



Finding Aid for

**JIMMY ROONEY PAPERS, 1919-1956**  
**Accession 1106**

Finding Aid Published: January 2011



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## **SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**CREATOR:** Rooney, Jimmy

**TITLE:** Jimmy Rooney papers

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1919-1956

**QUANTITY:** 1.2 cubic ft. and 1 oversize box

**ABSTRACT:** Jimmy Rooney was a goodwill ambassador for Ford Motor Company. The bulk of the papers document the two-millionth and three-millionth Ford V-8 transcontinental journeys as well as transcontinental trips with the 25-millionth, 27-millionth and 28-millionth Ford cars.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The papers are open for research.

**ACQUISITION:** Accession 1106

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, Accession 1106, Jimmy Rooney papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Finding aid prepared by Melissa Janz Barbey, April, 2005

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Jimmy Rooney, was born May 10, 1898. Rooney started his career as an amateur boxer in 1913. In 1915 he became a professional boxer and also had stints as a professional baseball player and professional football player. A broken jaw forced Rooney to leave boxing and turn to show business where he toured with Joe E. Brown in the musical comedy called "Listen, Lester."

After leaving show business, Rooney joined Ford Motor Company, where he began in a plant protection job and later became Supervisor of Maintenance for offices in the Rouge area. Rooney was also a goodwill ambassador for the company. In 1935 he drove the two-millionth Ford V-8 from Dearborn, Michigan to the California Pacific International Exposition in San Diego, California. In 1936 he drove the three-millionth Ford V-8 from Dearborn to the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas. In 1937 he drove the twenty-five millionth car from Dearborn to the Florida Exposition in Miami. In 1939 he drove the twenty-seven millionth Ford car, assembled in Richmond, California, first to the San Francisco Golden Gate Exposition and then across the United States to the New York World's Fair. In 1940 he drove the twenty-eighth millionth Ford car, assembled in Edgewater, New Jersey, on an international goodwill tour through the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Rooney retired from Ford Motor Company after 41 years of service.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The bulk of the collection contains three series. The Ford Milestones Subject File series contains magazine articles, newspaper clippings, photographs and scrapbooks documenting the two-millionth and three-millionth Ford V-8 transcontinental journeys as well as transcontinental trips with the 25-millionth, 27-millionth and 28-millionth Ford cars. The General Subject File series contains a small amount of personal and business correspondence. The Photographs series contains photographs of movie stars from the 1930s and 1940s, as well as photographs of Jimmy Rooney.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

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

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### **FORD MILESTONE SUBJECT FILE**

#### **Box 1**

2 Millionth V-8 Ford, 1935  
    Magazine and Newspaper Clippings  
    Photographs  
    Scrapbooks  
3 Millionth V-8 Ford  
25 Millionth Ford, 1937  
27 Millionth Ford, 1939  
    Documents  
    Magazine Articles  
    Newspaper Clippings (2 folders)  
    Photographs (2 folders)

#### **Box 2**

27 Millionth Ford, 1939  
    General  
    Scrapbooks  
28 Millionth Ford, 1940  
    Congressional Record  
    Newspaper Clippings  
    Photographs  
    Scrapbooks  
Photographs of unknown Millionth Ford celebration

### **GENERAL SUBJECT FILE**

#### **Box 3**

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner for James Rooney  
American Legion Ford Motor Company Post 173  
Athletics (includes photographs)  
Biographical Data and Family  
Brown, Joe E.  
Detroit 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Ford, Henry, Editorials on  
Ford Motor Company Christmas cards  
Rooney, James  
    Company Correspondence  
    Personal Correspondence

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Dinners and Meetings  
Miscellaneous & Unidentified  
Rooney, James

**PHOTOGRAPHS (CONT.)**

**Box 4 (oversize)**

Movie Stars from the 1930's and 1940's

Darnell, Linda  
Grable, Betty  
Henie, Sonja  
Hudson, Rochelle  
Hughes, Mary Beth  
Joyce, Brenda  
Landis, Carole  
Miranda, Carman  
Oakie, Jack  
Payne, John  
Power, Tyrone  
Romero, Cesar  
Sanders, George  
Scott, Randolph  
Shepperd, John (aka Shepperd Strudwick)  
Sil???(unreadable), Virginia  
Sutton, John  
Tierney, Gene  
Weaver, Marjorie  
Whelen, Arleen  
Withers, Jane  
Wright, Cobina