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HENDERSON, Gordon Roberts

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Prepared by Norman R. Ball,
Economic and Scientific
Archives, in 1979 and revised
in 1980 and 1982.

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HENDERSON, Gordon Roberts (b.1900). Professional Engineer.

Original, 1981. 1 page. Photocopies, 1938-1982. 20 cm. Finding Aid No. 1085.

Gordon Roberts Henderson was born in London, Ontario on March 6, 1900. After completing elementary and secondary school in that city he entered Queen's University at Kingston, and in 1925 graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. For the next seven years he worked for Ontario Hydro-Electric, Dominion Engineering Works, and Power Corporation of Canada. In 1932 he started work on the construction of a Shell Oil Company refinery in Montreal and thus began his long influential association with the Canadian petrochemical industry. In 1936 he was appointed chief engineer of the refinery he had helped to build. With the outbreak of W.W. II he was sent to work on the construction of a much needed British oil refinery at Heysham, Lancashire, England. He served as chief engineer until the plant reached design capacity and then returned to Canada whereupon Shell Oil Company loaned him to Polymer Corporation, Sarnia, as petroleum engineer on the design and construction of the only synthetic rubber plant in the British Empire. In 1943 he resigned from Shell and became chief engineer of Polymer Corporation, a position he held until 1951 when he became vice president and general manager of the newly formed Catalytic Construction of Canada Limited. From 1953 to 1958 he was manager of the Sun Oil Refinery in Sarnia. Following this he became president of Catalytic Construction of Canada Ltd. After his retirement in 1965 he was active with the Construction Safety Association of Ontario, and Lambton College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Presented in 1978, 1980, 1981 and 1982 by Gordon Roberts Henderson, Sarnia, Ont.

Speeches, correspondence, clippings and related material chiefly concerning Mr. Henderson's engineering work in the petrochemical industry, particularly refining and synthetic rubber production, as well as his interest in areas such as industrial and construction safety, education, city planning, local history and sports. Unpublished autobiography up to 1982. The final chapter pp. 349-364 consists of personal reflections on Canadian Education.

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<u>BIOGRAPHICAL AND PERSONAL</u>			
1	1	Gordon Roberts Henderson - Curriculum Vitae	to 1978
	2	Gordon Roberts Henderson - Biographical Sketch	to 1955
	2a	G.R. Henderson, Title Page, Table of Contents, Forward to Autobiography Titled <u>People, Events, Memoirs of A Canadian Engineer</u>	
	3a	"Hendy The First: An Autobiography" Birth to 1942	1978, 1980
	3b	G.R. Henderson - Autobiography - Pages 171-194 and Letter From Henderson	
	3c	G.R. Henderson - Autobiography - Pages 194-219 (ca. 1945-1950)	1981
	3d	G.R. Henderson - Autobiography - Pages 220-271 (ca. 1950-1954)	1981
	3e	G.R. Henderson - Autobiography - Pages 272-348	to 1981
<u>INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION</u>			
	4	Correspondence Regarding Talk at Industrial Accident Prevention Association Meeting	1944, 1945
	5	"Entry and Work In Dangerous Places" Presented to Canadian Industrial Safety Association	29 September 1964

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6		"Construction Industrial Future Labour Negotiations," Sarnia	1964
7		A. The Industry Safety Legislation and Accident Prevention.	1965
		B. Construction Safety Association of Ontario.	1965
8		"Safety Makes Sense and Everyone is Responsible" (Construction Safety Association of Ontario)	1965
9		"Construction Management Should Know These Facts About Construction in Ontario"	1965
10		President's Report on the Annual Meeting of the Construction Safety Association, Toronto (by P.J. "Jerry Cook)	25 April 1966
11		Speech on Safety to Structural Consulting Engineers, Toronto	29 May 1967
12		Programme, Canadian Industrial Safety Association Meeting	18, 19 September 1967
13		"Construction Safety Is Your Business" Presented to Canadian Industrial Accident Prevention Association	18 September 1967
<u>POLYMER CORPORATION AND SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION</u>			
14		Undated Clipping "Polymer Plant Future Assured"	n.d.

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15		Description of Method Used to Make Synthetic Rubber at Sarnia, Ontario	9 November 1944
16		Newspaper Clipping on Synthetic Rubber	1944
17		Correspondence, Clippings, Flow Charts and Reactions on Synthetic Rubber	1945-1946
18		Letters, Clipping and Text of Paper Presented to Ontario Municipal Electric Association Convention, Sarnia Subject: Refining History and Synthetic Rubber Production	17 October 1945
19		Typescript, Synthetic Rubber	17 October 1945
20		Memo, Polymer Corporation Limited	15 November 1945
21		Correspondence	1945
22		Speech on Synthetic Rubber	20 November 1946
23		Address on Synthetic Rubber Presented to Engineering Institute of Canada, Montreal	12 December 1946
24		Speech on Polymer Presented to Engineering Institute of Canada	31 January 1949
25		Typescript on History of Petroleum Refining and Synthetic Rubber Production	
26		Typescript on Synthetic Rubber Industry	n.d.
27		"The Development of the Oil Industry Toward Aviation Gasoline and Synthetic Rubber"	n.d.

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	<u>SUN OIL REFINERY, SARNIA</u>	
28	Address Opening Sun Oil Refinery	May 1954
29	Speech on Sarnia Refinery, Sun Oil Company Limited	1954
30	Henderson and Dougherty "Underground Storage Created in Salt Beds at Sun's Sarnia Refinery"	1 March 1956
31	Underground Storage at Sarnia, Lecture for Canadian Chemical Institute Meeting, Sarnia	6 March 1956
32	Chemical Institute of Canada Radio Interview With Gordon R. Henderson, Manager, Sarnia Refinery, Station C.H.O.K., Sarnia	29 March 1956
33	Speech on Canadian-American Relations to Sun Supervisory Association of the Toledo Refinery, Toledo	29 April 1956
34	Last Speech to Sun Refinery, Sarnia	September 1958
35	Sun Refinery's 20 Year Dinner, Sarnia	2 November 1973
	<u>SARNIA AND LAMBTON COUNTY OIL AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRY</u>	
36	Speech Delivered to Detroit Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and Wallaceburg Rotary, Chemical History of Sarnia	3 February 1954, 15 March 1956

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37		Speech to Annual Meeting Petrolia Chamber of Commerce, Sarnia and Area History	17 February 1955
38		Speech on Oil Industry, Presented to Kiwanis Club at Wallaceburg	16 April 1957
39		"Sewer Expansion Program City of Sarnia" Presented to American Chemical Society, Port Huron	14 October 1957
40		Address on Development of Chemical Industry in Sarnia, Presented to Lions Club, Port Huron	29 November 1961
41		Address on History of Sarnia, Beta Sigma Phi Convention, Sarnia	8 June 1968
42		The Housing Standards By-Law, City of Sarnia	8 April 1969
43		Horizons Unlimited, The Effects of Government Programs on Older People	16 June 1973
<u>ENGINEERING EDUCATION</u>			
44		"Engineers Can Provide Direction or What Happened at the Birthday Party"	September 1958
45		Address on Education to Petrolia Lions Club	23 January 1961
46		"The Efforts of the Population Explosion on Education Problems" Presented to Sarnia Rotary Club	10 September 1962

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47	Speech on Unemployed and Education to the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen	20 April 1963
48	Industrial Advisory Council, University of Waterloo	1 October 1964
49	Address on Education to Seaway Kiwanis Club, Sarnia	8 September 1970
50	Address "What About Education" Presented to Kiwanis of Sarnia. Includes Clippings and Correspondence on Education and Unemployment.	21 October 1971
51	Correspondence, Engineering Education	1975
52	Incomplete Address or Notes on Education	n.d.

AVIATION GASOLINE PLANT CONSTRUCTION

53	Speech on Construction of Aviation Gasoline Plant in England During W.W. II, 2 Copies, one Annotated	n.d.
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CONTRACT MAINTENANCE

54	Address on "Contract Maintenance" Presented to Sarnia and District Purchasing Agents Association	1 February 1961
55	Address on Contract Maintenance to Sarnia and District Purchasing Agents Association	1 February 1961

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<u>ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION</u>			
56		Newspaper Clipping, Hydro Expansion, <u>Windsor Daily Star</u>	18 October 1945
57		Clipping Re: Premier Drew on Hydro Expansion	October 1945
58		Nuclear Power Generation for Sarnia	27 June 1961
<u>MISCELLANEOUS CLIPPINGS, SPEECHES, CORRESPONDENCE</u>			
59		Clipping on How to Direct and Carry Out Research	1935?
60		Speech on Dr. John Grebe	January 1946
61		Speech Given by G.R. Henderson at the Port Heron Engineering Society Meeting	8 June 1955
62		Address on Football to Quarterback Club, Sarnia	1956
63		Foreman's Club Speech	21 March 1957
64		Work Shop on Employee Recreation, Sarnia	4 November 1960
65		Clipping "Export Market Held Key to Canada's Growth in '63", Sarnia Observer	2 January 1963
66		Text of Toast to Judy Dill	1 June 1963
67		Correspondence, Chemical Institute of Canada	3 October 1968
68		Presentation Speech to Mr. Berkinshaw	n.d.

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