

Mid Point Report

August 2012

Institution/Organization Name

Little Cities of Black Diamonds: Little Cities Archive

Project Title

Improving Access to the Historical Records of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds

Program Director

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Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments

The Little Cities Archive project “Improving Access to the Historical Records of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds”, seemed to take forever to get started. The first step in the plan was to order archival supplies. This seemingly simple process required a meeting with the volunteer who had previously purchased many materials with her own money and a new volunteer who is a retired professional Archivist. The meeting went well, but delivery of the materials took forever. Unwilling to move forward with inadequate storage solutions the project stalled except for planning meetings.

In the interim, the Little Cities of Black Diamonds Council created a new program to recruit volunteers for their various projects and allowed us to participate. Four volunteers showed up for training in processing records for the Little Cities Archive and our project took a step forward.

Shortly thereafter, the supplies (\$835 of archival storage, shelving and supplies) began to arrive and we got busy. Since that time, we have processed over 1300 records. Four major collections (Bain Collection, Kinsel Collection, Tharp Collection and the Railroad Museum) have been added. All of these records are searchable locally with the Archive computer (all records) and the over 2300 digitized records at <http://littlecitiesarchive.org>.

In addition to our normal volunteers, we were delighted to have the services of a number of Fulbright Scholars from Ohio University. These students are required to provide community service as part of their program. As luck would have it, on two hot, stormy nights, they ended up in Shawnee, Ohio and helped us process records for the Little Cities Archive.

We are looking forward to adding more records from the old boxes and tubs to our new shelving and storage and perhaps more importantly to sharing this space and information at the Open House in early December of 2012.