

# GENERAL MOTORS ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION

3044 WEST GRAND BOULEVARD, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

March 8, 1984

Mr. Russell A. Strong  
Principal Researcher  
8th Air Force  
Biographical Directory  
2041 Hillsdale  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

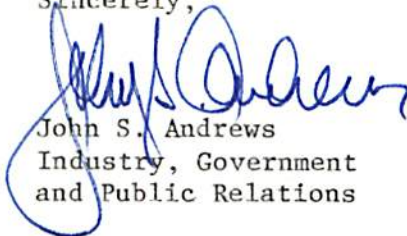
Dear Mr. Strong:

This is in response to your letter seeking biographical information on John B. Wright who, as you surmised, was a vice president of GMAC at his time of retirement in 1963.

I am enclosing for your perusal a biographical write-up that appeared in Mr. Wright's retirement dinner program.

I hope you will find this useful for your needs.

Sincerely,



John S. Andrews  
Industry, Government  
and Public Relations

Enclosure

## John B. Wright

If any man ever proved that you not only can take the boy out of the country, but also the country out of the boy, John B. Wright, our guest of honor, is that man. For he is a native of Wadsworth, Nevada — he was born in that small community, little more than a wide spot in the road some 35 miles east of Reno along U.S. 40, on January 25, 1898. Yet he has long since been the true cosmopolite and is as “at ease” in the presence of the nation’s leading bankers with whom he has associated for many years as he was with top Air Force brass during his outstanding military career in World War II. Although his dapper and youthful appearance belies the fact, our guest is retiring on February 1, 1963.



“Jack,” as he is affectionately known to his wide circle of friends and business acquaintances, attended the University of Nevada. It should be noted that in his early days he favored “Jack B. Wright,” later reverting to the more formal “John” of his baptism. His schooling was interrupted by World War I, after which he embarked on a business career that took him to Spokane. In 1924, what was to be a 38-year career with General Motors Acceptance Corporation nearly ended before it started. Employed by GMAC at Spokane, he was to report to San Francisco as a salesman in the Financial Sales Department. When he showed up an hour late to start the job, the manager of the office, who was meticulous on punctuality, was ready to fire him as soon as he appeared. Jack was able to convince the manager to “go

along with him” for a little while. This man, an understanding person, did just that. Thus, GMAC owes a debt of gratitude to that manager—MacLeod (Mac) Maurice, now retired.

In any event, the records show that Mr. Wright’s name was inscribed on the rolls of GMAC on November 1, 1924. In February of 1926, his financial sales talents were transferred to Chicago and in January, 1928, he was appointed resident manager in Atlanta. Three years later he moved to the Bank Relations Department, Executive Office, in New York. He was promoted to assistant manager of the department on August 1, 1935.

Mr. Wright’s career with GMAC was interrupted on April 16, 1942, when he

volunteered for war service and was granted a military leave of absence. He went on active duty as a captain in the United States Army Air Force and was ordered to Officers' Training School. In June of that year, he was sent to the Air Force Intelligence School at Harrisburg. Upon completion of this tour, he was assigned to the 306th Heavy Bombardment Group which was equipped with the famed B-17 Flying Fortress and in August left the States aboard the Queen Elizabeth as assistant group intelligence officer. The group was stationed at Thurleigh, England.

Promoted to the rank of major in January, 1943, he was subsequently transferred to the 1st Bombardment Wing as assistant chief of staff, A-2. In November, 1943 he was given the silver leaf of lieutenant colonel and three months later was assigned to General Staff Corps, 1st Bombardment Division. He was named director of intelligence, 1st Air Division, in September of 1944 and the following January was promoted to the rank of colonel. After participation in the air offensive against Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe, Colonel Wright made a tour of France and Germany during April and May of 1945 on bomb damage survey. A short time later, he was returned to the United States on a special project. In August, 1945, he was assigned to the Second Air Force and was separated from the service at Colorado Springs the next month.

He is the holder of the Legion of Merit, awarded in November 1944; the Croix de Guerre with Palm, February 1945, and the Air Medal, March 1945. He also holds a Presidential Citation.

After returning to GMAC as assistant manager of Domestic Bank Relations, Jack Wright was named manager, U. S. Bank Relations on January 1, 1951, and was elected a vice president of the corporation on October 1, 1954. He was named to his present position, vice president and assistant manager, U. S. Borrowings, on June 1, 1960.

Now, Jack prepares to bid adieu to a career during which he has made countless friends not only in GMAC and MIC, but throughout the nation's banking industry. One is constrained to wonder whether the banking fraternity and such events as the American Bankers Association's annual convention will be quite the same without the impact of his friendly personality.

With his charming wife at his side, he plans to start on a new career that will entail "doing just what I want to do." It is believed, however, that with a summer place at Hewlett, Long Island; a New York City apartment, and a winter home at Hobe Sound, Florida, the Wrights will occupy a good bit of their leisure in pursuit of their favorite pastimes — the theatre, opera and concerts, bridge, travel — with just the right amount of seasoning of deep sea fishing and golf.

In Jack we are losing a colleague who has been at once a good friend of his associates and an effective and valued representative of GMAC. As he takes his leave, he goes with the best wishes of all for continued success and happiness in the new and well-deserved life of retirement that lies ahead.

*Deceased*

*10/22/74*

*Hewlett, NY*