

Archives (Ford Motor Company) records
Internal Research subgroup

**NEVINS AND HILL RESEARCH, ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS
AND NOTES SERIES, 1845-1960
Accession 572**

HISTORY

In 1954, Columbia University historian Allan Nevins in collaboration with Frank Ernest Hill published the first volume of a comprehensive history of Henry Ford and his automobile company. A combination history of the Ford Motor Company, history of the automotive industry in general, and biography of Henry Ford, the project was funded by a grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund to Columbia University and produced under the guidance of an academic advisory committee. Nevins, Hill, and research assistants William Greenleaf and George B. Heliker were granted unprecedented access to the records and papers held in the Ford Motor Company Archives. Meticulously researched, the resulting trilogy is considered indispensable for understanding early automotive history.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The series is comprised primarily of original documents that were selected between 1952 and 1954 from accessions held by the Ford Motor Company Archives for research use in the three volume Nevins and Hill history of the company. The majority of the documents were retained as Accession 572 and were not returned to their source locations. There are also typewritten research notes interspersed within the folders. The series is valuable for its illuminating and overarching documentation of all aspects of the life of Henry Ford and the evolution of the Ford Motor Company. The records are organized by subject classification scheme devised by Allan Nevins (see Appendix for original transaction numbers, descriptions, and locations). The finding aid maintains this classification scheme. Twenty topical terms are further subdivided alphabetically. Sections include the automobile industry in general; Detroit, Michigan; Henry, Edsel, Clara and the Ford family; Ford Motor Company advertising, aviation activities, branch operations, engineering, finance, legal activities, organization, administration, suppliers, plants, sales, labor relations, foreign agencies and plants; and activities during both world wars.

Box 1

Classification Number and Subject

No. 1 AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

No.1.1 Canada

No.1.2 Combinations

Includes:
Super Trust
Company Mergers
Company Takeovers

No.1.3 Companies (except as listed separately)

Includes:
Auto Plants
Auto Models
Sales Figures
Management Individuals

No.1.4 Design and Styling

Includes:
Electric Vehicles
Pricing
Designing
Body Colors

No.1 .5 General

Includes:
Aviation
International Relations
Roads
Scientific Discoveries

No.1.5.1 1914-1921 General

No.1.5.2 1921-1927 General

No.1.5.3 1927-1953 General

No. 1.6 Inflation (1914-1917)

No.1.7 Installment Selling

No.1.8 Model and Prices

No.1.9 Organizations (in automotive field)

Includes:
National Automotive Chamber of Commerce
Internal Gear Drive Association

No.1.10 Patents

No.1.11 Plants-Expansions, 1915-1923

No.1.12 Plants-Design and Routines

Includes:
Conveyor Systems
Rolling Stand Assembly

- No.1.13 Postwar Boom, 1918-1920** (includes profit disbursement)
- No.1.14 Postwar recession, 1920-1921** (includes unemployment counts)

Box 1 Automotive Industry (cont.)

- No.1.15 Production Totals** (includes plant expansion)
- No.1.16 Shows** (includes auto shows 1915-1920)
- No.1.17 Suppliers**
- No.1.18 Tractors** (includes transporting perishable foods)
- No.1.19 War Work**
 - No.1.19.1 World War I** (EMPTY)
 - No.1.19.1.1** 1914-1917
 - No.1.19.1.2** 1917-1919
 - Includes:
 - Military Production-Car
 - Military Production-Airplane Engines
 - Military Production-Trucks
 - No.1.19.2 World War II**

Box 2

No.2 CHEVROLET MOTOR COMPANY

- Includes:
 - Chevrolet Pricing
 - Chevrolet Production Figures

No.3 CHRYSLER

- Includes:
 - Management Personnel
 - Auto Pricing

No.3A COUZENS, JAMES

No.4 DEARBORN INDEPENDENT

- Includes:
 - Rabbi Franklin Correspondence
 - Herbert Hoover Correspondence
 - Anti Semitic Articles
 - Boris Brasol Correspondence

Box 3

No. 5 DETROIT

No. 6 FORD, CLARA BRYANT, 1914-1950

No. 7 FORD, ELEANOR CLAY (See also Ford, Edsel)

Box 3 (cont.)

No. 8 FORD, EDSEL

- No.8.1** Character and Business Methods
- No.8.2** Family (including Eleanor Clay Ford, William Clay, Josephine)
- No.8.3** Residence

Box 4

No. 9 FORD, HENRY

- No.9.1 Antiquarian Interest**
 - Includes:
 - Wayside Inn Profit and Loss Statements
 - The Henry Ford Acquisition Correspondence
- No.9.2 Author (with Crowler and others)**
- No.9.3 Character and Business Methods**
 - No.9.3.1** 1914-1927
 - No.9.3.2** 1927-1947

Box 5

- No.9.4 Chicago Tribune Suit**
 - Includes:
 - Record of Private Investigator Bills
 - Henry Ford Testimony Transcripts
 - Newspaper Accounts of Suit
- No.9.5 Courtship and Marriage**
- No.9.6 Death**
- No.9.7 Description of Henry Ford**
- No.9.8 (and) Edsel**
- No.9.9 Educational Interests**
 - No.9.9.1 Edison Museum**
 - Includes:
 - Acquiring Museum Artifacts
 - Menlo Park
 - Various Vehicles
 - No.9.9.2 Henry Ford Trade School**
 - Includes:
 - Yale University Correspondence
 - Yale Trade School Summer Students
 - No.9.9.3 General**

Henry Ford Educational Interests (cont.)

Box 6

- No. 9.9.4** **Georgia Schools** (includes Berry School correspondence)
No. 9.9.5 **Greenfield Village**
No. 9.9.6 **Greenfield Village Schools**
No. 9.9.7 **Henry Ford Institute of Agricultural Engineering**, Chelmsford, Eng.
No. 9.9.8 **Pequaming** (Northern Michigan)
No.9.9.9 **Stone-Pennington School** and others near Dearborn
No. 9.9.10 **Wayside Inn Schools**, South Sudbury, Mass.
No. 9.10 **Experimenter**
 Includes:
 Emericht Demonstration
 Seeds From Madagascar
 Cryptestegia Madagascarienses Seeds (rubber plants)
No. 9.11 **Family** (includes genealogical material)
No. 9.11.1 1775-1914
No. 9.11.2 1914-1947

Box 7

- No. 9.12** **Farming** (includes Ford Cooperative Farmer's Assoc.)
No. 9.13 **Finances** (includes correspondence with New York city banks)
No. 9.14 **Friends (and vacations)**
 Includes:
 Miner Bird Sanctuary
 Will Rogers
 Ford-European Trip
No. 9.15 **Health**
 Includes:
 Henry Ford Auto Accident correspondence
 Ford Operation for Hernia
 Diet Information
No. 9.16 **Hobbies**
No. 9.17 **Interviews with Henry Ford**
 Includes:
 Wages and Hours
 Employment Polices
 Credit Plans
 Ford Work Ethics
No.9.18 **Minority Stockholders Suit**

Henry Ford (cont.)

Box 8

- No.9.19 Muscle Shoals**
- No.9.20 Offices** (includes salaries on Henry Ford's personal account)
- No.9.21 Pacifism**

Box 9

- No.9.22 Patents** (includes E. S. Huff suit)
- No.9.23 Philanthropies** (includes Belgium Orphanage)
- No.9.24 Political**
 - Includes:
 - Correspondence
 - Henry Ford for President
 - Coolidge Campaign for President
 - Hoover Campaign for President
 - Henry Ford for Senate
 - Newberry vs Ford

Box 10

- No.9.25 Public Life (Outside Politics)**
- No.9.26 Religion**
- No.9.27 Reputation**
- No.9.28 Racing** (includes Ford Cooper racing machines)
- No.9.29 Residences, Property**
- No.9.30 Social Life** (includes Dearborn Country Club)
- No.9.31 Tractors**

No.10 HENRY FORD II

- No. 11 FORD MOTOR COMPANY** (includes employee count)
- No.11.1 Advertising**
 - Includes:
 - Road Signs
 - The Animated Weeklyis Film
 - Newspapers
 - Radio
- No.11.2 Anti-Semitism**

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

Box 11

- No.11.3 Aviation** (includes first air mail)
- No.11.3.1 Early Experiments**
- No.11.3.2 Peacetime Activities** (includes Byrd expedition)
- No.11.3.3 Peacetime Production** (includes proposed passenger air travel)

Box 12

- No.11.4 Branch Operations, Domestic**
 - Includes:
 - Cost Cutting Re: Roadmen
 - Plant Operations: Production
- No.11.5 Canada**
 - Includes:
 - Stock Purchases
 - Financial Reports
- No.11.6 Charities**
 - Includes:
 - Employee Contributions
 - Loans of Company Vehicles to Institutions
- No.11.7 Competitor's, Relations with**

Box 13

- N0.11.8 Dealers**
 - Includes:
 - Used Car Sales and Profits
 - Buffalo Branch Activities
 - Dealer Cancellations
 - District Manager's Reports
- No.11.9 Depression (or recession) of 1921**
 - Includes:
 - Cost Accounting Records
 - Production Records
 - Cost Records (Cars)

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

Box 14

- No.11.10 Depression (or recession of 1929)**
Includes:
Corporate Mergers
Production Schedules
Sociological Department Investigation
- No.11.11 Depression (cont.) EMPTY**
- No.11.12 Engineering (includes reminiscences)**
- No.11.12.1 Model T**
Includes:
Assembly Instructions and Changes
Sales-Credit Plans
- No.11.12.2 Model A**
Includes:
European Market Investigation
Body Styles for Fords
Motor Support Installation
- No.11.12.3 V-8**
Records of Complaints
Cylinder Defects Report
- No.11.12.4 Other Models (Commercial)**
- No.11.12.5 Research and Development (chemical, electrical, metallurgical, etc.)**
Includes:
Iron Mountain plant
Production and Cost Statements
Magna Metal Corporation
Carboloy Tungsten Carbide

Box No.15

- No.11.13 Finance**
- No.11.13.1 Accounting**
Includes:
Auditing System
Cost Reduction
Reorganization
- No.11.13.2 Reorganization**
Includes:
Federal Tax Computations
Ford Stock Transfer
Minutes Ford Motor Company Board of Directors, 1919

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

Box No.16

No.11.14 Foreign Agencies and Plants (except Great Britain and Canada)

Includes:
Germany, 1930s
France, 1930s
Belguim
Latin America-1920-1928
China

Box 17

European Companies, General
Russia
Holland
Italy
Poland
Portugal
Spain
Directories of European Ford Companies
Ireland

Box 18

No.11.15 Foreign Agencies and Plants, England

Includes:
Stock Transfers
Price List of Tractors
Reports Ordinary General Meetings- 1931-32-33
New Ford Plant at Dagenham, Essex
Dagenham Production and Sales Reports, 1932
Correspondence re: Perry's report on European conditions

Box 19

No.11.16 Legal
No.11.16.1 Dodge Case

Ford Motor Company Legal (cont.)

No.11.17 **NRA** (House Labor Committee meetings)
No.11.18 **Organization and Administration**
No.11.18.1 Personnel

Box 20

No.11.18.1.1 Liebold
No.11.18.1.2 Wills
No.11.18.1.3 Lee (EMPTY)
No.11.18.1.4 Sorensen
No.11.18.1.5 Bricker
No.11.18.1.6 Mayo
No.11.18.1.7 Bennett
No.11.18.1.8 Ryan
No.11.18.1.9 Klingensmith
No.11.18.1.10 Avery
No.11.18.1.11 Kanzler
No.11.18.1.12 Martin
No.11.18.1.13 Knudsen
No.11.18.2 **Executive Relations**
No.11.18.3 **Personnel Policies**
No.11.18.4 **Department Organization**
No.11.19 **Patents**
 Includes:
 Planetary System of Transmissions
 Starter Parts
 Alcohol Process
 Cam and Crank Shaft Lathes
 Disk Wheels
 Rustproofing Process

Box 21

No.11.20 **Plants**
No.11.20.1 Includes:
 Highland Park
No.11.20.2 Village Industries
No.11.21 **Purchasing**
 Includes:
 Hardwood Logs
 Local Purchases for Foreign Plant Savings
 Establishing Purchasing Arrangements

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

- No.11.21.1** **Suppliers** (particular companies)
Includes:
Liberty Starter Company
Misc. Parts Suppliers
Holley Carburetor

Box 22

- No.11.22** **Production, records and changes** (see also World Wars)
No.11.22.1 Model T (includes buyer surveys)
No.11.22.2 Model A (includes manufacturing costs)
No.11.22.3 V-8 (includes Chevy comparison)
No.11.22.4 Other Cars and Trucks
No.11.22.5 By Products
No.11.22.6 Parts and Supplies (includes glass, batteries, carburetors, textiles)
No.11.23 **Public Relations**
Includes:
Ford Man" Paper
Labor-UAW
Ford Loans to City of Detroit

Box 23

- No.11.24** **Raw Materials** (coal, iron, lumber, rubber)
No.11.25 **Rouge**
No.11.25.1 Construction (includes acquiring land)
No.11.25.2 Plant Engineering
No.11.25.2.1 Material Handling
No.11.25.2.2 Machines and Tools
No.11.25.2.3 Assembly Lines
No.11.25.2.4 Steel Operations

Box 24

- No. 11.26** **Sales** (See also Advertising Dealers)
Includes:
Introducing Fordson Tractor
Dealer Discounts.
Advertising Suggestions
Introduction of Weekly Purchase Plan

Ford Motor Compay Sales (cont.)

- Dealer Sales records
- Sales (See also Advertising Dealers)
- Car Price List
- No.11.26.1 Credit Plans**
- No.11.26.2 Foreign Sales** (including USSR)
- No.11.27 Subsidiaries**
 - Includes:
 - Hamilton & Roseville
 - Banner Fork Coal Corporation
 - Dearborn Publishing Company
 - Dearborn Construction & Realty Company
 - Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad Company
 - Henry Ford & Son
 - Michigan Iron Land & Lumber Company
 - Nuttallberg Smokeless Fuel Company
- No.11.28 Tractors**
 - Includes:
 - English clippings & letters Re: Tractors
 - Confidential Price List (Oil)
 - Sales Reports

Box 25

- No.11.29 Traffic- (external)**
- No.11.29.1 Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad**
 - Includes:
 - Company Watches
 - Employee Grievance Process
 - Revenue and Expense Reports
 - Stockholders Meeting Reports
 - Wage and Salary Reports
 - Trial Balance Reports
 - Interstate Commerce Commission
 - FMC Traffic-New York Times, Articles
 - Board of Directors Meetings
 - Liebold Reminiscences
- No.11.29.2 Ships**
 - Includes:
 - Purchase of Vessels
 - Operations Cost
 - Ford News Articles Re: Shipping

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

Box 26

- No.11.30** **World War I**
No.11.30.1 **Effect 1914-1917**
No.11.30.2 **Reconversion Period**
No.11.30.3 **War Conditions and Activities**
 Includes:
 History of Motor Transport Contracts
 Cars Supplied to American Red Cross
 FMC Summary of War Activities
 Contracts For Aeronautical Equipment
 Contract For Dipping, Sanding, and Baking Steel Helmets
 Gun Production Contract
 British Production Contract

Box 27

- No.11.31** **World War II (includes press releases 1942-1946)**
No.11.31.1 **Willow Run**
No.11.31.2 **Aircraft Engines**
No.11.31.3 **Magnesium Smelter**
No.11.31.4 **Gun Director (EMPTY)**
No.11.31.5 **Tank Engine**
No.12 **FMC-(Labor Relations) (EMPTY)**
No.12.1 **Accidents and Safety**
 Includes:
 Elevators
 Hygiene
 Railroads
 Copy of National Safety News
 Accident Report
 Accident Statistics
No.12.2 **Administrative Procedures (EMPTY)**
No.12.3 **Bonuses, Plans**
No.12.4 **Education (English School, Apprentice School, etc.)**
 Includes:
 Report of Students
 H.F. Trade School Statistics
 Rouge Plant Service Students
No.12.5 **Employee Moral, Living Conditions, etc.**

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

- No.12.6** **Employee Services: Hospitalization, Housing, etc.** (see also
 Sociological Department)
 Includes:
 Ford Stores Controversy
 Spare Time Gardens

Box 28

- No.12.7** **Employment (EMPTY)**
No.12.7.1 **Absences, Turnover, Layoffs**
No.12.7.2 **Five Day Week**
No.12.7.3 **Polices**
 Includes:
 Employee Records
 Questionnaire on Employees of Color
 Request for Employment
 Company Lay Offs
 Public Opinion Survey, May 1949
No.12.7.4 **Totals**

Box 29

- No.12.8** **Espionage** (3 folders, 1 folder EMPTY)
 Includes:
 Operative 15 Reports (June 1919-April 1920)
 Work Ethics
 Time Wasted on Job
 Socialist Meeting Reports
 Newspaper Clippings-1919 Steel Strike
 Union Requiring Flyers
 List of Union Members
 Secret Report on Employees

Box 30

- No.12.9** **Five Dollar Day** (EMPTY)
No.12.10 **Foreign Plants**
 Includes:
 Labor Board Laws-1927-Germany
 Labor Law- Mexico

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

- No.12.11 Foreman (EMPTY)**
No.12.12 General Polices
No.12.13 Mines (Coal & Iron)
No.12.14 NRA
Includes:
Payroll Reports-Jan.1933-Oct.1933
Labor Relations Bulletins-1934
- No.12.15 Office Workers**
No.12.16 Political Activities
No.12.17 Production (EMPTY)
No.12.17.1 Comparative Figures Empty)
No.12.17.2 Relation to Bonuses, Profit Sharing, \$5 Day, Etc. (EMPTY)
No.12.17.3 Standards, Speedup, Etc.
No.12.18 Radicals (1927-1933)
No.12.19 Service Department

Box 31

- No.12.20 Sociological Department, (First Folder)**
Includes:
Educational Statistics- Home Plant, 1916-1917
Summary of Outside Investigations-1924
Employee Assistance Summaries-1930
Department Activity Reports-1930
Monthly Activity Reports-1930
Daily Reports of Employees-Jan-Dec. 1930
- No.12.21 Strikes and Disputes (includes March 1932 labor dispute)**
No.12.22 Suggestion Plans
No.12.23 Union Organization
Includes:
Radio Scripts
Brown-McLaren Union Contract
Correspondence Re: Union Rules
Correspondence Re: 40 Hour Work Week
- No.12.23.1 Union Men in Ford Plant**
No.12.23.2 Attitude of Union Toward Ford
No.12.23.3 Attitude of Ford toward Union

Ford Motor Company Union (cont.)

Box 32

- No.12.23.4** **Pre-Organization Discontent**
No.12.24 **Wages and Hours**
No.12.25 **Working Conditions**
No.12.26 **Willow Run (EMPTY)**
No.12.27 **Arbitration (EMPTY)**
- No.13** **GENERAL MOTORS**
No.13.1 **Founding and History**
 Includes:
 General Motors Building, New York
 A Romance of Business Article
- No.13.2** **Labor**
No.13.3 **Models**
No.13.4 **Personnel (EMPTY)**
- No.14** **HAWKINS, NORVAL A. (EMPTY)**
- No.15** **HENRY FORD AND SON, INC.**
- No.16** **HENRY FORD HOSPITAL**
 Includes:
 Misc. Correspondence Re: Payment of Hospital Bills
 Hospital Organization and Policy Report 1923-1925
 Hospital Ethics Questioned
- N0.17** **HIGHWAYS AND ROADS**

Box 33

- No.18** **LABOR OUTSIDE FORD MOTOR COMPANY**
No.18.1 **AF of L (Including DFL, MFL and Affiliated Unions)**
No.18.2 **Automotive Workers**
No.18.3 **Auto Workers' Union (EMPTY)**
No.18.4 **Cost of Living (EMPTY)**
No.18.5 **Couzens, James (EMPTY)**
No.18.6 **Daily Press (EMPTY)**

Ford Motor Company (cont.)

- No.18.7** **Detroit: Organization and Events (EMPTY)**
- No.18.7.1** **To 1914 (EMPTY)**
- No.18.7.2** **1914-1927**
- No.18.7.3** **1927-1953 (EMPTY)**
- No.18.8** **Employers Associations (EMPTY)**
- No.18.9** **Employment and Unemployment (EMPTY)**
- No.18.9.1** **In Detroit**
- No.18.9.2** **In U.S.A. (EMPTY)**
- No.18.10** **Espionage**
- No.18.11** **Flint (EMPTY)**
- No.18.12** **Ideas and Attitudes ((EMPTY)**
- No.18.13** **Living Conditions (EMPTY)**
- No.18.14** **Murphy, Frank (EMPTY)**
- No.18.15** **Other Plants (EMPTY)**
- No.18.16** **Police Attitudes and Incidents**
- No.18.17** **Pontiac (EMPTY)**
- No.18.18** **Racial and Group Discrimination**
- No.18.19** **Relief Agencies**
- No.18.20** **Strikes**
- No.18.21** **Unemployment Insurance (EMPTY)**
- No.18.22** **Union Organization**
- No.18.23** **Wages**
- No.18.24** **Work Conditions (EMPTY)**
- No.18.24.1** **Factory (EMPTY)**
- No.18.24.2** **Employer Devices: Time Studies, Speedup, Etc. (Empty)**
- No.18.25** **World War I (EMPTY)**
- No.18.25.1** **Effect: 1914-1917 (EMPTY)**
- No.18.25.2** **War Condition Activities**
- No.18.25.3** **Reconversion Period (EMPTY)**
- No.18.26** **NRA**

No.19 **LINCOLN MOTOR COMPANY**

No.20 **MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES**

APPENDIX TO ACCESSION 572

Introduction

Between 1952 and 1954, documents were selected by Allan Nevins' research assistants from accessions held by the Ford Motor Company Archives. The records were withdrawn during research for the three-volume biography of Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company written by Nevins and Frank Hill. The records were filed according to a classification system devised by Nevins..

The Ford Motor Company Archives maintained these selected research papers as Accession 572 (cataloged in the Benson Ford Research Center online catalog as Nevins and Hill Research, Original Documents and Notes series).

The Transaction Form Appendix

To locate an original document removed from an accession and placed within Accession 572:

- Note the transaction number that was written on a flag by Nevins' researchers to indicate a document had been removed. (Note: flags have been replaced with a green card marker.)
- Numbers in the "From" column represent the location from which an original document was removed
- Numbers in the "To" column point to the subject classification assigned to the document by Nevins' researchers. The finding aid is organized according to this subject scheme.

Researchers should note that there are folders and documents in the series that have been missing since the 1960s.