# Automotive History

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Overview

Early inventors

Michigan automotive history starts in the 1890s, when inventors tinkered the idea of self-propelled vehicles. The bicycle, which had acquired wide-spread popularity in the 1880s, inspired auto inventors to explore the concept of self-conveying vehicles. As a result, the earliest, successful auto parts companies had previous experience with bicycle components, rather than wagon and carriage parts.

The desire for mobility led to two early successes. In 1891, a man named William Morrison, constructed an electric carriage that he drove through Des Moines, Iowa. Two years later, 1893, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Frank Duryea exhibited a motorized truck, using an internal combustion engine. Duryea would later manufacture internal combustion vehicles--13 in his first year of operation. 1893 was also the year in which the U.S. Office of Road Inquiry was established (due to pressure from bicyclists) to study the condition of American roads and make recommendations for improvement. Americans were feeling exploratory, fascinated with the idea of traveling about the country on independent schedules. The climate was ripe for inventors and tinkerers; it was a matter of "who" and "when" would build a horseless carriage, not "if."

Consumers

The first companies to produce automobiles for the public market emerged in 1896. Surprisingly, these early auto manufacturers built more electric than gas-powered vehicles.

However, when gas-powered internal combustion engines no longer needed the help of a hand crank to start, then the electric automobile lost ground. The 1912 Cadillac was the first vehicle to have an effective self-starting engine.

Consumers materialized and marketing attempts began almost as soon as manufacturers knew that they had a product to sell. In 1898, William Metzger became the country's first automobile dealer not in the direct employ of a manufacturer with the establishment of his Detroit dealership. Two years later, in 1900, the first National Automobile Show was held in New York City at Madison Square Garden. Approximately 48,000 people visited the 51 exhibitors, consisting of automobile manufacturers and parts supply companies, and saw 300 different models.

Motor City, Michigan

Though Detroit built its wealth and reputation on the automotive industry, Michigan didn't start out as the auto industry capital of the world. Rather, New England was the birthplace of many of...
the early auto companies. However, by 1905, Michigan had solidified its claim as the central location of the industry. Circumstantial coincidences tied Michigan to the emerging auto industry. The state's plentiful natural resources (timber, copper, and iron) had been harvested and depleted, but not before creating fortunes for timber and mining interests.

These capitalists had excess funds for which they were looking for more profitable investment opportunities at the time that Ransom E. Olds needed capital for his fledgling automobile company. Two of these wealthy Michiganders, Edward W. Sparrow and Samuel L. Smith, forged a partnership with Ransom Olds, creating the Olds Motor Works. Another Michigan resident also helped to make Detroit the Motor City: Henry Ford. His tenacity and innovation in the new industry ensured the success of his product. If Olds and Ford had been less successful, the title of Motor City may well have gone to some other city. Ransom Olds and Henry Ford were able to capture the auto market and secure Michigan's central role because of their profitable business philosophy of "low cost, high volume."

In other to maintain low production costs, both Olds and Ford introduced the production line. Henry Ford took the concept of the production line further, refining the actual process used to assemble vehicles. The moving assembly line is one example of his innovations. These improvements were able to increase the cost-effectiveness of vehicle assembly so that the company could reduce the actual retail cost of the car.

Since 1896, it is estimated that over 1,500 automobile makers have operated in the U.S. The sheer number of competitors has resulted in power struggles. Consequently, larger, more powerful companies bought up smaller companies with little market share.

**World War I and the 1920s**

World War I forced the auto industry to slow its production; it was cut in half in order to devote factories to war production. When WW I ended, anticipating a sudden increase in demand, automakers flooded the market with new cars. While the surge in demand remained high for two years, an economic slump in 1920 distressed the industry because of the excess supply and low demand. As history demonstrates, the automobile industry has always been sensitive to economic conditions, like a canary in the coal mine.

Regardless of a slow market, 1920 was a pivotal year for U.S. auto companies. By 1920, automakers were no longer experimenting with design; placing the engine under the hood became standard, as did cable brake systems, steering wheels (as opposed to steering rudders), and combustion engines. At this point in history, most people had at least seen an automobile, even if they did not own one themselves. Cars had become culturally accepted and moreover, American culture began to change to accommodate these new machines.
In 1923, Alfred P. Sloan was appointed president of General Motors, after serving as the company's vice president. Sloan's leadership was largely responsible for GM's decades of success; he introduced marketing techniques that auto companies continue to use. Sloan realized that because more Americans were becoming car owners, the market for first-time buyers was shrinking; cars were no longer novelty items. Dealers needed to persuade buyers that they needed another car. The annual model was one of Sloan's marketing techniques--by changing the cosmetic appearance of the car (and sometimes the technical features), consumers had incentives to buy newer models, to trade up, or add a second car to the family's garage. He expressed his strategy with the catch phrase "a car for every purse and purpose."

Price structure was another of Sloan's innovations; Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick, and Cadillac are the various GM brands, from least to most expensive. In each brand, the top of the line of one brand costs just a little bit less than the lowest priced model of the next expensive line. With this pricing structure, consumers could be convinced to spend a little more to purchase a more prestigious brand of vehicle.

In the mid-twenties, Ford dropped from the nation's top automaker to second place behind General Motors. Ford Motor Company continued to hold its second place ranking until Henry Ford retired in 1945. In 1927, Ford's Model A was introduced to consumers. In 1928, Chrysler acquired Dodge. By 1929, GM, Ford, and Chrysler comprised 75% of annual auto sales in the United States.

American culture experienced extreme and irrevocable change as a result of the automobile's entrance into modern life, beginning in the 1920s. Rural families were no longer isolated from larger communities, which had implications on education, commerce, and agriculture. Urban Americans used their newfound mobility to escape the dirt, noise, and congestion of city life, at least temporarily. Outdoor pursuits, such as camping, hunting, and fishing gained popularity as leisure activities. Indebtedness became an acceptable part of life, both due to the installment buying that had been introduced during the early days of the industry and later through the credit cards issued by gasoline companies.

The growth of suburban communities was another change that American culture experienced; as the suburbs grew and Americans began to commute by car, the electric railways and interurban trains became obsolete. As more Americans began to commute, city congestion and scarce downtown parking meant that businesses moved to city outskirts, where parking lots could be built and congestion was not a concern. Road repairs and improvements became a larger responsibility for local governments; ultimately, a gas tax was levied in order to raise the necessary funds to maintain roads. Tourism developed as a result of the auto industry--camp sites.
and motor lodges, restaurants, and tourist attractions all waited to feed, clothe, and entertain the passing motorist.

**The Auto Industry and Organized Labor**

The Great Depression divested the automobile industry; the many Detroit-area workers employed by the Big Three lost their job security and stability. During the Depression, the city of Detroit added 300 families to the relief rolls each day; a significant number of these families had previously been supported by the relatively high auto industry wages. The auto industry's response to the Depression varied by company, but typically involved wage cuts, layoffs, and increased production speed. In response to these Depression-era measures that many auto parts suppliers instituted, strikes and walk-outs grew more frequent.

The automotive industry and the labor movement share an intertwined history. Small tradesmen's unions were involved in the industry from its inception, but for unskilled auto workers, it would not be until the mid-thirties that a widespread industrial union would take hold. The industrial labor union movement in Detroit owes much of its later success to the earlier presence of the Carriage, Wagon and Automobile Workers and Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). These two union pioneers tried a new approach with automotive workers. While the trade unions already operating united skilled craftsmen, the IWW and the Carriage, Wagon and Automobile Workers were the first to attempt to organize the industry, creating a union that was open to all workers, regardless of trade or skill level. In 1936, the newly organized United Automobile Workers with the Congress of Industrial Organizations enforced a sit-down strike at GM plants in Flint, MI.

By February 1937, GM recognized the UAW as the bargaining agent for its workers. Chrysler recognized UAW shortly after GM did. However, at Ford, the UAW and other unions were not able to organize until 1941.

**Post-WWII**

World War II affected the auto industry much like the First World War; auto production slowed and stopped in order to provide factory space and ensure adequate materials for war production. But after the war, from 1945 to 1950, the industry enjoyed a healthy period. Models moved quickly out of showrooms. Even until the 1980s, the Big Three experienced steady growth and healthy profits. Starting in the 1950s, environmental concerns developed a more forceful voice, and vehicle emissions legislation was passed by Congress. Safety concerns also led to the passage of seatbelt laws.
1966 witnessed the passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Highway Safety Act, as well as the creation of the Department of Transportation. During the 1960s, the industry rediscovered its electric origins, toying with the idea of electric vehicles. General Motors developed prototypes of two electric vehicles, the Electrovan and the Electrovair II, an electric version of the Corvair. American Motors Company, a decade later, would market electric Jeep vehicles, the Electruck, to the U.S. Postal Service.

During the 1975 fuel crisis, Congress passed the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) bill which required automakers to increase the fuel efficiency of their passenger car fleet. Consequently, the Big Three began to make smaller cars for sale in the U.S. during the 1980s.

The 1980s also saw the growth of the import market; instead of merely competing against each other, the Big Three now had to contend with fuel-efficient vehicles from Germany and Japan. Imports sold surprisingly well. Toyota emerged as the foreign leader, harnessing the majority of the import market share.

As more and more members of the American public purchased vehicles, second-car ownership became common. Increasingly, each individual owned a car, in contrast to the earlier trend of the "family car." In some homes, there could be as many cars as there were licensed drivers.

The invention and re-invention of the automobile industry has impacted American society like nothing else. As the industry continues to evolve during dark economic times, research into the origins and past directions of the auto industry takes on an added significance.

About this guide

Arranged topically, this subject guide aims to help researchers identify collections useful for their research interests. The topical categories contain a combination of manuscript collections and organizational records. This subject guide represents the bulk of the Bentley Historical Library's automotive history holdings and includes the most content-heavy collections. Additional materials with small portions of relevant items may be discovered with a Mirlyn Catalog search.

Executives and Management includes collections from automobile industry executives, management personnel, as well as several motor companies' administrative records.

Workers and Labor Relations directs researchers to collections that document the auto worker's experience, labor regulatory bodies, and individuals and organizations that studied and/or supported auto industry workers.
Consumers and Marketing contains collections that document the buying and selling of automobiles, with trade catalogs and the personal papers of Michigan auto dealers.

Research and Development identifies collections that pertain to auto industry research and analysis activities, as well as the development of new technologies.

Automobile Travel and Hobbyists includes manuscript documentation of cross-country auto travel, as well as Michigan automobile clubs.

Other Relevant Collections consists of collections that contain related material, but are not strictly within to the automobile industry. The papers of politicians who worked to pass vehicle emissions and safety standards, journalists, as well as architects and city planners who designed parking lots and structures are among the collections represented in this area of the subject guide.

Published Primary Sources includes a selection of books, serials, and audio recordings that date from the first few decades of the industry. For additional published materials, please conduct a Mirlyn Catalog search.

Visual materials contains photo collections and motion picture films that document some aspect of the auto industry, including gas stations, auto accidents, and early automobile models.
Executives and Management

Avery, Clarence Willard
- C. W. Avery papers, 1927-1949.
- 1 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
  Corporation executive of Detroit, Michigan, associated with Ford Motor Company and Murray Corporation of America, and member of the board of Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.
  Correspondence, speeches, citations, and newspaper clippings, relating to personal affairs, labor-management relations, and Avery's activities during World War II.
  Correspondents include Edsel B. Ford.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record]

Budd Company.
- Budd Company records, 1912-1951, bulk 1920-1923.
- 1.25 linear feet in 2 boxes and 3 outsize volumes.
  Administrative files including manuals and contracts. Also a 1913-1914 credit and cash book, including payroll, for a Budd Detroit factory; a credit and cash book for 1913-1914, and a general ledger dated 1920-1923.
  [Finding aid]

Chapin, Roy Dikeman
- Roy Dikeman Chapin papers, 1886-1937.
- 32 linear ft. and 7 v. [outsie].
  President of Hudson Motor Car Company and U.S. Secretary of Commerce, 1932-1933.
  [Finding aid]


Chapin, Roy D., Jr.
- Roy D. Chapin, Jr., papers, 1942-1978.
- 21 linear ft.
  Papers of Roy D. Chapin, Jr., chairman of the board of American Motors Corporation. Personal correspondence, speeches, papers relating to international business operations of AMC and its divisions, and photographs.
  Finding aid

Cocks, J. Fraser
- J. Fraser Cocks papers, 1953 and 1972.
- .2 linear ft.
  Comptroller of the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation. Reports and memos relating to the company's automobile and air craft operations at Willow Run, Michigan, in 1953; history of the corporation from 1945 to 1953; and miscellaneous.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Cross, Richard E.
- .1 linear ft.
  Born in Wisconsin in 1910, Richard E. Cross, businessman and lawyer, was a director at American Motors Corporation and Packer Corporation. He was CEO of AMC from 1962 to 1965. Cross participated in many civic activities, including serving as chairman of Detroit Commission on Community Relations from 1958 to 1964. The papers contain transcripts of several speeches given by Cross, including one given to AMC and two when he filled in on the Lou Gordon radio show. Also included are some correspondence, and a diary from Cross's first trip to Europe in 1949.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Dodge Brothers
- Dodge Brothers contract, 1903.
- 1 item
  Business partnership of John and Horace Dodge, automobile supply manufacturers. Typescript copy of an agreement between Dodge Brothers and the Ford Motor Company for the manufacture of automobile motors.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Donner, Frederic G.
- Frederic G. Donner papers, 1921-1983.
- .75 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
  Chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the General Motors Corporation. Addresses given, annual reports, letters to stockholders, biography, and photographs.
  Finding aid

Dort Motor Car Company
- Dort Motor Car Company record books, 1914-1922.
- 3 v. in 1 box
  Flint automobile company, founded by J. Dallas Dort.
  Minutes of directors' meetings and annual stockholders' meetings.
  Finding aid

Dreyfuss, Allan L., 1919-2011.
- 4.5 linear feet.
  Foreign correspondent for Reuters stationed in Germany after World War II; speech-
  writer for New York mayor Robert F. Wagner and for executives of the Ford Motor
  Company; member of the Public Affairs staff of the New Detroit Committee.
  The Allan Dreyfuss collection has been arranged into the following series: Career (prior
to 1963); Articles/Speeches written; New Detroit Committee; Ford Motor Company; and
  Political. The bulk of the papers relate to his work after 1963 when he came to work with
  the Ford Motor Company as a speech writer for the company's top executives: Henry
  Ford II, Alex Trotman, Donald Petersen, H. A. Poling, among others. There are also
  subject files, reports, and notes of meetings relating to the work of New Detroit.
  Finding aid

General Motors Corporation.
- Our share holders invest in tomorrow, ca. 1955.
- 1 film reel (ca. 20 min.).:
  In late 1953 GM makes an agreement with 330 banking firms to help make an investment
  in GM. This is an inside look at how stock was offered to GM's stockholders in January
  of 1954. By March 7, 1954 $325+ million in stock had been issued -- the greatest
  financial stock sale in history. By the end of 1954 approximately $1.5 billion had been
  invested. Concludes with President (?) of GM relaying how GM's expansion program
  will benefit company.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

General Motors Corporation. Dept. of Public Relations.
- General Motors Corporation, Dept. of Public Relations records, 1941-1952 and 1955.
- 4 linear ft.
  Minutes of the Public Relations Planning Committee, and of the Public Relations Policy
  Committee; also manual, 1955, of the Manpower Planning Program.
  Finding aid

Gerstenberg, Richard C.
- .8 linear ft.
  Automobile executive, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of General
  Speeches and transcripts of radio commentaries, 1968-1976; published articles; articles
  and clippings about him; scattered correspondence; and photographs.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record
Gossett, William T.
  - 19 linear ft.
    Lawyer with the Bendix Corporation and the Ford Motor Company, and member of
    numerous legal and public service organizations.
    Speeches, articles and public statements; material relating to his activities with the
    American Bar Association, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and other
    legal groups concerning his interest in such topics as business ethics, campus government
    and student dissent in the 1960s, electoral college reform, and legal education; and
    material detailing his involvement in public service organizations concerned largely with
    civil rights and education; contracts, agreements, and other documentation relating to
    reorganization of Wesco Corporation (later National Theatres Corporation), 1933-1936;
    and reorganization of Fox Film Corporation and Twentieth Century Pictures, July-August
    1935; also papers of Elizabeth Gossett relating to her public activities; and photographs.
    Finding aid

Hopkins, Spencer D.
  - 0.2 linear feet.
    Spencer D. Hopkins was head of sales for General Motors and in charge of Motorama,
    General Motors' traveling auto show, and Powerama, a 1955 diesel power show. Hopkins
    retired in 1957.
    Autobiography and papers and photographs relating to Motorama and Powerama (mainly
    photocopies); also an audio cassette of two radio interviews (1955 and 1956) relating to
    Powerama.
    Mirlyn Catalog Record

Hudson Motor Car Company
  - Hudson Motor Car Company records, 1910-1943.
  - .2 linear ft.
    Detroit, Mich. automobile company.
    Minutes, 1910-1911, of production, sales, engineering and executive committees; general
    order file, 1910-1913, detailing company policies and decisions; and other scattered
    records, including articles of incorporation, stockholders reports, and employee contracts.
    Mirlyn Catalog Record

Joy, Henry Bourne.
  - 19 linear ft., 2 oversize folders, and 2 oversize v.
    President of the Packard Motor Company.
    Correspondence concerning his business activities in Detroit, Michigan, his support of
    the Lincoln Highway Association, his campaign against the Eighteenth Amendment
    (Prohibition), and his interest in the Federal Council of Churches; also business letter
    books, 1888-1892, and 1902-1903; photograph album, 1915, concerning automobile trip
    from Detroit to San Francisco; scrapbooks, 1883-1937, containing newspaper clippings

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and articles relating to the development of the automobile industry, national economic affairs and Republican politics; and collection of printed pamphlets and newsletters, 1927-1936, of conservative individuals and organizations, including the American Coalition, American Liberty League, the Vigilant Intelligence Federation, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Elizabeth Dilling, Robert E. Edmonson, the Industrial Defense Association, the National Civic Federation, and the Union League of Michigan. Correspondents include: James J. Couzens, Elizabeth Dilling, Warren G. Harding, Charles E. Hughes, Edward Hunter, Harry A. Jung, Alfred M. Landon, Andrew W. Mellon, Truman H. Newberry, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, William H. Slayton, and William H. Taft.

Finding aid

Kaiser-Frazer Corp.
- Kaiser-Frazer scrapbook, 1946.
- 1 volume
  Michigan automobile company, established 1945; result of a partnership between Joseph Frazier and Henry Kaiser.
  Newspaper clippings relating to the activities of Kaiser and Frazer automobile distributors.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record]

Marr, Walter L. (Walter Lorenzo), 1865-1941.
- Walter L. Marr papers, [19--].
- 1 folder.
  Engineer with Buick Motor Company.
  Biographical sketch and copies of family photographs.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record]

Mott, Charles Stewart
- 40 microfilm reels
  Executive with the General Motors Corporation, and Flint civic leader and philanthropist.
  Materials relating to his business career and his charitable and philanthropic activities.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record]

Price, Hickman
- Hickman Price papers, 1918-1968.
- 13 linear ft.
  Hickman Price, Jr., executive with the Kaiser-Frazer Corp., later with Willys Motor Inc
  Corporate correspondence, including files concerning his work with Willys-Overland in Brazil; also materials relating to his interest in Latin America, including summary reports prepared for President-elect Kennedy in 1960; miscellaneous correspondence with Adlai Stevenson; and photographs.
  [Finding aid]

Romney, George W.
• George W. Romney pre-gubernatorial subgroup, 1939-1962.
  21 linear ft.
  President of American Motors, governor of Michigan.
  Subgroup includes biographical information; personal, family, and church
  correspondence; speeches and articles; files from his service with Nash-Kelvinator and
  American Motors; and subject files detailing civic involvement with Citizens for
  Michigan, revision of the Michigan constitution, and his gubernatorial campaign in 1962.
  Finding aid

Sackett, Ray Carleton
  2.2 linear ft. and 3 v. [outsize].
  Detroit, Michigan automobile executive.
  Correspondence, 1927-1966, autobiographical sketch, 1965, and assorted newspaper
  clippings and miscellanea; also scrapbooks, 1896-1958, containing newspaper clippings,
  correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia relating to University of Michigan and
  the automobile industry.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Schwab, Fred E.
• Fred E. Schwab papers, 1930-2009.
  2 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
  Fred E. Schwab was an influential member of the plastics manufacturing community in
  the Detroit area. A German immigrant, he opened and ran several plastics manufacturing
  businesses and was a founding member of the Society of Plastics Engineers.
  The collection contains personal materials, most notably files relating to Schwab's
  emigration from Germany prior to World War II and correspondence (mostly in German)
  with attorney Hugo Emmerich regarding property claims against Germany. The
  collection also includes files pertaining to Schwab's plastics manufacturing business,
  Schwab & Frank and Schwab Plastics, in addition to advertising materials for both
  companies.
  Finding aid

Stempel, Robert C. (Robert Carl), 1933-2011.
  56 linear feet, 1 oversize folder, and 2 motion picture reels.
  Designer and automotive engineer with the General Motors Corporation; he later
  assumed increasing responsibilities within the company as president and chief operating
  officer and then chairman and chief executive officer. After leaving GM, he became
  chairman of Energy Conversion Devices (ECD).
  The Stempel collection documents his work with GMC and ECD and includes minutes of
  meetings, company memoranda and correspondence, speeches and other various
  presentations, publications, and photographs and other visual materials. Files from the
  1970s concern the development of the catalytic converter and the study of automotive
  emissions and air pollution. Subsequent files document his rise within the company and
  the period when he was chief executive officer. The ECD files relate to the development

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of the company, electric vehicles and other technological innovations, and to Stempel's association with Stanford Ovshinsky. Portions of the collection detail other business and public service affiliations, including Stempel's association with the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, the Council of Great Lakes Industries, the Oakland County Business Roundtable, the Great Lakes Alliance, and as a member of Presidential Business Delegation to Asia and the Pacific (1991-1992).

Finding aid

Townsend, Lynn Alfred

- 2 linear feet and 2 oversize volumes.
  Chrysler Corporation executive.
  Speeches, clippings, photographs and articles by or about Townsend and the Chrysler Corporation.
  Finding aid

Wilcox, Jack H.

- 5 linear in.
  Staff member in the Job Analysis and Evaluation Section, Lincoln-Mercury Division, Ford Motor Company.
  Job descriptions; reports relating to proposed salaried union program; and progress reports of Industrial Relations Department.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record
Automobile Workers and Labor Relations

Automobile Labor Board
- Automobile Labor Board records, 1934-1935.
- 5.5 linear ft.
  U.S. automotive labor industry regulating body
  Stenographic reports of hearings before the Board.

Downs, Tom
- 18 linear ft.
  Correspondence, minutes, reports and newspaper clippings concerning the administrations of Michigan governors G. Mennen Williams and John B. Swainson, the problems of employment and unemployment, and the recount of the 1962 gubernatorial election in Minnesota won by Karl Rolvaag. Visual materials series includes photographs, 1961-62, and three videotapes (VHS) interviews, 1995, with UAW president Douglas Fraser and vice president Irving Bluestone regarding their activities within the UAW, and interview with state Democratic party official Adelaide Hart regarding her career. The series also includes audiotape cassettes and transcripts of the three interviews.

Employment Transition Program (University of Michigan)
- 7 linear ft.
  The Employment Transition Program (ETP) was an applied and experimental program focusing on employment relationships, particularly in the automobile industry. ETP was one of the initial grant-funded studies and came to serve as an umbrella title for several subsequent grants including studies involving the United Auto Workers and Ford Motor Company. ETP was established by Jeanne P. Gordus.
  ETP records include grant proposals (funded and non-funded), training manuals, publications, and project development files relating to studies on unemployment and intervention training programs for displaced auto workers, including life education planning programs and life education advisors.

Frank, Arlene J.
- 1 item
  Student in the Women's Studies Program at the University of Michigan.
  Student term paper.

Finding aid
Grant, Robert
- 16 p.
  Machinist with the early automobile companies.
  Reminiscences and critical commentary on the activities of Henry Ford and James
  Couzens and the growth of the Ford Motor Company.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Griffith, Gregory A.
- 30 pages
  Unpublished manuscript.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations (University of Michigan-Wayne State
University): Unionism in the Automobile Industry Project
- 130 vol.
  Transcripts of interviews conducted with Michigan labor leaders by staff of University of
  Michigan and Wayne State University Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations.
  Concerns activities of the U.A.W., its organizing efforts, sit-down strikes of the 1930's,
  and policies of the Union during World War II. Include interviews with: George F.
  Beckman, Jack A. Beni, Raymond H. Berndt, Mrs. Dorothy H. Bishop, Merlin D.
  Bishop, Stanley W. Brams, Norman W. Bully, George Burt, Ed Carey, Arthur R. Case,
  James M. Cleveland, Richard Coleman, Charles T. Conway, Jack T. Conway, Alexander
  Cook, James G. Couser, Harold A. Cranefield, Lawrence S. Davidow, Len DeCaux, Nick
  Digaetano, Joseph B. Ditzel, James F. Doherty, Tracy M. Doll, Dominic Dornetto, John
  Eldon, Frank Fagen, Jess Ferrazza, Joseph Ferris, Bert Foster, Everett Francis, Richard T.
  Frankensteen, Elmer Freitag, Mort Furay, Daniel M. Gallagher, Nat Ganley, Catherine
  Gelles, William L. Genske, Adolph F. Germer, Josephine Gomon, Murvel Grant, Pat
  Greathouse, Stanley J. Gregory, Carl Haessler, Fred V. Haggard, Edward Hall, Matthew
  B. Hammond, Richard E. Harris, Joseph Hattley, Arthur Hughes, William Humphreys,
  Jack R. Hurst, R. C. Ingram, Forrest L. Innes, Martin Jensen, Clayton E. Johnson, Lester
  Johnson, Robert Kanter, Harvey Kitzman, Tom Klasey, Leonard E. Klue, Theodore
  LaDuke, Russell Leach, Ed Lee, Al Leggat, Elizabeth McCracken, John K. McDaniel,
  John McGill, Frank Manfred, Michael J. Manning, Frank Marquart, Norman R.
  Matthews, Joseph Mattson, Russell J. Merrill, George Merrelli, Lewis H. Michener.
  Include interviews with: Paul E. Miley, Andrew Montgomery, Ken Morris, Wyndham
  Mortimer, Stanley Nowak, James Oddie, Clayton O'Donohue, Cyril O'Halloran, William
  Payne, Orrin H. Pepler, Joseph Piconke, Leon Pody, Adam Poplawski, Gene Prato,
  Edward Purdy, Walter H. Quillico, Philip Raymond, May Reuther, Victor G. Reuther,
  Herbert H. Richardson, John F. Ringwald, Arthur E. Rohan, James A. Roland, Harry

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Finding aid

McCord, Carey Pratt
- 5.5 linear ft.
  Industrial hygienist, consultant and lecturer in environmental and industrial health in the School of Public Health of the University of Michigan.
  Logs of daily activities, 1936-1961, correspondence relating to consulting projects, speech and lecture material, and research files on lead poisoning and the effects of air conditioning on workers; history of occupational health at the University of Michigan, 1873-1970, history of the American Academy of Occupational Medicine, 1946-1956; study of automobile body industry in Detroit, 1936; and related photographs.
Finding aid

Second Baptist Church (Detroit, Mich.)
- Second Baptist Church records, 1911-1989
- 14 microfilm reels, 1 folder
  Oldest Black church in Michigan.
  Annual reports, financial records, histories, minutes of advisory board meetings, pastoral correspondence, annual and quarterly publications, and weekly bulletins; include files of pastors Robert L. Bradby, Sr. and Allan A. Banks, Jr. detailing in part their efforts in finding employment for members of Detroit's black community, especially with the Ford Motor Company; and photographs.
Finding aid

Shafer, Hartley Clifton
- .25 linear ft.
  Resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
  Reminiscences of his experiences working as a machinist in the early automobile industry in Detroit and as an inspector during World War I; also notes on the Shafer family and photographs
Mirlyn Catalog Record

Tessmer, Raymond.
- Proceedings of the trial of the People vs. Raymond Tessmer, 1939.
- 0.2 linear feet.
  Raymond Tessmer, member of the United Auto Workers and supporter of former union president Homer Martin. Tessmer was accused of criminal libel by Maurice Sugar, the union's general counsel under president R. J. Thomas. Tessmer was represented by Larry Davidow, a union attorney identified with Martin. The case revolved around issues of

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Communism in the UAW. The trial took place in Detroit Recorder's Court, before Judge Thomas M. Cotter. Trial transcript. The transcript is incomplete, ending at p. 236 and lacking a portion of the judge's charge to the jury. A photocopy of the transcript is available for research use. The original is in the vault. This original transcript has apparently been retyped from another copy with different page divisions. 

Mirlyn Catalog Record

UAW-Ford University
- 1.5 linear ft.

An outgrowth of education counseling programs developed by the University of Michigan School of Social Work aimed at UAW members in Ford plants, UAW-Ford University offers a university-style approach to workplace education and training through distance education and internet technologies. Program includes involvement with Dearborn campus. Records detail the development of plant-based educational counseling and training programs, negotiations with UAW and Ford, plant-level studies, reports, and samples of educational resources and course content, including seven CD-ROMs containing multi-media course material. 

Finding aid
Consumers and Marketing

Catalogs of Michigan-based automobile companies

- 5 boxes

Finding aid

Catalogs of Michigan-based motor truck companies

- 1 box

Finding aid

Chrysler Group LLC.
• Chrysler Eminem Super Bowl commercial collection [electronic resource], 2011.
• 2 CD-ROMs.
• Downloaded copy (MPEG4) of Chrysler commercial aired during the 2011 Super Bowl titled either "Imported from Detroit" or "Born of Fire." The commercial features views of Detroit, Eminem, and the Selected of God Choir. The commercial advertises the Chrysler 200. The collection also includes stills from the commercial (TIFF) and creative credits.
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Dalgleish family.**

- Dalgleish family business records, 1929-2013, bulk 1950s-1990s.
- 1.3 linear feet (in 2 boxes including outsize)
- The Dalgleish family owned automobile dealership businesses in Detroit, Mich. since the 1920s. The first dealership, Charlie's Nash, was the oldest Nash dealership in Detroit, one of the two oldest Nash dealerships in Michigan, and at one point the largest Nash dealership in the world. Other businesses owned by the family include Charlie's Oldsmobile, Dalgleish Cadillac Oldsmobile, Dalgleish Peugeot. Dalgleish Cadillac closed its doors in 2010, the last Cadillac dealership in Detroit.
- Records of automobile dealerships owned by the Dalgleish family: advertising and customer care correspondence, business correspondence, newspaper clippings and articles, photographs, and artifacts.
- Finding aid.

**Henry, Charles Roswell**

- Charles Roswell Henry papers, 1905-1906.
- 75 items and 1 v.
- Alpena, Michigan, attorney.
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Hopkins, Spencer D.**

- 0.2 linear feet.
- Spencer D. Hopkins was head of sales for General Motors and in charge of Motorama, General Motors' traveling auto show, and Powerama, a 1955 diesel power show. Hopkins retired in 1957.
- Autobiography and papers and photographs relating to Motorama and Powerama (mainly photocopies); also an audio cassette of two radio interviews (1955 and 1956) relating to Powerama.
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Millspaugh, J. L.**

- J. L. Millspaugh papers, 1918.
- 1 folder
• Battle Creek and Chelsea, Michigan, businessman, dealer of the Hollier automobile for western Michigan.
• Correspondence from C. J. McCarty concerning debt owed by McCarty, a Muskegon, Michigan, dealer, with comments on the Hollier automobile and Millspaugh's dealership.
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

Newton, Charles Tyley
• Charles T. Newton papers, 1907-1947.
• 4 linear ft.
• Ypsilanti, Michigan automobile salesman, antique collector for Greenfield Village, and real estate agent for the Ford Motor Company.
• Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and pamphlet material concerning his work for Ford Motor Company, and his interest in William H. McGuffey and Stephen Foster; and photographs.
• Finding aid

Staebler, Edward William
• Edward William Staebler papers, 1906-1952
• 4 linear ft.
• Ann Arbor, Michigan businessman and Democratic mayor of the city, 1927-1931.
• Mayoralty files; papers, 1922-1926, concerning the Ann Arbor Board of Education; also papers, 1922-1952, of Staebler and Son, automobile dealership; also photographs.
• Finding aid

Staebler, Michael
• Michael Staebler papers, 1872-1934.
• 13.5 linear ft.
• Ann Arbor, Michigan businessman, dealer in coal, farm machinery, bicycles, and automobiles.
• Correspondence, letterbooks, and various record books of Ann Arbor business enterprises owned and established by Michael Staebler and his family including Staebler and Elmer, Michael Staebler and Son, and Staebler and Sons. Records include coal sales to Ann Arbor residents, 1890-1903, record books of bicycle and automobile sales, 1890s-1930s, papers relating to the Michigan and Indiana Retail Coal Association, and miscellaneous papers of E. W. Staebler relating to his interest in cycling and the League of American Wheelman.
• Finding aid

Staebler and Sons (Ann Arbor, Mich.)
• Staebler and Sons records, 1914-1974.
• 0.5 linear feet and 1 oversize volume.
• Corporation established by Staebler family members in Ann Arbor, Mich., to sell and repair automobiles, bicycles, and other vehicles. The purpose of the firm was later broadened to include the buying, selling, and renting of real estate. The firm was dissolved in 1973.
- Minutes of meetings of stockholders, 1914-1973; financial records; various Staebler family warranty deeds.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Woody, Woodrow W.**
- 0.6 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
- Arab American automobile dealer in Hamtramck, Mich., active in the Republican Party and Arab American organizations.
- Letters between Woody and various public figures (presidents, senators, etc.), primarily thank yous and form and courtesy responses; also a speech, scrapbooks containing clippings, photographs, and other materials relating to the Hillcrest Wolverine Open golf tournament, newspaper clippings and photographs.
- [Finding aid](#)
Research and Development

Cole, David E.
- 48 linear ft.
  Chairman of the Center for Automotive Research (CAR); formerly director of the University of Michigan's Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation (OSAT) and professor of Mechanical Engineering; fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) who served on the Board of Directors; chairman of the Automotive Hall of Fame; Management Partner of Altarum; served on the Energy Engineering Board of the National Research Council, the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Pact Select Panel and the NASA Space Systems and Technical Advisory Committee; an automotive consultant interested in manufacturer-supplier relations, vehicle design, internal combustion engines and strategic automotive industry issues.
  Professional files relating to his activities as the director of the Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation (OSAT) and his consulting work. The collection is arranged in nine series: University of Michigan; Associations and Government; Company Files; Correspondence; Research; Speaking Engagements; Publications, Papers and Clippings; Topical Files; and Audio-Visual Materials. Of particular interest are the Company Files and Association and Government series, which document Cole's consulting activities for various companies and organizations such as General Motors, Johnson Controls and Ernst & Young, and his involvement in the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The University of Michigan series documents Cole's involvement in the Traverse City Management Briefing Seminar and the Joint U.S.-Japan Automotive Study. The collection includes Cole's correspondence during his role as the Director of OSAT and materials from his various speaking engagements. The Research series contains materials describing Cole's research on the Wankel engine and his consulting work for Bendix.
  Finding aid

Cole, Robert E.
- 2 linear ft.
  Director of the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Michigan; co-head with Keiichi Oshima of the Joint United States and Japan Automotive Study.
  Background files; reports; and records relating to meetings, surveys, and fieldwork of the joint study.
  Finding aid

- Ira T. Hook ledger, 1914-1917.
- 0.2 linear feet.
  Graduate of the University of Michigan College of Engineering, class of 1913. After graduation, Hook worked as an experimental engineer for General Motors.
  Ledger volume containing various metallurgical tests undertaken at General Motors, including tensile properties summaries.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record
Huebner, George J.
- 1 linear ft.
  Papers of George J. Huebner, Jr., Chief of Engineering Research at the Chrysler
  Corporation, promoter of gas turbine engine research in the automobile industry.

Jouppi, Arvid
- Arvid Jouppi papers, 1940-1987
- 24 linear ft.
  Detroit, Michigan, businessman, researcher and analyst of the automotive and related
  industry.
  Collection includes correspondence, topical files, and other papers documenting his Wall
  Street career and his management of Arvid Jouppi Associates; subgroups in the collection
  include: Personal; Chronological; Early Career; Hayden, Stone; William C. Roney and
  Company; Delafield Childs, Inc.; Arvid Jouppi Associates; and Writings.
  Finding aid

Kent, Charles Edwin.
- 7.5 linear feet (in 8 boxes including outsize).
  Resident of Ann Arbor, Mich., graduate of the University of Michigan College of
  Engineering and employee of Bendix Corporation and Strand Engineering Corporation,
  who worked on automotive, communications, weaponry, and space research, including
  the first APOLLO Lunar Surface Mission.
  Personal files include material related to his wife Nancy L. Kent, his studies at the
  University of Michigan (course materials, printed items, his and Nancy's scrapbooks), as
  well as his resumes and professional biographical sketches. Professional files consist of
  material related to Kent's tenure at Strand Engineering and Bendix, and include research
  files, administrative files, memoranda, and bound reports.
  Finding aid

Lay, Walter Edwin
- Walter E. Lay papers, ca. 1889-1993
- 2 linear ft. and 2 outsized v.
  Professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan, a founder of the
  Automotive Engineering Laboratory (now the Walter E. Lay Auto Laboratory).
  Collection includes examinations; lecture notes; problem sets; research files; files relating
  to the building and expansion of the department of mechanical engineering and the
  Automotive Engineering Laboratory; and visual materials.
  Finding aid

Marks, Craig.
- Craig Marks papers, 1951-2008.
- 2 linear ft.
Chief engineer for General Motors Corporation; instrumental in the development of the hydrogen fuel cell and GMC's electric vehicles, the Electrovan and the Electrovair. Files relate to his work on the National Research Council's report on Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards and his work with the National Academy of Engineering's intelligent vehicle initiative; also files pertaining to the General Motors and its electric vehicle program.

Finding aid

Marr, Walter L. (Walter Lorenzo), 1865-1941.
- Walter L. Marr papers, [19--].
- 1 folder.
  Engineer with Buick Motor Company.
  Biographical sketch and copies of family photographs.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Parsons, Carl Berger.
- Carl B. Parsons papers, 1914-1975 (scattered dates).
- 9 items.
  Typescript and photocopies of papers of Carl B. Parsons (originally spelled Persson), automotive engineer of Chicago, Illinois and Detroit, Michigan.
  Undated reminiscence of his life with comments on his childhood in Sweden, his emigration to the United States in 1901, and his career in the carriage and automobile industries; copy of letter to his daughter, 1931, also describing his emigration; and poetry, photograph, and miscellaneous.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Reason, Walter M.
- Walter M. Reason papers, 1909-1914.
- 1 linear ft.
  Court reporter for 6th Circuit Court in Pontiac, Michigan.
  Correspondence concerning his invention of a puncture proof inner tube for automobile tires.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Reynolds, Robert Albert
- Robert Albert Reynolds papers, 1934 and undated.
- 10 items.
  Detroit, Michigan automotive engineer and inventor.
  Blueprints of inventions, patent applications, and printed material relating to Reynolds Motor Company of Detroit, Michigan.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Ridgeway, Joseph W.
- 30 items
  Automotive engineer with Cadillac Motor Car Company.

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Notebooks concerning engine tests made in the 1930s, miscellaneous drawings, notes and correspondence relating to development of propeller type flowmeter.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Smith, Donald N.
- 1.0 linear feet.
Donald N. Smith was Associate Director of the Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation in the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. Smith was interested in the technological innovations of numerical controls in manufacturing and the machine tool industry.
Contains a chronicle of numeric control developments and a compilation of resources and documents relating to the development and growth of the field including Smith's guide "Numerical Control Innovation and Revolution: An Archival Research Aid," and an autobiography of pioneer John T. Parsons.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Stockton, Thomas R.
- 7.3 linear feet (including outsize).
Thomas R. Stockton (1921-2012) was the manager of Ford Powertrain and Driveline research at Ford Motor Company in Michigan for 37 years.
Content includes Stockton's work papers and diagrams relating to turbine and rotary engine research, Ford documents (ex. service manuals, project plans, in company communications, etc.), his patents and invention disclosures, as well as documents and photographs relating to his time as an officer of the Early Engine Club and a member of the North American Model Engineering Society.

Finding aid

Tjaarda, Tom.
- Autobiography / by S. Thompson Tjaarda.
- [1977?]
- 3, 227, 14, 6 pages : ms., photocopy ; 28 cm.
Tom Tjaarda is an American automobile designer working in Italy, 1958 graduate of the University of Michigan.
Autobiography written in sections from 1958 to 1975, reflecting on his early years in the auto industry, especially working with Ghia, Fiat, and Ford, along with his family life. Removed from the David E. Davis papers, the document includes a transmittal note addressed to Davis.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

University of Michigan. Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation
- 1 linear ft.
Research department exploring new developments in motor vehicle safety, transportation policy, and sustainable automotive and transportation business strategies. Correspondence, newsletters and other published materials, subject files, and other records relating to the automotive industry of the United States, especially to its competition with Japan.

Finding aid

University of Michigan. Solar Car Team.
- Solar Car Team (University of Michigan) records, 1985-[ongoing].
- 13 linear ft. Team of University of Michigan students who designed and built a solar-powered automobile, and who raced it in various competitions. Videos and photograph album detailing the building and racing of the "Sunrunner" car; group reports; topical files; and binders containing newsletters and bulletins, and administrative and technical information for the cars "Sunrunner" and "Maize and Blue."

Finding aid

Van den Broek, John Abraham
- .5 linear ft. Professor of mechanical engineering at University of Michigan. Correspondence concerning University and departmental business, World War II research projects, the American Society of Civil Engineering, and research projects of the Hamilton Watch Company and Hayes Wheel Company.

Finding aid
Automobile Travel and Hobbyists

Arnold, Jennie Waterman.

- 7 items
  Traverse City, Michigan, resident.
  Reminiscences of her life as a teacher in northern Michigan and her remembrance of Woodbridge N. Ferris and Ferris Institute around 1914; reminiscences of the Hartwell Waterman family; and miscellaneous historical writings; and typescript of letters (1913) describing automobile trip from East Jordan Michigan to New York with comments on scenery, roads, and the cars of that period.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Bayliss Public Library (Sault Sainte Marie, Mich.)

- Sault Sainte Marie collection, ca. 1802-1930.
- 19 microfilm reels
  Records, 1802-1884, of the American Fur Company at Mackinac Island; records of the collector of customs; records concerning history of Mackinac Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, and Mackinac County, including marriage records for Chippewa County, 1824-1870, minutes of Chippewa County Automobile Association, 1917-1930, and miscellaneous personal diaries.
  Finding aid

Connable, Ralph

- Ralph Connable papers, 1900-1932.
- .2 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.
  Petoskey, Michigan, resident, later executive with Woolworths of Canada.
  Correspondence, newsletters, speeches and other materials relating to his activities with Woolworths, with the Victory Bond drive in Canada during World War I, and as an advocate of a national purchasing board for Canada; also photographs and miscellanea relating to his motor caravan; and family and genealogical materials.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Fink, William L.

- 1 audio cassette tape.
  William L. Fink (1896-1992) was a 1921 engineering graduate of the University of Michigan (Ph.D. 1926). He began working at the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) in 1925, and became Chief of the Physical Metallurgy Division in 1943.
  The collection consists of an oral history interview with William L. Fink conducted by Carolyn Felton. The interview relates to growing up in Indiana. The Fink family were very interested in automobiles and Fink talks about an early auto that was built by his grandfather and some of the early road practices of operating an automobile. He learned to drive when he was six years old and attended the first Indianapolis 500. He also tells of watching Wilbur and Orville Wright demonstrate an airplane.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record
Morrison, Minnie T.
- .5 linear ft.
  Resident of Detroit, Michigan.
  Scattered correspondence, three scrapbooks, reminiscences of Redford, and Detroit, Michigan, histories of the Automobile Club of Michigan, various Detroit organizations, especially women's clubs and St. Paul's and St. Christopher's Episcopal churches, and an autograph book; and photographs.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Perkins, Marjorie Kedzie
- Flashlights from our Ford, [ca. 1922]
- 1 item
  Resident of Grand Rapids, Mich.
  Journal of an automobile camping trip from Grand Rapids to New Mexico.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

Schmidt, Carl Ernest
- Carl Ernest Schmidt scrapbooks, 1892-1935.
- 3 linear ft. and 1 outsize v.
  Detroit, Michigan, German-American businessman.
  Newspaper clippings, printed articles, photographs, ink drawings, and handwritten sections concerning his role on the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, 1892-1894, the State Board of Arbitration and Mediation, 1897-1898, and the State Forest Inquiry Commission, 1907-1908; also material concerning travel to, and activities at, his Iosco County, Michigan, retreat, Walhalla, and his experimental farm and recreation resort also in Iosco County; and material concerning German-American social activities and pacifism in World War I; the forest fire in Au Sable and Oscoda in 1911; and manuscript written by Joseph Labadie on a 1909 trip taken with Carl Schmidt.
  [Finding aid](#)

Schoening, Robert W., b. 1878.
- Robert W. Schoening papers, 1921-1923 and undated.
- 0.2 linear feet.
  Resident of Saginaw, Mich., a saw filer at Saginaw Manufacturing Company; later shop foreman, factory superintendent, and traveling salesman.
  Article drafts describing a cross-country family trip in a Buick, 1919; manuscript of a novel about business ethics titled "Red Biz;" letter to James Oliver Curwood; and other writings.
  [Finding aid](#)
Journalists

Boudette, Neal.
- 1 DVD (30 min.)
  Neal Boudette is Detroit Bureau Chief for the Wall Street Journal.
  Video of a presentation in which Boudette describes his experiences covering the automobile industry.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Davis, David E., 1930-2011.
  20 linear feet (in 21 boxes including outsize) and 5 outsize film reels (16 mm and 35 mm).
  David E. Davis was the editor and publisher of "Car and Driver" and the founder of "Automobile Magazine." Davis got his start in the industry working in advertising at "Road & Track" from 1957 to 1960. From 1960 to 1985, his career alternated between Campbell-Ewald, a marketing and advertising agency (1960-1962 and 1967-1976), and the magazine "Car and Driver" (1962-1967 and 1976-1985). In 1985 he found his own publication, "Automobile Magazine," which remained under his leadership until the year 2000. Davis lived much of his life in Ann Arbor, Mich. and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Michigan in 2004.
  Correspondence, business files, text of speeches, collected clippings, photographs, floppy and zip disks of speeches and other material; bound issues of "Automobile Magazine," and other materials related to Davis's professional and personal life. Also an oversize watercolor painting of Davis.
  Finding aid

Dunne, Jim, 1931-
  2 linear feet (in 4 boxes).
  Jim Dunne is an automotive spy photographer and journalist. Throughout his forty-year career he was writer and editor for several publications including Popular Science, Popular Mechanics, and Road and Track magazines. He was also involved in automotive track testing, and his methods are still used in national publications. He is mostly known for his work taking and publishing photos of automobile models before their intended public introduction. Because of his world-famous spy photography he has received several awards and recognitions, such as the Road and Travel Magazine Lifetime Achievement Award.
  Articles and book written by Dunne; magazines and a digital slideshow featuring his photographic work; photographs, slides, and negatives of various sizes feature the highlights from Jim Dunne's forty-year career. There are series of miscellaneous materials including a press release from the Auto Writer's League of Detroit, a GM proving grounds trespass statement, a letter regarding a profile written on Dunne, several magazine photo clippings credited to Dunne, and a first issue reproduction of The...
Horseless Age. Also included in the collection are several publications that pay tribute to Dunne's life and achievements.

Finding aid.

Gorman, Michael Arthur
- 2 linear ft.
  Editor of the Flint (Mich.) Journal.

Finding aid.

Harbour, James E.
- 3 linear feet.
  Automotive industry analyst; founder of The Harbour Report which was an analysis of manufacturing performance in the automotive industry.
  The Harbour collection concerns his work as an analyst of the automobile industry. In addition to copies of The Harbour Report, the collection includes newspaper and magazine articles written by Harbour or containing references to him, and files pertaining to his participation at automobile related conferences. Also of interest are various promotional and related materials surrounding the publication of his book Factory Man.

Finding aid.

Krebs, M. (Michelle)
- 9.3 linear feet and 2 oversized items.
  Michelle Krebs is an authority on the automotive industry, writes regularly for numerous automotive publications, and is an adjunct professor at Detroit's College for Creative Studies.
  The collection includes her writings on the automobile industry, research materials collected as part of her work, and promotional materials received from automobile companies about new car models, mainly in the form of photographs, CDs, DVDs, and videotapes.

Finding aid.

Moody, Blair
- Blair Moody papers, 1928-1954 and undated.
- 31 linear ft.
Detroit newspaperman and United States Senator from Michigan.
Correspondence chiefly with his wife, mother and other family members, concerning his
1952 senatorial campaign and his newspaper work in the United States and abroad during
World War II; also include Moody's record of voting in the Senate; appointment books;
scrapbooks of newspaper articles written by Moody and published for the most part in the
Detroit News and Barron's Weekly [34 vols.]; tape recordings; films; addresses; notes;
and miscellaneous newspaper articles and other materials; extensive correspondents; and
photographs.

Finding aid
Other Relevant Collections

Bennett, Wells Ira

- 3.4 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.

Architect, professor and dean of the College of Architecture and Design of the University of Michigan.

Professional papers, notebooks, sketches and architectural plans, and files on specific building projects, including work on the Flint campus of the University of Michigan, automobile parking structures, and miscellaneous Ann Arbor and University of Michigan buildings; also records of various state and national architectural accreditation and registration boards, especially the Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors; and photographs

Finding aid

Brazer, Marjorie Cahn.

- 2 linear ft.

Secretary of the Ann Arbor (Mich.) Transportation Authority (AATA).

Minutes, 1969-1973, financial statements, reports, and photographs of the AATA largely concerning the problems of mass transportation and the development of the "Dial-a-Ride" system; also papers concerning the development of streets and automobile parking facilities in the city.

Finding aid

Brown, William Ellis

- 11 linear ft. and 3 v.

Republican mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1945-1957.

Correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings, and miscellanea concerning the off-street system of parking, housing, the new city charter, the new Veterans Administration Hospital, attempts to build a new city hall, his political campaigns, and his support of Albert E. Cobo for governor of Michigan in 1956; also scrapbooks, 1945-1962, containing newspaper clippings and other materials relating to his mayoralty; records of his various Ann Arbor-based business firms, notably in real estate and automobile sales, and photographs.

Finding aid

Carton, John Jay

- John J. Carton papers, 1883-1921.
- 17 linear ft. and 3 v.

Flint, Michigan, attorney and Republican state representative.

Correspondence concerning the automotive industry, particularly the founding of General Motors, state politics, and the Constitutional Convention of 1907-1908; also docket books, 1883-1921, with record of cases handled by Carton and his partners.

Correspondents include: Frederick M. Alger, Russell A. Alger, James B. Angell, Albert J.

Finding aid

Conard, Alfred Fletcher
- 5 linear ft.
  Professor of Law at the University of Michigan.
  Records of his activities as president of the Association of American Law Schools, including executive committee minutes, committee files, and other materials; also research materials concerning automobile injury litigation. Boxes 4-5 contain files on auto injury litigation.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Fine, Sidney, collector
- Sidney Fine collected research materials, ca. 1900-ca. 1970 (scattered).
- 13 linear ft.
  Professor of history at the University of Michigan.
  Collected materials pertaining to his research interests; include materials relating to automobile code of the N.R.A., including correspondence, memoranda, testimony, minutes of the meetings of mediation and negotiation with the auto industry, and decisions of the Automobile Labor Board; and copies of FBI and Justice Department files relating to the 1967 Detroit riot.
  Finding aid

Griffith, Walter T.
- Walter T. Griffith papers, undated.
- 26 items
  Resident of Detroit, Michigan.
  Drawing of scenes of late nineteenth century Detroit, Michigan, together with attached explanatory notes; also six manuscripts containing his reminiscences of Detroit and the surrounding area and of the early automobile industry.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

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Hart, Philip A.

- 281 linear ft., 3 oversize volumes and 2 oversize folders.
- Legislative, staff, and Press files; other records relating to operation of Hart office; speeches and press releases; political materials detailing Democratic Party activities and his election campaigns in 1964 and 1970; and photographs and films; include materials documenting the legislative issues of the 1960s and 1970s, especially civil rights, environmental protection, and the Vietnam War.

Finding aid

Kennedy, George Donald

- G. Donald Kennedy papers, 1928-1968.
- 6 linear ft.
- Civil engineer, Michigan state highway commissioner, and president of the Portland Cement Company in Chicago.
- Correspondence, speeches, scrapbooks, photographs, and reports relating to his professional career; contain files relating to his work as municipal engineer in Pontiac, with the Mackinac Straits Bridge Authority, the American Association of State Highway Officials, the Automotive Safety Foundation, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority; include papers relating to highway and airport construction, to economic mobilization during World War II, the Willow Run Bomber Plant, Democratic Party politics, and the campaign visit of Franklin Roosevelt to Michigan in 1936.

Finding aid

Littmann, David L.

- 13 linear feet and 1 oversized folder.
- Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of Comerica Bank, author of the bank’s monthly business brochure and numerous editorials, oft-quoted commentator.

Finding aid

May, George S.

- 2.2 linear ft.
- Historian.
- Files relating to his research on the history of the automobile in Michigan, including tapes and transcripts of interviews with individuals about early history of the automobile.

Finding aid

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Pound, Arthur
- Arthur Pound papers, 1928-1968
- 1 linear ft.
  Historical writer.
  Correspondence, drafts of works, research materials, and copies of articles; include draft of book on Lake Ontario, research materials on the RCA corporation and radio broadcasting, research materials on the history of General Motors; manuscript on the state of American society probably 1941, written by California Senator Sheridan Downey.
  Finding aid

Welch, Kenneth Curtis
- 13.6 linear ft.
  Grand Rapids, Michigan, architect and planner.
  Correspondence, writings, working files, and photographs for out-of-state and Michigan projects, primarily in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Flint, and East Lansing; professional materials relating to problems of urban planning, the design of department stores and shopping centers, his general interest in lighting designs, traffic patterns, and parking areas, and to his work with the Lake Michigan Region Planning Committee, the American Institute of Architects and the Michigan Society of Architects; also Welch family materials, including record, 1915-1925, of the Welch Manufacturing Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Of interest to the automotive history researcher: Welch's parking plans.
  Finding aid
Published Primary Sources

Books

- Automotive Council for War Production. *The Job is being done: The automotive industry reports to the nation--its only customer today*. Detroit: Automotive Council for War Production, 1942.
- Murdock, J. M. *A family tour from ocean to ocean: Being an account of the first amateur motor car journey from the Pacific to the Atlantic, whereby J.M. Murdock and family, in their 1908 Packard "Thirty" touring car, incidentally broke the transcontinental record*. Detroit: Packard Motor Car Co., 1908.

Serials


The Bentley Historical Library also has a number of microfilmed copies of labor newspapers. To find them, you can type "automobile industry and labor union periodicals" into the basic search field in Mirlyn.
Audio

Visual Materials

Note: Several of these visual collections are already listed in other sections of this subject guide, as part of the larger manuscript collections to which they belong.

Aldrich, Robert D., collector
- Robert D. Aldrich photograph series.
- 4 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder
  Photographs and films collected by Robert D. Aldrich relating to the people and institutions of Concord, Michigan; include portraits, photos of family and organization activities, photos of homes, businesses, and other buildings; photos of schools and classes, and miscellaneous other photos.
  Finding aid

Angelo, Frank
- Frank Angelo visual materials series.
- .5 linear ft.
  Managing editor of the Detroit Free Press, president of the Michigan Press Association (1969). Portraits, photos of Angelo receiving awards and as participant at various meetings; photos of North Vietnam taken during the 1960s either by or for Felix Greene; copyprints and original photographs accumulated for use in Angelo’s illustrated histories of Detroit and Michigan; and videotape of tribute to Judd Arnett including speeches by Detroit political and newspaper personalities.
  Finding aid

Beach, William Edward
- William Edward Beach photograph collection.
- 1.4 linear ft.
  Howell, Michigan photographer. Photonegatives of buildings, monuments, people, and events in Howell and numerous other Michigan cities.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Chapin, Roy Dikeman
- Roy D. Chapin photograph series.
- .3 linear ft. and 7 oversize v.
  President of Hudson Motor Car Company and U.S. Secretary of Commerce, 1932-1933. Portraits, photos of conferences and other meetings attended, promotional photos of Hudson automobiles; and photos of Amelia Earhart, Orville Wright, Herbert Hoover, Mark Twain, and automobile industry figures.
  Finding aid

Chapin, Roy D., Jr.
- Roy D. Chapin, Jr., visual material series.
• .4 linear ft.
  Chairman of the board of American Motors Corporation.
  Photos, 1961-1962, of plant opening ceremonies and plant operations of AMC plants in
  Canada and Argentina, including many photos of George Romney; also promotional film,
  1950s, for Nash-Hudson automobiles.
  [Finding aid]

Cromwell, Percy W.
• Percy W. Cromwell cartoon collection.
• 6 outsize boxes
  Artist for the Detroit Times.
  Editorial cartoons and sketches relating to local political and social issues.
  [Finding aid]

Cross, Richard E.
• Richard E. Cross photographs.
• 7 items
  Born in Wisconsin in 1910, Richard E. Cross, businessman and lawyer, was a director at
  American Motors Corporation and Packer Corporation. He was CEO of AMC from 1962
  to 1965. Cross participated in many civic activities, including serving as chairman of
  Detroit Commission on Community Relations from 1958 to 1964.
  As part of the Richard E. Cross papers, the photographs depict Cross's time at the
  University of Michigan in the late 1930's (including one of Kappa Alpha Theta House)
  and several of Cross receiving awards and talking to reporters, which date from the mid-
  1960's. Photos of Cross receiving Steering Wheel Award from the Automobile Club of
  Michigan also picture other prominent businessmen in the trade.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record]

Darling, Robert B.
• Robert B. Darling photograph series.
• 4 envelopes
  Chauffeur to Michigan governor Chase S. Osborn, 1911-1912.
  Photos of Osborn's car, some showing the car decorated with patriotic bunting; photos of
  the car on an Upper Peninsula road, Darling's Grosse Pointe Garage, and the ushers in the
  lobby of a Lansing theatre; also photoprints of international balloon race held in Detroit,
  1927 or 1928.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record]

Flint, Michigan, photograph collection.
• 1 envelope
  Photograph of the interior of Buick Motor Company, plant no. 1 in Flint, Michigan.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record]

Ford Motor Company
• Ford Motor Company photograph collection.
• 1 envelope and 1 v.
Photographs of construction of a Ford plant, 1911; photos of automobile production, showing machinery, assembly lines, and factory interiors and exteriors; and photos of the Ford Rotunda; also photograph album, 1931-1932, produced or distributed by Ford, with photos of the construction of the Ford Dam on the Huron River near Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Ivory Photo
- Ivory Photo photograph collection.
- 31 linear ft.
  Ann Arbor, Michigan, photography firm.
  Photonegatives, and some photoprints, of images largely relating to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan, but including Ypsilanti and other Michigan cities: buildings, businesses, houses, street scenes, community activities, and organizations; also photos of automobiles, storm damage, etc. taken to support insurance claims.

Finding aid

Kausch, Jack
- Jack Kausch collection.
- 4 linear feet, 1 oversize folder, and 1 oversize motion picture reel.
  Jack Kausch was a photographer specializing in family portraits and historical subjects.
  He was the producer of commercial videos on Detroit and Michigan historical topics.
  The collection includes photographs, photographic slides, videotapes, and motion picture films. Topics covered include Detroit and the automobile industry, Detroit landmark businesses, the construction of the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, and churches and other buildings designed by architect Gordon W. Lloyd.

Finding aid

Lewis, Ralph William
- Ralph W. Lewis photograph collection.
- 1 envelope.
  Professor of natural science at Michigan State University.
  Photos of general strike demonstration, organized by the United Auto Workers, June 7, 1937, at the Michigan State Capitol, Lansing.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Michigan Bell Telephone Company
- Michigan Bell Telephone Company photograph collection.
- 63 linear ft.
  Photographs (positive and negative), slides, and transparencies taken by the company's photographers to document company activities, products, services, employees at work and at leisure, company exhibits and commemorations, and the response of the company to natural disasters and civil disturbances.

Finding aid

Michigan Historical Collections topical photograph collection
- .4 linear ft. and 1 outsize box.
Photographs, from various sources, of transportation, including carriages, automobiles, Great Lakes shipping, railroads, and mass transit, including street railroads; of the mining, forestry, and lumber industries, mostly in the Upper Peninsula; of various ethnic groups and their societies; of Native Americans (1870s-1930s) of the Manistee and Ludington, Michigan, areas; of dwellings, clothing styles and social customs (1860s-1920s); and of Michigan units in the Spanish-American War and the Polar Bear Expedition (1919); also photos of bookplates.

Correspondence concerning the automotive industry, particularly the founding of General Motors, state politics, and the Constitutional Convention of 1907-1908; also docket books, 1883-1921, with record of cases handled by Carton and his partners.


Moody, Blair
- Blair Moody visual materials series.
- 3.4 linear ft.

Detroit newspaperman and United States Senator from Michigan.
Photos and films relating to Moody's career as a foreign correspondent and politician; also family photos of the Moody and Downey families, including portraits of Civil War soldiers.
Finding aid

Newton, Charles Tyley
- Charles Tyley Newton photograph series.
- .75 linear ft.

Ypsilanti, Michigan automobile salesman, antique collector for Greenfield Village, and real estate agent for the Ford Motor Company.
Collected photos relating to Newton's historical investigations and business dealings for Greenfield Village and Ford Motor Company, arranged by subject and place name (Originals and copy prints).
Finding aid
Oakland Motor Car Corp.
- The new Oakland eight: General Motors' lowest price eight: New--yet sixteen years old.
- 1 print
  1930 Advertisement for Oakland Motor Car Company's Oakland Eight vehicle.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Oakland Motor Car Corp.
- New series Pontiac big six: Now an even finer car bears this name.
- 1 print
  1930 Advertisement for Pontiac automobile
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Parsons, John.
- John Parsons photographs, 1920.
- 1 folder.
  Graduate of the Michigan State Auto School, Detroit, Michigan.
  Panoramic photograph of the class members of the Michigan State Auto School, 1920.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Price, Hickman
- Hickman Price photograph series.
- .4 linear ft.
  Executive with the Kaiser-Frazer Corp., later with Willys Motor Inc.
  Portraits and family photos; photographs related to the production of the Jeep in Brazil.
  Finding aid

Proctor, Hazel, collector
- Hazel Proctor photograph collection.
- ca. 200 photonegatives and 1 v.
  Photographs collected for book, Old Jackson Town; includes copy negatives (filed in negative file) and a copy of the book annotated with negative numbers (filed in printed collection).
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Sackett, Ray Carleton
- Ray Carleton Sackett photograph series.
- .2 linear ft.
  Detroit, Michigan automobile executive.
  Portraits of Sackett; informal photos of Sackett with friends and family members, of family activities, and of the Sackett home in Saginaw, Michigan; photos relating to Sackett's experience as student at the University of Michigan, and to Sackett's professional activities in the automobile industry; also views of Ann Arbor, Michigan and other Michigan locales.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Schroeder, Diane, collector.
- Diane Schroeder photograph album, 1919-1920.
  1 volume.
  Album of construction progress photographs of large factory complex, unidentified, but possibly a Ford Motor auto plant in Michigan.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Ungermann, Charles William**
- Charles William Ungermann photograph series.
  .2 linear ft., 1 v., and 2 outsize folders.
  Detroit, Michigan, police officer.
  Photographs of Detroit, Michigan buildings, streets, people, and activities, especially as they relate to the work of the Detroit Police Department; group and individual portraits and photographs of Detroit Police, and photos of police training; photos of war bond drives and other war work during World War II; and photos of WJR radio broadcasting during the 1930s.
  [Finding aid](#)

**U. S. World Peace Commission**
- Work camp [1939].
  1 16mm motion picture.
  Documents a summer work camp in Flint, Michigan; includes views of auto plants, auto workers, and other Flint scenes, and the building of a playground in a Black neighborhood.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Welch, A.R.**
- A. R. Welch photograph collection.
  1 envelope and 1 outsize folder.
  Founder of Welch Motor Car Company, Pontiac, Michigan.
  Portrait; photos of company building and employees, and of Welch and others in automobile; photo of automobile, presumably a Welch product; and group portrait of automobile industry leaders.
  [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Welch, Kenneth Curtis**
- Kenneth C. Welch photograph series.
  1.6 linear ft.
  Grand Rapids, Michigan, architect and planner.
  Photographs of Welch's architectural projects throughout the United States, especially shopping centers, including Northland (Southfield, Michigan) and Breton Village (Grand Rapids, Michigan); also a variety of projects in Grand Rapids, Michigan, including photos of downtown buildings and streets and Fountain Street Church; photographic studies of downtown and shopping center businesses in various cities; and aerial photos of several Michigan localities.
  [Finding aid](#)
Z.T. Gerganoff (Architectural firm, Ypsilanti, MI.)

- 28 folders and 1 linear ft.


Drawings and specifications for various area churches, service stations and auto dealerships, the Washtenaw County Building, the Ypsi-Ann Building, and miscellaneous businesses and private residences.

Finding aid