These are personal and professional papers of an electrical engineer in Missouri. Boulson was general manager of the Sho-Me Power Corporation, 1954-1974, and member of the Board of Directors of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. The collection includes correspondence, scrapbooks, professional and historical writings, speeches on rural electrification in Missouri, and corporate manuals and annual reports of Sho-Me Power Corporation and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Charles Elbert Boulson is the son of Clyde White Boulson and Blanche Ames Boulson. He was born on 26 October 1909 at Iola, Kansas, where he grew up and attended primary and secondary school, Iola High School, and Iola Junior College. The family purchased a ten-acre farm in Taney County, Missouri, and in 1931 moved to the Ridgedale community south of Hollister. The move was designed to improve Clyde Boulson’s health and to capitalize on land values which were expected to increase greatly upon the completion of Table Rock Dam on the White River. However, construction on the project did not begin for many years, and the Boulsons arrived in Taney County just as the depression began to hit hardest on the local economy. The family was unprepared for rural life and endured exceeding difficult times in the four years they remained in Taney County. In 1932 the Boulsons accepted the resident management of a two hundred acre fruit farm and livestock ranch near Ridgedale. Income was augmented by Clyde Boulson’s employment by the University of Missouri to assist in archaeological surveys of the White River Valley, and by Charles’s employment in a tomato cannery at Ridgedale and, later, on the Ava District of the Mark Twain National Forest. Clyde Boulson took a position in 1935 with the Missouri Geological Survey at Rolla. Charles joined the family there in late 1936. He entered the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1937 and graduated in 1939 with a degree in electrical engineering. In June 1940, Boulson was employed as a staff engineer of the Missouri Electric Power Company, a predecessor of Sho-Me Power, a regional power distribution organization headquartered at Marshfield and serving south-central Missouri. Boulson continued in the same capacity after Sho-Me Power was organized in 1941, and became Chief Engineer in 1944. He was appointed acting manager in 1953, and in June 1954 was named General Manager. Boulson retired in 1974 after thirty-five years of service with Missouri Electric Power Company and Sho-Me Power Corporation.

Boulson was exceedingly active in the development of rural electrification in Missouri. In addition to his work with Sho-Me Power, he was one of the founders of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., headquartered at Springfield, Missouri. AECI was organized in 1962 as a wholesale supplier of electric power to regional cooperatives which serve nearly all of Missouri and southeastern Iowa. Boulson was one of the first directors of AECI, and continued as a member of the Board of Directors to 1974. Boulson was also a member of the Missouri & Arkansas Power Cooperative, headquartered at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and the Farm Electrification Council, a national organization dedicated to the development of rural electrification.

Boulson married Inez Curnutt, a native of Douglas County, shortly before his graduation from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1939. They have resided in Marshfield since 1941. Boulson has been active in the community as a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Lions Club, and the Methodist Church, and has served on the boards of the Marshfield Public Library and the Marshfield Housing Association. He authored many speeches and articles on rural electrification for professional organizations and local service groups, and has written extensively on local history for the Webster County Historical Society Journal. After his retirement, Boulson authored The Farmer

The Boulson papers consist of an assortment of personal, professional and corporate materials primarily concerning the development of rural electrification in Missouri. They have been arranged in seven sections, including personal and biographical materials, scrapbooks, professional papers and historical writings, speeches, Sho-Me Power Corporation papers, manuals, annual reports, and interviews with key personnel of Associated Electric Cooperative Inc., and miscellaneous publications concerning the electric power industry. Of particular interest and use to local historians are Boulson’s Taney and Douglas County diaries, 1933-1936, a scrapbook concerning the Missouri Electric Power’s Niangua River tunnel project, 1929-1930, a publication detailing the utility and post engineer services at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 1944, and the history of the Methodist Church at St. Luke, Missouri. Researchers interested in rural electrification should consult Boulson’s numerous speeches and writings, The Farmer Took A Hand in Missouri, and the papers and annual reports of Sho-Me Power Corporation, and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. There are also video-taped (VHS) interviews with the directors and officers of AECI, including Truman Green, Charles Boulson, James McNabb, Luther Riddle, and Gerald Diddle. Included with the interviews is a brief history of AECI, produced on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

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01. Boulson genealogical chart, 1972
02. Taney County, Mo., diary, 1933-1936
03. School papers, 1928-1939
04. Engineering registration, 1944
05. Correspondence, 1942-1953
06. Correspondence, 1962-1988


07. Missouri Electric Power Company, Niangua River Tunnel Project, scrapbook, 1929-1930
08. Scrapbook, 1953-1967
09. Scrapbook, 1958-1968
10. Scrapbook, 1967-1971 (Oversize)
11. Scrapbook, 1938-1982 (Oversize)


16. The Farmer Took a Hand in Missouri, 1984 (typescript copy), 1984
17. The Farmer Took a Hand in Missouri, 1984


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   1956, -- : N’awlins Round Trip
   1959, Aug: Conceptual Thought and Action
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   1964, Oct 20: Hiring Personnel
   1965, May 5: Changed Viewpoints

   1966, May 10: Automatic Data Processing
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   1967, Dec 7: Long Range Objectives and Financing of Rural Electrification
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   1968, Oct 1-2: Attitude Survey Review
   1969, May 7-8: Performance of Rural Electric Cooperatives in Key Areas of Organization, Power Supply and Electric Service
   1970, Oct 21: Statement before Scenic Rivers of Interim Legislative Committee on Recreation and Water Resources
   1971, Jan 21: Power for Rural Missouri
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   1972, May 23: Trends in Power Pricing
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   1973, Sep 12: Planning Commissions: What Are They Doing for Us?
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24. Organization Manual, v. 2 (Job Descriptions), ca. 1957
25. Organization Manual, v. 3 (Job Specifications), 1957
29. Work Planning Review, Board of Directors and General Management, 1965
30. Work Planning and Review General Managers, n.d.
35. Rule Book, 1974
37. Loan Application, 1974
38. Corporate Plan, V. I (Concepts-Objectives), n.d.
39. Corporate Plan, V. II (Long-Range Study), 1974
40. Corporate Plan, V. III (Work Programs), 1974
41. Corporate Plan, V. III (Work Programs), 1975
42. Corporate Plan, V. V (Budget), 1976
43. Corporate Plan, V. VI (Budget), 1976
44. Miscellaneous papers, ca. 1950-1974
45. Miscellaneous publications, 1968-1973
46. Annual Reports, 1952-1969
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Folders 48-53: Associated Electric Cooperative; papers, interviews, and annual reports, 1975-1990

49. Interviews with Truman Green, James E. McNabb, and Luther Riddle regarding the founding and development of AECl, ca. 1986. (½" VHS video-tape, approximately 2 hrs.)
50. “The First Twenty-Five Years of-Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.,” also interviews with C. E. Boulson and Luther Riddle, ca. 1987. (½" VHS videotape, approximately 2 hrs.)
51. Interviews of Truman Green and Charles E. Boulson with the Board of Directors of Associated Electric Cooperative, 22 May 1990. (½" VHS videotape, 1 hour, 53 minutes.)
52. Associated Electric Cooperative, Annual Reports, 1975-1984

Folders 54-56: Miscellaneous papers and publications concerning the electric power industry, 1938--1974

55. Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Post Engineer Service Command Conference (repairs and utilities activities), 27-29 July 1944.
56. Miscellaneous publications, 1964-1974

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