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DAVIES, PETER: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS RE THE 1919  
TRANSCONTINENTAL MOTOR CONVOY

Accession: A03-3  
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The Peter Davies Collection of Newspaper Clippings re the 1919 Transcontinental Motor Convoy was donated to the Library in October 2002 by Mr. Davies.

Linear feet shelf space: .3

Approximate number of pages: 800

Approximate number of items: 500

There are no restrictions on this material. All of the materials are open to researchers.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection of newspaper clippings related to the 1919 Transcontinental Motor Convoy was compiled by author Peter Davies while researching his book, American Road: The Story of an Epic Transcontinental Journey at the Dawn of the Motor Age (Henry Holt & Co., 2002). Mr. Davies visited many cities and towns along the route of the Lincoln Highway and consulted local archives and newspapers for information on the convoy and its impact on the states and cities it visited. The clippings in this collection date from July 5, 1919 to September 18, 1919, and they cover the movement of the convoy from Pennsylvania to California. The clippings have been organized by state in the order that the convoy passed through them-Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. Within the folder or folders for each state the clippings are arranged in chronological order. For those clippings which were unidentified or not dated we have used our best judgement in placing them in the files.

The clippings from various states and cities along the convoy's route have a number of common themes. The visit by the convoy was treated as a major event by many localities, and the clippings document the preparations for these visits, which often included receptions, dinners, parades, dancing, and entertainment. There are many references to road conditions, mostly negative. The convoy experienced delays and slow progress due to mud, sand, dust, mechanical breakdowns, and poorly constructed bridges. Many of the local newspapers printed similar material on the background of the convoy and the reasons for this trip-possibly indicating the successful distribution of a War Department press release. Many local papers contained articles on the "Good Roads Movement" and printed editorials advocating construction of better paved roads. In a number of articles the Lincoln Highway is touted as a future "national highway" or "national military highway." Articles and advertisements in newspapers also promoted the concept of "Ship by Truck" as an alternative to rail transport.

A number of interesting details appear in these clippings. Articles in the Boone, Iowa paper mention that Lieutenant Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower visited Mamie Eisenhower's uncle, Joel Carlson, and that Mamie planned to meet the Convoy at North Platte, Nebraska. The paper includes a brief quote by Eisenhower on the Lincoln Highway. Eisenhower is also briefly mentioned in articles on the convoy in Nebraska and California. The clippings document marriages by two soldiers on the convoy in Illinois. The daily gas and oil requirements of the convoy are mentioned in a few articles, and detailed descriptions of the equipment and personnel of the convoy are found in these files. The increase in the number of auto tourists is outlined in several articles, and one clipping offers figures on daily tourist travel on the Lincoln Highway in Nevada. The role of the motor truck in World War I is discussed, and the medals awarded convoy participants by the Lincoln Highway Association are also described.

Besides providing excellent source material on the 1919 Transcontinental Motor Convoy, this collection contains documentation on the Lincoln Highway, the "Good Roads Movement," and the "Ship by Truck" promotion. The difficulties of cross-country travel in 1919 are well illustrated in these files. Local newspapers used the passage of the convoy to stir up interest in the need for paved road construction and the development of a national highway system. Dwight D. Eisenhower is mentioned in a few of the clippings, and the experiences he had with the

convoy were a factor in his decision to push for the creation of an interstate highway system during his Administration. The entire collection is open to researchers without restrictions.

## CONTAINER LIST

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- 1    News Clippings, Pennsylvania, July 5-13, 1919 [map of convoy route; clippings from papers in Gettysburg, Chambersburg, Greensburg, and Pittsburgh re preparations for arrival of the convoy and the events held in their honor; favorable comments on Pennsylvania roads; bridge problems; truck ads; Col. McClure; H. C. Osterman]

News Clippings, Ohio, July 7-18, 1919 [clippings from papers in Delphos, Canton, East Palestine, Alliance, Wooster, Mansfield, Upper Sandusky, and Bucyrus re progress of the convoy and stops made; stop at Firestone homestead; Good Roads movement; equipment in convoy; purposes of tour; Packard cars; Goodyear tires; entertainment for troops, includes boxing and wrestling; Dr. S. M. Johnson, AAA; bridge problems; rumors federal government will pave Lincoln Highway; Capt. Murphy, Army recruiter]

News Clippings, Indiana, July 17-24, 1919 [clippings from papers in Fort Wayne and South Bend; Firestone Ship by Truck Bureau; Goodyear Tire Co. band; typed newspaper articles relating to the Convoy's tour through Indiana, including background, planning for visits, problems along the way, purposes of the tour, and receptions, from newspapers in Valparaiso, LaPorte, Mansfield, Columbia, Hammond, Gary, and Westville; Firestone Tire Co. truck; Willys-Knight cars]

News Clippings, Illinois, July 20-21, 1919 [clippings from papers in Aurora, DeKalb, Chicago Heights, Chicago, and Joliet re movement of truck train through Illinois; list of vehicles in convoy; private gets married in Chicago Heights; "ship by truck" movement; need for hard-topped roads; reception and entertainment for troops; sergeant married in Joliet; purposes of trip]

News Clippings, Iowa, July 7-24, 1919 [clippings from papers in Boone, Jefferson, Clinton, Marshalltown and Cedar Rapids; advertisements relating to the Convoy; reasons for convoy; receptions for convoy, meals, programs, and entertainment; large crowds greet truck train; reference to Lincoln Highway as future national highway or "the first great military highway" from coast to coast; reporter with convoy; article from Boone paper mentions Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a nephew of Joel Carlson of Boone, is a member of the convoy]

News Clippings, Iowa, July 25-31, 1919 [clippings from papers in Marshalltown, Boone, Ames, Mt. Vernon, Council Bluffs, Jefferson, and Denison; description of convoy; receptions for troops; article from Boone paper mentions D.D. Eisenhower and Major S. S. Brett arriving ahead of convoy and plans for Mamie Eisenhower to meet convoy at North Platte, Nebraska; Eisenhower comments on the Lincoln Highway; book chapter on Eisenhower's visit to Ames; pilot cars, publicity men,

band, and kitchen travel ahead of convoy; gas and oil requirements for convoy; large crowds greet troops]

News Clippings, Nebraska, July 24-29, 1919 [clippings from papers in Omaha re convoy; statements and ads on need for paved roads and promoting use of trucks for hauling freight; reception for convoy in Omaha; article indicates officers with the convoy were guests of the Packard Motor Co. at the athletic club-Lt. Col. D. D. Eisenhower is listed as one of the officers; road problems]

News Clippings, Nebraska, July 29-31, 1919 [clippings from papers in Omaha, Fremont, Central City, Grand Island, North Platte, and Kimball re receptions for convoy-stops include parades, entertainment, dancing, demonstrating the searchlight, and maintenance on vehicles; ship-by-truck promotion; good roads boosters; detailed descriptions of makeup of the convoy; behind schedule at North Platte]

New Clippings, Nebraska, August 1-13, 1919 [clippings from papers in Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney, Sidney, North Platte, Gothenburg, Ogallala, Chappell, and Kimball re progress of the convoy and stops made; delays due to poor bridges and mud; receptions and entertainment; 1935 North Platte clippings re paving of Lincoln Highway; desertion by enlisted man; newspapers argue about who is responsible for bad roads]

News Clippings, Wyoming, August 4-8, 1919 [clippings from papers in Cheyenne, Laramie, and Rock Springs re convoy; delays due to road conditions; receptions and entertainment held for convoy; Cheyenne stages wild west show; large crowds greet men of convoy; convoy leaders and personnel; Dr. S. M. Johnson, authority on roads]

News Clippings, Wyoming, August 9-15, 1919 [clippings from papers in Cheyenne, Laramie, Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Green River re receptions and programs for convoy personnel; comments on road conditions and progress of convoy]

News Clippings, Utah, August 10-20, 1919 [clippings from papers in Burns, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Tooele re the progress of the convoy through Utah and receptions in the cities and towns; good roads movement; auto production in 1917 and 1919; Salt Lake officials contact Sec. of War for permission for convoy to remain longer than planned; articles by Lt. W. B. Doron, publicity officer of convoy-comments on "new era in transportation"; auto tourists; road building in Utah; four messages of convoy; role of motor truck in W W I; entertainment and programs; ship-by-truck; growing popularity of auto; dust and bridge problems; theft from campsite; Dr. S. M. Johnson, spokesman for convoy]

News Clippings, Nevada, June 14-July 29, 1919 [clippings from papers in Austin, Carson City, Fallon, East Ely, plans for receptions and entertainment for convoy troops; cost of poor highways; daily tourist travel on Lincoln Highway; promotion of good roads; Lake Tahoe route to California; Reno sought for visit by convoy]

News Clippings, Nevada, August 2-September 6, 1919 [clippings from papers in Carson City, Fallon, Ely, Austin, East Ely, and Eureka; tourist travel; good roads movement; need for "interstate highway improvement: and a "Federal Highway System;" plans for receptions and entertainment of convoy participants; bad roads and poor bridges put convoy behind schedule; H. C. Osterman, field secretary of Lincoln Highway Assoc. and pilot to convoy; convoy origins and personnel; Goodyear band; convoy takes cut-off from Fallon to Carson City and bypasses Reno; daily schedule and camp life on convoy; Reno press criticizes route of convoy]

News Clippings, California, June 22-August 31, 1919 [clippings from papers in Sacramento, Placerville, and Oakland; Good Roads Campaign; road construction plans; quote from letter by General Drake, chief of Motor Transport Corps; Lake Tahoe; Oakland "Ship By Truck" Day; military supports comprehensive Federal road plan; 500,000 trucks in U.S.; plans for receptions in Oakland and Sacramento; articles on motor trucks; convoy six days behind schedule; Navy fleet visiting San Francisco]

News Clippings, California, September 1-4, 1919 [clippings from papers in Oakland, Sacramento, Stockton, and San Francisco; sand and mud delay convoy; reception in Oakland; arrival of Pacific Fleet; convoy enters California; State Fair; Autocar trucks; receptions in Placerville, Stockton, Sacramento, and Oakland]

News Clippings, California, September 5-18, 1919 [clippings from papers in Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Placerville; reference to "mapping out a national military highway" as goal of convoy; ship by truck movement; reception and events in Oakland; speech by President Wilson; Henry Ford; finish milestone planted in Lincoln Park in San Francisco; medals awarded to convoy personnel by Lincoln Highway Association; good roads in California; parade and ceremonies in San Francisco; lessons of convoy; references to need for a "military highway;" article lists staff observers with convoy, including Lieutenant Colonel Eisenhower; articles promote need for government road building project; Townsend bill; Dodge Brothers cars; Firestone "Ship by Truck" ad]

END OF CONTAINER LIST