

# **Forest H. Akers Papers**

## **UA.1.1.1**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Akers, Forest H., 1886-1966
<b>Title</b>	Forest H. Akers papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1898-1965
<b>Extent</b>	10.0 Cubic feet
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

## Biographical Note

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A member of the Board of Trustees from 1939 to 1957, Forest H. Akers was also among the University's most generous benefactors. Akers was born on December 21, 1886, on a farm near Williamston, approximately 20 miles from East Lansing. He attended the University, then know as the Michigan Agricultural College, from 1905 to 1908. It is said he was asked to leave the college after the 1907 year due to disciplinary issues and poor grades. Akers was accused of lighting a powder keg during Teddy Roosevelt's speech at the school's semi-centennial celebration. Akers denied the allegation.

Upon leaving MAC, Akers worked for \$60 a month as a plow and farm machinery salesman until joining the Reo Motor Car Co. in 1914. He advanced to sales manager in 1917. In 1920 he joined the Dodge Division of the Chrysler Corp. and was promoted to manager of the Detroit region in 1930 and to Vice President in 1938. He retired from Chrysler in 1947.

Akers was first elected to the State Board of Agriculture (the former name of the Board of Trustees) in 1939. He was re-elected to six year terms in 1945 and 1951. The University named a residence hall in his honor when Akers retired from the MSU governing board in 1957. He was named trustee emeritus of MSU in 1958, and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws that same year.

As a benefactor, Akers donated the University's two golf courses and a \$45,000 scholarship and loan fund, valued at \$200,000 in 1966. Akers remained active in MSU affairs throughout his later years when he was president of the Dependable Insurance Corp. of Jacksonville, Florida.

Akers died December 8, 1966 at the age of 79 in Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, after a long illness.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Forest Akers papers include correspondence, speeches, news clippings and other materials related to Michigan State University; a variety of educational materials, legal documents, and articles; a history of Williamston, Michigan; and personal papers including Akers' class reunion information (1950) and a certificate of appointment to the State Board of Agriculture. Scrapbooks contain family photographs and photographs and other information relating to Chrysler Corporation.

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## Administrative Information

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## **Publication Information**

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

## **Revision Description**

January 2012

## **Conditions Governing Access**

Collection is open for research.

## **Legal Status**

Copyright: Michigan State University. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Dodge Brothers.
- Michigan State University.
- Reo Motor Car Company.

### **Genre(s)**

- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- Postcards
- Scrapbooks

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Williamston (Mich.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Akers, Forest H., 1886-1966
- Breslin, Jacweir
- Hannah, John A., 1902-1991
- Munn, Clarence L.

### **Subject(s)**

- Automobiles -- History
- Football
- Practical jokes
- Scholarships

## Papers

## Collection Inventory

<b>Papers</b>		
Correspondence		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1909-1940	5622	1
December 17, 1947-January 10, 1948	5622	2
January 10, 1948-December 29, 1948	5622	3
1949	5622	4
1951	5622	5
1964-1966	5622	6
1952-1957	2982	1
Non-MSU January-May 1958	2982	2
Non-MSU June-October 1958	2982	3
January-May 1958	2982	4

## Papers

June-December 1958	2982	5
January-June 1959	2982	6
July-December 1959	2982	7
1960	2982	8
January-October 1961	2982	9
November-December 1961	2982	10
January-May 1962	2982	11
June-September 1962	2982	12
October-December 1962	2982	13
Non-MSU, A-E 1962	2982	14
Non-MSU, F-H 1962	2982	15
Non-MSU, K-P 1962	2982	16
West Coast trip September 29, 1962	2982	17
Scholarships January-June 1963	2982	18



## Papers

Scholarships July-August 1963	2982	19
Scholarships September-October 1963	2982	20
Scholarships November-December 1963	2982	21
January –March 1964	2982	22
April-June 1964	2982	23
July-August 1964	2982	24
September 1964	2982	25
October 1964	2982	26
November 1964	2982	27
December 1964	2982	28
Jacksonville, Florida 1951, 1957-1961	2982	29
Jacksonville, Florida 1962	2982	30
Testimonials and Speeches		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>

## Papers

1947-1948	5622	7
Undated	5622	8
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Educational Materials 1898-1908	5622	9
General Douglas MacArthur Commencement Speech 1961	5622	10
Class Reunion 1950	5622	11
Newspaper Clippings		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1904	5622	12
1947-1948	5622	13
1958-1963	5622	14
Magazine Articles		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1948	5622	15
1962	5622	16

## Scrapbooks

1968	5622	17
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<u>History of Williamston</u> 1838-1963	5622	18
Legal Documents 1917-1958	5622	19
Miscellaneous		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1898-1965	5622	20
Undated	5622	21
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Scrapbook #127 – Photos of Dodge family dinner 1947	5622	22
Scrapbook #128 – Photos of breakfast party 1945	5622	23
<b>Scrapbooks</b>		
		<b>Volume</b>
Scrapbook #123: Family photos, letters, clippings, memorabilia 1911-1964		Scrapbook #123
Scrapbook #124: Michigan State University. Photos, letters, clippings, MSU golf course 1930-1965		Scrapbook #124

## Photographs

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Scrapbook #125: Photos of Palo Alto Conference 1939-1962	Scrapbook #125
Scrapbook #126: Clippings - Chrysler Corporation John Hannah, sports 1938-1948	Scrapbook #126
Scrapbook #129: Personal photo album, postcards 1907-1962	Scrapbook #129
Scrapbook #130-134: Akers' retirement from Chrysler 1947	Scrapbook #130-134
Scrapbook #135: "The Automobile Story" photos, clippings 1910-1965	Scrapbook #135
Scrapbook #136: Photos of South America, 1943 1943	Scrapbook #136
<b>Photographs</b>	
Collection Photographs	
	<b>Box</b>
Homes	UA Photo 1
Homes. Interiors	UA Photo 1
Michigan. Williamston	UA Photo 1

## Photographs

## Michigan State University

**Box**

Alumni. Class Reunions

UA  
Photo 1

Athletics. Baseball

UA  
Photo 1

Athletics. Chester L. Brewer. Award

UA  
Photo 1

Athletics. Football

UA  
Photo 1

Board of Trustees

UA  
Photo 1

Buildings. Akers Hall

UA  
Photo 1

Buildings. Beaumont Tower

UA  
Photo 1

Commencement, 1952

UA  
Photo 1

Commencement 1958

UA  
Photo 1

Engine 1225

UA  
Photo 1

## Casey Stengel

Scenes. Forest Akers Golf Course	UA Photo 1	
		<b>Box</b>
Offices	UA Photo 1	
People		<b>Box</b>
Akers, Forest H. (folders 1-3)	UA Photo 1	
Akers, Mr. & Mrs. Forest H.	UA Photo 1	
Akers, Forest with Ty Cobb	UA Photo 1	
Akers Family	UA Photo 1	
Groups	UA Photo 1	
Groups. Unidentified (folders 1-8)	UA Photo 1	
Unidentified	UA Photo 1	
<b>Casey Stengel Circa 1958</b>	<b>Box</b> 2982	<b>Folder</b> 31

## Oversized Photographs

Bill Norman Circa 1958	2982	31
		<b>Box</b>
Recreation. Golf		UA Photo 1
		<b>Drawer</b>
People Photographs		People
		<b>Box</b>
People. Akers, Forest H.		People Photo 1
<b>Oversized Photographs</b>		
		<b>Box</b>
People. Groups. Unidentified (6)		OS 11
People. Akers, Forest H. (7)		OS 11
Unidentified (3)		OS 11
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Lantern Slide - Dodge Brothers undated	5209	38
<b>Postcards</b>		<b>Drawer</b> Postcards
People. Akers, Forest H. (5)		

## Oversized Materials

People. Akers, Mr. & Mrs. Forest H. (3)

**Oversized Materials**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Certificate of Election to the State Board of Agriculture 1957	5701	1
Resolution commending John A. Hannah for his services to MSU 1951	5701	1
		<b>Drawer</b>
Resolution of the State Board of Agriculture on the Retirement of Forest Akers December 20, 1957		4
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Detroit Free Press Sunday Magazine April 6, 1958	5701	2