



Finding Aid for

FRANK VIVIAN PAPERS, 1907-1950 (Bulk 1940-1950)

Accession 89

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
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 89

CREATOR: Vivian, Frank, 1885-

TITLE: Frank Vivian papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1907-1950

BULK DATES: 1940-1950

QUANTITY: 0.4 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Frank Vivian worked for the Ford Motor Company for a number of years at the Richmond, California plant, and was personally acquainted with Henry and Edsel Ford. His papers include correspondence, administrative material, photographs, published pieces, and clippings.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The papers are 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:
- See also Frank Vivian oral history, Owen W. Bombard series, Accession 65.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 89, Frank Vivian papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives, circa 1956.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives, April 1956, and published in April 2011.
- Finding aid written by Stephanie Soule, March 2011, and published in June 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Frank Vivian was born in San Francisco, California in 1885. He worked as a plumber, steamfitter, and in construction until 1913 when he joined the San Francisco branch of the Ford Motor Company. Vivian held a number of positions with Ford in California including shipping foreman, superintendent of the assembly plant, head of factory service, and lastly, power engineer at the Richmond plant. In 1915, as head of the Ford exhibit at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, he came in daily contact with Henry and Edsel Ford and other members of the Ford party. From that time on, he fielded personal requests from Henry Ford, including the purchase of antique items for the Edison Institute (now The Henry Ford). During World War II, Vivian personally purchased American flags that were placed on the combat vehicles that were shipped from the Richmond plant to overseas battlefields. Vivian retired from Ford Motor Company in 1952.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers, roughly organized by topic, contain correspondence, administrative material, photographs, published pieces, and clippings. Subjects include documentation of Ford Motor Company Richmond, California plant production methods and 1915 wage scales; Vivian's World War II activities, awards, photographs and clippings; documentation of the acquisition of a collection of antiques known as the Wohlbruck collection purchased on behalf of Henry Ford; photographs of Vivian with Henry Ford, Henry Ford II, and others (including a group portrait of Henry Ford, Edsel Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Thomas Edison visiting Luther Burbank's home in Santa Rosa, California); and a few documents relating to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, 1939-1940. Printed materials include a brochure on the Richmond, California assembly plant and a luncheon program for one hundred car dealers and western branch dealers who sold more than 200 cars in May and June of 1940.

ARRANGEMENT

The folders are arranged alphabetically by subject.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Vivian, Frank, 1885-

Ford Motor Company--Management.

Ford Motor Company--Exhibitions.

Ford Motor Company--Public Relations.

Meetings or Events

Golden Gate International Exposition (1939-1940: San Francisco, Calif.)

Subjects

Automobile industry and trade--California.

Automobile factories--California.

Exhibitions—California--20th century.

Flags--United States

Process control

World War, 1939-1945

Antiques

Genre and Form

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

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

Box 1

- Antiques
- Correspondence, General
- Photographs, General
- Publications
- Richmond Plant
 - Clippings
 - Miscellaneous and Facts, 1936-1940
 - Production
 - 1915 Wage Scale
 - Production Notebook, [1925?]
- San Francisco World's Fair, 1939
- World War II
 - Clippings
 - Correspondence and Notes
 - Photographs