

Collection #  
SC 3364

**WILLYS-OVERLAND INC.  
LETTER, 1921**

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Processed by

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October 2017

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1921

PROVENANCE: Jane S. Fribley, Indianapolis, IN; August 1999

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 1999.0562

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

In 1908, John North Willys bought the Overland Company, an automobile company in Terre Haute, from David Parry, president of the Perry Manufacturing Company. Willys renamed the Willys Overland Division to Willys-Overland Motor Company and moved the operation to Ohio in 1912. After the Great Depression, the company came out of bankruptcy and reorganized under the name Willys-Overland Motors, Inc.

In the early 1940s, the company was contracted to build military Jeeps for the war. By 1945, around 360,000 vehicles had been made. Willys also built multiple automobiles in the late 1940s, including several models of Civilian Jeeps, the Willys Jeep Wagon, Jeep Truck, and Jeepster. In 1949, Willys made their Wagons available with a six cylinder motor and four wheel drive, an early "sport utility vehicle."

In 1953, Kaiser Motors bought Willys-Overland and changed the company's name to Willys Motor Company. The company changed names again in 1963 to Kaiser-Jeep corporation. Seven years later, American Motors Corporation took over Kaiser-Jeep. However, in 1975, Willys-Overland was revived as a retail parts company.

Sources:

Willys-Overland. "Willys-Overland History." Accessed October 11, 2017.  
<http://willysoverland.com/willys-overland-history>

Brockman, Paul. Collection Guide. M 1144 Parry Manufacturing Company Collection, 1887–2010. Indiana Historical Society. (Guide completed October 2014)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains a 1921 letter from the Willys-Overland Inc. Automobile company in Indianapolis, Indiana. The letter encourages owners of the Model 20 and Overland 4 to bring in their vehicles for service before winter arrives and includes a page of suggestions for winterizing automobiles.

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Willys-Overland Inc. letter, 1921

### CONTAINER

Folder 1