



Finding Aid for

**CHRONOLOGICAL INFORMATION FILES SUBSERIES, 1863-1958
(BULK 1950-1956)
Accession 902**

Finding Aid Published: February 2012



Electronic conversion of this finding aid was funded by a grant from the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET)
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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 902

CREATOR: Ford Motor Company. Archives. Oral History Section.

TITLE: Chronological information files subseries

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1863-1958

BULK DATES: 1950-1956

QUANTITY: 1.6 cubic ft. and 5 card files

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Owen W. Bombard headed the Oral History Section of the Ford Motor Company in the 1950s. The Chronological information files subseries contains chronological histories of Ford Motor Company and the life and interests of Henry Ford.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The series 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 Archives donation, 1964.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:
Part of the Owen W. Bombard information files records series, which includes:
- Subject information files subseries series, Accession 903
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 902, Chronological information files subseries, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, April 1964 and reprocessed by Benson Ford Research Center staff in December 2003.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, April 1964, and updated by Benson Ford Research Center staff, December 2003.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, February 2012, and published in February 2012.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Owen W. Bombard, born in 1922 in Au Sable Forks, New York, received undergraduate and masters degrees from New York State College. While working towards a PhD at Columbia University, he trained with Allan Nevins in the Oral History Research Office. Bombard was hired by the Ford Motor Company in 1950 to head an Oral History Section designed to enrich the historical record already housed in the newly formed Ford Motor Company Archives. The mission of the section, according to a 1952 Bombard speech to the American Historical Association, was "to increase the quantity and quality of historical sources – to reduce the number of 'blank spots' which have forced both management and scholars to make decisions or draw conclusions based on fragmentary documentation." When the project was concluded in 1958, Bombard continued working for the Ford Motor Company, serving in various public relations departments.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Chronological information files subseries, 1863-1958 (1.6 cubic ft. and 5 card files), is comprised of several sets of chronological histories of the Ford Motor Company and the life of Henry Ford. Researchers should note that there is much overlap among the sets and that the Main Chronologies are the most thoroughly organized. The **Main Chronologies subsubseries** includes files arranged around Greenfield Village, Henry Ford, and the Ford Motor Company. The latter is primarily organized by function, and includes aviation, branch operations, engineering, finance, industrial relations, legal, manufacturing, public relations, purchasing, and sales. The **Miscellaneous Chronologies subsubseries** is comprised of two sets. Subjects in the first set include Ford Motor Company Archives, Henry Ford and camping, Edsel Ford, Greenfield Village, Henry and racing, Ford residences and Ford trips. Subjects in the second include Ford firsts, Ford employees, 1904-1953, industrial relations, northern Michigan operations, radio broadcasting and a set of files prepared by Virgil LaMarre of the Ford Motor Company News Bureau. In addition to these various sets of files, there is a **Card Files subsubseries**, which is comprised of handwritten and typewritten notes. The first box relates primarily to the company; a second box is chronological, including Henry Ford itineraries; and a third box relates to Henry Ford.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Bombard, Owen W., 1922-
Ford, Henry, 1863-1947
Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943
Ford family
Ford Motor Company. Archives. Oral History Section.
Henry Ford (Organization)

Subjects

Automobile industry and trade
Automobile factories
Assembly-line methods
Automobile industry workers
Ford Motor Company--History
Ford Motor Company--Employees
Ford Motor Company--Industrial relations
Ford Motor Company--Public relations
Industry and education
Aircraft industry
Industrialists
Oral history
Pacifism
Philanthropists
Radio--History
Camping

Genre or Form

Chronologies

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

- Main chronologies
 - Greenfield Village
 - Henry Ford
 - 1863-1903 (2 folders)
 - 1903-1947 (3 folders)
 - History of the Ford Motor Company
 - Aviation
 - Branch operations, Domestic and Foreign (4 folders)
 - Communications
 - Davis, J. R.
 - Engineering
 - Finance
 - Government relations (peacetime)

Box 2

- Industrial relations
- Legal
- Lincoln Motor Company
- Manufacturing
- Organization and administration
- Plant engineering
- Production
- Public relations
- Purchasing
- Raw materials
- Sales (2 folders)
- Salvage and repair
- Successor to Model T
- Tractors
- Traffic
- Foreign
 - England
 - France
 - Germany

Box 3

- Miscellaneous chronologies, set 1
 - Archives (Ford Motor Company)
 - Camping
 - Edsel Ford
 - Ford, general (information from Cameron papers, Accession 1159)

Greenfield Village (2 folders)
Racing
Residences and trips (2 folders)

Box 4

Miscellaneous chronologies, set 2
Automobile and truck regulations, 1922-1957
Chronology ("obsolete" handwritten on label)
Employees, payroll, 1904-1935 and executives, 1953
Edsel division (2 folders)
Ford facts and figures, 1953
Ford firsts, 1906-1955
Ford, Henry, early life to formation of company
General history
Industrial relations
Manufacturing, production, and plant expansion, 1903-1915
Northern Michigan operations
Plants (3 folders)
Radio broadcasting
Recession and rebirth outline
Station wagon bodies
Selden patent suit, part two
Virgil LaMarre prepared material (Ford Motor Company news bureau), circa 1950
Aviation
Biographies
Employment
Ford, Henry
Ford firsts
History
Miscellaneous
Natural resources
Plant facts
Production
Wage rates
World War II

Box 5 (card file)

Card files
Ford Motor Company
Branch operations
Domestic
Foreign
Engineering
Brakes
Engines

- Gauges
- Rear-engine auto
- Self-starter and styling
- Finance
 - Banking
 - Currency plan
 - Detroit loans
 - Statements
 - Taxes
- Government regulation peacetime
 - National Recovery Act
- Industrial relations
 - Bonus plan
 - Commissaries
 - Insurance
 - Investment plan
 - Labor
 - Publications
 - Sociological department
 - Training
 - Wages and hours

Box 6 (card file)

- Legal
 - Law suits
- Lincoln Motor Company
- Manufacturing
 - Body
 - By-products
 - Cements
 - Glass
- Marine operations
- Organization and administration
 - General
 - Officers and directors
 - Stocks
- Plant engineering
 - General
 - Assembly line
 - World War II
 - Armored vehicles
 - Aircrafts and gliders
 - Chronologies

Box 7 (card file)

- Production
 - General
 - Eight cylinder
 - Mercury
 - Model A
 - Model T
 - Six cylinder
 - Trucks and buses
 - World War I
 - Tanks
 - Textiles
 - Tires
 - Village industries
- Public relations
 - General
 - Exhibitions
 - Racing
- Purchasing
- Radio
- Raw materials
 - Iron
 - Rubber
 - Paint
 - Paper
 - Parts
 - Plastics
 - Steel
- Sales
 - General
 - Advertising
 - Dealer organization
 - Prices
 - Service
 - Used cars
- Salvage and repair
- Tractors

Box 8 (card file)

- Chronologies card files
 - By date, 1921 to 1924 and after 1925
 - Ford itineraries

Box 9 (card file)

- Ford biographical
 - General
 - Awards and tributes
 - Antiquarian
 - Edison Institute Museum
 - Sudbury, Massachusetts
 - Ways Station, Georgia
 - Wayside Inn
 - Woodchuck Lodge
 - Educator
 - General
 - Trade schools
 - Village schools
 - Experimenter
 - Rubber and soybeans
 - Family
 - Farmer
 - Financier
 - Health
 - Miscellaneous
 - Employment
 - Endorsements
 - Presidential boom
 - Racing
 - Royalty
 - Travel
 - Muscle Shoals
 - Naturalist
 - Pacifist
 - Philanthropist
 - General
 - Henry Ford Hospital
 - Politician
 - Publisher
 - Public life
 - Radio
 - Railroader