



Finding Aid for

**WILLIAM CLAY FORD RECORDS, 1913-1981 (BULK 1953-1961)
Accession 921**

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
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 921

CREATOR: Ford, William Clay, 1925-

TITLE: William Clay Ford records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1913-1981 (bulk 1953-1961)

QUANTITY: 3.2 cubic ft. and 3 oversize boxes

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: William Clay Ford, the son of Edsel and Eleanor Ford, worked for the Ford Motor Company from 1949 to 2005. His office files consist of records pertaining to public relations projects, philanthropies, the Edison Institute (The Henry Ford), and speeches. Also included are electrical drawings and a photograph album.

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 Archives donation, 1964
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford
- William Clay Ford records series, 1949-1956,
Accession 773
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 921, William Clay Ford records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, June 1964.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff and published in June 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

William Clay Ford was born March 14, 1925 in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Edsel and Eleanor Ford and grandson of Henry and Clara Ford. He joined Ford Motor Company in 1949 after graduating from Yale University. He served in various capacities at the company before being promoted in 1952 to manager of Special Product Operations, later known as the Continental Division. In 1955, William Clay Ford was named group director of both Lincoln and Continental Divisions. In 1956, Continental Division was integrated into Lincoln Division, headed by Ben D. Mills. William Clay Ford was promoted to vice-president of product planning and styling in 1957. He also served on the Board of Directors and retired in 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records are comprised of William Clay Ford office files, mainly from 1953 to 1961. They cover a broad range of subjects, including public relations projects, speeches, memberships, philanthropies, Edison Institute (The Henry Ford) records, community activities, X-100 electrical drawings, an X-1500 design studio album, and a Ford Motor Company photograph album.

ARRANGEMENT

Records are arranged by subject.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, William Clay, 1925-
Ford family
Henry Ford (Organization)

Subjects

Ford Motor Company. Management.
Ford Motor Company. Public Relations.
Automobile industry and trade
Automobiles--Design and construction
Lincoln Continental Automobile

Genre and Form

Design drawings
Technical drawings
Photograph albums

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Car loans, deliveries, complaints, etc., 1957-1961 (2 folders)
Miscellaneous company matters, 1955-1959
J. C. Gibbs donations, 1957-1958 (2 folders)
Invitations, 1957-1961(2 folders)
Membership invitations
 Accepted, 1957-1961 (2 folders)
 Declined, 1957-1961 (2 folders)
Non-Company correspondence, 1957-1961 (2 folders)
Product planning and styling staff correspondence, 1956-1961 (2 folders)
Public relations projects, 1960-1961

Box 2

Customized MG, 1973
Public relations projects
 General projects, 1956-1959
 Art in America, 1958-1959
 Automobile News copy, 1957
Miscellaneous requests, 1955-1961 (2 folders)
Brussels World's Fair
 Correspondence and Plans, 1958
 Publicity, 1958
 Travel, 1958
Four door T-Bird introduction, 1957-1958
M-E-L Press Show and Seminar, 1958
Canadian Dealer Meeting, 1959
Seattle Trip: Ocean-to-Ocean Caravan, 1959
Three-dimensional styling film, 1959
Requests for aid, 1957-1959
Requests for speeches, 1957-1961 (2 folders)
American Automobile Association, 1955-1956

Box 3

Art Center School
 "A Proposal to the Ford Motor Company from the Art Center School," 1952 (2 binders)
 General, 1955-1961
 F. Muiden's file, 1956-1957
Atoms for Peace award, 1957
Automobile clubs - Sports car associations, 1955-1957
Consolidation - Continental and Lincoln Divisions, 1956
Continental Division
 Owners interviews - Chicago, 1956

Correspondence, 1954-1956
Reports, 1954-1956
Public relations program, 1955-1956
Lincoln Division
Correspondence, 1956
Public relations program, 1955-1956
Greenbrier management conference, 1960
Lincoln Continental Owners Club, 1956-1958
European styling survey, 1961
Paris and London trip, 1960
Visit U.S.A. committee, 1960

Box 4

Meetings, releases, announcements, 1957-1959
Crusade for Freedom, 1957
Detroit Junior Board of Commerce, 1953-1957
Thomas A. Edison Foundation
Contributions, 1958-1961
General Correspondence, 1955-1961 (2 folders)
Meetings and Reports, 1955-1961
Science Youth Day and Edison Birthday Celebration, 1956-1961

Box 5

Edison Institute. Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
1959-1961
1954-1958
Edsel Ford High School, 1954-1956
Foreign Policy Association, 1956-1957
Ford Foundation, 1956-1957
Henry and Edsel Ford Auditorium, 1956
Highland Park Dedication, 1956
Junior Achievement, 1956
Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, 1958-1959
Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, 1955
Model T Ford Club, 1957
National Planning Association, 1955-1961
Schoolroom Progress U.S.A., 1955
Seaboard Properties Company, 1955
United Cerebral Palsy
1954-1957
1957-1961

Box 6

Meetings and reports, 1958-1959
Publicity and trips, 1958-1961
United Foundation, 1954-1961

United Service Organizations, 1955
Virginia Museum, 1956
U.S.S. William Clay Ford, 1953-1956
Wayside Inn, 1956-1958
YMCA, 1955-1956

Box 7

Award from United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, December 5, 1960 (integrated from
Accession 86.462.1)
Photograph of Wayside Inn, 1958 (integrated from Accession 86.462.2)
Paris Automobile Show report by E. Bordinat, Chief Stylist, L-M Studio, 1960
European Auto Show report by E. Bordinat, Vice President and Director of Styling, 1961
Electrical Data Manual

Box 8

X-1500 Design Studio album

Box 8a

X-1500 Design Studio album (second copy)

Box 9

The European Automobile Industry, 1962 (binder)
Ford Motor Company photo album, 1913-1943
Wayside Inn photo album

Box 10

Geneva Auto Show, 1981 (binder)