

# CROSLEY AUTOMOBILE ALBUM, 1939-1993

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**Collection #**  
SC 2500

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## Table of Contents

[User information](#)  
[Historical sketch](#)  
[Scope and Content note](#)  
[Cataloguing information](#)

Processed by  
Charles Latham  
23 October 1995

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## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 item

COLLECTION DATES: 1939-1993

PROVENANCE: Fred T. Buffington, Gas City, IN, 28 June 1995

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 95.0615

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Powel Crosley, Jr., (1886-1961) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He attended Ohio Military Institute, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Cincinnati Law School. In the early days of automobiles, he designed two cars, but

neither got into production.

In the 1920s he organized the Crosley Corporation to produce a well-known radio. He also developed a refrigerator with shelves in the doors, the Shelvadoor. In the 1930s Crosley was a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve. He owned the Cincinnati Reds and radio station WLW.

In 1939 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Crosley introduced the Crosley Automobile, "the forgotten man's car." It was small, priced at between \$349 and \$450, and powered by an air-cooled engine. Cannonball Baker drove a Crosley 6,517 miles cross-country, with a gasoline consumption of 50.4 mpg. A total of 5,757 Crosleys were sold before World War II halted production.

During the war Crosley developed a Jeep-like vehicle called the PUP, and a four-cylinder engine used for refrigeration and other non-automotive purposes.

Crosley started up car production again in 1946, and moved his plant to Marion, Indiana. Models included a business coupe, a panel truck, and a wood-panelled station wagon (the most popular model). By the end of 1948 there were 25,000 Crosleys on the road, and the company was experimenting with sports cars, utility vehicles, and even a hydroplane. Sales dwindled, however, and in mid-1952 the Marion plant was sold to General Tire and Rubber Company.

In 1992 and 1993 reunions of former Crosley owners were held. The 1993 reunion, held in Wauseon, Ohio, had 77 Crosleys on display. This album is a result of these reunions.

Sources: Materials in collection

B. R. Kimes and H. A. Clark, *Standard catalog of American Cars, 1805-1942* (1989), 377-378

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### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains one item, an album produced about 1993 by members of the Crosley Automobile Club, an organization of enthusiasts and former owners of Crosley Automobiles (1939-1942, 1946-1952).

The album contains historical material about the Crosley, with illustrations, derived from several sources and reproduced.

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### **CATALOGUING INFORMATION**

MAIN ENTRY: Crosley Automobile Club

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Crosley Automobile Club

Crosley automobile--History

Antique and classic cars--Collectors and collecting

END