



Finding Aid for

**FREDERICK E. SEARLE PAPERS, 1919-1947  
PP002**

Finding Aid Published: November 2011



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## OVERVIEW

**REPOSITORY:** Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
[www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)  
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**ACCESSION NUMBER:** PP002

**CREATOR:** Searle, Frederick E. (Frederick Edwards), 1871-1972

**TITLE:** Frederick E. Searle papers

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1919-1947

**QUANTITY:** 1.6 cubic ft. and 1 folder

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in English

**ABSTRACT:** Frederick E. Searle headed the Henry Ford Trade School from 1917 to 1946. His papers contain correspondence, newsletters, transcripts of speeches and other related records. The papers include Accessions 36 and 690.

## 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 MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford: Frederick E. Searle oral history, part of the Oral History subgroup, 1951-1961, Accession 65
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, PP002, Frederick E. Searle papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, April and May 1964.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Ford Motor Company Archives staff in April and May 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.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Frederick E. Searle headed the Henry Ford Trade School for thirty years. Born in Westfield, Massachusetts in 1871, Searle graduated from Williams College in 1893 and taught school for two years in Tarrytown, New York before moving to Detroit, Michigan. He taught at the Detroit School for Boys, which eventually became the Detroit University School. In 1917, he was persuaded by Edsel Ford, who had attended the Detroit University School, to become head of The Henry Ford Trade School, one of Henry Ford's primary endeavors in education. The school initially was located on the fourth floor of the A building at Ford Motor Company's Highland Park Plant; by 1928, 1,000 students were enrolled at a new location at the Rouge River Plant in Dearborn. In 1930, the two locations merged, and Searle moved his office to the Rouge. Between 1933 and 1938, Ford invited nearly 600 foreign students to receive training under Searle, paying them five dollars a day for periods of a few weeks to three years. In 1918, Searle also was given responsibility for the Ford Motor Company Apprentice Schools. Apprentice training reached a peak during World War II when the Navy asked Ford to train machinist mates and aircraft mechanics at the Rouge facility. At Ford's Willow Run bomber plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan, a teaching force exceeding 1,300 held classes for 18,000 students. In all, the Henry Ford Trade School and Apprentice Schools trained an estimated 250,000 people under Searle. Near the end of the war, Searle organized Ford Camp Legion sites for men selected by veterans' organizations for rehabilitation. He retired in 1946 and died in 1972 at age 101.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The papers are primarily comprised of bound volumes of Frederick E. Searle. These volumes contain incoming correspondence from July 23, 1919 to January 22, 1936 pertaining primarily to the operation of The Henry Ford Trade School; correspondence and purchase orders for textbooks published by the Henry Ford Trade School from 1934 to 1939; and bound volumes of the Henry Ford Trade School newsletter "The Craftsman," 1926 to 1927; 1936 to 1938, 1950 to 1941, 1943 to 1944, and 1946 to 1947. Also included are printed versions of two Searle speeches, "Use of Handicapped Workers" and "Training Youth for Industry."

## **SUBJECT TERMS**

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Searle, Frederick E. (Frederick Edwards), 1871-1972

Henry Ford Trade School

Ford Motor Company. Highland Park Plant.

Ford Motor Company. Rouge River Plant.

### Subjects

Industry and education

Trade schools--Michigan

Vocational education--Michigan

Schools--Michigan--Dearborn

Schools--Michigan--Highland Park

Teachers

Automobile industry and trade

People with disabilities

### Genre and Form

Publications

## CONTAINER LIST

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

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### ACCESSION 36

#### Folder 1

"Training Youth for Industry," speech by Frederick E. Searle, 1938 (given before the Ontario Section meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in Toronto; 2 copies)  
"Use of Handicapped Workers," speech by Frederick E. Searle

### ACCESSION 690

#### Box 1

Frederick E. Searle correspondence (bound volumes)  
July 23, 1919-December 30, 1933  
January 2, 1934-January 22, 1936  
Henry Ford Trade School correspondence (bound volumes)  
July 1934-September 1935  
1935-1936  
October 1935-January 1936

#### Box 2

1936  
1937

#### Box 3

1938  
1939

#### Box 4

"The Craftsman"  
Bound volumes  
1926-1927  
1936-1937  
1937-1938  
1940-1941  
1943-1944  
1946-1947  
Photocopies  
December 20, 1935