

#1729

John Bennett Papers

Records, 1930-1988

0.16 linear feet

John Bennett (1907-1990) was born in Houghton, Michigan and attended grade school there before moving with his family to Iron Mountain, Michigan. His father, Fred Willard Bennett, was photographer for the Ford Motor Company Upper Peninsula operation. After completing high school in 1925, Bennett went to work in the Ford plant and later became a supervisor of process engineering and cost control. Wood automotive parts and station wagon bodies were manufactured at the plant. In addition, by-products such as charcoal briquettes and wood distillate chemicals were also produced. When the Iron Mountain plant closed in 1951, Bennett transferred to the Ford Automotive Assembly Division in Dearborn until his retirement in 1972.

The John Bennett Papers are the result of research undertaken by Mr. Bennett to correct misinformation published in the media about the development and production of charcoal briquettes. The Ford Motor Company established a successful manufacturing facility for charcoal in the 1920's to utilize lumber waste from company timber lands in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Using newspaper articles, plant records and excerpts from oral histories of men involved with the operation in Iron Mountain, Mr. Bennett compiled a correct account of the by-product, Kingsford Charcoal. His account is included in these records. Included also are letters confirming Prof. Orin F. Stafford as inventor of the wood carbonizing process used.

This collection was given by John Bennett in 1988. The material is arranged by type.

BOX 1	1-1	Bennett Report: Ford Motor Co. and the Charcoal Briquet; 30 Nov., 1987
	1-2	General Correspondence; 1977-1988
	1-3	Oral Histories: re Badger-Stafford Process at Iron Mountain Plant
	1-4	Revised Clorax Co. History of the Charcoal Briquet; 1987
	1-5	Stafford Correspondence; 1987-1988
	1-6	Articles: re Charcoal Briquets; 1930-1987