



Finding Aid for

**TOPICAL ALBUMS FOR HENRY FORD SERIES, 1918-1930
Accession 34**

Finding Aid Published: February 2012



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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: 34

CREATOR: Ford Motor Company. Engineering Photographic
Department.

TITLE: Topical albums for Henry Ford series

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1918-1930

QUANTITY: 2.2 cubic ft. and 1 oversize box

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: The series contains two subseries: the General photograph albums subseries and the Camping albums subseries. The General photograph albums subseries contains photographs of Henry Ford's mother's family, Fair Lane, and the ships M/S Henry Ford II and M/S Benson Ford. The Camping subseries contains photographs of Henry Ford's camping excursions with Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone and John Burroughs.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The photographs are open for research. Negatives are restricted; researchers should consult with reading room staff for details.
- 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:
Forms part of the Engineering Photographic Department (Ford Motor Company) photographs subgroup, which includes:
- Photographs for the company series; Accession 189
- Photographs for Henry Ford series; Accessions 188, 1891, 548
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 34, Topical albums for Henry Ford series, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff, date unknown.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Finding Aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, February 2012, and published by Benson Ford Research Center, February 2012.

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

HISTORICAL NOTE

Between 1915 and 1924, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs, calling themselves the Four Vagabonds, embarked on a series of summer camping trips. The idea was initiated in 1914 when Ford and Burroughs visited Edison in Florida and toured the Everglades. The notion blossomed the next year when Ford, Edison and Firestone were in California for the Panama-Pacific Exposition. They visited Luther Burbank and then drove from Riverside to San Diego. In 1916, Edison invited Ford, Burroughs and Harvey Firestone to journey through the New England Adirondacks and Green Mountains; Ford, however, was unable to join the group. In 1918, Ford, Edison, Firestone, his son Harvey, Burroughs, and Robert DeLoach of the Armour Company caravanned through the mountains of West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia. Subsequent trips were made in 1919 to the Adirondacks and New England; in 1920 to John Burroughs' home and cabin retreat into the Catskill Mountains; in 1921 to West Virginia and northern Michigan; and in 1923 to northern Michigan. In 1924, the group journeyed to northern Michigan by train, gathered again at Henry and Clara Ford's Wayside Inn in Massachusetts, and visited President Coolidge at his home in Vermont. The trips were well organized and equipped. There were several heavy passenger cars and vans to carry the travelers, servants, and equipment; Ford Motor Company photographers also accompanied the group. The 1919 trip involved fifty vehicles, including two designed by Ford: a kitchen camping car with a gasoline stove and built-in icebox presided over by a cook and a heavy touring car mounted on a truck chassis with compartments for tents, cots, chairs, electric lights, etc. On later trips, there was a huge, folding round table equipped with a lazy susan that seated twenty. After 1924, the growing fame of the campers brought too much public attention and the trips were discontinued.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

There are two subseries in the series: General photograph albums subseries, 1924-1930 (0.8 cubic ft.) and Camping albums subseries, 1918-1924 (1.6 cubic ft. and 1 oversized box).

The General photograph albums subseries is comprised of two intact photograph albums and one album of detached pages. The latter, of the Litogot Family, has been unbound and the images placed in folders. These are primarily portraits of various members of the Litogot family (Henry Ford's mother was born Mary Litogot) and images of the interior of the house built by Henry's uncle, Sapharia Litogot, in the year 1868. A second album holds thirty-two undated photographs of Santa Claus and the workshop Henry and Clara created on the grounds of their Fair Lane estate. There are views of the log cabin in the woods and Santa making toys, loading his sleigh, trimming an outdoor Christmas tree, and entering a chimney. A third album, called "Ships," consists of twenty-six prints of the Ford Motor Company twin freighters, the M/S Henry Ford II and the M/S Benson Ford. The Henry Ford II images include the launching of the ship in Lorain, Ohio in March of 1924 and dignitaries on the launching stand. Among those on the flag-draped platform were William B. Mayo, a chief Ford engineer, and engineer P. E. (Pete) Martin. The Benson Ford was launched in April of that same year. Images include a photograph of a line drawing and before and after pictures of the launch.

The Camping albums subseries is comprised of eight albums of 5 x 7 inch black and white photographic prints, several folders of loose photographic prints, and 1.2 cubic ft. of negatives. The albums document camping trips of the Vagabonds in 1918 (2 albums), 1919, 1920, 1921 (2 albums), 1923 and 1924. The loose prints document trips in 1919, 1920, 1921 (2 folders), 1923, and 1924. The negatives cover trips taken in 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923 and 1924. Included are formal and informal images of Ford, Edison, Firestone, and Burroughs; campsites and camping activities; families, guests, visitors and staff; the camping caravan on the road; and scenic views. Researchers should note that there is overlap among the images in the albums.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947
Ford, Benson, 1919-1978
Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943--Travel
Ford, Clara Bryant, 1966-1950--Travel
Burroughs, John, 1837-1921--Travel
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Travel
Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931--Travel
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Travel
Ford family
Litogot family
Litogot, Sapharia, 1833-1878
Mayo, William Benson, 1866-1944
Ford Motor Company. Engineering Photographic Department
Ford Motor Company. Marine operations
Henry Ford II (Ship)
Benson Ford (Ship)
Ford Fleet
Fair Lane (Dearborn, Mich.)
Wayside Inn (Sudbury, Mass.)

Subjects

Cargo ships
Santa Claus
Shipping--Great Lakes
Christmas
Camping
Automobile travel
Vacations
Waterwheels
Ford automobile
Packard automobile
Photographers

Subjects continued

Locomotives
Horsemanship
Tractors
Fishing
Carts & wagons

Geographic

Dearborn (Mich.)
Upper Peninsula (Mich.)
Great Smoky Mountains (N.C. and Tenn.)
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)

Genre and Form

Photographs
Photograph albums
Photographic prints
Genealogies
Portraits
Group portraits
Negatives

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Index with photograph descriptions
Photographs numbers
2277-2300
2301-2325
2326-2351
2352-2653
2654-3131

Box 2

Camping trip photographs
1919
1920
1921 (2 folders)
1923
1924

Box 3

M/S Benson Ford (photograph album)
Santa's workshop at Fair Lane (photograph album)

Box 4 (oversize)

Camping trip photographs (8 small albums)

Box E-1

Camping trips (negatives)
1914
1918
1919

Box E-2

1920
1921

Box E-3

1923
1924