

Title: Curtis, Walter H. Papers

Call Number: Mss-0955

Inclusive Dates: 1922 – 1980

Bulk: 0.5 cu. ft.

Location: ER, Sh. 025
MV, F11 (1 item)

Historical Note: British-born Thomas B. Jeffery, of Gormully & Jeffery, operated the Rambler Bicycle Factor in Chicago. He brought the Sterling Bicycle Plant in Kenosha in the early 1890s and built the first Rambler automobile. Jeffery sold this company to Charles W. Nash in 1916. Nash had resigned from the General Motors Co. to build his own car, and he changed the name of the Jeffery Co. to Nash Motors Co. In 1919 Nash bought a half interest in the Seaman Body Corp. of Milwaukee, which had been building bodies for several automobile companies, including Nash. Alonzo D. Seaman came to Milwaukee in 1846 and opened a furniture manufacturing business. In the 1880s he began building telephone equipment and in 1909 turned to auto body building. In 1936 Nash purchased the remaining interest in Seaman. Nash merged with the Kelvinator Corp. in 1937 and George W. Mason became president. In 1954 Nash merged with the Hudson Motor Car Co. and the name was changed to the American Motor Corp.

Walter H. Curtis began working with Nash Motors in Kenosha in February 8, 1917. In 1922 he transferred to the Seaman Body Corp. as service department manager. He retired from American Motors in 1961. This material was donated by his daughter, Grace Curtis Eells, in 1986.

Administrative Note: The collection was reprocessed and the finding aid was retyped on April 1, 2011 by Jenny Stevenson.

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