Finding Aid for

AUGUSTUS DEGENER PAPERS, 1905-1926
Accession 187

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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 187

CREATOR: Degener, Augustus

TITLE: Augustus Degener papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1905-1926

QUANTITY: 1 folder

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: Augustus Degener worked with Henry Ford on the "999" racer and on steel heat-treatment processes. His papers contain notes on the early years of Ford Motor Company, architectural drawings and information concerning the fifteen millionth Model T motor.
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The collection is open for research

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: Ford Motor Company donation, 1964

RELATED MATERIALS: Part of the Small Accessions collection at The Henry Ford

PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 187, Augustus Degener papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, March 1964.

DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Ford Motor Company Archives staff in March 1964.


Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.
HISTORICAL NOTE

Augustus Degener, born in Germany, worked with Henry Ford and C. Harold Wills in 1902 on building the "999" racer. As a machinist and draftsman, Degener was one of the first men hired a year later to work for the Ford Motor Company. In 1906 Degener, Wills, and John Wandersee began experimenting on the heat treatment of steel. They developed significant vanadium steel products for the Model T, solving the problem of strength in lightness, a key component of the vehicle.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers contain biographical notes, Degener's recollections of important events in the early years of the Ford Motor Company, notes listing men working for the company between 1902 and 1908, metallurgy notes and data, a 1927 document regarding the fifteen millionth Model T motor, and a photostat copy of an architectural drawing of the Jobbing Foundry at the Fordson Plant, Ford Motor Company, 1926.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate
Degener, Augustus
Ford Motor Company

Subjects
Ford Motor Company--History
Ford Motor Company--Employees
Automobile industry and trade
Automobile industry workers
Metallurgy
Ford Model T automobile
Automobiles, Racing

Genre and Form
Architectural drawings
CONTAINER LIST

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Folder 1

- Sheets from Mr. Degener's diary, 1902-1932 (Lists men working on Park Street at the time. The Park Street location was near Grand River and in back of Parker Webb building)
- Notebook (includes information on alloys, formulas, heat treatments, piston rings, cam shafts, steel, melting and boiling points, metric system, cast iron, babbit metal, bronze, concrete, experiment, hardening steel, aluminum, magnet hardening, lead, and brick)
- Photograph of heat treated vanadium steel, undated
- "Oath of Allegiance," Plant Protection Section (wallet-sized card)
- Photographs of heat-treated metals (8 circular photographs)
- Heat treat data
  - Vanadium, July 26, 1907
  - Colonial steel, undated
- Report of iron tests, undated
- "Carbonizing Test between Houghton and Blaich Carbonizing Material," undated
- Statement concerning the fifteen millionth Model T motor, May 28, 1927 (includes table of Model T motors by millions, giving the number and the date manufactured, from Oct 1, 1908 through May 26, 1927)
- Photostat of Jobbing Foundry at Fordson Plant, December 10, 1926