

Collection #  
M 0592  
OM 0270

**MARMON MOTOR CAR CO.  
RECORDS, 1917–1953 (BULK 1924–1933)**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Paul Brockman

17 December 1991

Updated 26 January 2005; 30 August 2018

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:	1 manuscript box, 1 oversize manuscript folder, 1 photograph folder, 1 OVA photograph folder
COLLECTION DATES:	Inclusive 1917–1953; Bulk, 1924–1933.
PROVENANCE:	Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Greenleaf, Indianapolis, Indiana, 5 June 1990
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Wallace Spencer Huffman Collection (M 159); Hanley, George Philip, <i>The Marmon Heritage</i> (TL 215, .M33, H 36, 1985); <i>The Roosevelt: Marmon Built</i> (pam q, TL 215, .M 33 R 6, 1929).
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1990.0341
NOTES:	

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Marmon Company began operations in Richmond, Indiana, in 1851 as a manufacturer of millstones. The company, founded by Daniel Marmon and Addison Nordyke, was called the Nordyke and Marmon Company. The company moved to Indianapolis in the 1870s where it evolved into one of the world's leading producers of milling machinery.

Marmon's sons, Walter and Howard, became involved in the company around the turn of the century. Both engineering graduates, Walter assumed a role in the management facets while Arthur was concerned with the engineering aspects. In 1902, Arthur designed and produced the company's first motor car which featured the first use of a pressure lubricated crankshaft and rod bearings. In 1911, the company produced the first Indianapolis 500 winner in Ray Harroun's Wasp.

Arthur Marmon and his staff were leaders in automotive design pioneering. In the late 1910s, the Model 34 was noted for its use of aluminum, making it much lighter than its competitors. Marmon also experimented in designing 12 and 16 cylinder engines. In 1926, the name of the company was changed to the Marmon Motor Car Company. The company met with hard times during the Depression of the 1930s, and by the time it went into receivership in May 1933, it was only producing an expensive but well received 16 cylinder car.

Walter Marmon became the company's secretary when his father died in 1909. He later became president and was named chairman of the board in 1924. In 1931, he formed a partnership with Arthur D. Herrington in the manufacturing of trucks under the name of the Marmon-Herrington Company, which became the truck production division of the Marmon Motor Car Company. The Marmon-Herrington Company remained in business after the motor car company went into receivership, and it later acquired and moved to the defunct Duesenberg Company plant on West Washington and Harding streets in Indianapolis. The company continued producing heavy duty, all wheel drive trucks until it ceased operations in 1964.

### Sources:

*Indianapolis Star*, 16 March 1980, Sec. 5, pp. 2-3.  
Huffman Collection, Indiana Historical Society Library.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The records contain the meeting minutes of the board of directors and the stockholders of the Nordyke and Marmon/Marmon Motor Car Company, May, 1924–1935. Most of the information contained refers to the company's financial status. The minutes are comprised of proceedings, agreements, resolutions, stocks, and some correspondence. There are also the special meeting minutes for the board of directors.

Also included in the collection are publications, newspaper clippings, photographs, and publicity regarding the company's history and its automobile production. There is also a portfolio for a twelve cylinder engine, n.d. In addition, the collection contains the performance results for a new Marmon-Herrington heavy duty truck and trailer tested at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, 1932.

The minutes were originally bound in two volumes, but were removed for better storage. Folders 1-4 comprised the first volume, and folders 5-7 comprised the second volume. The materials appear in their original order. Folder 4 appeared at the end of the first volume, out of chronological order.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Board Meeting Minutes, May, 1924-1927

Board Meeting Minutes, 1928-1929

Board Meeting Minutes, 1930-May, 1931

Meeting Minutes, 1926-1927

Board Meeting Minutes, May, 1931-Dec., 1931

Board Meeting Minutes, 1932-Feb, 1933 1935

Board Minutes, 5 January 1933

*Nordyke Marmon Co.: An Institution*, 1920

Newsletter and Pamphlets, 1920-1935

Marmon Book of Facts, 1926

Marmon-Herrington Truck Test Results, 1932

Publicity for New Truck, 1932

Special Marmon Convention Section, *Indianapolis Star*, 3 January 1926 (photocopies)

Photocopies from newspaper articles, 1917-1953

Portfolio for Twelve Cylinder Engine, n.d.

Photographs Relating to Marmon Company

### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

OM 0270

Photographs:  
Folder 1 of 1

Visual Collection:  
OVA Photographs,  
Folder 1