



Finding Aid for

**COMET AUTOMOBILE COMPANY RECORDS, 1918-1920
Accession 1771**

Finding Aid Published: April 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1771

CREATOR: Comet Automobile Company

TITLE: Comet Automobile Company records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1918-1920

QUANTITY: 0.33 linear ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: The Comet Automobile Company records contain photographs, correspondence, business records, and clippings related to the company during the period 1918-1920.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The records are 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:** The collection was donated to the Research Center in 1992 by the family of Henry Austin Clark, Jr.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- Also see Comet Automobile Company sales literature in the Automotive Product Literature Collection.
- Related collections beyond The Henry Ford
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1771, Comet Automobile Company records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by staff of The Henry Ford, circa 1992.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list and finding aid prepared by staff of The Henry Ford. Finding aid reformatted by Brian Wilson, March 2011 and published April 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

George W. Jagers, founder of the Comet Automobile Company, introduced his first model at the Chicago Automobile Show in 1917. Production of the vehicle began the following August in Decatur, Illinois. Initial sales of the 6-cylinder automobile were modest but consistent.

In 1920, Comet received an order for 40 cars from Belgium and plans were made to go international. Construction was begun on a large, new factory with a 200-car-per-day capacity. But huge foreign orders never materialized and by December 1920 the company was in deep financial trouble. A smaller 4-cylinder car was introduced in 1920 along with a viable financing/purchasing plan, but the company never produced after 1922. There were no bidders when the company was offered for sale late in 1922. Its assets were sold the following year.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains photographs, correspondence, business records, and clippings related to the company during the period 1918-1920.

ARRANGEMENT

The materials are arranged alphabetically by form and topic.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate
Comet Automobile Company
Jagers, George W.

Subjects
Automobiles
Tractors
Trucks

Geographic
Decatur (Ill.)

Genre and Form
Business records
Correspondence
Newspaper clippings
Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

- 1-1 Appraisals, 1919
- 1-2 Clippings, 1918
- 1-3 Clippings, 1919
- 1-4 Clippings, 1920
- 1-5 Company logo
- Correspondence
 - 1-6 1918
 - 1-7 1919
 - 1-8 1920
 - 1-9 Undated
- 1-10 Executives
- 1-11 Financial statements, 1919
- 1-12 Stock certificate, undated
- Photographs
 - 1-13 Automobiles--Comet, 1917
 - 1-14 Automobiles--Comet, engine
 - 1-15 Industry--Automobiles--Comet Automobile Company--Executives
 - 1-16 Industry--Automobiles--Comet Automobile Company--Buildings, exterior
 - 1-17 Industry--Automobiles--Comet Automobile Company--Buildings, interior
 - 1-18 Tractors--Comet, undated
 - 1-19 Trucks--Comet, undated