

Collection #
SC 3597
BV 5466-5475

**INDIANAPOLIS FORD PLANT
COLLECTION, 1956–2011**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders; 10 bound volumes; 1 folder color photographs; 1 artifact

COLLECTION DATES: 1956–2011

PROVENANCE: Mary Anne Hoffman, Indianapolis, Indiana, May, 2018

RESTRICTIONS: Items listed as being in Cold Storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2018.0122

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Ford Motor Company's relationship with Indianapolis dates back to 1903 when one of the first orders for the Model A was assembled in the city. In 1914, the company began using Indianapolis as one of its regional assembly plants and constructed a facility on East Washington Street. Cars continued to be assembled on the site until 1932, and the buildings were used as offices until 1942.

Ford resumed production of automobiles in Indianapolis in 1956 with the construction of a new plant on English Avenue that produced steering gear assemblies for cars sold in North America. In 1992, the factory was enlarged and upgraded to produce power steering assemblies for cars made in Europe. By the mid-1990s, the plant employed over 2,000 people. The decline in auto sales combined with improved technology from hydraulic to electric steering systems forced the plant to close in 2011

Sources:

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994

Indianapolis Business Journal, 3 December 2009

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Materials in the collection include seven volumes of the plant newsletter, *Indianapolis Ford News* (1959–1967), and three volumes of its successor, *Indy Ford Family* (1989–1998). There are also histories and news clippings regarding the plant, 1950s–1990, and family picnic materials, 1980s–1990s. Additional items include color photographs (1956–1990s) and the Ford Silver Safety Performance Award plaque, presented to the factory in 2011.

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Family Picnics, 1990s	SC 3597, Folder 2
Color Photographs, 1950s–1990s	Color Photographs Cold Storage
<i>Indianapolis Ford News</i> , September 1959–December 1960	BV 5466
<i>Indianapolis Ford News</i> , 1961	BV 5467
<i>Indianapolis Ford News</i> , 1962	BV 5468
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<i>Indy Ford Family</i> , March 1993–December 1995	BV 5474
<i>Indy Ford Family</i> , February 1996–December 1998	BV 5475
Silver Safety Performance Award, 2011	Artifact: 2018,0122