The Descriptive Finding Guide for the Edward Sly Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10230

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
2019
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego 92101
URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

Title: Edward D. Sly Personal Papers

Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10230

Physical Description: .5 Cubic Feet

The collection contains items reflecting the career and interests of Edward D. Sly, including photographs, scrapbooks, and media articles. The collection consists of one gray flat oversized archival box, 12" x 18" x 6".

Date (bulk): bulk

Abstract: Edward Dwight Sly was a distinguished aeronautical engineer with Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical. This collection contains information about his time at the company.

Physical Description: The collection contains items reflecting the career and interests of Edward D. Sly, including photographs, scrapbooks, and media articles. The collection consists of one gray flat oversized archival box, 12" x 18" x 6".

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research. Some copyright restrictions may apply.

Biographical / Historical

Edward Dwight Sly was a distinguished aeronautical engineer with Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical.

Ed Sly was born in Calexico, California on July 9, 1919, and grew up in Lakeside, California, with his father Altho (a teacher), mother Esther and brother Bill. He graduated from Grossmont Union High School in 1936 and immediately began his career at the Ryan School of Aeronautics.

He attended night school at San Diego State College (now SDSU) over a period of 17 years, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1956, winning the Physics Award, and graduating second in his class of approximately 600 students.

At Ryan, Ed met and married Marion Croome on January 29, 1949. They had four children.

His 51-year career at Ryan resulted in his being written into the U.S. Congressional Record in 1987 as "an individual most responsible today for technical contributions that have helped create our new era of unmanned vehicle systems." A world record-setting operator of Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPVs), he worked on a series of more than 30 manned and unmanned aircraft built by Ryan (and later Teledyne Ryan) in times of peace and war. He piloted reconnaissance RPVs during the Vietnam War, and the guidance and control systems were, in large measure, the result of Ed's contributions. During his remarkable career, he established unmanned aircraft world records for single-flight endurance, altitude, and career pilot hours. He was a true pioneer with a lengthy list of professional distinctions.

Mr. Sly died in San Diego, California, on April 17, 2006.

Separated Materials

The following item has been transferred to the SDASM Film Library: Time-Life Collection "To The Moon," LP set and book.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Ryan PT-22 Recruit
Ryan Aeronautical
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
Ryan Aeronautical Model 124/BQM-34A Firebee
Sly, Edward

SERIES I: Scrapbooks

Folder 1 - Scrapbook

Physical Description: Compass Cope scrapbook, large format, 17-1/2" x 11-1/2" x 3", containing magazine and newspaper articles, documents and memorabilia on the Ryan Aeronautical Compass Cope UAV project.

Folder 2 - Scrapbooks

Physical Description: Four spiral bound scrapbooks containing mostly magazine images of various aircraft.
Folder 3 - Scrapbook
  Physical Description: Spiral bound scrapbook containing newspaper articles about the Ryan Fireball aircraft.

SERIES II: Newspaper/Magazine Articles

Folder 6 -- Magazine Steel Horizons promotional magazine of Allegheney Ludlum Steel Corp., 3rd Quarter 1956.

SERIES III: Photographs

Folder 7 -- Ryan School Photographs
  Physical Description: Sixteen 8" x 10" black & white photographs of the Ryan School of Aeronautics, facilities and personnel (to be digitized).

Folder 8 -- Snapshots
  Physical Description: Envelope with snapshots of people, places, and aircraft (to be digitized).

Folder 9 -- Photographs
  Physical Description: Four large format, 11" x 14", photographs of the Fireball aircraft (not digitized).

SERIES IV: Book