



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the John Bucheimer Papers

NMAH.AC.0889

Alison Oswald

2006

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	John Bucheimer Papers
Date:	1954 - 1977
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0889
Creator:	Bucheimer, John (Creator)
Extent:	4 Cubic feet (11 boxes, 5 map folders) 21 Film reels
Language:	English .
Summary:	Papers relate to John Bucheimer's work as manager of new product manufacturing in the Engineering Department at Head Ski Company.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by John Bucheimer on April 26, 2005.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

Howard Head Papers, 1926-1991, AC0589

Materials in the National Museum of American History

The Division of Culture and the Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life), formerly the Division of Music, Sports, and Entertainment, holds artifacts related to the Howard Head Papers. These artifacts include downhill skis, ski poles, ski boots, ski bindings, and cross sections of downhill skis.

Processing Information

Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2006.

Preferred Citation

John Bucheimer Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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Biographical / Historical

John Bucheimer was born on December 7, 1919. During the 1940s, he worked with Howard Head at Glenn L. Martin Company, an aircraft company founded by aviation pioneer Glenn L. Martin (1886-1955) in Middle River, Maryland. At Martin, Bucheimer supervised work on planes and oversaw structural testing. Primarily self taught, he learned electronics and drafting skills on the job. Head left the Glenn L. Martin Company to start his own company, Head Ski Company in 1948, and Bucheimer joined him.

Head, a former aircraft engineer, developed, designed, manufactured, and marketed the first metal laminate skis in 1950 called the "Head Standard. These skis revolutionized the industry. They were made of two layers of aluminum bonded around a core of plywood at very high pressure; the outer layer was made of plastic. By 1952, Head introduced skis with edges made of tempered steel. His skis were lighter and faster than wood and earned the nickname "cheaters" by the industry. In 1969, Head introduced a fiberglass/metal ski, but this ski combined with a diversified product line of javelin and aluminum tennis rackets could not strengthen his company nor stop a takeover by AMF in 1970.

At Head Ski Company, Bucheimer held the position of manager of new products manufacturing. He trained employees on every aspect of work flow.

Scope and Contents

These records were assembled and saved by John Bucheimer in conjunction with his work at Head Ski Company. The bulk of the records relates to engineering matters and detail how the skis were manufactured. The records also provide insight into the daily operations and activities of the Head Ski Company factory.

Series 1, Operational Records, 1967-1973, include an organizational chart, company and management profile, annual reports, inter office correspondence, memoranda, management notes, the Management News Bulletin, and plant information. The organizational chart of 1969 provides the job title and name of the employee for specific positions within Head Ski Company, Head Ski and Sportswear, American Athletic Equipment, Wayne Plastics, Wing Archery, and Head International AG.

This series contains the Management News Bulletin, 1967-1970. An internal communication from the president, the news bulletin provided a forum for announcements, resignations, work plans, reorganizations, organizational charts, employee changes, and general work flow issues. While small in size, the content is rich for getting a sense of the management style at Head Ski Company.

The management notes, 1968-1971, are handwritten by Bucheimer and contain information on training, responsibilities, manufacturing expenses, production schedules, regional sales meetings, and job postings. There are a few management pamphlets published by the Economic Press, Inc. These pamphlets provided "tips" to managers. Also, the management notes contain two union fliers addressing the issue of union dues. Both fliers urge employees to "keep your take home pay free from Union dues. Vote no union." Other materials include inventories of office surplus and plant information. There are instructions of how to conduct a tour of the plant and ADT protective service documentation. Bucheimer was the designated ADT card holder for the company.

Series 2, Employee Records, 1957-1973, consist of employee handbooks and insurance materials, a job description for manager of manufacturing projects, and vacation schedules for several employees. Some salary information is here.

Series 3, Marketing/Sales Records, 1969-1972, includes one catalog from 1972, three news releases, sales information, and ski show and shipment information. The ski show materials document specific shows—Canada, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York—and the ski models displayed and, in some instances, orders placed. The special shipments, 1969-1971, include invoices, correspondence, notes, and material move tickets for companies such as Cell Pack, Ltd., Standard Metalwerke, Dura Fiber Corp., and United Shoe Machinery Corp.

Series 4, Financial/Accounting Records, 1967-1971, contains reports, inventories, expenses, and some payroll information. The majority of these records date from September 1969 to October of 1969. The expense statements reveal how much was budgeted and spent for materials, direct labor, payroll taxes, Christmas bonuses, travel, postage, maintenance, and ski parts, to name a few categories. There is some payroll information with the payroll control sheets.

Series 5, Engineering/Manufacturing Records, 1956-1977, comprise the largest and richest series within the collection. The records are subdivided into seven subseries: inventories, instructions, repair information, reports, drawings and specifications, testing information, and miscellaneous.

The inventories provide valuable information on the types of materials used, the quantities, and in some instances the cost. The raw material inventory of 1967 details material types (e.g. glue, plywood, aluminum, poles, saw blades), account numbers, date, quantity, price and actual cost. Like the raw material inventory, the perpetual inventory of 1966 is divided according to material type (e.g. aluminum, plastic, cloth tape, wood, rubber, steel) unit measure (typically in pounds), conversion factor, dates, and a balance amount.

The instructions include detailed information on "how to" for a variety of operations such as aluminum sandblasting bottom ski skin assembly, degreasing nosepieces, and sanding, gluing, and cutting "L" steel edges. The instructions consist of a workplace layout diagram, tools needed, and step by-step instruction elements. Of note is the material flow processes for the company. There are flow charts for each operational sequence performed. There are photographs of equipment with the flow charts, but they are not keyed to specific operational tasks.

The repair information contains procedures and lists of parts for skis. The repair procedures describe the repair needed and what model ski is affected. A detailed description of the repair is documented along with the materials required, tools, and how effective the repair was. The repairs documented here include finishing, grinding, bottom waxing, replacing edges, inlays, and remolding. The company had a program titled "rework" that handled returned skis. Many of the skis documented appear to have had cavity problems and were sent back to be remolded. There is some ski rejection analysis documentation citing why skis are being sent to the rework program. Additional information on cavity problems and production is also here. The parts list, 1969-1970, details various parts used on ski models JR-90, JR-60, 720-TA, 320-W, 240-B, K-short ski, deep powder-DP, Giant Slalom, slalom, 360-AR, 320-E and the downhill models. The part number and name, quantity, and any remarks are provided.

The reports, logs, and notes subseries contain manufacturing and production notes, and a variety of reports documenting engineering department activities. The inter-shift reports, 1963-1967, were maintained in spiral bound shorthand notebooks. They detail daily activities, operational suggestions, reminders to staff, materials available, and what work needs to be completed. Other reports include accidents, 1958-1961, and quality control reports, 1970-1971, which were created daily to provide detailed information on all aspects of the skis at final inspection time. The number of skis inspected with percentage information is summarized. The non-conforming material recovery reports, 1970, give the reasons why skis were rejected and indicate if skis were returned to vendors or used "as is."

The drawings and specifications, 1964-1970, are comprised of oversize drawings ranging from 8" x 10" to 34" x 43 _". The drawings are copies and include information on the short, slalom, giant slalom, downhill, and deep powder skis. The finished ski specifications, 1964-1967, document material types, assembly and subassembly procedures, ski data, ski poles, packaging material, and miscellaneous material. For each specification there is a corresponding instruction/narrative and, in some instances, a drawing.

The testing documentation is material specific (rubber, steel, plastic, adhesives) or ski model specific. It provides some insight into what materials the company worked with and under what conditions, such as, pulling, heating, or actual pilot ski runs. The suppliers, 1971-1973, include forms, receipts, bills, invoices, correspondence, receiving tickets, and descriptive inventories from companies that Head Ski Co. purchased supplies from.

Series 6, The General Files, 1954-1977, cover a variety of miscellaneous topics, such as the National Ski Patrol and postage, and are arranged alphabetically.

Series 7, Moving Image, no date, consists of twenty-one reels of 16 mm film which are unprocessed.

Series 8, Personal Materials, circa 1960s, contain greeting cards and notes and a photograph of Bucheimer with Howard Head.

Arrangement

Collection organized into eight series.

Series 1: Operational Records, 1967-1973

Series 2: Employee Records, 1957-1973

Series 3: Marketing/Sales Records, 1969-1972

Series 4: Financial/Accounting Records, 1967-1971

Series 5: Engineering/Manufacturing Records, 1956-1977

Subseries 1, Inventories, 1966-1971

Subseries 2, Instructions, 1967-1970

Subseries 3, Repair Information, 1969-1971

Subseries 4, Reports, logs, and notes, 1956-1971

Subseries 5, Drawings and Specifications, 1964-1970

Subseries 6, Testing Information, 1963-1970

Subseries 7, Miscellaneous, 1967-1973

Series 6: General Files, 1954-1977

Series 7: Moving Image, no date

Series 8: Personal Materials, circa 1960s

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Skis and skiing
- Sporting goods industry

Types of Materials:

- Audiovisual materials
- Black-and-white photographic prints -- Silver gelatin -- 1950-2000
- Blueprints -- 1950-2000
- Business records -- 1950-2000
- Correspondence -- 1950-2000
- Drawings -- 20th century
- Financial records -- 20th century

Names:

- Head Ski Company.
- Head, Howard, 1914-1991 (inventor, business executive)

Container Listing

Series 1: Operational Records, 1967 - 1973

Box 1, Folder 1	Organizational chart, 1969
Box 1, Folder 2	Company profile, 1968
Box 1, Folder 3	Management profile, 1968
Box 1, Folder 4	Annual reports, 1968 - 1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Interoffice correspondence, 1971 - 1972
Box 1, Folder 6	Memos, 1967 - 1970
Box 1, Folder 7	Management News Bulletin, 1967 - 1970
Box 1, Folder 8	Management notes, 1969, 1968
Box 1, Folder 9	Management notes, 1970
Box 1, Folder 10	Management notes, 1961
Box 1, Folder 11	Inventory, 1972
Box 1, Folder 12	Office surplus list for Timonium, Maryland office, 1971 - 1972
Box 1, Folder 13	Statistical Control Department Inventory Transaction Procedures, 1964 - 1965
Box 1, Folder 14	Plant Tour guide, [1969?]
Box 1, Folder 15	Plant Security ADT Electric Protection Services, 1968 - 1973

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Series 2: Employee Records, 1957 - 1973

Box 2, Folder 1 Employee handbook and insurance information, 1957-1972 (not inclusive)

Box 2, Folder 2 Job descriptions, undated

Box 2, Folder 3 Vacation schedules, 1969, 1971

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Series 3: Marketing/Sales Records, 1969 - 1972

Box 2, Folder 4	Catalog, 1972
Box 2, Folder 5	News releases, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Sales and disbursements for Head Ski Co. in Boulder, CO, 1972
Box 2, Folder 7	Final sales for Head Ski Co. in Timonium, MD, 1973
Box 2, Folder 8	Sales information, 1972 September-December
Box 2, Folder 9	Bids on non-capital items, 1972
Box 2, Folder 10	Ski shows (Canada, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York), 1969
Box 2, Folder 11	Ski show order, 1969 - 1971
Box 2, Folder 12	Ski show paint/silk screen, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Special shipments, 1969 - 1971
Box 2, Folder 14	Shipment to J.F. Cowan Association, 1969
Box 2, Folder 15	Shipment of cut sections of skis, 1971
Box 2, Folder 16	Ski Division give away order, 1970

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Series 4: Financial/Accounting Records, 1967 - 1971

Box 4, Folder 1	Composite Reports, 1969 October 11
Box 4, Folder 2	Detail List Inventory, 1969 September 13
Box 4, Folder 3	Expense statements, 1969 September 13
Box 4, Folder 4	Materials price variance report, 1969 September 13
Box 4, Folder 5	Materials price variance report, 1969 October 11
Box 4, Folder 6	Unmatched accounts payable, 1969 September 13
Box 4, Folder 7	Finished goods inventory count, 1969 September 13
Box 4, Folder 8	Finished goods inventory count, 1969 October 11
Box 4, Folder 9	Finished goods inventory evaluation, 1969 September 13
Box 5, Folder 1	Finished goods inventory evaluation, 1969 October 11
Box 5, Folder 2	Finished goods weekly stock status, 1969 October 11
Box 5, Folder 3	Raw materials and manufacturing supplies inventory evaluation, 1969 September 12
Box 5, Folder 4	Raw materials and manufacturing supplies inventory evaluation, 1969 October 11
Box 5, Folder 5	Raw materials and manufacturing supplies, receipts and returns recap, 1969 September 12
Box 5, Folder 6	Value of raw materials and manufacturing supplies, receipts and returns reports, 1969 September 12
Box 5, Folder 7	Value of raw materials and manufacturing supplies, receipts and returns reports, 1969 October 11
Box 5, Folder 8	Unidentified, 1968
Box 2, Folder 17	Fixed assets-special tool and fixture supply and machine tool surplus, 1971
Box 2, Folder 18	Payroll control sheets, 1967 March 10-1969 August 23
Box 2, Folder 19	Securities and Exchange Commission registration statement, 1968

Box 3, Folder 1	Voucher control sheets, 1967 March 1-October 10
Box 3, Folder 2	Voucher control sheets, 1967 October 13-1968 September 6
Box 3, Folder 3	Voucher control sheets, 1968 September 9-December 10

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Series 5: Engineering/Manufacturing Records, 1956 - 1977

Subseries 5.1: Inventories, 1966 - 1971

Box 3, Folder 4-7	Raw material inventory, 1967
Box 3, Folder 8	Perpetual inventory, 1966 - 1967
Box 6, Folder 1	Perpetual inventory, 1966 - 1967
Box 6, Folder 2	Material move tickets, 1969 September-1970 September
Box 6, Folder 3	Material move tickets, 1970 October-November
Box 6, Folder 4	Scrap inventory, 1970
Box 6, Folder 5	Miscellaneous inventory transfers, 1970
Box 6, Folder 6	Miscellaneous inventories, 1970 - 1971

Subseries 5.2: Instructions, 1967 - 1970

Box 6, Folder 7	Material flow process (includes photographs), 1968
Box 6, Folder 8	Standard operation instructions, 1967 August-September
Box 6, Folder 9	Standard operation instructions, 1967 October
Box 6, Folder 10	Standard operation instructions, 1967 November, undated
Box 6, Folder 11	Operational breakdown for HRP 100, 1970
Box 6, Folder 12	Binding instructions, undated

Subseries 5.3: Repair Information, 1969 - 1971

Box 7, Folder 1	Repair procedure forms, undated
Box 7, Folder 2	Repair procedures, 1969
Box 7, Folder 3-4	Repair procedures, 1969 - 1971
Box 7, Folder 5	Parts list for skis, 1969 - 1970

Box 7, Folder 6	Parts list for skis, 1970
Box 7, Folder 7	Parts list for skis, 1971
Box 7, Folder 8	Change notices, 1970
Box 7, Folder 9	Log of rework skis out, 1969
Box 7, Folder 10	Rework information, 1969
Box 7, Folder 11	Recovery (rework) information, 1969 - 1970
Box 7, Folder 12	Skis sent back to rework, 1969
Box 7, Folder 13	Rework on the Killy 800 ski, 1969 - 1971
Box 7, Folder 14	Material recovery program, 1969 - 1970
Box 7, Folder 15	Cavity problems, 1967
Box 7, Folder 16	Cavity production, 1969
Box 8, Folder 1	New product cavities, 1969
Box 8, Folder 2	Cavity program (GS 800/AR 800 model), 1970
Box 8, Folder 3	New cavity program (203 GS Killy model), 1970

Subseries 5.4: Reports, Logs, and Notes, 1956 - 1971

Box 8, Folder 4	Manufacturing and productions notes, 1967 - 1971
Box 8, Folder 5	Memorandum, 1969 - 1970
Box 8, Folder 6	Daily log, 1956
Box 8, Folder 7	Intershift reports, 1964 January 17-1965 May 8
Box 8, Folder 8	Intershift reports, 1963 April 24-1964 September 8
Box 8, Folder 9	Intershift reports, 1964 September 8-1965 April 30
Box 8, Folder 10	Intershift reports, 1965 September 3-1967 March 13
Box 9, Folder 1	Accident reports (1st and 2nd shifts), 1958 - 1961

Box 9, Folder 2	Paint log, 1970
Box 9, Folder 3	Nonconforming material reports, 1970
Box 9, Folder 4	Quality control reports, 1970 - 1971
Box 9, Folder 5	Weekly man hour report, undated
Box 9, Folder 6	Unidentified log book, undated

Subseries 5.5: Drawings and Specifications, 1964 - 1970

Box 9, Folder 7	Finished ski specifications, 1964 - 1967
Box 9, Folder 8	Special ski specifications, 1970
Box 9, Folder 9	Specifications for "L edge steel, 1970
Box 9, Folder 10	Specification deviation requests/authorizations, 1970
Map-folder 1	Miscellaneous specifications, 1968
Map-folder 2	Subassembly and assembly molding, 1967 - 1968
Map-folder 3	Ski details, 1967 - 1968
Map-folder 4	Drawings of finished skis, 1968
Map-folder 5	Drawings of finished skis, 1970

Subseries 5.6: Testing Information, 1963 - 1970

Box 9, Folder 11	Cyclized rubber, 1970
Box 9, Folder 12	Flexible steel, 1969
Box 9, Folder 13	Formica plastic, 1969 - 1970
Box 9, Folder 14	Glue test data, 1963
Box 9, Folder 15	HSTM 105 bond test, undated
Box 9, Folder 16	Model 240 ski, 1969 - 1970
Box 9, Folder 17	Neoprene and steel, 1970

Box 10, Folder 1	Photovolt meter readings on red top plastic, 1970
Box 10, Folder 2	PTEX plug, undated
Box 10, Folder 3	Photographs of general tests, undated
Box 10, Folder 4	Steel bond, undated
Box 11	Ski samples, 1971

Subseries 5.7: Miscellaneous, 1967 - 1973

Box 10, Folder 5	Problem solving program, 1969 - 1970
Box 10, Folder 6	Productive and Non-Productive time sheets, 1967
Box 10, Folder 7	Shell epoxy, 1969 - 1970
Box 10, Folder 8	Shell molding, 1969
Box 10, Folder 9	Special tooling, 1969 - 1970
Box 10, Folder 10	Suppliers, 1971 - 1973
Box 10, Folder 11	V-2 film/M 373 bond master adhesive, 1967 - 1970

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Series 6: General Files, 1954 - 1977

Box 10, Folder 12	Canadian materials returned, 1969
Box 10, Folder 13	Canadian ski information, 1967 - 1969
Box 10, Folder 14	Dictabelts of Jim Mitchell, undated
Box 10, Folder 15	Killy ski 800, 1970 - 1971
Box 10, Folder 16	National Ski Patrol serial numbers, 1970
Box 10, Folder 17	Photo and Print Shop Department, 1969
Box 10, Folder 18	Postage meter reading, 1971
Box 10, Folder 19	Rubber and Asbestos Corp., 1954 - 1956
Box 10, Folder 20	Safety Committee, 1967
Box 10, Folder 21	Tennis line for Head Ski Co., Inc., 1969 - 1977

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Series 7: Moving Image, undated

Reel OF 889.1

Unidentified Trims, undated

Notes: 21 short rolls of trims (16mm, black and white, wound with full coat magnetic tracks)

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Series 8: Personal Materials, circa 1960s

Box 10, Folder 22 Greeting cards and notes, undated

Box 10, Folder 23 [Photograph: From left to right, Howard Head, John Bucheimer and two unidentified men, circa 1960s](#)

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