd

Eastman Photographic Materials Ltd

Subject Access: Seed Industry

Seed Catalogues
Brandon Business
Seed Photographs
Brandon Photographs

Seed Packets

Agriculture

Women Workers Labour Relations A.E. McKenzie

J. Lasby Lowes
A.R. Swanson

William Moore
Anthony J. Maruca

Pat Kelleher Keith Guelpa Raymond West Brett-Young Seeds

Sabetha

Steele Briggs Seed Co

Pike & Co

McFayden Seeds
Seed Marketing Co
Brandon Board of Trade
Brandon Allied Arts Council

McKenzie Foundation

Regal Greetings and Gifts

Repro Restriction: Because the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was a crown corporation, the

records in the fonds are subject to the Freedom of Information and

Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Related Material: Additional records regarding A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. are housed

at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. In order to gain access to these

records it is necessary to contact the Archives of Manitoba.

Arrangement:

RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds

McS 1 Board of Directors

- 1.1 Documents
- 1.2 Minutes/Meetings
- 1.3 Management Consultant Reports
- 1.4 Miscellaneous
- 1.5 Financial Records

McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

- 2.1 A.E. McKenzie
- 2.2 J. Lasby Lowes
- 2.3 Comptroller
- 2.4 Properties

- 2.5 Marketing
- 2.6 Reference Library
- 2.7 Miscellaneous Publications/Correspondence

McS 3 Acquisitions

- 3.1 Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
- 3.2 Steele-Briggs Seed Co.
- 3.3 Pike & Co.
- 3.4 McFayden Seeds

McS 4 Seed Marketing Co.

McS 5 Photographs

- 5.1 McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Executives
- 5.2 Construction at McKenzie Seed Co. Brandon (two files)
- 5.3 Exterior Photographs of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Building
- 5.4 McKenzie Seed Co. Plant Operations and Workers (2 files)
- 5.5 McKenzie Seed Co. Equipment and Plant Head Office 1983
- 5.6 McKenzie Seed Co. Field Operations and Workers
- 5.7 McKenzie Seed Co. Strike 1944
- 5.8 Fires at McKenzie Seed Co. 1910, 1945, 1972
- 5.9 McKenzie Seed Co. Centennial Exhibition 1996
- 5.10 Miscellaneous McKenzie Seed Co. Photographs
- 5.11 People Connected to McKenzie Seed Co.
- 5.12 Princess Anne's Visit to McKenzie Seed Co. 1982
- 5.13 Onion Set Production Book
- 5.14 Irene Cullen Photographs McKenzie Seeds Employee Photos
- 5.15 Josiph Airey Photographs McKenzie Product Photos
- 5.16 Alan R. Mundie Seed Production Photographs
- 5.17 Steele Robertson/Steele Briggs Seeds Photographs
- 5.18 Seed Packet Display Units Photographs
- 5.19 Product Photographs
- 5.20 Parade Photographs
- 5.21 Oversized Photographs
- 5.21.1 Drawer #1: Executive Photographs
- 5.21.2 Drawer #2: Office and Equipment/Plant Photographs
- 5.21.3 Drawer #3: Miscellaneous Oversized Photographs
- 5.21.4 Drawer #4: Artifacts

McS 6 Miscellaneous

- 6.1 Centennial Exhibition
- 6.2 Miscellaneous Publications
- 6.3 Scrapbooks

MG 1 A.E. McKenzie Fonds

- 1.1 Brandon College Inc.
- 1.2 McKenzie Foundation
- 1.3 Brandon Allied Arts Council
- 1.4 Brandon Board of Trade
- 1.5 Miscellaneous