



Finding Aid for

**Gordon Eliot White Auto Racing Reference Collection, 1932-2002**

**Accession 2013.143**

DRAFT Finding Aid Published: May 2016



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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)  
[research.center@thehenryford.org](mailto:research.center@thehenryford.org)

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2013.143

**CREATOR:** White, Gordon Eliot

**TITLE:** Gordon Eliot White Auto Racing Reference Collection

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1894-2002

**BULK DATES:** 1932-2000

**QUANTITY:** 9.5 cubic ft.

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in English.

**ABSTRACT:** The Gordon Eliot White Auto Racing Reference Collection is comprised of periodicals and microfilmed materials, such as AAA contest boards and scrapbooks, relating to automobile racing from 1894-2002.

## **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:** Donation, 2013.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford  
-Gordon Eliot White collection of Leo Goossen papers (1918-1934), Accession 2012.120  
  
-Gordon Eliot White collection of Leo Goossen drawings, Accession 2013.142
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 2013.143, Gordon Eliot White auto racing reference collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Janice Unger, June, 2015.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Janice Unger, May 2015, and published in May 2015.  
  
Finding aid written by Janice Unger, July 2015, and published in September 2015.  
  
Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Gordon Eliot White grew up in New Jersey, and became a lifelong racing fan from a young age. White bought an antique Kurtis midget car with an Offenhauser engine in 1978, and through research and restoration, he learned more of the history of Harry A. Miller and the companies that produced the Offenhauser engines. In the 1980s, White began collecting documents relating to the history of automobile racing, including thousands of blueprints created by Leo Goossen, and making the information available to researchers. Gordon White, after retiring from journalism, worked as the Auto Racing Advisor to the Smithsonian Institution and penned several books on the history of automobile racing.

Note content adapted from the following sources:

- “A Visit with Gordon Eliot White.” Hot Rod Online website.  
<http://www.hotrodhotline.com/feature/guestcolumnists/richardscorner/09gordonwhite/>  
Accessed 27 May 2015.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Gordon Eliot White auto racing reference collection is arranged in 3 series: the **Publications Series**, the **Reports Series**, and the **Microfilm Series**.

The **Publications Series** (7.65 cubic ft.) contains three subseries. The **Periodicals and Clippings subseries** is made up of periodicals and newspaper and magazine clippings. They are organized alphabetically by the periodical name, then chronologically with each title. The **Programs subseries** is composed of 7 Indianapolis 500 race programs dating from 1957 to 1966. The **Yearbooks (Indianapolis 500) subseries** contains 7 printed yearbooks from the Indianapolis 500, from 1952-1978.

The **Reports Series** (0.20 cubic ft.) is made up of one report entitled “Chrysler Corporation Engineering Division Technical Report, Engine Performance for Models A311-A311-8, October 1953.”

The **Microfilm Series** contains 111 reels and is divided into three subseries. The **Periodicals subseries** contains 59 reels of scanned periodicals. They are organized alphabetically by the periodical title, and then in chronological order. For reels with the same starting year, they have been placed in order of their completion date. The **Association Records subseries** is made up of 39 reels containing records of the American Automobile Association (AAA), the International Motor Contest Association (IMCA), and the Northeast Midget Association. The **Other Records subseries** contains 13 reels, and the materials include personal scrapbooks and papers, photograph albums, and some scanned periodicals.

## ARRANGEMENT

### PUBLICATIONS

Periodicals and Clippings  
Programs  
Yearbooks (Indianapolis 500)

### REPORTS

### MICROFILM

Periodicals  
Association Records  
Other Records

## SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate  
White, Gordon Eliot  
American Automobile Association

Events  
Indianapolis Speedway Race  
Vanderbilt Cup Race

Subjects  
Automobile racing  
Midget cars (Automobiles)  
Racetracks (Automobile racing)  
Sprint cars  
Sports car racing  
Stock car racing

Genre and Form  
Microfilms  
Periodicals  
Programs (documents)  
Reports

## CONTAINER LIST

**Box no.**                      **Description**

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### PUBLICATIONS

**Box 1**

**Periodicals and Clippings**

Auto Racing Digest

1974 (2 issues; May, July)

1975 (1 issue; July)

1976 (1 issue; November)

1977 (2 issues; July, September)

1978 (1 issue; September)

Auto Sports, 1963 (4 issues; January-February, March, April, November-December)

Car Life, 1962 (2 issues; August, December)

Cavalcade of Auto Racing

1969 (4 issues; February-March, August, October, November)

1970 (2 issues; July, August)

1971 (4 issues; Spring/Summer Vol. 8 No. 3, October, December-January 1972)

1972 (1 issue; April)

Unknown year (1 issue, undated)

**Box 2**

Circle Track

1982 (4 issues; October-December, Special Oval Track Buyer's Guide)

1983 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

1984 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 3**

1985 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

1986 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 4**

1987 (2 folders; 7 issues; March-August)

1988 (1 issue; March)

1989 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 5**

1990 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

1991 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 6**

1992 (3 folders; 11 issues; January-November)

1993 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 7**

1994 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

1995 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 8**

1996 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

1997 (2 folders; 4 issues; January-April)

2000 (2 issues; November-December)

**Box 9**

Coast Auto Racing and International Speedway News, 1936 (2 folders; 8 issues; March-July)  
Coast Auto Racing and Motor Racing News  
1936 (2 folders; 10 issues; August-December)  
1937 (5 issues; January, April-June)  
Hot Rod Magazine, Drag Racing Special Edition: An Illustrated History, 1981  
Motor Life, 1955 (1 issue; January)  
Motor Sport International, 1966 (1 issue; January)  
Old Car Illustrated  
1975 (2 issues; Fall, Winter)  
1976 (4 issues; Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter)  
1977 (4 issues; March, May, July, November)  
1978 (2 folders; 7 issues; January, March, May, July, September, November, 1978 Yearbook)

**Box 10**

1979 (2 folders; 7 issues; January, March, May, July, September, November, Fall How to Do It Handbook)  
1980 (3 issues; January, March, May)  
Related Paperwork from Box  
Open Wheel  
1981 (2 folders; 6 issues; No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, August, September, December)  
1982 (2 folders; 6 issues; February, April, June, August, October, December)  
1983 (5 issues; February, April, June, August, November)  
1984 (folder 1 of 2; 5 issues; January, March, May, July, September)

**Box 11**

1984 (folder 2 of 2; 1 issue; November)  
1985 (2 folders; 6 issues; January, March, May, July, September, November)  
1986 (2 folders; 7 issues; January, March, May, July, September, November, December)  
1987 (5 issues; February, April, June, August, October, December)  
1988 (2 folders; 11 issues; February-December)

**Box 12**

1989 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)  
1990 (2 folders; 10 issues; February-May, July-December)  
1991 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 13**

1992 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)  
1993 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)  
1994 (folders 1-2 of 3; 10 issues; January-October)

**Box 14**

1994 (folder 3 of 3; 2 issues; November-December)  
1995 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)  
1996 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)  
1997 (folder 1 of 3; 5 issues; January-May)

**Box 15**

1997 (folders 2-3 of 3; 7 issues; June-December)  
1998 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)  
1999 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)

**Box 16**

2000 (3 folders; 12 issues; January-December)  
2001 (2 folders; 9 issues; January, May-December)  
Road & Track Road Test Annuals  
1956  
1957  
1958  
1963  
Speedway Magazine  
1932  
January (contains 6 photocopied pages from magazine)  
March (cover is separated from pages)  
November (cover is separated from pages; also contains photocopies of front cover and 4 pages)  
December (2 copies)  
1933  
February (also contains photocopies of some of the pages)

**Box 17**

April and May (2 issues; April edition is only a photocopy of the table of contents; May edition also contains some photocopies)  
June/July (only contains the front cover)  
Undated issue (missing front cover and first two pages)  
1934  
January (contains some photocopied pages)  
May/June (missing front cover)  
1935, May (contains some photocopied pages)  
Correspondence (regarding obtaining issues and history of the magazine)  
Sports Car (from Sports Car Club of America)  
1958 (2 folders; 8 issues; March/April, May-June, August-December)  
1959 (2 folders; 10 issues; January-February, March/April, June-December)  
Sports Car Graphic  
1961 (1 issue; November; multiple pages and back cover missing)  
1968 (1 issue; February; pages missing)  
Sports Car Illustrated, 1988 (1 issue; January)  
Sports Cars Illustrated  
1956 (1 issue; October)  
1957 (2 folders; 11 issues; January, March-December)

**Box 18**

1958 (7 issues; May-September, November-December)  
1959 (1 issue; September)  
1960 (2 issues; January, December)



1961 (3 issues; January-March)  
Sports Review Motorspeed, 1957 (1 issue; Vol. 17, No. 2)  
Stock Car Racing, 2002 (2 folders; 8 issues; February-July, September-October)  
The Straightpipe, 1958 (2 issues; May-June, July-August)  
Today's Motor Sports  
    1962 (1 issue; October)  
    1963 (1 issue; February)  
USAS Auto Sports, 1964 (2 issues; October-November)

**Box 19**

Assorted Clippings  
Assorted Photocopies

**Programs**

Indianapolis 500  
    1957  
    1960  
    1961  
    1962  
    1963  
    1964  
    1966

**Box 20**

**Yearbooks (Indianapolis 500)**

1952  
1953  
1964  
1965  
1966  
1968  
1978

**REPORTS**

Chrysler Corporation Engineering Division Technical Report, Engine Performance  
for Models A311-A311-8, October 1953 (2 folders)

**Box 21**

**MICROFILM**

**Periodicals (also see Other Records subseries)**

The Bergen Herald, July 1933-November 1934 (Roll #1; publication would later  
become National Auto Racing News and later National Speed Sport News)  
Coast Auto Racing, Vol. 1, 2, and 3 (1 reel; undated)  
Illustrated Speedway News  
    1938-1942, Reel #1  
    1946-1947, Reel #2  
    1948-1949, Reel #3  
    1950-1951, Reel #4  
    1952-1953, Reel #5  
    1954-1955, Reel #6

1956-1957, Reel #7  
1958-1959, Reel #8  
1959-1960, Reel #9  
1961, Reel #10  
1962-1963, Reel #11  
1964-1965, Reel #12  
1966-1967, Reel #13  
1968-1969, Reel #14  
1970-1971, Reel #15  
1972-1973, Reel #16  
1974-1975, Reel #17  
1976-1977, Reel #18  
1978-1979, Reel #19  
1980-1981, Reel #20  
1982-1984, Reel #21

National Auto Racing News (publication was previously named the Bergen Herald and would later become National Speed Sport News)

November 1934-December 1937, Reel #2  
January 1938-December 1939, Reel #3  
1940-1942, Reel #3  
1943-1946, Reel #5

**Box 22**

1944-1945, Reel #6  
National Speed Sport News (publication formerly known as the Bergen Herald and National Speed Sport News)

1947-1948, Reel #7  
1949-1950, Reel #8  
1951-1952, Reel #9  
1953-1954, Reel #10  
1955-1956, Reel #11  
1957-1958, Reel #12  
1959-1960, Reel #13  
1961-1962, Reel #14  
1963-1964, Reel #15  
1965-1966, Reel #16  
1967-1968, Reel #17  
1969-1970, Reel #18  
1971-1972, Reel #19  
1973-1974, Reel #20  
1975-1976, Reel #21  
1977-1978, Reel #22  
1979, Reel #23  
1980, Reel #24  
1981, Reel #24  
1982, Reel #26  
July-December 1983, Reel #28

**Box 23**

January-June 1984, Reel #29A  
July-December 1984, Reel #29B

1985, Reel #30  
1986, Reel #31  
1987, Reel #32

National Speedway Weekly, 1934-1935 (1 reel)  
Promoter's Papers, etc.: Greenville, O. 1937-1940; Speedway Sparks, 1939-1940;  
Raceweek Pictorial, 1950; Speedway Times, 1940; Coast Auto Racing News,  
1935-1936 (1 reel)

Speed Age Magazine  
1947-1952, Roll #1  
1952-1955, Roll #2  
1955-1958, Roll #3

**Association Records (also see Other Records subseries)**

American Automobile Association (AAA) Contest Boards Records  
1894-1955, Reel #21 (Bulletins, 1926-50 and 1955; European races, 1894-  
1928; champ. drivers, Board minutes)  
1894-1955, Reel #22 (Bulletins, 1927-1930; results, 1894-1933; rule books,  
1909-1955)  
1909-1950, Reel #23 (Sanction books, 1909-1950; photos)  
1909-1955, Reel #19 (Midgets, 1950-1955; summaries, 1912-20; records,  
1909-1914; Board records and releases, 1926-1929)  
1919-1940, Reel #1 (Indianapolis)  
1930-1932, Reel #5 (Record runs)  
1932-1933, Reel #6 (Payoff sheets big cars, 1932-33; Elgin road races, 1933)  
1933-1935, Reel #7 (Big cars, payoff sheets)  
1933-1999, Reel #4 (Sports cars, 1949-1955; Pikes Peak, 1933-1977; stock  
cars, 1939-1999)  
1936-1937, Reel #3 (Vanderbilt Cup)  
1936-1938, Reel #8 (Big cars, payoff sheets)  
1936-1939, Reel #13 (midgets, payoff sheets)  
1939, Reel #14 (payoff sheets, midgets)  
1939-1941, Reel #9 (big cars)  
1941-1955, Reel #2 (Indianapolis)  
1946-1947, Reel #10 (big cars, sanction records)  
1946-1955, Reel #24 (AAA yearbooks, 1946-1955; Charles Betts' records;  
racing yearbook, 1948)  
1947-1948, Reel #15 (midgets, payoff sheets)  
1948, Reel #16 (midgets, payoff sheets)  
1948-1949, Reel #17 (midgets, payoff sheets)  
1948-1950, Reel #11 (big cars, payoff sheets)  
1949-1950, Reel #18 (midgets, payoff sheets)  
1951-1955, Reel #12 (Spring cars, 1951-1955; midgets, 1935-36)  
1952-1955, Reel #20 (midgets, payoff sheets)

International Motor Contest Association (IMCA) Records

1915-1948, Reel #1 (1915 correspondence; 1935-1942; 1945-1948 sprints;  
1947 stocks)  
1915-1963, Reel #7 (1961-1962 midgets, sprints, stocks; 1963 sprints; 1915-  
1918 correspondence)  
1949-1950, Reel #2 (1949-1950 sprints; 1950 stocks)  
1951-1952, Reel #3 (1951-1952 sprints; 1951-1952 stocks)  
1953-1954, Reel #4 (1953 big cars; 1954 stocks)  
1955-1957, Reel #5 (1955-1956 sprints; 1957 stocks)  
1958-1960, Reel #6 (1958-1960 sprints; 1958-1960 stocks)  
1963-1964, Reel #8 (1963-1965 sprints, stocks; 1963-1964 midgets)  
1965-1967, Reel #9 (1965-1967 midgets, big cars, stock cars; 1968 sprints,  
stocks)  
1968-1977, Reel #10 (1968 midgets; 1969-1977 sprints and stocks)

Northeast Midget Association

Reel #1, undated  
Unlabeled, undated

Shorty Pritzbur American Automobile Association (AAA) Records

1895-1926, Reel #1

**Box 24**

1923-1973, Reel #3 (includes big car records and Philadelphia zone)  
1930-1973, Reel #2 (includes AAA bulletins and Jendras' records of Lanham,  
MD and Uline Arena)

**Other Records (includes scrapbooks, clippings, and photo albums; reels may  
also include some periodicals and association records)**

Castor Oil Fumes #1, 1965-1984  
Charles Betts Scrapbooks, 1920-1950 clippings, Philadelphia area  
Diazo Dup. Miller, undated  
Doc Conaway Photo Album, 1937-1950 Midgets, Indy, Big Cars  
George Flemke Scrapbook, 1948-1950; Walter Cresbaugh Racing Records,  
1940-1947, ARA, ARDC (filmed courtesy ARDC)  
James Kline papers  
Myke Collins  
Reel #1, East Coast Racing Programs  
Reel #2, Scrapbooks: Drumheller, Hillegas; Magazines: National  
Speedway Weekly, Speedway News (1932), Speed and Speedway

**Box 25**

Pappy Hough Scrapbooks  
Volumes 1-7, Reel #1, undated  
Volumes 8-11, Reel #2, undated  
Volumes 12-17, Reel #3, undated  
Reel, #4, undated  
Studebaker "Wheel," Zeke Meyer's 1933 scrapbook