



Finding Aid for

**AUDIO SPEECHES SERIES, 1938-1943**

**Accession 1689**

Finding Aid Published: June 2011



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## OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
[www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)  
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1689

CREATOR: Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943.

TITLE: Audio Speeches series

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1938-1943

QUANTITY: 0.4 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: The series consists of recordings of speeches made by Edsel B. Ford during the period 1938-1943, and include speeches made at the 1940 New York World's Fair, and the Willow Run (Mich.) bomber plant.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The materials are open for research.
- TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS:** Access to the original 78 RPM recordings is restricted. Copies on compact disc are available for reading room use.
- 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:** The materials were donated to The Henry Ford by the Ford Motor Company Archives in 1964.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- These materials form part of the Edsel B. Ford Office Papers record group, which includes:  
- Correspondence; Subject File; Financial records; Personal Files; Reports; and Desk Contents series, 1903-1945, Accession 6  
- Edsel Ford Automotive Scrapbook series, 1911-1925, Accession 660
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1689, Audio Speeches series, Edsel B. Ford Office papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed staff of The Henry Ford, circa 1985.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by staff of The Henry Ford, circa 1985. Finding aid written by staff and published in June 2011.  
  
Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Edsel Bryant Ford was born November 6, 1893 in Detroit, Michigan, the only child of Henry and Clara Bryant Ford. Educated in public schools and the Detroit University School, he was persuaded by his father when he graduated from high school in 1912 to assume responsibilities at the company's new Highland Park Plant rather than going on to college. Edsel was elected secretary of the company on November 1, 1915, and vice-president as well as secretary on January 18, 1917. On December 30, 1918, when Henry Ford resigned as president of Ford Motor Company, Edsel was named president effective January 1, 1919, a position he would hold for the rest of his life.

Particularly adept in planning, sales, and advertising, Edsel assumed responsibility for the business side of corporate affairs, overseeing, for example, the company's massive expansion from 1919 to 1925. In addition to the functional, Edsel believed an automobile could be beautiful. After the company purchased Lincoln Motor Company in 1921, he took charge of Lincoln design and marketed Lincolns with customized coachwork by leading American and European designers. He introduced and was instrumental in the design of the Model A in 1929, the Lincoln Zephyr in 1936, the Mercury in 1938, and the Lincoln Continental in 1940. Edsel had a lifelong enthusiasm for aviation and was a major sponsor of Admiral Richard E. Byrd's flights over the South Pole in 1919 and the North Pole in 1926. After the Stout Metal Airplane Company was absorbed by the Ford Motor Company in 1925, he encouraged the design of a tri-motor airplane and fostered an annual Air Reliability Tour to promote dependable flying. He also encouraged Ford Motor Company's participation in events such as the World's Fairs of the 1930s.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Audio Speeches series is comprised of eleven 78 RPM phonograph records. The majority of the recordings are of speeches made by Edsel B. Ford during the period 1938-1943 including speeches made at the 1940 New York World's Fair, and the Willow Run (Mich.) bomber plant. Also included is a recording of Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra performing the Hungarian Rhapsody.

## **ARRANGEMENT**

The recordings are arranged chronologically.

## **SUBJECT TERMS**

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943.

Ford Motor Company--Presidents.

Ford Motor Company --Management.

Ford Motor Company--Public relations.

Ford Motor Company. Willow Run Bomber Plant.

Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)

United States. Navy Dept.

New York World's Fair (1939-1940)

### Subjects

Automobile driver education

Automobile industry and trade

Exhibitions--United States.

Radio programs

Used cars

World War, 1939-1945

Ford Sunday Evening Hour (Radio program)

### Genre and Form

Compact discs.

Sound recordings.

Speeches.

## CONTAINER LIST

<b>Box no.</b>	<b>Description</b>
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### **Box 1**

Used Car Exchange Week, WABC, 3 March 1938  
Pan American Dinner, WCA, 12 October 1940  
Opening of Navy School of Dearborn, Michigan, WEA, 15 January 1941  
Safe Driving, WABC, 29 May 1941 (Parts I and II)  
Safe Driving, WABC, 29 May 1941 (Part III)  
Ford Sunday Evening Hour, WABC, 7 December 1941  
First Willow Run Bomber Plant Rally, WJZ, 12 September 1942  
Army, Navy "E" Award, Aircraft Engine Division, Ford Motor Company, WJZ, 12  
March 1943  
The Ford Good Drivers' League, undated (Includes a personal address by Edsel Ford)  
Ford Art Museum, undated  
Hungarian Rhapsody, Number 2 by Liszt, undated