
The Materials of Harold DeWolf Kantner 1886-1973 SDASM.SC.SC.10082

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

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Title: The Personal Papers of Harold DeWolf Kantner 1886-1973

creator: Kantner, Harold DeWolf

Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.SC.10082

Physical Description: 1.2 Cubic Feet3 manuscript boxes

Date (inclusive): 1892-1973

Date (bulk): bulk

San Diego Air & Space Museum

Abstract: This collection contains the personal papers of Harold DeWolf Kantner. Kantner was an early aviation pioneer who did a lot of work with flying boats.

Biographical / Historical

Harold DeWolf Kantner spent his life in aviation in a variety of roles. He attended the Moisant School of Aviation in 1911 and received license no. 65. He went on to fly, test, design and build planes as well as instructing others on flying. He also designed an outboard hydroplane that won many regattas. During World War II Kantner worked for Consolidated Vultee in San Diego as a design engineer. Kantner was a longtime member of the Early Bird organization.

Scope and Contents

This collection covers the aviation career of Harold DeWolf Kantner. The collection includes correspondence, telegrams, documents, memorabilia and newspaper articles from throughout Kantner's aviation career. There are also numerous photographs from Kantner's personal collection.

 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/sets/72157628106796132>

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Some copyright may be reserved. Consult with the library director for more information.

Preferred Citation

[Item], The Personal Collection of Harold DeWolf Kantner, Archives, San Diego Air & Space Museum

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Seaplanes

Consolidated B-24 Liberator Family

Early Bird Society

Kantner, Harold DeWolf

Box 1 of 3

Series I: Correspondences

Physical Description: 45 letters to Kantner, from his mother, business associates and friends.

Series II: Documents

Physical Description: 1. Hotel Templeton bill -9/9/1896 2. Blueprint for battery terminal expander -12/2/35 3. Bill of Sale for flying boat (Curtiss Triplane) -8/20/19 4. George A. Wheeler appointment to Machinist's Mate First Class → 5. Log of the CoMoCo III's Initial Trip-8/2/21 6. George A. Wheeler appointment to Machinist's Mate Second Class → 7. George A. Wheeler appointment to Oiler -5/12/03 8. George A. Wheeler appointment to Machinist's Mate Second Class → 9. Hospital bill -11/23/26 10. Hospital bill -12/5/26 11. George A. Wheeler appointment to Oiler -1/7/05 12. Cylinder statistics 13. Employment form with North American Aviation -12/14/36 14. Blank Application For Registration of an aircraft in Canada 15. Canadian authorization to fly Curtiss Triplane in Canada -7/16/21-10/15/21 16. Diagram illustrating nationality and registration marks 17. Canadian Air Board Permit 18. Canada Air Regulations, 1920 Application For Registration 19. Tax Bill, 1917 to Archie McFarland 20. Salt Lake City Public Schools notice 21. Astronautics Engineering Technical Personnel Survey -5/19/59 22. Turkish Mission itinerary -7/29/29 23. Personnel Security Questionnaire for Consolidated Vultee -3/27/51 24. Place of residence and occupation -1914-1919 25. Draft card from Local Board -9/12/18 26. Military Census and Inventory card -1917 27. Receipt from YMCA to Miss McFarland -2/22/1892 28. Honorable Discharge from US Navy for George A. Wheeler (step-father) -5/7/07

Box 2 of 3

Series III: Programs, pamphlets, brochures

Physical Description: 1. Early Birds Governors Island Aviation Monument and Dedication Program. 2. Airplane Features Make the Fairchild Aero Miles Faster (Boat) 3. Halifax River Yacht Club program -1925 4. When Aviators Made History on Long Island -Newsday's Magazine, 5. Harold Kantner picture 6. Silhouette of a little boy 7. Wilbur Wright with Harriet Quimby 8. Meadville, PA telephone directory, Jan. 1944 9. Pencil drawing of Harold Kantner as a child 10. Lock of Harold Kantner's baby curls 11/26/72 11. Miscellaneous business cards 12. Lock of Dick's hair (Kantner's son) 13. San Diego building permit 14. Aero Club medal-7/4/14 15. Aero Club of America membership card 16. Address book 17. Daily diary 18. The Lanseair Co. envelopes 19. TDK cassette -Early Plane Controls by Harold Kantner 20. Notes on "Old Airplane Controls" 21. Jackrabbits to Jets 22. Instructions from Harold Kantner for use of trailer 23. Notes on Harold Kantner's memories and participation in early day flying 24. Speech notes -3 pgs 25. Fairchild Aerogram -6/15/28 26. Early Bird Reunion Program -10/29-31170 27. Early Bird List of Members -1948 28. Early Bird Reunion menu -1966 29. Early Bird Reunion newsletter -9/30/66 30. George A. Page business card 31. Magazine picture of Wilbur Wright 32. Magazine picture of Glenn Curtiss 33. The New Yorker article in Talk of the Town feature re: Cord Meyer 34. Page 49 from The Aero Blue Book 35. Kittyhawk to Cape Canaveral 36. Early Bird 40th Reunion program -11/9-12/67 37. Early Birds List of Members -1/1173 38. Western Airlines convention reservation request and schedule 39. Early Birds Officers election ballot -1968 40. Textron second quarter report -1968 41. Early Birds list of 16 licensed members -nld 42. Early Birds announcement of 1969 reunion 43. Early Birds dedication announcement of Santa Barbara Airport 44. Early Birds newsletter -8/14/68 45. "These Magnificent Men" -The Pentagon News, Washington D.C. - 8/25/66 46. Chirp (Early Birds Newsletter) -Oct. 1941 47. Chirp -July 1949 48. Chirp -July 1950 49. Chirp -May 1951 50. Chirp -10/15/51 in Early Birds envelope re: correction in Salinas story 51. Chirp -Aug. 1953 52. Chirp -Aug. 1955 53. Chirp -Nov. 1956 54. Chirp -March 1957 55. Chirp -June 1957 56. Chirp -April 1958 57. Chirp -July 1959 58. Chirp -June 1960 59. Chirp -Nov. 1960 60. Chirp -July 1961 61. Chirp -Nov. 1961 62. Chirp -June 1962 63. Chirp -Oct. 1962 64. Chirp -June 1966 65. Chirp -Spring 1968 66. Chirp -Jan. 1971 67. Chirp -Jan. 1972 68. Chirp -Jan. 1973 69. H. D. Kantner name plate 70. Sears World Map 71. "A Place in the Sun for Italy's South -3/22/65 Newsweek 72. Early Birds name tag 73. Resume of Harold Kantner aviation activities, 1910-1940 74. List of civilian instructors of Army personnel 1917 75. Early Birds Annual Convention, 9/25-27/64 76. Early Birds List of Members -11/1/49 77. Early Birds Annual Convention -10116-19/85 78. Early Birds Newsletter -February 1985 79. Early Birds Reunion Committee -January 1988 80. Early Birds Newsletter -June 1987 81. Early Birds President's Report and Ballot -8/4170 82. Early Birds Newsletter -October 1986 83. Early Birds List of Members -1/1/71 84. Early Birds Roster of Members -1/1/90 85. Chirp (Early Birds Newsletter) -January 1960 86. Chirp -January 1970 87. Chirp -March 1987 88. Chirp -March 1988 89. Chirp -March 1989 90. Chirp -March 1990 91. Early Birds Roster of Members -September 1985 92. Early Birds Membership Card for 1985 93. Early Bird Minutes of General Meeting -9/19/85 94. Harold Kantner drawing for making 'Garter Springs' for coil winder 95. Early Flight 1900-1910 96. General Dynamics News -11/8/61 97. General Dynamics News -11122/61 98. General Dynamics News -1216/61 99. General Dynamics News -10/10/62 100. Convariety-9/1/48 101. Convariety -9/15/48 102. Convariety -11/17/54 103. The Harder Toroidal Coil Winder 104. The New Arnold Toroidal Winding Machine 105. Flyer for Harold Kantner's retirement party -1/11161 106. Ohio's Miami Valley salutes Wright-Patterson Air Force Base 107. Flyer on Curtiss Model T Tri-plane 108. Blueprints of Bellanca CH300 Seaplane 109. Aviation Log -Curtiss Hydroairplane, Navy No. A-1 -7/1/11 & 10/16/12 110. Aerial Age Weekly, Vol 4, NO.9 -11/13/16 111. Ad from Aviation Magazine (10/17/27) for The Ryan Broughman, B. F. Mahoney Aircraft Corp. 112. Colliers Magazine, Dec. 5, 1948 "The Story of American Aviation" 113. Saturday Evening Post, 5/18/63 -"Thrills In An Open Cockpit" 114. Paperback "The Stinson" by John W. Underwood 115. Paperback "The First Flight Across the Atlantic" 116. Paperback "Up Currents" by Roger Q. Williams 117. Aviation Magazine -19/17/27 118. Sport Flying Magazine -Vol. 3, NO.8 Aug. 1969 119. Paperback "Air Force", the Magazine of American Airpower, Golden Anniversary, U.S. Air Force 1907-57 120. Aeronautics Magazine -Vol. VIII, No.2, Feb. 1911 121. Aeronautics Magazine -Vol. X, No. 5, May-June 1912 122. Pamphlet -"Water Flying With Edo Floats" 123. Consolidator magazine, May 1938 124. Scientific American Weekly Journal -5/4/12 125. Flyer -Curtiss Model T Tri Plane 126. Convariety -Vol. 4, No. 7, 3/28/51 127. Magazine article "The Great Airplane Massacre" 128. Booklet "Pioneer Instruments and Equipment" 129. Booklet "A P. Warner Aviation Day" 130. Menu for Turkish Aviation Mission to the U. S. -9/5/29 131. Business card -Chalk's Flying Service, Inc. 132. Card holder containing 13 business cards 133. In Remembrance card-Etienne Dormoy funeral service-3/3/59 134. Salary stub from Curtiss Aero -8/19/29-9/30/29 135. Card of introduction from Kantner

Series IV: Newspaper Articles

Physical Description: Death of Harriet Quimby -New York American, July 2,1912 2. Lindbergh tour, Oct. 24, 1927 3. Harold Kantner's first flight, Ardmore, OK -June 23, 1912 4. HK home from Mexico -Evening Republican, Meadville, PA, April 1, 1914 5. Moisant monoplane-----n/d 6. Harry Atwood flight, Aug. 17, 1911, Johnstone crash photo, Cleveland Press 7. Strangest boat ever built, the "Baby Olds" -n/d 8. Like an Airplane, "Baby Olds" -New York Sun, May 5, 1928 9. Andre Hauptert on Harriet Quimby's Death -Sept. 6,1914 10. Along the World's Airways -New York Times, May 1,1932 11. "Baby Olds" wins record -New York Times, April 23, 1928 12. Gregory Donation to Hope Cottage -Muskegon Chronicle, Dec.21, 1972 13. Turkish Commission -Dayton, OH, Aug. 30, 1929 14. Speedier Air Travel -n/d 15. Kantner Wins Race, July 7, 1914 (40 years ago) 16. Kantner Visits Mother, July 28, 1914 (40 years ago) 17. Flight to Fame Has Dismal Landing -Bert Acosta -n/d 18. Obituary of George A Wheeler, Kantner's step-father -Aug. 28, 1940 19. Obituary of Gussie V. McFarland 20. Merchant, Mr. McFarland, Mar.13, 1877 (60 years ago) 21. Obituary of Robert Smith 22. Fate Cheated Meadville Auto Manufacturing Capitol -Jan. 14, 1961 23. Photo of Three Wheel Auto Built By Kantner, 1901 24. Early Local Flyer Visiting -Muskegon Chronicle, July 24, 1933 25. Services notice of George A. Wheeler 26. Disabled Plane Loses Way in Lake-----n/d 27. Log of a Lake Michigan Air Voyage -n/d 28. Aircraft Play at War -n/d 29. Legionnaire Takes Honors at Regatta -n/d 30. Kantner Boat Wins -Buffalo Evening News, Aug. 1, 1927 31. Outboards Prove Their Worth-New York Sun, Apr. 28, 1928 32. Albany-New York Record w/ "Baby Olds" NY Herald Tribune, April 23, 1928 33. Albany-New York Winner to be Duplicated as Stock Boat -n/d 34. Milestones in Meadville's Automotive History -n/d 35. Bert Acosta, Famed SD Aviator Dies -SD Evening Tribune, Sept. 2, 1954 36. Harold Kantner, April 1, 1914 (40 years ago) -n/d 37. Plane Engineer Writes Handbook, Harris G. Moe -n/d 38. Engineers Will Help Air Service -The Herald, Miami Beach, FL, Mar. 13,1925 39. Obituary, G. M. Bellanca -San Diego Union, Dec 27, 1960 40. Air Pioneer to End Half-Century Career, SD Evening Tribune, Feb.24, 1958 41. Roosevelt Field, Long Island, May 20, 1958 42. Neil Morgan Crosstown column -Dormay & Kantner, Apr. 12, 1951 43. Obituary, Ralph Damon, President of TWA -n/d 44. Last Hope For Mural at Roosevelt Field -n/d 45. A History of Water Street, John McFarland home -n/d 46. Harold Kantner Loving Cup on Display, Jan. 7, 1915 47. Harold Kantner Making Test Flights, July 22, 1919 (20 years ago) 48. HK Signed Contract w Italian Government, Oct.21 , 1915 (20 years ago) -1935 49. Harold Kantner Receives \$100 Aviation Prize, July 6, 1914 50. Plane Deal Condemned, Curtiss-Wright -n/d 51. Harold Kantner Arrested For Speeding, May 8, 1905 52. Bad Boy of Aviation III, Bert Acosta -Jan 8, 1952 53. Aviation Meet Shows Big Financial Loss -July 6, ?, Boston 54. Amateur Aviator Hits Hard -nld 55. Ralls County Fair Was A Big Success -n/d 56. Aviator Soars With Mother -n/d 57. Artificial Bombs Dropped On Juarez Adobe Huts By Birdman -nld 58. Plans Air Delivery From Columbus to Cleveland -n/d 59. Mission Valley Zoning Map -11/14/60 60. Aviator Masson is Very Far From Dead -nld 61. Will Fly Around the World-Jules Vedrines 62. Maximilian Schmitt is After Trophy Cup 63. Youthful Aviator Flies at Sineola -nld 64. Vedrines Wins Aerial Trophy -9/10/12 65. The Most Tragic Day in Aviation 66. Wallace Walker's Give Dinner -n/d 67. Army Aviators Dashed to Death -6/12/12 68. Plane Crash by Pilot, Sandt -n/d 69. The Titanic -n/d 70. Aviator Sandt Dangerously Injured -7/15/12 71. Vedrines-----nld 72. Aviator Unhurt in Fall (Frank Seidel) -n/d 73. Air Route To Magic City is Very Practical-12/14/17 74. Airplanes Under Fire at Home -6/18/173 75. Harold Kantner, Aviator, Interviewed in New York -nld 76. Wheelers Visit Son (Kantner) -10/24/15 77. Name F.D.R.'s Son in Airplane Deal Made By Fokker -1017/3? 78. Flying Squirrels (Earl Carroll) -n/d 79. Six Aviators Receive Licenses -nld 80. Mrs. George Wheeler in New York-----nld 81. Speeds to Death (Lowell Bales) -nld 82. Aviation In Meadville -9/15/81 83. First Successful Auto to Operate -8/25/81 84. Frenchman Again Flies Upside Down -9/3/13 85. Andre Houpert, Aviator, 77, Dies -417163 86. Fliers Demonstrate Planes -Trans-Atl. Flight Dividend -Daily News -1/9/36 87. Aviator Kantner's Busy Season Ahead -Tribune-Republic, 8/14/12 88. Women Good Aviators -nld 89. Aviator Is Killed -New York Sun, nld 90. Jealous Rival Young Women Pilots -nld 91. Two Days Behind Dogs; Less Than Half Hour In Air -nld 92. Aviators Suffer From Cold -Mineola, Long Island, Nov. 15, ? 93. Aviator Flies To Detroit and Back -nld 94. Atwood Plans Ocean Flight Along Equator -Toledo, OH, nld 95. Breaks Record in High Flight, Bruno Langer -nld 96. Harold Kantner Signs With Moisant -nld 97. Three Articles on Moisant Plane for Villa -2/27/14 98. American Flyer Met Death While Taking Oranges To Comrade -Paris 99. Jason Brown Happy -nld 100. Birdman Dashed to Death -San Juan, P.R. , nld 101. Meadville Has⁶ an Aviator -nld 102. Aviators Drop Into the Ocean -1/10/11 103. Flies In High Winds -Garden City, Long Island, 11/23!? 104. Ovington Article -Wreck of The Rodgers Flyer -New York American 105. Death----Is This Mockery? -Editorial Cartoon 106. Legionnaire Takes Honors at Regatta -5/31/? 107. Daring Aviator Beats the Birds in Flight -6/24/14 108. Harold Kantner Gets Speeding Ticket -5/8105 109. Everybody Hits Ball at Consair

Box 3 of 3

Series V: Photos

Physical Description: Over 500 photos showing Kantner and the projects he worked on.