

ABSTRACT

Collection compiled by the late William Cane. Items related to his time as an Executive at General Motors, his life in Oshawa. The collection also contains an autobiography, self-published, by William Cane.

Archives Identifier

A018.5

WILLIAM CANE COLLECTION

William Cane Collection

Donated by Lynn Cane,

Finding Aid - 2024

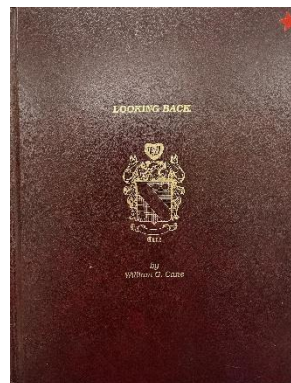


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Basic Information about the Collection

Accession Number: A018.5

Dates of Materials: various dates

Size: One Linear Foot

Creator: Accumulated documents by William Cane and descendants.

Acquisition Information: Donated by Lynn Cane in 2016

Custodial History: William Cane, Lynn Cane, Oshawa Museum

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: Oshawa Museum, Oshawa, Ontario

Processed by: Jennifer Weymark, 2016; Sarah Campbell, 2024.

Conservation notes: Avoid use of originals if there is an electronic copy as some documents are fragile.

Access: Public access

Brief History of William Cane

Born June 22, 1923, in Oshawa, Ontario, William “Bill” Cane worked in various capacities across General Motors Canada for the majority of his career. He spent his childhood in Oshawa, attending North Simcoe Street Public School. His father worked at General Motors in Oshawa and would take the family to the yearly General Motors picnic, where William had his first experience with the company that would come to define his professional career. His first job, at the age of twelve, was delivering repaired shoes to customers for a local shoe repair shop. William continued to work various delivery jobs before he turned his attention to General Motors. He started working at General Motors at 16 years old and remained there for three years until 1942 when he volunteered with the R.C.A.F. He was assigned to be an aero electrician for a brief period before being reassigned as a straight air-gunner. Despite his training, William was not sent overseas as there was no immediate use for his class (Flight 93). He spent ten years in the reserve before being fully discharged from service. After the war, he attended General Motors Institute of Technology in Flint, Michigan. Upon returning to General Motors after graduating. He worked in the Service Engineering section, the Used Car and Truck department, the Truck Sales department and soon became the District Manager for Eastern Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland and relocated to Sydney, Nova Scotia. After realizing that his skills could be better used elsewhere, William was promoted to Truck and Fleet Manager in Vancouver, British Columbia. Several more promotions occurred during his time in Vancouver. He would go on to work as Zone Manager in Calgary, Alberta in 1957. Several promotions in Calgary saw William transferred to Moncton, New Brunswick. BY 1969, William became the Eastern Regional Manager and, a year later, was promoted again to Assistant Director of Sales. William suffered a heart attack in 1974 and spent the next four years dealing with continued angina while attempting to balance a workload he could no longer keep up with. In 1978 he applied for a year long disability leave of absence that was granted by the Detroit offices. After his year leave, and some 40 years of service with General Motors, William retired. He met his wife, Doris McBrien Friend, in 1946 and married in 1950. They had two children, Frederick and Lynn. William Cane died on July 29, 2016.

Collection Description

This collection includes a self-published autobiography, two scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, a 75th anniversary yearbook, General Motors magazines, Fleet magazine, newsletters, and various documents.

Arrangement Description

This collection was processed at the fonds level.

Related Materials

See General Motors Finding Aid

Object ID	Description	Dates	Donor/Location
A016.6.16	A booklet with the highlights from a tribute to General Motors of Canada by the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce.	November 29, 1962	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.22	A book, "The Age of the Auto" by Elbert Hubbard. Published by the Roycrofters in East Aurora, Erie County, New York.	c. 1910	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.25	The Fleet newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 4, Ed. 4. Published every other month by General Motors.	July 1946	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.26	The Fleet newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 5.	November 1946	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.27	The Maple Leaf (Canadian Club magazine), Vol. 3, No. 9. Front cover has two photos of the Oshawa War Memorial on it.	c. 1924	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.28	Motor Sparks, Vol. 2, No. 2. Contains news about General Motors and its employees.	June 30, 1920	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.29	General Motors newspaper that contains news and information on the company. On the front cover is a piece about the company celebrating 60 years.	c. 1927	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.21	A small booklet of song lyrics for 30 different songs. It was produced by General Motors.	c. 1929	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4

A016.6.19	Album created by General Motors Canada that contains pictures of vehicles built during the war, propaganda posters, and a list of GM men in the armed forces. (3 copies)	1942 - 1943	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.20	Magazine – GM Topics, Vol. 12, No. 1.	January 1961	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.30	Book containing the 1971 annual report for GM. Report includes highlights, review of operations, financial statements, and a statistical summary.	c. 1971	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.31	Book containing the 1972 annual report for GM. Report includes highlights, review of operations, financial statements, and a statistical summary.	c. 1972	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.32	Book containing the 1973 annual report for GM. Report includes highlights, review of operations, financial statements, and a statistical summary.	c. 1973	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.33	Book containing the 1974 annual report for GM. Report includes highlights, review of operations, financial statements, and a statistical summary.	c. 1974	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.34	Book containing the 1974 annual report for General Motors. The report includes highlight, review of operations, financial statements, a review of	c. 1974	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4

	operations for other General Motors outlets, and a statistical summary. For the American corporation, not General Motors Canada.		
A016.6.35	Book containing the 1977 annual report for GM. Report includes highlights, review of operations, financial statements, and a statistical summary.	c. 1977	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.36	Book containing the 1978 annual report for General Motors. The report includes highlight, review of operations, financial statements, and a statistical summary.	c. 1978	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.37	A small pamphlet containing the 1981 annual report for General Motors. The report includes summary, unit sales, and statement of income.	c. 1981	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.38	A small pamphlet containing the 1982 annual report for General Motors. The report includes summary, unit sales, and statement of income.	c. 1982	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.39	A small book containing the 1983 annual report for General Motors. The report includes summary, unit sales, and statement of income.	c. 1983	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4

A016.6.40	A book containing the 1984 annual report for General Motors. The report includes highlight, review of operations, financial statements, and a statistical summary.	c. 1984	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.1	A booklet to tribute General Motors employees who have worked for the company for 10 years or more. Includes a programme and a dinner menu on the inside. 1928 Edition. 2 copies.	c. 1928	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.2	A programme from the first annual dinner of the 25 Year Club for General Motors. Bound with a red string. 1946 Edition	c. 1946	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.3	A programme from the second annual dinner of the 25 Year Club for General Motors. 1947 Edition. Bound with a red string.	c. 1947	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.4	A souvenir of the third annual dinner of the 25 Year Club of General Motors of Canada which was held at the Oshawa Collegiate Auditorium.	October 23, 1948	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.5	A souvenir booklet from the fourth annual dinner for the 25 Year Club at General Motors.	August 25, 1949	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1
A016.6.6	A souvenir booklet from the fifth annual dinner for the 25 Year Club at General Motors	May 12, 1951	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4

A016.6.7	A souvenir booklet from the sixth annual dinner held for the 25 Year Club of General Motors. The book contains names of all the members and how many years they have worked at GM.	c. 1952	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.8	A souvenir booklet from the seventh annual dinner for the 25 Year Club. The inside contains names of all the members and how many years worked for GM.	June 6, 1953	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.9	A souvenir booklet from the eighth annual dinner for the 25 Year Club for General Motors. The inside of the book contains names of all the members of the club and how many years they have worked for GM.	May 29, 1954	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.10	A souvenir booklet from the ninth annual dinner for the 25 Year Club of General Motors. The inside of the booklet contains all the names of the members of a club as well as those who have retired.	May 14, 1955	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.11	A booklet containing the names of the 25 Year Club at General Motors, including retired members.	c. 1957	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.12	General Motors 25 Year Club Membership Roll. A booklet with the names of people who	c. 1959	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4

	have accumulated 25 years or more of active employment with GM		
A016.6.13	General Motors 25 Year Club Membership Roll. A booklet with the names of people who have accumulated 25 years or more of active employment with GM.	c. 1960	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.14	General Motors 25 Year Club Membership Roll. A booklet with the names of people who have accumulated 25 years or more of active employment with GM.	c. 1962	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.15	General Motors 25 Year Club Membership Roll. A booklet with the names of people who have accumulated 25 years or more of active employment with GM	c. 1963	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
A016.6.23	A guide booklet that has tips on how to pick the proper vehicle depending on the needs of the buyer. The guidebook was created by General Motors Canada.	c. 1934	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4
AX024.4	A programme from the June 25, 1960, 25 Year Club for General Motors. Blue cover and bound with a red string.	c. 1960	William Cane (gift) Archive Storage, Bay 1, Shelf 4

Using the Collection

Access Statement: Collection is open and available for public use.

Rights Statement: Copyright has not been assigned to the Oshawa Museum. Copyright restrictions may apply.

Preferred Citation: [item description], [collection title and date]. [name of institution], [city, province].

Ex. Scrapbook, William Cane Collection 2024. Oshawa Museum, Oshawa, Ontario.

Collection Inventory

This collection includes an autobiography, several magazines, newspaper articles and clippings, a yearbook, scrapbooks, and various documents pertaining to General Motors.

Object ID	Description	Date(s)	Location
A018.5.2	Autobiography. "Looking Back" by William G. Cane.	December 1994	Archive Storage, Bay 4, Shelf 7
A018.5.3	Scrapbook, newspaper clippings mainly relating to WWII.	Various dates, c. 1940's	Archive Storage, Bay 4, Shelf 7
A018.5.4	Scrapbook, newspaper clippings relating to curling, wedding and other announcements, postcards, and other topics.	Various dates	Archive Storage, Bay 4, Shelf 7
A018.5.5	Special 75 th Anniversary Yearbook for O'Neill Collegiate and Vocational Institute.	1930-2005	Archive Storage, Bay 4, Shelf 7
A018.5.6	The Oshawa Daily Times newspaper souvenir edition. Discusses the opening of Oshawa Collegiate and Vocational Institute.	May 7, 1930	Archive Storage, Bay 4, Shelf 7
A018.5.7	Red folder containing General Motors magazines, General Motors Institute Alumni magazine, Fleet magazine, General Motors newsletters, newspaper articles, Parkwood newsletter, and various newspaper clippings.	Various dates	Archive Storage, Bay 4, Shelf 7
A018.5.8	Large brown folder containing files on	Various dates	Archive Storage, Bay 4, Shelf 7

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'automotive statistics and speech material', - "'GM" quality dealer program' - 'How Harlow Curtis earns his money '56, History of John DeLorean, GM Presidents, Trade pack, RS McLaughlin 90th. Buick 75 years, Eli Olds, Early GM Fin'l Trouble 91, Ross Perot Speech '92' - 'Early GM history; 1919, 1920, 1928. "Tribute" booklets, GM formation, Auto Chronology, EDS acquisition 'old' car photos, 1961 GM Topics, GM Office Demolition' - 'Automotive Safety and How Your Car Is Built, Sam's Own Story '75.' - Newspaper clippings and photocopies of a book about Oshawa, 1928. 		
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