



Finding Aid for

**EDSEL FORD IN MEMORIAM SUBSERIES, 1943**

**Accession 1390**

Finding Aid Published: May 2011



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## OVERVIEW

**REPOSITORY:** Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
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**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1390

**CREATOR:** Ford Motor Company. Estate of Henry Ford.

**TITLE:** Edsel Ford in Memoriam subseries

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1943

**QUANTITY:** 3 cubic ft. and 2 oversize boxes

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in English.

**ABSTRACT:** The Edsel Ford in Memoriam subseries is comprised of condolence letters, testimonials and bound remembrances of Edsel Bryant Ford, who died on May 26, 1943.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The materials are open for research
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** The materials were acquired by The Henry Ford in 1978.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- This subseries forms part of the Estate Records subgroup, Henry Ford and Ford Family papers. Other materials in this subgroup include:  
- Henry Ford Fair Lane Office series, Accessions 384 and 844  
- Office of Clara Ford records series, Accession 290  
- Office of Henry Ford and Clara Ford Estate series, Accession 587  
- Clara Ford Estate records series, Accession 588  
- Henry and Clara Ford Memorials subseries, Accession 1136
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1390, Edsel Ford in Memoriam subseries, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by staff of the Benson Ford Research Center, circa 1978.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Finding aid prepared by staff of the Benson Ford Research Center. Finding aid was first revised in March 2007. Finding aid was reformatted; revised to include overview and administrative information; and republished in May 2011.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edsel Bryant Ford, son of Henry Ford, died on May, 26 1943. Edsel was beloved around the world for his philanthropy and humanitarian concerns. His approach to management was enlightened and conciliatory which earned him respect from many. The Ford family received many communications of sympathy from the most famous to the average working man. His untimely death at age 49 was a shock to the world and these sentiments are palpable in this series.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The **Edsel Ford in Memoriam subseries**, 1943 (3 cubic ft. and 2 oversize boxes) is primarily comprised of cards, letters, telegrams, and poetry sent to the Ford family upon Edsel Ford's death. The letters of sympathy are alphabetically arranged by sender. The office mailing records are an alphabetical listing of the received letters and the status of a response. The clippings are photocopies of newspaper articles from across the country that cover the dates May 26, 1943 through May 31, 1943 and occasional later dates as they came in. Tributes, testimonials, and resolutions consist of mostly bound items several of which are oversize. Also in this series is an original WJR sound recording that has an access copy and transcript available for use.

## SUBJECT TERMS

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943.

Ford Motor Company. Estate of Henry Ford.

### Subjects

Condolence notes.

### Genre and Form

Clippings files

Sound recordings

Testimonials

## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

**Box no.**                      **Description**

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### **LETTERS OF SYMPATHY**

**Box 1**

A – J, 1943 (Includes letters from Clarence Avery, Fred Black, Mead Bricker, Walter Briggs, Fred Butzel, Samuel Crowther, J.R. Davis, Horace Dodge, Edgar Hoover, Jens Jensen, Edward Jeffries)

**Box 2**

L – Z, 1943 (Includes letters from Westbrook Pegler, Edward V. Rickenbacker, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, Wendell L. Wilkie)

### **OFFICE MAILING RECORDS**

**Box 3**

Record of card mailings, 1943  
A-Z, 1943 (6 folders)

### **CLIPPINGS**

May 26, 1943  
May 27, 1943  
May 28, 1943  
May 29-31, 1943 (includes additional dates)

### **TRIBUTES, TESTIMONIALS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Automotive Council for War Production, "In Memoriam: Edsel Bryant Ford, May 26, 1943"  
Automotive News, "Edsel Ford, 1893-1943," 2 bound copies (see oversize box 4)  
City of Detroit, "Edsel Bryant Ford" (see oversize box 4)  
Detroit University School and Grosse Pointe Country Day School  
Economic Club of Detroit, "Edsel B. Ford" (2 copies) (see oversize box 5)  
Ford Motor Co., Pittsburgh Branch Dealers, "In Memoriam: Edsel Bryant Ford"  
Grosse Pointe Shores Council, resolution on poster (see oversize box 5)  
Highland Park (City of), "In Memoriam: Edsel B. Ford," bound resolution (2 copies)  
Lincoln and Mercury Dealers of Edgewater N.J.  
Thomas A Edison, Inc.  
Unknown tribute, "Edsel Ford"  
WJR Program, "Edsel B. Ford", CD ROM use copy and transcript

**Box 4 (oversize)**

Automotive News, "Edsel Ford, 1893-1943," 2 bound copies  
City of Detroit, "Edsel Bryant Ford"

**TRIBUTES, TESTIMONIALS AND RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

**Box 5 (oversize)**

Economic Club of Detroit, "Edsel B. Ford" (2 copies)

Grosse Pointe Shores Council, resolution on poster

WJR program, "Edsel B. Ford, November 6, 1893 - May 26, 1943", 4 original 78 rpm  
sound recordings with transcript (use of originals is restricted; see use copy in  
box 3)