Papers of Richard Allen Cromwell
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Inventory prepared by Lisa Bouchard
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Biographical, Scope and Content Note

Richard Andrew Cromwell, from North Charlestown, New Hampshire invented a ski cutting machine in 1940. His goal in inventing the ski cutting machine was to improve the time it took to make skis and the quality of skis.

Cromwell filed for a patent for his ski cutting machine with the United States Patten Office on August 3, 1940. His request was not filled until October 31, 1944. On September 5, 1942 Cromwell's application was rejected, but he did not give up. Cromwell sent in a re-application that went to the Board of Appeals, who finally accepted his design.

Cromwell's design was important to the ski-making business because his machine allowed for the shaping process to take place with only one passage of the billet through the machine. His machine eliminated multiple runs of wood through the machine and also made the skis smooth. The machine allowed for retrimming if a ski should become warped due to the steaming process. Cromwell also designed the machine to have two cutters that operated simultaneously, so both skis were the same. The machine produced a pointed toe in accordance with the ski.

The shaping of the skis took about 40 seconds to make through the machine. The machine weighted approximately two tons and used two 10HP motors. The machine cost about between $18-$20,000 dollars and took about six months to make and deliver to a customer. Cromwell operated the Cromwell Machine Company in Claremont, New Hampshire from 1947 to 1955.

Inventory List

Box 1 Folder 1 - Patent for H. J. Lundquist for skiie shaping device October 26, 1920
Box 1 Folder 1 - Patent for W. M. Whitney for wood shaping machine October 25, 1927
Box 1 Folder 1 - Letters regarding manufactured skis from Machine Cromwell Company
Box 1 Folder 1 - patent for J. R. Cameron for automatic machine for forming ironing boards and the like January 5, 1932
Box 1 Folder 1 - Patent for M. A. Strand for automatic wood shaper August 25, 1925
Box 1 Folder 1 - Patent for J. R. Kelbrich for paddle making machine December 22, 1925
Box 1 Folder 1 - Patten for J. P. Tarbox for machine for shaping oar blades September 28, 1909
Box 1 Folder 1 - Re-application of R. A. Cromwell for ski cutting machine to US Patent Office
Box 1 Folder 1 - Envelope and letter from State Planning and Development Commission Concord, NH
Box 1 Folder 1 - Two copies of patent for R. A. Cromwell for ski cutting machine October 31, 1944
Box 1 Folder 1 - Re-application of R. A. Cromwell for ski cutting machine before Board of Appeals
Box 1 Folder 1 - Receipts from Machine Cromwell Co.
Box 1 Folder 1 - Receipts to Machine Cromwell Co. from various companies
Box 1 Folder 1 - Letters to Cromwell regarding ski cutting machine
Box 1 Folder 1 - Patent for J. E. Erickson for ski cutting machine July 1, 1930
Box 1 Folder 1 - Homestead Mortgage Deed
Box 1 Folder 1 - Warrantee Deed
Box 1 Folder 1 - Mortgage Deed
Box 1 Folder 1 - Agreement between Cromwell and Derby Hall Inc., of Vermont
Box 1 Folder 1 - List of equipment in Machine Cromwell Co.

Box 1 Folder 2 - Original patent for R. A. Cromwell for ski cutting machines
Box 1 Folder 2 - Original copies of figures of machine that appear in the patent

Box 1 Folder 3 - Description of the patented machine for the rapid automatic sharpening of skis
Box 1 Folder 3 - Letters regarding ski cutting machine
Box 1 Folder 3 - Re-application by Cromwell for ski cutting machine – US Patent Office
Box 1 Folder 3 - Brochure from Machine Cromwell Co.
Box 1 Folder 3 - Letter from J. E. Erickson, Jr. – Patent and Patent Causes – Washington, D.C. – in response to an amendment of May 4, 1942
Box 1 Folder 3 - Re-application of Cromwell for ski cutting machine – US Patent Office
Box 1 Folder 3 - Application for ski cutting machine
Box 1 Folder 3 - Letter stating Board of Appeals reversed their decision
Box 1 Folder 3 - Supplemental Amendment by US Patent Office
Box 1 Folder 3 - Appeal for claims 2, 18, 24 on ski cutting machine application
Box 1 Folder 3 - Patent for L. Platt for woodworking machine March 13, 1900

Box 1 Folder 4 - Seven photographs of ski cutting machine
Box 1 Folder 4 - Two negatives of ski cutting machine