Computer History Museum

Guide to the Thomas J. O'Rourke collection

Creator: Thomas J. O'Rourke
Dates: 1950-1997, bulk 1960-1990
Extent: 4.13 linear feet, 1 record carton, 1 manuscript box, 1 half manuscript box, 2 periodicals boxes, 3 volumes, 1 oversize folder
Collection number: X3105.2005
Catalog number: 102726482
Collection processed by: Adrienne Harling, August, 2016
Finding aid prepared by: Adrienne Harling and Sara Chabino Lott, August, 2016
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Abstract

The Thomas J. O'Rourke collection includes business records pertaining to O'Rourke's work at Tymshare, a corporation he co-founded, the General Electric Company (GE), and to the computer services industry as a whole. There is an emphasis on internal company communications such as memoranda, employee newsletters, employee reunion documentation, and stock value information. Most materials pertain to Tymshare. Materials span the years 1950 to 1997.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
The Computer History Museum (CHM) can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Copyright restrictions may apply and users are responsible for satisfying any claims of the copyright holder. Requests for copying and permission to publish, quote, or reproduce any portion of the Computer History Museum's collection must be obtained jointly from both the copyright holder (if applicable) and the Computer History Museum as owner of the material.

Languages
Collection materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], [Date], Thomas J. O'Rourke collection, Lot X3105.2005, Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Thomas J. O'Rourke's son,Tim O'Rourke, 2005.

Processing Information
Doug Jerger of the Software History Center inventoried this collection in April of 2004 as part of the donation process. His inventory included descriptive notes and identified material of special value within the collection. Many of his notes were included in the description field in the catalog entries for the folders.

Repository
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Biographical/Historical Note
Thomas J. O'Rourke was the founder, President and CEO of Tymshare (founded in 1964 and sold in1984), a time-sharing company in Cupertino, California. Prior to founding Tymshare, he worked at General Electric (GE). O'Rourke received a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington in 1948. He was a venture capitalist for Hambrecht & Quist Venture

Partners from 1985 to 1990. O'Rourke was married to Marge O'Rourke and a father of six children. He and his family resided in Mountain View, California from 1964 until he passed away in 2002.

O'Rourke started at GE in the welding department. When the company phased that department out, he became the district manager for the GE computer department in Los Angeles. In this role, he worked on the development of the Electronic Recording Method of Accounting (ERMA), a banking accounting system that GE was building for Bank of America. Later he moved to a sales position in Phoenix, Arizona, followed by a regional manager position in San Francisco. After being fired from this position due to a personality conflict with a manager, O'Rourke declined an offer to relocate and stay with GE and instead started his own business.

The business, at first called O'Rourke Enterprises and later renamed to Tymshare, was based on an idea for time-sharing computer systems. O'Rourke had been exposed to the idea of time-sharing at GE when a Dartmouth University project team had approached GE for donations of computers with which to test this innovative idea. O'Rourke was intrigued by the concept and felt that it was a promising business idea. Tymshare was incorporated in 1966.

Tymshare worked on ways of improving data transfer, and formed a division called Tymnet. Tymnet was likely the first commercial application of a new packet technology that increased the capacity of phone lines to handle larger quantities of data being transferred.

Tymshare became a public company in 1970, going on the New York Stock Exchange in 1974. The business, originally targeting the engineering market, developed new markets including software, financial services, and communications. As the company grew, first domestically and then internationally, it acquired other companies along the way. Tymshare became active in the industry trade group Association of Data Processing Service Organizations (ADAPSO). In 1984 Tymshare was acquired by McDonnell Douglas Automation.

Scope and Content of the Collection
The Thomas J. O'Rourke collection includes records that Thomas J. O'Rourke collected as the founder of Tymshare and former employee of General Electric (GE), as well as thirteen books related to the computer industry. Over half of the materials pertain to Tymshare.

The collection spans 1950 to1997, with the bulk of the material dated between 1960 and 1990. Highlights of the collection include speeches that Tom O'Rourke gave to employees and at conferences, Tymnet diagrams and other product literature, and New York Stock Exchange information and photographs. Also included is quite a bit of content regarding employee reunions at both companies. There is an emphasis on Tymshare stock value and industry trends from a business perspective.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into 3 series:
       Series 1, Tymshare, 1965-1988
       Series 2, General Electric, 1950-1997
       Series 3, Books, 1955-1985

Indexing Terms
Tymshare, Inc.
General Electric Company. Computer Department
Time-sharing computer systems
Computer service industry – United States

Separated Material
Physical objects were separated from the main collection. To view catalog records for separated material search the CHM catalog at http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/search/.

Related Collections at CHM
O'Rourke, Tom (Thomas J.) oral history, Lot X3778.2007, catalog number 102657984.

Tymes, LaRoy oral history, Lot X3800.2007, catalog number 102657988.

Schmidt, Dave oral history, Lot X3802.2007, catalog number 102657990.

Sanden, Lynn oral history, Lot X3801.2007, catalog number 102657989.

Timesharing and Remote Processing Services meeting session #1 : technology : the early years, Lot X5386.2009, catalog number 102702883.

Gary Morgenthaler collection, Lot X3708.2007, catalog number 102733952.

SRI ARC/NIC records, Lot X3578.2006, catalog number 102706170.

Related Collections at Other Repositories
Douglas C. Engelbart Papers. M0638. Dept of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif. http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/ft3n39n626/.

Collection Contents
Series 1, Tymshare, 1965-1988
This series contains internal documents such as memoranda, correspondence, speeches, planning and marketing materials, photographs, and employee retreat and reunion documentation. The series also contains information about products, such as Tymnet. There is substantial information about Tymshare financials and information for shareholders such as Annual Reports. Press coverage of Tymshare can also be found in this series. The series is arranged into 6 subseries:

       Subseries 1.1, Speeches, 1972-1984
       Subseries 1.2, Annual Reports, 1971-1982
       Subseries 1.3, New York Stock Exchange, 1966-1982
       Subseries 1.4, Personnel / Reunion, 1967-1989, bulk 1980-1989
       Subseries 1.5, Gary Myers, 1969-1984
       Subseries 1.6, General, 1965-1986

Subseries 1.1, Speeches, 1972-1984
This subseries contains a variety of presentations, speeches, and related materials. The speeches were given by Tom O'Rourke to employees, shareholders, and attendees at conferences, as well as to government agencies and other industry organizations. The speeches have rich content about Tymshare and the computer services industry. This subseries is in its original order.

Subseries 1.2, Annual Reports, 1971-1982
This subseries contains a complete run of Tymshare annual reports spanning the years 1971 to 1982. This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Subseries 1.3, New York Stock Exchange, 1966-1982
This subseries includes a substantial amount of prospectus, shareholder reports, financial statements, and related documents pertaining to Tymshare stock value. There is also a set of 8x10 black and white photographs of Tom and Marge O'Rourke and others at the New York Stock Exchange, showing Tymshare on the stock exchange in the background. This subseries is in its original order.

Subseries 1.4, Personnel / Reunion, 1967-1989, bulk 1980-1989
This subseries includes materials related to organized reunions for Tymshare employees. There are numerous lists of employee names and addresses, as well as correspondence between Tymshare alumni and reunion organizers. This subseries also contains photographs of employees in different contexts such as social events, at the office, at retreats, and more. This subseries is in its original order.

Subseries 1.5, Gary Myers, 1969-1984
This subseries includes materials that appear to belong to Tymshare employee Gary Myers. Myers worked in sales and the series includes materials used to motivate sales teams, as well as more information about Tymshare stock value. This subseries is in its original order.

Subseries, 1.6, General, 1965-1986
This subseries contains a variety of materials including incoming and outgoing correspondence, product information, photographs, employee newsletters and presentations, and planning materials. Of particular note are several large format diagrams of Tymnet nodes and infrastructure. This subseries is in its original order.

Series 2, General Electric, 1950-1997
This series contains material related to numerous computer department reunions, including reunion photographs, marketing management material, and a few employee newsletters, including several issues of the alumni newsletter. Of particular note is documentation of a reunion for the team that built the Electronic Recording Method of Accounting (ERMA), as well as a

lyrics book for tongue-in-cheek songs about computer product development. This series is in its original order.

Series 3, Books, 1955-1985
This series contains published, bound books pertaining to the computer industry and technical aspects of computer products. There is also a volume documenting a GE computer department sales meeting. This subseries is arranged alphabetically by title.

Catalog Number	Title	Date
	Folder List	

Tymshare : Speeches

	Catalog Number	Title	Date
Box 1	102726401	Thomas J. O'Rourke speeches 1	1973-1976; 1979; 1983
Box Flat File 5	102726402	Wall Street Journal advertisement for the 76 Tsai forum	1976-01-06
Box 1	102726403	Thomas J. O'Rourke speeches 2	1972; 1974; 1979; 1984
Box 1	102726404	Thomas J. O'Rourke speeches 3	1979-1983
Box Flat File 5	102726405	Tymshare articles	1983-1984
Box 1	102726406	Thomas J. O'Rourke speeches 4	1974-1975; 1978; 1983

Tymshare : Annual Reports

	Catalog Number	Title	Date
Box 1	102726407	Tymshare annual reports	1971-1982

Tymshare : New York Stock Exchange

	Catalog Number	Title	Date
Box 1	102726409	New York Stock Exchange listing	1970; 1977
Box Flat File 5	102726410	It's about tym : a newsletter for tymshare employees	1977-09
Box 1	102726411	Tymshare, Inc. : financial statements	1966-1969
Box 1	102726412	Tymshare shareholder reports	1973; 1976-1978
Box 1	102726413	Tymshare stock-related documents	1974; 1977
Box 1	102726414	Tymshare prospectus documents	1970; 1972-1975; 1978-1980; 1982
Box 1	102726415	Tymshare Inc. form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1976	1976
Box 1	102726416	Tymshare shareholder meeting notices	1973; 1977
Box 1	102726417	Tymshare securities prospectus documents and offering circular	1969; 1973-1974; 1980
Box 3	102726418	Tymshare New York Stock Exchange photographs	ca. 1970

	Catalog Number	**Title**	**Date**
Box	102726419	Tymshare, Inc. : 600,000 shares common stock without par value vol. 1	1970-09
Box	102726420	Tymshare, Inc. : 600,000 common stock without par value vol. II	1970-09
Box	102726421	Tymshare, Inc. : 825,000 shares common stock without par value	1980-12-22

Tymshare : Personnel / Reunion

Box 1	102726422	Tymshare reunion bank account	1988-1989
Box 1	102726423	Tymshare alumni association	1987-1988
Box 1	102726424	Tymshare reunion mail	1988-1989
Box 1	102726425	Tymshare reunion event	1988-09
Box 1	102726426	Tymshare reunion	1967-1968
Box 3	102726427	Billing department photographs	1976
Box 1	102726428	Tymshare reunion directory	1987-1988
Box 3	102726429	Tymshare reunion photographs	ca. 1988
Box 1	102726430	Employee list 1982	1982
Box 1	102726431	Western region promotional fliers	1988
Box 3	102726432	Pajaro dunes photographs	ca. 1982
Box 3	102726433	Management offsite meeting photographs	ca. 1980
Box 3	102726434	Product marketing photographs	1984
Box 3	102726435	Fremont operations photographs	ca. 1980

Tymshare : Gary Myers

Box 2	102726436	Hambrecht & Quist investment studies	1971; 1974; 1976
Box 2	102726437	Burnham and Company Tymshare report	1971-12-14
Box 2	102726438	Shareholder letter	1980-04-22

	Catalog Number	Title	Date
Box 2	102726439	Tymshare, Inc. : corporate finance	1975; 1978
Box 2	102726440	Morgan Stanley progress report	1979-08-28
Box 2	102726441	Computer service industry review	1976-12-31
Box 2	102726442	Western region 1975 review, 1976 plan	1975-1976
Box 2	102726443	Western region 1974 review, 1975 plan	1974-1975
Box 2	102726444	Tymshare memoranda	1977-1978
Box 2	102726445	1978 objectives industry services division	1977-12
Box 2	102726446	Performance review	1971-1972
Box 2	102726447	Tymshare stock information	1977; 1979; 1981-1982
Box 2	102726448	Tymshare, Inc. schedule 14D-9	ca. 1984
Box 2	102726449	Tymshare, Inc. 10-K forms	1975-1977; 1979
Box 2	102726450	Personnel - Tymshare	1969; 1970; 1972-1973
Box 2	102726451	President's staff presentation : industry services division	1977-07-11
Box 2	102726452	Tymshare notices of annual meeting of shareholders	1972; 1975; 1979-1983
Box 2	102726453	McDonnell Douglas Corporation offer to purchase for cash all outstanding shares of common stock of Tymshare, Inc.	1984-03-02
Box 2	102726454	Prospectus documents	1970; 1980
Tymshare : General			
Box 1	102726392	Correspondence	1965-1993
Box 1	102726393	1980 long range management plan	1979-1980
Box 3	102726394	Option brand bank teller kiosk photograph	ca. 1980

	Catalog Number	**Title**	**Date**
Box 1	102726395	Presentation to Tymshare Senior Managers	1984
Box 1	102726396	Product literature	1970; 1973; ca. 1976
Box 1	102726397	What's new at Tymshare? employee newsletter and miscellaneous Tymnet information	1968; 1972
Box 3	102726398	Empoyee photograph and photograph of "Tymnet-Man" drawing	ca. 1970
Box 1	102726399	ADAPSO 25th anniversary	1986
Box Flat File 5	102726400	Tymnet diagrams	1971; 1974; 1978

General Electric

Box 1	102726455	General Electric computer department marketing roster : edition 3	1963-02
Box 1	102726456	Ex-product planner's song book	1963-07-31
Box 1	102726457	General Electric advanced marketing management seminar	1952; 1956; 1958; 1960-1962; 1981
Box 3	102726458	General Electric advanced marketing management seminar photograph	ca. 1960
Box 1	102726459	General Electric computer department miscellaneous	1961; 1964; 1987
Box Flat File 5	102726460	General Electric news : Fitchburg works news	1950-02-03
Box 3	102726461	General Electric computer department miscellaneous photographs	ca. 1958
Box 1	102726462	Directory GE reunion 1985	1985-05
Box 1	102726463	GE reunion - miscellaneous	1961; 1965; 1985
Box 3	102726464	GE reunion photographs	ca. 1985
Box 1	102726465	GE computer reunion 1994	1994-05

	Catalog Number	**Title**	**Date**
Box 1	102726466	ERMA team reunion 1993	1993-02
Box 1	102726467	G.E. computer reunion 1997	1997-10
Box 1	102726468	General Electric reunion newsletter	1985; 1988-1989; 1993; 1996
Box Flat File 5	102741170	Ex-product planner's song book	1963-07-31
		Books	
Box 4	102726476	Arithmetic operations in digital computers	1955
Box 4	102726472	Automation in business and industry	1957
Box 4	102726473	Capability-based computer systems	1984
Box 4	102726471	Data communications and business strategy	1972
Box 4	102726478	Digital computer programming	1957
Box 4	102726469	Electronic computers and management control	1956
Box 4	102726477	Faith, hope and parity	1966
Box 5	102726480	Frontiers of progress : computer department national sales meeting, Apache Junction, Arizona	1961-05
Box 5	102726470	Future of the computer utility, The	1967
Box 5	102726481	Government regulation of the computer industry	1972-02
Box 5	102726474	Managing information : the challenge and the opportunity	1985
Box 5	102726479	Networks for higher education : proceedings of the Educom spring conference	1972-04-13
Box 5	102726475	Programming business computers	1959; 1961