



Finding Aid for

**AUGUSTUS DEGENER PAPERS, 1905-1926**  
**Accession 187**

Finding Aid Published: November 2011



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## OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center  
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 187

CREATOR: Degener, Augustus

TITLE: Augustus Degener papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1905-1926

QUANTITY: 1 folder

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: Augustus Degener worked with Henry Ford on the "999" racer and on steel heat-treatment processes. His papers contain notes on the early years of Ford Motor Company, architectural drawings and information concerning the fifteen millionth Model T motor.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Ford Motor Company donation, 1964
- RELATED MATERIALS:** Part of the Small Accessions collection at The Henry Ford
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 187, Augustus Degener papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, March 1964.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Ford Motor Company Archives staff in March 1964.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, November 2011, and published in November 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## **HISTORICAL NOTE**

Augustus Degener, born in Germany, worked with Henry Ford and C. Harold Wills in 1902 on building the "999" racer. As a machinist and draftsman, Degener was one of the first men hired a year later to work for the Ford Motor Company. In 1906 Degener, Wills, and John Wandersee began experimenting on the heat treatment of steel. They developed significant vanadium steel products for the Model T, solving the problem of strength in lightness, a key component of the vehicle.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The papers contain biographical notes, Degener's recollections of important events in the early years of the Ford Motor Company, notes listing men working for the company between 1902 and 1908, metallurgy notes and data, a 1927 document regarding the fifteen millionth Model T motor, and a photostat copy of an architectural drawing of the Jobbing Foundry at the Fordson Plant, Ford Motor Company, 1926.

## **SUBJECT TERMS**

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Degener, Augustus  
Ford Motor Company

### Subjects

Ford Motor Company--History  
Ford Motor Company--Employees  
Automobile industry and trade  
Automobile industry workers  
Metallurgy  
Ford Model T automobile  
Automobiles, Racing

### Genre and Form

Architectural drawings

## CONTAINER LIST

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

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### Folder 1

Sheets from Mr. Degener's diary, 1902-1932 (Lists men working on Park Street at the time. The Park Street location was near Grand River and in back of Parker Webb building)

Notebook (includes information on alloys, formulas, heat treatments, piston rings, cam shafts, steel, melting and boiling points, metric system, cast iron, babbitt metal, bronze, concrete, experiment, hardening steel, aluminum, magnet hardening, lead, and brick)

"An Open Letter to Henry Ford," undated

Photograph of heat treated vanadium steel, undated

"Oath of Allegiance," Plant Protection Section (wallet-sized card)

Photographs of heat-treated metals (8 circular photographs)

Heat treat data

    Vanadium, July 26, 1907

    Colonial steel, undated

Report of iron tests, undated

"Carbonizing Test between Houghton and Blaich Carbonizing Material," undated

Statement concerning the fifteen millionth Model T motor, May 28, 1927 (includes table of Model T motors by millions, giving the number and the date manufactured, from Oct 1, 1908 through May 26, 1927)

Photostat of Jobbing Foundry at Fordson Plant, December 10, 1926

"Hard Cast Iron - A Theory of One of Its Causes", by Henry Souther in *Iron & Steel*, Vol. X, 1905