

Collection #  
P 0661

**AUTOMOBILES AND AUTO CLUBS  
PHOTOGRAPHS AND GRAPHICS, CA. 1907-1980**

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Processed by

Jessica Fischer  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 2 photograph folders, 1 cold storage color photograph folder, 1 uprights graphics folder, and 1 OVA photograph folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** ca. 1907-1980

**PROVENANCE:** Multiple

**RESTRICTIONS:** Color photographs must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff

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

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1990.0796X, 1993.0509.v1-4, 1996.0632, 1997.0268.v1, 1998.1151x, 2001.0640, 2006.0400, 2010.0104

**NOTES:**

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

**Pioneer Automotive Club:** The Pioneer Automotive Club was founded in 1951. The Kokomo, Indiana chapter is named after the automobile company that was based there: Haynes-Apperson Chapter. The overall mission of this nonprofit automobile club is to "preserve antique, historical, and vintage automobiles".

**Duesenberg:** Duesenberg Motors Company was opened in 1913 in Saint Paul, Minnesota by the Duesenberg brothers, August and Frederick, to produce engines and race cars. During WWI, the company focused their efforts on building aircraft engines for the U.S. Army, moving production to New Jersey. It was not until after the war that the company moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, and produced its first passenger car: the Duesenberg Model A. Over the next few years, the company had some financial issues and went into receivership. The company managed to survive, and in 1926 was purchased by E.L. Cord and renamed Duesenberg, Inc. Two years later the company introduced a luxury car, the Duesenberg Model J. The Model J was popular amongst the rich and famous, and it was this group that kept Duesenberg afloat during the depression. This was not enough, however, and production of Duesenberg automobiles ended in 1936.

**Marmon-Herrington:** The Nordyke and Marmon Machine Co. was founded in 1851 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The company produced flour mill machinery at first, but by 1900 had entered into the automobile industry, producing luxury vehicles such as the Marmon Wasp (which won the first Indianapolis 500 in 1911). During the Great Depression, demand for luxury cars was greatly reduced, so the company partnered with Arthur Herrington and founded Marmon-Herrington in 1931. This new company focused on designing all-wheel drive vehicles and procured contracts for large military vehicle production. From the 1960s on, the company focused less on full vehicle production and more on innovation with axles and transfer cases.

**Empire:** The Empire Motor Car Company was founded in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1909 by Indianapolis Motor Speedway founders Carl G. Fisher, Arthur C. Newby and James A. Allison. The company's main automobile manufactured was the "The Little Aristocrat", which was produced from 1909 to 1912. It was a small, two passenger vehicle with an initial price tag of \$850. The company put out a few more models over the next several years, but could not compete in the market and closed down in 1919.

Sources:

"About Us." Pioneer Auto Club Kokomo Indiana. Accessed April 19, 2018. <http://pac1951kokomo.wixsite.com/pioneerautoclub/about-us>.

"History of Innovation." Marmon-Herrington. Accessed April 06, 2018. <https://www.marmon-herrington.com/company>.

Klein, Nick. "The History." Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum. July 10, 2017. Accessed April 19, 2018. <http://www.automobilemuseum.org/about/the-history>.

"The Empire Automobile & The Empire Motor Car Co." American Automobiles. Accessed April 19, 2018. <http://www.american-automobiles.com/Empire.html>.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains photographs of cars, many of which include people riding in or standing next to the automobiles. The cars represented in the photographs are primarily luxury automobiles from the manufacturers Empire, Marmon, and Duesenberg. There is also a racing car manufactured by Auto Union. There are two auto clubs represented in the collection-one photograph of the Indiana Auto Club in Pennsylvania and one hand drawn logo for the Pioneer Automotive Club-Haynes Apperson Chapter, Kokomo, IN.

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Empire 19 Automobile, ca. 1915; Marmon-Automobile with Family, ca. 1907, and Group of Automobiles, n.d.; Auto Union-Type B Avus Record Racing Car (with Newsclipping), 1934

Indiana Auto Club, Line of Cars, ca. 1912

Pioneer Automotive Club-Haynes Apperson Chapter, Kokomo, IN, Hand Drawn Logo, n.d.

1927 Duesenberg, Model X, ca. 1980

Duesenberg, Model J Photographs, ca. 1928-1937:  
Model J Convertible Coup, n.d., Model J Convertible Sedan, n.d., Model J Convertible Coup, n.d., Model J Speedster, n.d.

### CONTAINER

Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 2

Photographs,  
Folder 2 of 2

Upright Graphics,  
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Cold Storage  
Color Photographs,  
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OVA Photographs,  
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