



Finding Aid for

P. E. MARTIN PAPERS, 1880-1943
Accession 823

Finding Aid Published: December 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 823

CREATOR: Martin, P.E. (Peter Edmund), 1882-1944

TITLE: P. E. Martin papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1880-1943

QUANTITY: 1.2 cubic ft. and 1 oversize box

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: Peter Edmund Martin was an early employee and later executive of the Ford Motor Company. His papers consist of photographs of influential Ford employees as well as correspondence, production totals and personal notes on the early years of Ford Motor Company.

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
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 823, P. E. Martin papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Amalia Ash and Carol Wittaker at the Benson Ford Research Center, April 2007.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Amalia Ash and Carol Wittaker at the Benson Ford Research Center in April 2007.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, December 2011, and published in December 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Peter Edmund Martin was an early employee and later executive of the Ford Motor Company. His career at Ford Motor Company spanned from 1903 as a worker in the Experimental Room until his retirement in 1941 as the Vice President and Director of the company. Known as P.E. Martin in Ford Motor Company records, he was more commonly referred to as "Pete" or "Ed".

Born on April 17, 1882 in Wallaceburg Ontario, Martin was ten years old when his family moved to Detroit. At the age of twelve he began work in a box factory and on December 15, 1903, he was hired by the Ford Motor Company to work in the experimental room at the Piquette Avenue plant. In October of 1906 Martin became an assistant to Thomas Walburn, then in charge of all Ford manufacturing plants. In 1908, Charles Sorensen became Martin's assistant and the professional careers of the two would be linked for the next thirty years.

Martin was an integral part of the early success of the Ford Motor Company and its domination of the world automobile market through his management of the launch of the Model T at the Piquette plant and his assistance with development of the first moving assembly line at Highland Park. Martin became the general superintendent of production in 1919 and the first vice president of manufacturing in 1924.

P. E. Martin and his wife Rose Louise had fourteen children, ten of which survived adulthood. Martin resigned his position as Vice-President and Director of the Ford Motor Company on July 17, 1941 and died at his home in Detroit on October 8, 1944.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The P.E. Martin papers consist of two series. The **Photographs Series**, 1880-1943 (0.8 cubic ft. and 1 oversize box), includes three subseries. The framed subseries contains a portrait of Henry and Edsel Ford and the folders subseries includes individual photographs of various Ford Motor Company events in which Martin was present and involved. The folders subseries also includes many group photos of Ford Motor Company executives through the decades. These have very little identification information although Martin and Charles Sorensen are identifiable in many of the images. The albums subseries includes photographs housed together in albums and covering general Ford Motor Company history, the Cork, Ireland plant and the Cork city fire of 1921 and a humorous book of caricature portraits of Ford executives and branch managers including Henry and Edsel Ford, Charles Sorensen, William J. Cameron and many others. The **Papers Series**, 1922-1941 (0.4 cubic ft.) includes correspondence dating from 1930 and production totals for early Ford models, from the original Model A in 1903 to the late Model A of 1928. Also included is Martin's personal notebook from the late 1920s in which he has made notes about various Ford products and facilities including the Stout Airplane plant, Tri-Motor airplanes, the Rouge River and Highland Park plants, payroll and employee figures, Henry Ford Trade School, information about glass and steel production, and various figures pertaining to the Model T and Model A. Two reports featured in the collection are the Report on the Mercury Power Investigation (1940-1941) and the 1937 Ford Specifications and Engineering Features.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Martin, P. E. (Peter Edmund), 1882-1944

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

Ford Edsel, 1893-1943

Sorensen, Charles E. (Charles Emil), 1881-1968

Ford Motor Company. Highland Park Plant.

Ford Motor Company. Rough River Plant.

Henry Ford Trade School

Stout Metal Airplane Company

Subjects

Automobile factories--Ireland--Cord

Automobile industry and trade

Automobile industry and trade--Statistics

Ford automobile

Ford Model T automobile

Ford Model A automobile

Ford Three-engined Monoplane (Transport plane)

Ford Tri-Motor

Geographic

Cork (Ireland: County)

Genre and Form

Caricatures

Photographs

Photograph albums

Portraits

CONTAINER LIST

Box no. **Description**

Box 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

Framed

Henry and Edsel Ford portrait, circa 1920

Folders

3,000,000th Ford V8, 1936 (Three Millionth Ford V8)

Airplanes, Ford

 B-24 Liberator, 1943

 Flivver (Harry Brooks), 1928

 Tri-Motor, 1936

Branch managers barbecue, 1940

Detroit Yacht Club, undated

Evolution of the Ford car, 1937

Ford-Ferguson tractor, undated

Freighter Henry Ford II construction, 1924

Plants, Ford

 Airplane Engine Plant groundbreaking, 1940

 Highland Park M-4 Tank manufacture, 1942

 Piquette, 1906

 Rouge Power Plant (starting generators), 1939

Box 2 (oversize)

25,000,000th Ford, 1937 (Twenty five Millionth Ford)

Ford, Henry and Edsel, 1880s-1940s

Ford Motor Company

 Executives, 1910s-1940s (4 folders)

 Factory employees, 1902-1906

Box 3

Albums

Cork Plant and Cork City fire, 1921

Ford close-ups (FMC executive and branch manager caricatures), circa 1930s

Historical Ford Motor Company image compilation, circa 1880s-1930s

Martin, Sorensen and other executives, 1939

Box 4

PAPERS

Clippings, undated

Correspondence regarding FMC production totals, 1930

Ford Educational Library pamphlets, 1922 and 1925

Notebook, circa 1928-1929 (Martin's personal accounts and reference information for Ford Industries; original and photocopy)

Reports

 Ford specifications and engineering features, 1937

 Mercury power investigation, 1940-1941