



Finding Aid for

WABASH RAILROAD TRAVEL LITERATURE COLLECTION, 1906-1959

Accession 2012.67

Finding Aid Published: May 2012



Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.67

CREATOR: Unknown

TITLE: Wabash Railroad Travel Literature collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1906-1959

QUANTITY: 0.9 cubic ft. and 1 oversize box

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: Brochures, tickets, flyers, maps, timetables and other Wabash Railroad related material originally housed in a scrapbook.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is 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).
- COPIES OF MATERIAL:** Digital reproductions of items from portions of the collection are available at <http://collections.thehenryford.org/Index.aspx>.
- ACQUISITION:** Donation, 2012.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 2012.67, Wabash Railroad Travel Literature collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Finding aid prepared by Kathy Steiner, April 2013, and published in May 2013.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The basic template for the Wabash Railroad system was laid out in the 19th century, with a continual series of mergers, reorganizations, and changed names (typical of the growth of railroad systems). Highlights include:

- 1838: The nucleus of what became the Wabash system started as the Northern Cross Railway (the first railroad in Illinois), a 12-mile line running from Jacksonville to Meredosia in west central Illinois.
- 1856: Renamed the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railway Company, the system now covered a 520-mile stretch from Toledo, Ohio, through Indiana to the western border of Illinois (Quincy) and northwest to Keokuk, Iowa. The Wabash line was named for the Wabash River, a 475-mile river running through northwest Ohio, northern Indiana, and Illinois.
- 1881: Through the vision of railroad baron Jay Gould, this system, now called the Wabash Railway Company, reached Detroit and Chicago and extended into Missouri via St. Louis. But it never developed into the complete “shore-to-shore” system that Gould had envisioned. Instead, it became the principle artery tapping the great “Heart of America.”
- By 1900: The Wabash system extended as far as Kansas City, Missouri; Des Moines, Iowa; Omaha, Nebraska; and Buffalo, New York. Connections could be made from various hubs to the east and west coast via other lines.

The Wabash Railroad was a strong Midwestern carrier. Even during downturns of the 20th century, when many similar sized railroads went bankrupt or were folded into larger systems, the Wabash remained a strong and popular passenger line until Amtrak took over the national railroad system in 1971. It continued its name as a freight carrier until 1991 when it was folded into the Norfolk Southern system.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of brochures, tickets, destination flyers, route maps, timetables, advertisements, ticket prices, station locations, special event destinations, railroad station signage, executive biographies, railroad lithographs, and other pieces of railroad related material. The acquisition was acquired in a scrapbook form. It was saved from a dumpster by a vice president of the Railroad. Because the scrapbook was in poor condition, the contents were removed and individual files created following the original organization.

ARRANGEMENT

The material is arranged chronologically by year.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Wabash Railroad

Wabash Railroad Company

Toledo, Wabash and Western Railway Company

Subjects

Executives

Railroads

Railroad facilities

Genre and Form

Advertisements

Flyers (printed matter)

Scrapbooks

Tickets

Timetables

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

1909 (see also Oversize Box)
1910-1912 (see also Oversize Box)
1911
1913
1915
1916
1917
1919-1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927 (see also Oversize Box)
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939-1940
1941-1942

Box 2

1943
1947-1948 (see also Oversize Box)
1949
1950
1951-1952
1953
1955
1956 (see also Oversize Box)
1957 (2 folders) (see also Oversize Box)
1958-1959

Box 3 (Oversize)

- 1909 (see also Box 1)
- 1910 (see also Box 1)
- 1912 (see also Box 1)
- 1927 (see also Box 1)
- 1947 (see also Box 2)
- 1956 (see also Box 2)
- 1957 (see also Box 2)