INDIANAPOLIS FORD PLANT
COLLECTION, 1956–2011

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Processed by
Paul Brockman
July 2019

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

www.indianahistory.org
**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</th>
<th>2 manuscript folders; 10 bound volumes; 1 folder color photographs; 1 artifact</th>
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<tr>
<td>COLLECTION DATES:</td>
<td>1956–2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROVENANCE:</td>
<td>Mary Anne Hoffman, Indianapolis, Indiana, May, 2018</td>
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<td>RESTRICTIONS:</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ALTERNATE FORMATS:</td>
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<td>RELATED HOLDINGS:</td>
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<td>ACCESSION NUMBER:</td>
<td>2018.0122</td>
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<td>NOTES:</td>
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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:


*Indianapolis Business Journal,* 3 December 2009
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE


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<td>Family Picnics, 1990s</td>
<td>SC 3597, Folder 2</td>
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<td>Color Photographs, 1950s–1990s</td>
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<td>Cold Storage</td>
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*Indianapolis Ford News, September 1959–December 1960*  
BV 5466

*Indianapolis Ford News, 1961*  
BV 5467

*Indianapolis Ford News, 1962*  
BV 5468

*Indianapolis Ford News, 1963*  
BV 5469

*Indianapolis Ford News, 1964*  
BV 5470

*Indianapolis Ford News, 1966*  
BV 5471

*Indianapolis Ford News, 1967*  
BV 5472

*Indy Ford Family, August 1989–December 1992*  
BV 5473

*Indy Ford Family, March 1993–December 1995*  
BV 5474

*Indy Ford Family, February 1996–December 1998*  
BV 5475

Silver Safety Performance Award, 2011  
Artifact: 2018,0122