

THE THE STEEL





A letter from the editor

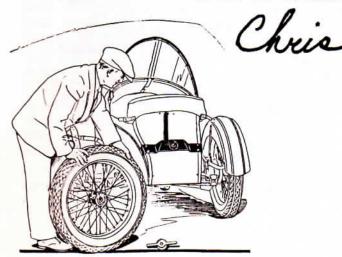
Here is the third issue of THE SPARK. I think it's the best one yet, with plenty of good material included. Now if the rest of you will just send me a letter, an article, or something for the "Research Column," we can make the next SPARK even better. How about it?

Done 3/1/8,

Included with this issue, are two membership applications. Please take one and fill out the information on the back for yourself. This will help us to put together a good roster for the July meeting. Take the second application and give it to a friend. Membership will expand very quickly if each of us can get someone else to join.

Beginning about two weeks ago, we started our membership drive. This effort will accelerate as the weeks go by. Do your share by talking up the organization with friends, members of other clubs you belong to and anyone else you think might be interested.

Our goal is for 100 members by the July meeting in Iola. With all of us doing our best, that number could be doubled.



Director's message

For the last year it has often seemed that the Wisconsin Chapter of the Society of Automotive Historians is always in the process of <u>becoming</u> but never <u>is</u>. Now, on many separate fronts, I can report that we <u>are</u>.

Our affiliate status with the Wisconsin State Historical Society was approved by the WSHS Board of Curators at their October meeting. Our papers of incorporation have been filed with the Wisconsin Secretary of State's office and should be completely processed in a few weeks. Our application for tax exempt status with the IRS has been filed and should result in a favorable letter of determination from them very soon.

Now, with these little blizzards of paperwork behind us, we should be able to settle down to our main purpose -- facilitating the writing of automotive history in Wisconsin.

It is encouraging to note that our membership presently stands at 30 -- up from less than 15 at the Iola meeting last July. We are particularly pleased to welcome Tom Warth's Classic Motorbooks as our first Corporate member, and also the well known and highly respected designer, Brooks Stevens.

Our winter meeting will be an excellent opportunity for our members to meet each other and to discuss their individual concerns and interests in automotive

history. This will also provide an excellent opportunity for us to think collectively about the future course of the WSAH. There are several questions about our relationship with the national SAH that have been voiced in the last few months and I think that the midwinter meeting will provide an excellent forum for these questions.

What's happened

SINCE THE LAST SPARK, two director's meetings have been held; one on Jan. 12, the other on Feb. 19. The main subject of both meetings was the first winter meeting of our chapter. You have all been made aware of the details of that meeting through recent letters, so the subject needn't be covered here Because Associate Director, George Tesar, was in Europe when one meeting was held and unable to attend the second meeting for other reasons, the remaining three directors asked Wally Wray to sit in as a guest. Wally has been a very active and concerned member of our chapter. The directors felt his presence at the two meetings would be a big plus...At the Jan. 12 meeting, the directors approved payment not to exceed \$20 to Bill Cameron's secretary for typing the minutes of the Archives Committee Also discussed at both the January and the Feb. 19 meeting were our relationship with the national -- which will be discussed further at the winter meeting of the membership -- and a membership

drive. It was determined that Bob Lichty and Chris Halla would begin and spearhead the membership drive from their offices in Iola....

THE SAH NATIONAL HAS decided to create the position of a Chapter Liaison Officer to keep track of the various and growing chapters. SAH President, Walter F. Robinson has written to Chris Halla, asking him to fill the position. By the time you get this SPARK, Chris will have sent off his letter of acceptance......

G. MARSHALL NAUL, ONE of the founders of the Society, has accepted the post of chairman of the SAH Oral History Committee. The other members of the committee so far are Eleanor Paton, Lois Watson, Mike Lamm and Terry Dunham. Members of the Wisconsin Chapter are urged to contact Naul (534 Stublyn Rd. NE, Granville, OH 43023) about this committee and its work......

THE SOCIETY IS ANXIOUS to produce an expanded and revised membership directory which will list telephone numbers, addresses, interests, ability to do research, etc. Volunteers are needed to draft a questionaire and assemble information when returns come in. Let's see some Wisconsin Chapter members volunteer on this. If you're willing to help out, write Walter F. Robinson Jr. at 14615 SE 55th St., Bellevue, WA 98006.....

ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 the Archives Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter of the SAH met in Madison for the day. The purpose was to develop preliminary archival policy for our Chapter and to present some considerations based on that policy to appropriate staff at the Wisconsin

State Historical Society. Walter Wray, Bill Cameron. Bob Lichty, and Matt Joseph were present at the meeting. Committee member Jim Flammang was unable to attend, but did provide a very thoughtful set of suggestions which became the basis for deliberations...What evolved from the committee meeting was the beginning of a very thorough set of guidelines for a Wisconsin Automotive Archive. In its final form this document will be a very exhaustive and complete list of the kinds of documents, audio/visual materials, and oceanographic materials that we would like to see collected in our area of interest. Since the archival quidelines document is the product of five minds, it will necessarily take some time to refine and edit it to everyone's satisfaction. When the committee has completed this work, we will publish their effort in the SPARK and let the general membership of the SAH show them what they overlooked and where they erred. The Committee should have its final draft ready for the next SPARK and possibly a preliminary draft will be ready for the winter meeting...On the afternoon of December 14, the Archives Committee met with representatives of the Wisconsin State Historical Society from the Archives and Field Services Divisions. Basically, our Archives Committee informed them of our areas of interest and they informed us of the kinds of collecting that they think they can do for us. It was an interesting interchange and we were encouraged by the relationship that we think will evolve from it...It is apparent that the WSHS archive already contains many items that will be of interest to us. We will need a volunteer in the near future to work with WSHS staff for about a week to determine specifically what these items are. It is also clear that we will be able to cooperate with the WSHS staff in helping them to direct some of their collecting efforts to our topic area. All in all, a very encouraging start. Look for more news from the Archives Committee in future issues of the SPARK....

Letters

Dear Chris and all,

Many thanks for the copy of THE SPARK. You have turned out a first class publication. and the membership of your Chapter can be proud of it. On the list of Wisconsin cars, I would tend to list the Green Bay of 1876, and the Oshkosh of the same year, as tractors rather than cars. Both were traction engines, and hardly cars in the respect that Dr. Carhart's was. The dates for both vehicles should be 1878, not 1876. Speaking of John Wesley Carhart, he was a neighboring community of Waterford, for QACINE several years before he moved to the policy of the moved to the policy of the pol I have some doubt as to the date of 1871 for his vehicle, unless he may have built two. THE RACINE JOURNAL of May 7, 1873, states that Carhart and Mr. George Slauson had been engaged in constructing a steam buggy during the past winter. Its first run, according to the same newspaper's June 25, 1873 edition, occurred a short time before that date. His obituary in the EAU CLAIRE LEADER of December 23, 1914,

states that the car was built in 1871, but I tend to trust the contemporary report in the JOURNAL. I wonder if any of your members can add any clarification on this. There might be some confusion as to the Oshkosh steamer, in regard to who built it, when, and what it was called. As it is, it was built by John F. Morse at his Union Iron Works in Oshkosh, for Schomer, Gallinger, Farrand & Co., sometimes seen in ads as Schomer, Farrand & Co. Since S.G.F. & Co. were dealers in portable and stationary engines, and Morse was a manufacturer of steam engines and boilers, I would guess that the latter was the constructor, while the former were the capitalists. I would also guess that Morse was the designer. As for the name, it appears in the OSHKOSH TIMES of June 15. 1878 as "... the Sea Lion of Oshkosh." but in the July 20th issue, simply as "... the steam wagon Oshkosh." I suppose that this last name is the one that should be used. At least it is the one in common usage.

Best regards,

John M. Peckham 675 Pinewoods Ave. Rd. Troy, NY 12180

Chicago mystery car

by Wally Wray

This writer recently spoke with a gentleman of the hobby whose integrity and judgement he has no reason to doubt, and while it is true that a certain quantity of mild spirits had been consumed earlier that day, there is no apparent reason to challenge said convictions regarding his veracity. The story about to be related harkens back to his days of higher education in the early/mid-Sixties in the southern reaches of Chicago, Ill., and concerns a vehicle of enchanting mystery encountered in these environs.

At the time in question, there existed in the general vicinity of the Museum of Science and Industry, a storage/repair garage in its latter stages of declining splendor, in which was housed our mystery machine. According to the description furnished, it was a tallish, two-door, semi teardrop shaped vehicle of Thirties character, somewhat reminiscent of Bill Stout's early Scarabs and Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxions. It was apparently of aluminum construction, was rear engined, and displayed a quality of craftsmanship suggesting other than a backyard engineering background. Relatively tiny wheels were located with the rear two close together under the pointed tail section, while the two in front lived in normal exterior fashion under short. stumpy, VW-ish fenders.

Where the rear fenders would normally be, were very professional looking grilles, and the blunt front end sported a slightly Vd windshield and headlight pods. An antenna and wiper were mounted in the roof over the windshield, the trim appeared to be polished aluminum and angled upward on the left rear quarter, in a highly stylized script, was the name Martin.

An odd enough vehicle, certainly, but as so far described, not at all out of keeping with other period futuristic dream cars. The great oddity of this creation lay not in its shape, but in the fact that its wheels were auxilliary in nature, with the vehicle designed to be at least partially suspended by a large shrouded fan on its nether side. It was, in short, a very early attempt of unknown success toward what is known today as a G.E.M. (Ground Effect Machine). It was intended to partially float on a cushion of air. thereby reducing rolling resistance and improving ride characteristics, while the wheels provided drive and directional control. Inquiries put to personnel of the garage at that time revealed only that it was drivable without the fan in operation, although in the down position there was only some three inches of ground clearance.

Photographic equipment not being at hand initially, a subsequent trip was made some time later, only to reveal that the entire building and contents had been ravaged by fire. Gutted but recognizable hulks of other motor cars surrounded a puddle of melted metal where the Martin had stood.

Further inquiries made during subsequent years have turned up no new information,

but considerable scepticism. An entry in The American Car Since 1775, which may or may not be relevant, reads; "Martin, 1926-32, J.V. Martin, Martin Aeroplane Co., Garden City, New York." Given that sketchy lead and my friend's memory, the mystery of this visionary machine persists today, and this writer now poses the challenge of identification of this strange beast to the membership of the Wisconsin Chapter/SAH. Hopefully, some of you will be able to fill in the blanks of who made it, when, where, why, whether it was a one of a kind, how successful it may have been ...

Other chapters

Recently, we received newsletters from two other SAH chapters, the Pioneer Chapter and the Canadian Chapter. Exchanging newsletters seems an excellent idea, so in the future, all other chapters will receive each issue of THE SPARK.

On April 19, the Canadian Chapter will hold its Spring Meeting at the Constellation Hotel in Toronto. They will be holding a flea market and auction at the meeting to raise funds to support their newsletter. (We still want to have an auction of our own for the Wisconsin Chapter sometime this year. More on that next time.)

We haven't seen it yet, but you can bet the Pioneer Chapter logo is going to be one good looking piece. It's a drawing of famous Old 16 by the grand master himself,

Much like our own work with Wisconsin automotive history, the Pioneer Chapter is putting together a bibliography of New York automobile and automotive related manufacturers.

Research column

TIMOTHY K. TILTON (185 Cty. NN, Rosholt 54473) is interested in road tests, driving impressions, technical articles, etc., concerning early two-seater Datsun automobiles. Any information on the DC-3, Datsun Sport S211, 1500, 1600 and 2000 Sport, as well as any others will be appreciated.....

CHRIS HALLA (509 W. Fulton, Waupaca 54981) is looking for information, reminiscences and data on or about Harley Davidson motorcycles and the company that makes them. If you owned a Harley, know of any books about them, remember any movies, songs or stories that showcased them, or if you just have something you would like to tell Chris about these two-wheeled machines, get in touch.

WALLY WRAY (Rt. 2, Argyle 53504) would like to hear from you if you have anything

Some good sources

One of the best things about belonging to groups like the SAH and its Wisconsin Chapter is the sharing that goes on. No matter what it is you're researching, some other Society member will be willing to help you out. Another part of this sharing comes when one member does some research and then shares it. The lists that follow are the work of Dr. Howard L. Applegate, John M. Peckham and George P. Hanley, P.E.

I. AUTOMOTIVE ARCHIVAL AND CORPORATE RECORDS COLLECTIONS

CURRENT AUTOMOTIVE COMPANIES

AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION Public Information Officer 27777 Franklin Road Southfield, MI 48034

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY George E. Luce, Manager Fort Valley, Georgia

CHRYSLER CORPORATION
Diane Davis, Archivist
DEPT CIMS 417-24-18
P.O. Box 1919
Detroit, MI 48288

FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Douglas Bakken, Director
Ford Archives
The Edison Institute
Henry Ford Museum
Dearborn, MI 48121

FORD MOTOR COMPANY, CANADA Archivist Oakville, Ontario

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY Gregory Lennes, Archivist 401 N. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60611

HISTORICAL AUTOMOTIVE COMPANIES

AUTOCAR COMPANY
Douglas Bakken, Director
The Edison Institute
Henry Ford Museum
Dearborn, MI 48121

BREWSTER BODY COMPANY
Manuscripts Division
New York Public Library
New York City, New York

J.G. BRILL BODY COMPANY
Manuscripts Division
Historical Society of Penna.
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA

JAMES CUNNINGHAM SONS & COMPANY
Louis Helverson, Librarian
Automotive Reference Division
Free Library of Philadelphia
Logan Square
Philadelphia, PA

James J. Bradley, Librarian National Automotive Collection Detroit Public Library Detroit, MI

MAYTAG COMPANY
L.P. Duncan, Manager
Records Management
403 West Fourth St., North
Newton, IA 50208

PACKARD MOTOR CAR COMPANY
James J. Bradley, Librarian
National Automotive Collection
Detroit Public Library
Detroit, MI

Richard Welch, Director Packard Archives Discovery Hall Museum South Bend, Indiana

REO MOTOR CAR COMPANY
Librarian
Transportation Library
Michigan State University
Lansing, Michigan

STUDEBAKER CORPORATION
Richard Welch, Director
Studebaker Historical Collections
Discovery Hall Museum
South Bend, Indiana

FARM MACHINERY

ALLIS CHALMERS CORPORATION
Harold Hopkinson, Manager
1205 South 70th Street
P.O. Box 512
Milwaukee, WI 53201

DEERE AND COMPANY Archivist John Deere Road Moline, IL 61265

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY Gregory Lennes, Archivist 401 N. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60611

AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIERS

THE BUDD COMPANY Archivist 2155 West Big Bend Road Troy, MI 48084

DANA CORPORATION
Frank Voss, Vice President
Corporate Relations
P.O. Box 1000
Toledo, OH 43697

E.I. DUPONT de NEMOURS & CO., INC. Archives Department Wilmington, DE 19898

Richmond D. Williams, Librarian Eleutherian Mills Historical Library Greenville, DE

EATON CORPORATION
Onetha Trammer, Librarian
100 Erieview Plaza
Cleveland, OH 44114

FIRESTONE TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY R.E. Wilkins, Director Corporate Research 2930 West Market Street Akron, OH 44313 GENERAL TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY E.B. Butler, Director Corporate Communications One General Street Akron, OH 44329

GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
Mrs. Cecil R. Norman, Archivist
1144 East Market Street
Akron, OH 44316

MOTOROLA, INC.
Paul Knessel, Supervisor
Records Management
5725 North East River Road
Chicago, IL 60631

PETROLEUM COMPANIES

ASHLAND OIL COMPANY, INC.
Maxine Magnuson, Librarian
P.O. Box 391
Ashland, KY 41101

ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY
Public Relations Department
515 South Flower Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

GULF OIL CORPORATION
Edward Cox, Supervisor
439 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

GULF OIL CANADA, LIMITED
Mrs. M.C. Cadman, Sr., Librarian
P.O. Box 460 Station A
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E5

MARATHON OIL COMPANY
Dwight J. Snyder, Supervisor
Records Management
539 South Main Street
Findlay, OH 45840

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY Charles E. Cummings, Manager Public Affairs Department Bartlesville, OK 74004

STANDARD OIL COMPANY, KENTUCKY Records Manager Central Records Department P.O. Box 1446 Louisville, KY 40201

STANDARD OIL COMPANY, OHIO
K.J. Murtaugh, Manager
Corporate Records
Midland Building
Cleveland, OH 44115

SUN OIL COMPANY
Woodruff E. Benson, Manager
Records Management
240 Radnor-Chester Road
St. Davids, PA 19087

Richmond D. Williams, Librarian Eleutherian Mills Historical Library Greenville, DE

TEXACO, INC.
Kenneth E. McCullam, Historian
2000 Westchester Avenue
White Plains, NY 10650

OTHER ARCHIVES

- CAMPBELL-EWALD COMPANY Elizabeth Smith, Manager 3044 West Grand Boulevard Detroit, MI 48202
- D'ARCY, MACMANUS, MASIUS, INC. Lois W. Collet, Archivist Long Lake & Woodward Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013
- UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION Philip P. Mason, Director Walter F. Reuther Library Wayne State University Detroit, MI

MUSEUMS WITH ARCHIVAL AND LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

- AUBURN-CORD-DUESENBERG MUSEUM Skip Marketti, Director P.O. Box 148 Auburn, IN 46706
- CRAVEN FOUNDATION
 Lois Watson, Librarian
 760 Lawrence Avenue West
 Toronto, Ontario M6A 1B8
- FREDERICK C. CRAWFORD MUSEUM Kenneth B. Gooding, Director 10825 East Boulevard Cleveland, OH 44106
- HARRAH'S AUTOMOBILE COLLECTION Clyde Wade, Manager P.O. Box 10 Reno, NV 89504

- LONG ISLAND AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM Henry Austin Clark, Jr., Director Route 27 Southampton, NY 11968
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM
 James Zordich, Curator
 Automotive Collections
 900 Exposition Boulevard
 Los Angeles, CA 90007
- SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
 Donald H. Berkebile, Curator
 Automotive Collections
 Washington, DC 20560

II. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

PATENT RESEARCH

(Note: The following are all U.S. Government publications, unless noted otherwise.)

- 1. General Information Concerning Patents.

 Revised June 1978. The system,

 processes and fees for filing for
 a patent.
- 2. How to Obtain Information from U.S.

 Patents. Describes the classification system, publications such as the Official Gazette, Index of Patents, and how to use them, with techniques for searching in or out of Washington.
- 3. Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents, 1790-1840.
- 4. Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents, 1841-1925.

- 5. Index of Patents (Available on micro-film). Patents issued through Number? Arranged numerically by class and subclass, according to the Patent Office Manual of Classification.
- 6. Index of Patents Issued from the U.S.
 Patent Office, 1920-. Lists of patents,
 patentees, registrants of trademarks,
 trademarks applicants, registrants
 of labels, prints, disclaimers, etc.
 (Earlier years found in the Annual
 Report of the Commissioner of
 Patents.)
- 7. <u>Index of Trademarks</u>, 1927-. (Earlier years in the Index of Patents.)
- 8. Subject Matter Index of Patents for Inventions Issued by the U.S. Patent Office from 1790-1873, Inclusive. 1874.

 3 volumes. Alphabetical list of inventions with name and residence of inventor, date and number of patents; indexes of designs, patents reissued, disclaimers, trademarks, etc.
- Official Gazette, vol. 1, 1872-. Weekly information bulletin.
- 10. Decisions of the Commissioner of
 Patents and of the U.S. Courts in
 Patent, Trademark and Copyright Cases,

 1869-. Annual reprinting of
 decisions which appeared in the
 Official Gazette.
- 11. Manual of Classification.
- 12. <u>Index of Classification</u>. Terms rep-

- resenting various fields of subject matter; also approximate, related alternative terms.
- 13. Classification of Design Patents, 1959.
- 14. Classes and Subclasses, Definitions.
 Over 300 classes and 66,000 subclasses.
- 15. <u>Cumulative</u> <u>Index to the Classification</u> <u>of Patents</u>.
- 16. Digest of United States Automobile
 Patents from 1789 to July 1, 1899.

 (Revised and updated, 1902),
 James Titus Allen, Washington DC,
 H.B. Russell & Company, 1900.

 Drawings, descriptions and claims.

(Note: Numbers 1. and 2, are available from the Patent Office. The remainder are not suitable for general purchase, but are available at many major libraries.)

Address: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

NATIONAL ARCHIVES PUBLICATIONS

- 1. <u>Guide to the National Archives of the United States (1974)</u>. 884 p., \$12.30. Stock No. 2203-00908. (OUT OF PRINT)
- 2. <u>Select List of Publications of the National Archives and Records Service</u>.

 General Services Administration

 General Information Leaflet Number 3.

- 3. Regional Branches of the National Archives. GSA General Information Leaflet Number 22.
- 4. Regulations for the Public Use of the National Archives and Records Service.

 GSA General Information Leaflet
 Number 2.
- 5. Researchers Guide to the National Archives. GSA General Information Leaflet Number 25.
- 6. <u>Suggestions for Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States</u>.

 GSA General Information Leaflet
 Number 17.

(Note: Except for item number 1, the publications cited are at no charge.)

Address: Public Sales Branch (NEPS)
General Services Administration
Washington, DC 20408

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BOOKLETS

- 1. The Library of Congress, Services to the Nation. A leaflet on various services, programs and visitor information.
- Information for Readers in the Library
 of Congress. 14 page booklet on using
 the Library; its collections; services; and restrictions.
- 3. <u>Special Facilities for Research in the Library of Congress</u>.
- 4. <u>Library of Congress Publications in Print. Spring 1978</u>. 76 page booklet,

apparently an annual publication, covering books, pamphlets, serials, folk and music recordings, literary recordings, greeting cards, etc. Lists Government Printing Office Bookstores in 20 cities.

(Note: There is no charge for these publications.)

Address: Library of Congress 10 First Street Washington, DC 20540

MISCELLANEOUS RESEARCHING REFERENCES

- 1. The Official Museum Directory,
 1978-1979. American Association of
 Museums and Crowell-Collier Educational Corp. Lists, with cross
 references, the vast majority of
 museums in the United States and
 Canada, along with information on
 collections, services, publications,
 directors, curators, etc.
- 2. Directory Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada, 1978-1979. A joint publication of the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tenn. and Inforonics, Inc., Maynard, Mass. Aimed at historical societies rather than museums, although many h.s. museums are included.
- 3. 1978 American Library Directory, 31st
 Edition. Edited by Jaques Cattell
 Press, R.R. Bowker Company, New
 York & London. Covers libraries in
 the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and
 regions administered by the U.S.,
 and U.S. Armed Forces libraries

overseas. Includes the National Interlibrary Loan Code.

- 4. Tape-recording Local History, Technical Leaflet Number 35. By William G. Tyrell. American Association for State and Local History, 1400 Eighth Avenue, South, Nashville, Tenn. 37203. 50¢.
- 5. "Oral History for the SAH Researcher", by Terry B. Dunham. The Society of Automotive Historians NEWSLETTER, Number 47, February 1976, p. 1.
- 6. "More on Oral History for the SAH
 Researcher, Part II", by Stanley
 W. Liska, Jr. The Society of Automotive Historians NEWSLETTER,
 Number 53, May 1977, p. 1-2.
- 7. "Local Research Sources for the Automotive Historian", by John B.

 Montville. The Society of Automotive Historians NEWSLETTER, Number 53, May 1977, p. 5.

III. THE COLLECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

A major new repository of automotive historical documents is located on the campus of the General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan. The Campus Center Building at 1700 West Third Ave. houses "The Collection of Industrial History", whose director is Professor Richard P. Scharchburg of the GMI faculty.

This collection is a project of the GMI Alumni Foundation and was established in 1974. It is funded through individual contributions and administered by a Board 24

of Trustees appointed by the GMI Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Dedicated to the collection and preservation of the papers of people who created and developed American industry, particularly as it relates to the automobile, the Historical Collection welcomes researchers and interested parties to utilize its unique resources of economic, industrial and business history.

Since the initial acquisition of the personal papers and memorabilia of William Crapo Curant in 1974, there have been ten major accessions and over 53 other accessions have been accepted.

The major accessions are:

The Ballenger Papers (150)
Flint Wagon, GM Company, Buick Motors,
Little Motors, Chevrolet

The Durant Papers (8000)

Include correspondence with Pierre
DuPont, C.F. Kettering, John N. Ringling and A.P. Sloan, Jr. on subjects
including the Locomobile.

The collection also owns several chapters and personal notes for Durant's proposed autobiography.

The Fauth Papers

A preponderence of photographs and sales literature gathered by this Flint antique car collector include the George C. Willson (Durant-Dort Carriage Co and Buick Motors) papers. The Mott Papers (20,000)

This collection is very complete, including Weston-Mott Axle Co. and General Motors and documents the many careers of Mr. Mott.

The Hess Papers

Hess and Eisenhardt of Cincinnati, O. (Custom cars), Sayers and Scovill Automobile Co.

Ninety seven volumes of body and body hardware periodicals printed in three languages (1916-1931).

The Pratt Papers (2550)

A collection offering glimpse into life and career of a DuPont engineer and GM Corporate executive. Extensive personal correspondence.

The Special Accessions are:

The Packard Papers

Largely photographs of cars, marine and aircraft engines 1920-194X.

News releases, production data, specs. (1938-51)

Serial Numbers and Prices (1899-1953)

The Sahrbeck Papers

Wartime training programs of the automobile industry.

Labor history of employee associations in the 1920's and 1930's.

The Motor Vehicle Digest

Complete 96 volume set (believed only one extant).



Director: Matt Joseph

Associate Director: George Tesar

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Chris Halla

Treasurer: Bob Lichty

Archives Committee: Matt Joseph (chair)

Wally Wray Bob Lichty Bill Cameron Jim Flammang

Awards Committee: Chris Halla (chair)

John Kress Jim Flammang George Tesar Gary Busha