



Finding Aid for

PETER BRYANT PAPERS, 1964-2008

Accession 2012.25

Finding Aid Published: 10 November 2016



Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 USA
research.center@thehenryford.org · www.thehenryford.org

OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.65

CREATOR: Bryant, Peter E., 1938-2009

TITLE: Peter Bryant Papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1964-2008

QUANTITY: 15.45 cubic ft., including 6 oversize boxes, 4 oversize folders, and 10 rolls of drawings

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Peter E. Bryant was an automotive engineer who began his career in the race car industry. After designing cars for the Canadian-American (Can-Am) Challenge Cup, most notably the Autocoast Ti-22 and the United Oil Products (UOP) Shadow, Bryant moved into other areas of vehicle design. His later works include transports for Disney, a variety of buses, and a mobile CAT scan unit.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research.
- TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS:** Use of original video and audio tapes, floppy disks, and compact discs contained in the collection is restricted. Access may be unavailable due to lack of appropriate software and hardware, or use copies may need to be produced unless otherwise noted. Researchers interested in this material should contact Benson Ford Research Center staff (research.center@thehenryford.org).
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Donated to The Henry Ford, 2012.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 2012.25, Peter Bryant Papers, 1964-2008, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Janice Unger, August 2014.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Janice Unger, August 2014, and published in August 2014.
- Finding aid written by Janice Unger, September 2014, and published in November 2016.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Peter E. Bryant (1938-2009) was born in England, and obtained his first job in the automobile racing industry in 1957, as an engineering intern with Lotus Cars. Over the next few years, he would continue his career with various Formula One and Formula Two teams. In 1964, he immigrated to the United States after a visit the previous year as the chief mechanic for John Surtees's Ferrari 250P crew. He worked with Mickey Thompson on his 1964 Indianapolis 500 cars and Carroll Shelby on his Cobra, GT40, and GT350 projects. In 1966, Bryant began his work with Can-Am race cars when he joined the Dana Chevrolet team as race engineer. The next year, he moved on to the Lola team owned by Carl Haas, and in 1969, Bryant built his first Can-Am car, the Autocoast Ti-22, which would soon become the first American-made car to lead a Can-Am race. In 1971-1972, Bryant created the UOP Shadow cars, which included pioneering technology in ground-effect aerodynamics.

After his work engineering race cars, Bryant used his talents in other industries. He designed various buses for different companies, worked with the Disney Corporation on multiple projects, and created a mobile CAT scan vehicle. He also developed and patented his RollGard system, which helped stabilize large vehicles on the road. In addition to projects related to standard combustion engines, Bryant also delved into electric buses, electric motorbikes, and the use of solar and wind energy.

Biographical information adapted from the following source:

-“Peter Bryant, 1938-2009, David Bull Publishing,” accessed in September 2014 at http://www.bullpublishing.com/Peter_Bryant.asp.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Peter Bryant papers are arranged in six series: the **AUTOMOBILE RACING AND DESIGN series**, the **DESIGN PROJECTS SERIES**, the **ENGINEERING DRAWINGS SERIES**, the **PATENTS AND RELATED MATERIALS SERIES**, the **PRODUCT LITERATURE SERIES**, and the **PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL MATERIALS SERIES**.

The **AUTOMOBILE RACING AND DESIGN SERIES** (1.41 cubic ft., including 1 oversize box) is comprised of materials relating to Bryant's work as a car designer, both on and off the race track. Information included in this series includes his book (“Can-Am Challenger”) and his work on multiple Canadian-American (Can-Am) Challenge Cup race cars including the Autocoast Ti-22 and the United Oil Products (UOP) Shadow. There is also information related to Bryant's work designing cars for other groups, including Collins Motorsports, and Shelby American, Inc. Two photographs included in this series are autographed and can be found in the United Oil Products Photographs folder and the Canadian-American (Can-Am) Challenge Cup Photographs folder.

The **DESIGN PROJECTS SERIES** (2.50 cubic ft.) contains information regarding many of Bryant's other projects. These projects include, but are not limited to, explorations in alternative

energy for vehicles, multiple types of buses, a mobile CAT Scan unit, vehicles for the Walt Disney Corporation, and racing projects related to Mickey Thompson (including technical specifications for the 1964 Sears Allstate Specials used in the 1964 Indianapolis 500), Super Trucks, and the Flat Fire Salt Flats Car.

The **ENGINEERING DRAWINGS SERIES** (8.04 cubic ft., including 5 oversize boxes and 10 rolls) is made of engineering drawings related to various design projects worked on by Peter Bryant. Drawings from the production of the Carpenter Bus and Truck, the Continental Mid-Trans Bus, and the GM Blue Line and World Buses are included in this series, along with others. Some of these drawings (folded and rolled) are large scale and in excess of 14 ft. by 4 ft. and have been placed in either boxes or folders with other large scale drawings.

The **PATENTS AND RELATED MATERIALS SERIES** (1.75 cubic ft.) relates to Peter Bryant's work with Amtech and the development of his RollGard anti-rollover protection system, for which he earned a United States patent. Additional information regarding the patent process, shocks and stabilizers from various vehicles, and federal regulations can also be found in this series.

The **PRODUCT LITERATURE SERIES** (1.0 cubic ft.) is comprised of pamphlets, catalogs, informational sheets, and other materials related to vehicle components produced by numerous companies.

The **PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL MATERIALS SERIES** (0.75 cubic ft.) contains information relating to materials used to produce mechanical vehicle parts, safety standards, and research into materials published by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), of which Peter Bryant was a member and published researcher.

ARRANGEMENT

The papers have been arranged close to the manner in which they were organized upon arrival, as much as possible. Based on handwritten notes, it is assumed that the organization was performed by Lois Bryant. It is not known if Peter Bryant organized the materials in this manner.

The papers are arranged in six series:

- Automobile Racing and Design
- Design Projects
- Engineering Drawings
- Patents and Related Materials
- Product Literature
- Professional and Technical Materials

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Bryant, Peter E., 1938-2009

Thompson, Mickey

Amtech Incorporated

General Motors Corporation

Shelby American, Inc.

Society of Automotive Engineers

United Oil Products

Subjects

Automobile parts

Automobile racing

Automotive engineering

Buses

Canadian-American Challenge Cup

Electric vehicles

Engineering drawings

Patents

Renewable energy sources

Safety

Shelby automobile

Geographic

Bonneville Salt Flats (Utah)

Genre and Form

Brochures

Catalogs

CD-ROMs

Color photographs

Color slides

Floppy disks

Photographs

Promotional materials

Technical drawings

Trade literature

Transparencies

Videocassettes

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
----------------	--------------------

Box 1

AUTOMOBILE RACING AND DESIGN SERIES

(See also DESIGN PROJECTS SERIES and ENGINEERING DRAWINGS SERIES)

Book and Personal Information

Canadian-American (Can-Am) Challenge Cup

Autocoast Ti-22

Articles (from magazines)

Materials (report to United Oil Products regarding titanium)

Box 12 (oversize)

Oversized Photographs

Box 1

Photographs (2 folders; includes autographed photograph of Jackie Oliver)

Press

Program, Road America Can-Am Championship, 1970

Correspondence

Box 1, Box 12 (oversize)

Miscellaneous (4 folders in Box 1 and 4th folder in Box 12; subjects include print-outs of race results, photocopies of advertisements and magazine articles, photocopies of photographs, programs, and media guides)

Box 1

United Oil Products (UOP) Shadow

Drawings and Data

Miscellaneous (includes UOP team folder; subjects include notes, vehicle specifications, correspondence, and photocopies of magazine articles)

Photographs (2 folders; contains autographed calendar)

Press Releases

Collins Motorsports

Design Information and Drawings (4 folders)

White Lightning Silverado Racing Truck (3 folders)

Magazines (2 folders, includes Petersen's 4 Wheel and Offroad from August 2000, Car Collector from June 2007, and Road and Track from September 1968)

Photographs (4 folders; includes autographed photograph of Tony Adamowicz)

Box 2

Shelby American, Inc.

Cobra Project (1990s)

Series I (1990s)

Dealer Information and Phone Log (includes 5" floppy disk)

Meeting Notes

Miscellaneous (subjects include resources list, contact information, internet and magazine articles, Series I information sheet, presentation to Oldsmobile from 24 October 1995)

Photographs

Box 12 (oversize)

Prototype Color Prints (3 print-outs of photographs on paper)

Box 2

Videocassettes (VHS format)

1996 PPG Indy Car World Series Year in Review

Indy 1952 Cummins Diesel Special

DESIGN PROJECTS SERIES

(See also AUTOMOBILE RACING AND DESIGN SERIES and ENGINEERING DRAWINGS SERIES)

Alternative Energy

AC Bus Project (3 folders)

Chinese Presentation (undated notes about a modern electric bus written on a manila folder)

Electric Buses

Bus Conversion Project

General Information (2 folders; subjects include newspaper and magazine articles, notes, drawings, and Final Reports for the H2 Fuel Bus)

Nordskog Electric Vehicles

Notes and Presentations (3 folders)

Westport Axles

Electric Motorbike Incorporated (EMB)

Drawings

General Information (2 folders; includes 2 3.5" floppy disks and sticker; subjects include product brochures, dealer information, photographic prints, notes, drawings, and reports)

Notes

Presentation (about EMB; includes transparencies)

Solar and Wind Energy Information (2 folders)

Bruce Langson Can-Am Car

Box 3

Buses

Budget Bus

Carpenter Body Works

Columbine Bus

Continental (GM) World Bus (5 folders and 4 boxes of photographic slides)

Drawings

El Dorado Falcon

- General and Technical Information (2 folders)
 - Mid-Trans Bus
 - Peru Bus
 - School Bus Safety
 - United Bus
 - World Coach
- Carevan
- CAT Scan Unit
- Catering Truck
- Concept Automobiles Inc. (VHS videocassette)
- Disney
 - Engineering Standard Anthropometric Data
 - Euro Disney Transporter Tram
 - Nemobile
- Flat Fire Salt Flats Car (3 folders)
- International Automotive Design (IAD)
 - Hunter Proto Type
 - Import/Export Information
- Mickey Thompson (includes technical specifications for Sears-Allstate Specials used in 1964 Indianapolis 500 race)
- Miscellaneous (subjects include patent information, Mallett Cars Ltd., drawings, charts, graphs, and Toyota)

Box 4

- New Projects
 - Arex
 - Miscellaneous (2 folders; subjects include People Pods, Aero Visions Incorporated, and 1992 SAE Future Transportation Technology Conference and Exposition, 10-13 August)
 - Quest Prototype
 - Robosaurus
- Raetech
- Revcon (3 folders; includes report from Structural Testing Services, Inc.)
- Scarab Motorsports LLC (see also Automobile Racing and Design series)
- Super Trucks (see also Automobile Racing and Design series)
- Tiwan Van
- Transpec Inc.
- Truck/Boat
- Vector Aeromotive Corporation (5 folders)
- Whitehall Motors Co.
- Yugo

ENGINEERING DRAWINGS SERIES

(see also AUTOMOBILE RACING AND DESIGN SERIES and DESIGN PROJECTS SERIES)

Adams & Westlake, 1980
Carpenter Bus-Truck (2 folders)

Box 10 (oversize)

Carpenter Truck

Box 4 cont.

Chevy Van, 1982
Continental Mid-Trans Bus (3 folders)
Continental Mid Trans Bus, 2500 Series (2 folders)

Box 9, 11 (oversize)

Continental Mid-Trans Bus

Box 5

General Motors
Blue Line Bus, 1986
World Bus, 1981-1982
Body and Chassis, Proto Bus
Body and Chassis, Revised for Production (2 folders)
Instrument Panel Wiring Layouts

Box 10 (oversize)

Oversized Drawings

Box 5

Hamill Mfc. Co., 1981
Majestic Motorhomes, 1975
Morse Chain, 1978-1981

Box 5, 12 (oversize)

Oshkosh Truck Corp., 1980 (2 folders)

Box 5

Revcon, 1978-1979
Thermoking, 1981
Unidentified
1977

Box 5, Box 12

1978 (4 folders)

Folder 2

1979

Box 5, Folder 1

1980

Box 5, Folder 4

1981

Folder 3

1982

Box 5, Folder 3

Undated (includes possible Ferrari schematics and 2 motorhome drawings)

Roll #2

Large Rolled Drawings
CAT Scan and Medical Trucks

Roll #10

Chevrolet Motor Division (Engine Mounting, August 1984)

Rolls #8 and #9

General Motors Truck & Bus Group (Transfer Case, February 1991; Front Frame Assembly, May 1991; Front Suspension, May 1987, Tire Flop-Front, undated; 2 copies of Front Suspension, October 1987)

Roll #7

Intersect Corporation (Preliminary Body Structure Layout-Curbside, January 1983)

Roll #3

Motor Home Drawings

Roll #10

Partially Labeled (2 copies of Front Wheel Drive Chassis, Body Builders Layout, March 1986)

Roll #7

Shelby American, Inc. (Coupe and 1990s Series I)

Roll # 6

United Oil Products (UOP)
P1 Indy (2 copies of 1/4 Scale Preliminary Layout, July 1972)

Rolls #1 and #4

Shadow MK2 (3 copies of Front Footbox Assy, RH Side, February 1971; 2 copies of DWG #234, Sheet 1, Front Suspension & Footbox, February 1971; 3 copies of Front Susp Geom, February 1971; Suspension Drawing, Revised; Unlabeled)

Rolls #4 and #5

Shadow MK3 (Front Footbox/Susp Plan View; 3 copies of Hewland Trans: Installation Design Study, June 1972; 2 copies of Front Suspension Design Study, Rev. MK2, January 1972; Preliminary Body Layout, undated)

Roll #7

Unlabeled

Box 5

PATENTS AND RELATED MATERIALS SERIES

Amtech

Chassis Data (Proposal to Society of Automotive Engineers)
Laboratory Test Report for Vehicle Handling Tests
Miscellaneous (subjects include parts drawings, corporation information, notes, HyperCo., and photographic prints from China)
New Spring Dimensions

Amtech Patent Data

Aaron Passman Drawings
Miscellaneous (2 folders, related to patent information)
New Patent #2
New Patent Drawings
Patent Copy
RollGard
Survey Sheets
Trunions and Spacers
Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Slides
Shackle Assembly

Box 6

Drawings

Body Builders Drawings (2 folders)
Proactive Shock Drawings
Revised Amtech Drawings

Ford

Escape Shocks
Test Notes

General Information and Notes (6 folders; subjects include mathematical equations, GM CAD File notes, SAE information, technical papers, unlabeled parts)

- drawings, general notes, Spring Design Program Users Manual V. 3.01,
correspondence)
- Hummer Information
 - Hummer 1 Shocks
 - Hummer H2
- Matching Shocks for Buila Program
- National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- New Patent Files
- Papers and Speaking Dates (2 folders; includes 2 of Peter Bryant's SAE technical
papers; subjects include on-board diagnostic safety systems, vehicle suspension,
shocks and springs, race car design, and rebound control)
- Product Literature and Catalogs (3 folders; see also Product Literature series)
- Roll Over Information
 - Adams
 - Correspondence
 - Test Data
 - Boat Trailer Data
 - Chevy Blazer Rollover Test Data

Box 7

- Ford Cutaway Drawings
- General Information (subjects include print-outs of services offered by
Automotive Testing, Inc. and engineering reports)
- Milt Chace & Associates
- National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA)
 - Correspondence
- RollGard EPDM Blocks
- Triangle Group
- Shock Stabilizers
- Structure Members
 - Drawings (2 folders)
 - Legal Information
 - Patent Information
- Walker Evans (2 folders; contain 3 3.5" floppy disks and 1 damaged CD-ROM)

PRODUCT LITERATURE SERIES

(see also PATENT AND RELATED MATERIALS SERIES)

- Articles
- Aurora Bearing Company
- Bunting Bearings Corp.
- Drive Technologies
- FastSURF (contains 3 CD-ROMs)
- Flow Parametrics, LLC
- G&W Body Works Inc.
- GM Performance Parts
- Goodyear

Hot Rod Memories
Johnson's High Tech Performance
Miscellaneous (subjects include notes, physics and mathematics reference materials,
and a Cadkey "Hot Keys" chart)
National Precision Bearing
National Truck Equipment Association
Plexus Structural Adhesives
ProFold (contains 2 3.5" floppy disks)
Radial Bearing Corporation
Ram-Jet 2L-1
Sales Contacts (Trucks, RV, etc.)
Taylor Race Engineering
Tilton Engineering
Trailer Body Builders
Utility

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL MATERIALS SERIES

Automobile Club of Southern California
Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards & Regulations (FMVSS)
General Information Car Design (2 folders; includes composite samples, SAE papers,
Dow Automotive information, parts drawings and charts, and magazine articles)

Box 8

Huntington Alloys
Industrial Education Institute
Light Aircraft Performance Calculation
Miscellaneous (7 folders; includes technical papers and brochures)
Off and On Road Rules
Rack and Steering Information and Drawings
Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)
 General Information (includes meeting minutes)
 Papers
 1960s (2 folders)
 1970s
 1980s
 1990s
 Peter Bryant's Paper (technical paper titled "A Review of the Potential for
 Vehicle On-Board Diagnostic Safety Systems;" includes presentation
 transparencies)
 Surface Vehicle Standards
Tire and Brake Information and Drawings
Viatran
Wheel Centering
Win Corporation
World Trade '90