



Finding Aid for

SIDNEY OLSON RESEARCH NOTES ON HENRY FORD, 1952-1953

Accession 512

Finding Aid Published: 20 September 2019

Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 USA
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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: 64.167.512

CREATOR: Olson, Sidney

TITLE: Sidney Olson Research Notes on Henry Ford

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1952-1953

QUANTITY: 5.4 cubic ft. (12 boxes, including 1 oversize)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Sidney Olson conducted independent research in the Ford Archives, with the intention of writing a series of books on Henry Ford. His manuscript was published in 1963 under the title *Young Henry Ford*. The Sidney Olson Research Notes on Henry Ford contain handwritten and typewritten notes, quotations from reminiscences of Ford Motor Company employees, topical files (primarily photocopies), a draft manuscript, and photographic prints.

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:** Donated to The Henry Ford, 1964.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:
-Sidney Olson Public Relations Project Files, Accession 716
-Sidney Olson "The Peaceful Revolution" Manuscripts, Accession 812
-Sidney Olson *American Road* Manuscript, Accession 979
- Related collections beyond The Henry Ford:
-Sidney A. Olson papers, 1957, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.
<https://www.worldcat.org/title/sidney-a-olson-papers-1957/oclc/27521704>
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 64.167.512, Sidney Olson Research Notes on Henry Ford, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Originally processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff, November 2011. The papers include original documents from Ford Motor Company Archives collections that were utilized for research and not returned to source collections.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory lists prepared by staff of the Ford Motor Company Archives, circa 1964.
- Original finding aid written by Benson Ford Research Center staff, November 2011, and updated in September 2013. Revised by Janice Unger, September 2019, and published in September 2019.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Sidney Olson (1908-1996) was a journalist, war correspondent, and a senior editor at *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune* magazines before joining Kenyon & Eckhardt, an advertising agency, in 1951. The firm was hired by Ford executives to market Ford Motor Company's fiftieth anniversary. While working on the project, Olson spent many hours with material in the Ford Motor Company Archives.

After retirement, Olson conducted independent research in the Archives, focusing for five years on a project he called *The American Road: A Picture History of the Life and Times of Henry Ford, 1863-1947*. Olson's original intent was to write several volumes telling the story of Henry Ford "plainly" and utilizing primary source documents as much as possible. His manuscript was published in 1963 by Wayne State University Press under the title *Young Henry Ford: A Picture History of the First Forty Years*.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Sidney Olson Research Notes on Henry Ford (5.4 cubic ft.) is comprised of handwritten and typewritten notes, quotations culled from reminiscences of Ford Motor Company employees, topical files (primarily photocopies), a draft manuscript, photographic prints, and chronologies of Henry Ford's life from 1896 to 1902. Subject matter, broadly covering the life of Henry Ford and his interests, varies from year to year. Of particular note are photocopies of Ford Motor Company director meeting minutes from 1903 to 1919 and a large run of photographs. While most of the photographs are copies of images from various Ford Motor Company Archives collections, researchers should note there are original vintage photographic prints interspersed throughout the folders.

Researchers should note that there are 4 collections of Sidney Olson materials that had previously been combined on one finding aid and collectively known as the Sidney Olson Papers, PP 004. In addition to this collection, researchers may also want to consult: the Sidney Olson Public Relations Project Files, Accession 716; the Sidney Olson "The Peaceful Revolution" Manuscripts, Accession 812; and the Sidney Olson *American Road* Manuscript, Accession 979.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Olson, Sidney

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943

Ford family

Ford Motor Company—History

Ford Motor Company—Public Relations

Ford Motor Company—Employees

Ford Motor Company--Executives

Subjects

Automobile industry and trade

Ford automobile

Genre and Form

Chronologies

Maps

Minutes

Photographic prints

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Miscellaneous research notes and lists, 1861-1955 (2 folders)
General notes and chronology
 1896-1922 (26 folders)
 1924
 1928-1930 (3 folders)
 1932-1933 (2 folders)
 1935-1936 (2 folders)
 1930-1939

Boxes 2 and 3

Notes from Ford Motor Company reminiscences (64 folders)

Box 4

Topical files
 Airplanes, 1927
 Alex Dow, 1927
 Alexander Malcomson, 1953
 Bartolomeo Vanzetti, 1927
 Cartoons, 1913-1914
 Chicago Tribune libel suit, publications, 1924
 Clara Ford, 1947
 Dance music, 1924
 Edsel Ford, 1943
 Henry Ford, Edison, and Burroughs, 1911-1931
 Ford Motor Company
 General, 1901-1919 (2 folders)
 Archives, 1951-1953
 Director meetings
 Memorandums, 1903-1912
 Minutes and photocopies, 1903-1911

Box 5

 First Time Book, 1903
 Five Dollar Day, 1914
 History, 1903-1927
 Mack Plant history, 1942
 Model T notes, 1913
 Profits, 1903-1922 and 1933
 Tractors, Ford Ferguson, 1939
Henry Ford
 General clippings and notes, 1894-1952
 Banks, 1916-1944

Brooks, Harry, 1928 (includes photographs, some original)
Death and obituaries, 1947
Educator, 1938, and Berry Schools, 1903
Fair Lane, 1914-1953
Favorite hymn, 1939-1940
George Washington Carver, 1941-1942
Henry Ford Hospital, 1914-1928
Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, 1929-1938
Jewish issue, 1921, 1937, and undated
Labor, 1940-1941 and 1926
Manufacturing, undated
Muscle Shoals, 1921-1922
Parade, 4 July 1924
Peace Ship, 1915-1940
Political races, 1916-1923
Trips and events, 1891-1950
Wayside Inn, 1925-1929
World War I, 1917-1918 and 1923
John Dillinger, 1934

Box 6

Kanzler, 1926
Liebold, undated
Lincoln Automobile, 1922-1952 (interview with John H. Eagal)
Race, New York to Seattle, 1909
Selden and Dodge lawsuits, 1903-1926
Tax case, James Couzens, 1928 (2 folders)
Vagabonds camping trips, 1916-1921 (includes photographs)

Box 7

American Road (Young Henry Ford) files and photographs
Critiques, undated
First draft, undated (2 folders)

Box 8

Corrections and revisions, undated (4 folders)
Photographs
List of photographs by chapter (draft)
Copies of photographs (3 folders; photoprint duplicates)

Box 9

Copies of photographs (3 folders; photoprint duplicates)
Photographs arranged by chapter (20 folders)

Boxes 10 and 11

Photographs arranged by year (28 folders; include many original photographs)

Box 12 (oversize)

Oversize photographs (2 folders)

Hand-drawn map of Dearborn area, undated