The Descriptive Finding Guide for the Robert Reedy Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10163

San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
7/16
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URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
Robert Reedy's career in military and commercial aviation lasted over 50 years. He was born on October 7, 1912, in Texas, and as a boy in the Texas panhandle in the 1920's, the plane-crazy boy built scratch models and drew planes at every chance. At the University of Wichita, a top aviation engineering school, Bob flew gliders and was elected branch president of Tau Omega, the national aviation fraternity. When Will Rogers autographed Mr. Reedy's prize-winning model Ford TriMotor in 1933, Rogers commented, "This is better than some planes I have ridden in." From 1934 to 1937, Reedy worked part-time and summers at the Swallow Airplane Company in Wichita, doing everything from preliminary designs to selling tickets for airplane rides; he took some of his pay in the form of flight instruction.

After graduating cum laude from the University of Wichita in 1934, Mr. Reedy joined Stearman Aircraft (later Boeing) in Wichita. He was design engineer on detailed aspects of more than a dozen models, including variants of the Stearman Kaydet, PT-13, and XOSS-1. In 1937, Reedy and Mac Short, VP/Chief Engineer of Stearman, produced a design for a "4-place monoplane with dual geared engines, powered by Menasco." Ties between Stearman, Lockheed and Menasco led to the establishment of the AiRover Company in Burbank. Mac Short took Reedy and three other engineers out to Burbank to form the engineering nucleus of the new company.

In 1938, AiRover became the Vega Airplane Company, where Reedy headed Preliminary Design. His team was involved in development of the 'Unitwin' Model 2, guided missiles and targets, patrol and scout-observation types, the PV-2 and early development of the P2V Neptune. By 1944, Vega had become part of Lockheed. Reedy was Chief Project Engineer in the Special Projects Branch at Lockheed, focusing on the Model 33 "Little Dipper" and the Model 34 "Big Dipper." Work ended abruptly after Big Dipper crashed in February 1946.

Later in 1946, Mr. Reedy joined his former Lockheed colleague, John Thorp, at the new Thorp Airplane Company as VP Sales for the "Sky Skooter." The postwar period was difficult for private aviation; many on the Thorp team were working on reduced pay, so Reedy also worked for Radioplane as Assistant Chief Engineer to make ends meet.

In late 1949, Mr. Reedy rejoined Lockheed full-time as Manager of Sales Engineering, and there his team promoted the Constellation and Electra worldwide. When President Kennedy announced a competitive National Supersonic Transport (SST) program in 1963, Reedy became Program Director for Lockheed's SST project. When Lockheed's SST ambitions ended in December 1966, Reedy was needed on the new L-1011 TriStar. He led Commercial Programs and Marketing Administration until 1981, when Lockheed announced it would soon cease production. Bob Reedy continued to represent Lockheed in a number of industry bodies until retirement in 1984. He passed away on December 20, 1995 in Los Angeles.
This collection is open to research by appointment.

**Scope and Contents**

This collection consists of four archival boxes, 12-1/2 x 15 x 9-3/4H, three of which contain folders, and one containing scrapbooks, photograph albums, presentation slides, and photographs. There is also one oversized archival box, 18 x 24 x 6H that contains scrapbooks, photograph albums, and other memorabilia. In addition, SDASM received models, calendars, glass plates, a tea tray, coffee mugs, a leather helmet and goggles, plus other memorabilia, which has been turned over to Curatorial.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

This collection was donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum.

**Related Materials**

Lockheed aircraft files.

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/albums/72157668807367775](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/albums/72157668807367775)

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Lockheed Aircraft
Lockheed Model 34 Big Dipper
Lockheed Model 33 Little Dipper
Thorp Airplane Company
Vega Aircraft Corporation
Lockheed R7V-1 Super Constellation
AiRover Company
Thorp Sky Skooter
Reedy, Robert
Thorp, John
Short, Mac

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**Box 1 of 5**

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**Series I: Correspondence**

Folder 1 - Miscellaneous project correspondence, including re: corporate historian.

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**Series II: Project Documents**

Folder 4 - Report, "Stearman Aircraft Co., Model 70 Training Plane; Model 80 High Speed Utility Plane."
Folder 6 - Report, "Special Features And Innovations, Stearman Model 85."
Folder 9 - P2V Neptune Series, notes, correspondence, and Lockheed Star articles.


Folder 12 - Vega Airplane Company, including article "Birth Of Vega Airplane Company," 1938.


Folder 22 - Lockheed Vega, includes Vega 5C equipment list, article in Lockheed Aircraftsman by Joe Barry, Vega drawing, 1944.


Folder 26 - Little Dipper, including Air Trooper article, miscellaneous promotional material.


Folder 29 - Design Specification Experimental Airplane, Model 34, Big Dipper, report, documents, photos.


Folder 31 - Thorp Aircraft Company, correspondence and articles on Sky Skooter.


Folder 33 - Thorp Aircraft Co., promotional material for Sky Skooter.
Folder 3 - United Helicopter, R. E. Reedy, report "Engineering Requirements for Permanent Competition in Helicopter Field," April 24, 1946.
Folder 4 - Green 3-ring binder, "DO-6" on spine, steno notebook of R. E. Reedy, reports, articles, drawings, United Helicopters, Inc.
Folder 5 - Lockheed Constellation, promotional brochures.
Folder 6 - Lockheed Constellation, brochures and photos.
Folder 7 - Model 1649A, Lockheed Constellation, sales plan, miscellaneous reports.
Folder 9 - 1449/1469 Development, Lockheed documents and reports.
Folder 16 - Lockheed Orion (P3), large drawing of Orion WASP 7-place retractable landing gear, April 15, 1931.
Folder 17 - SST Reference Data.
Folder 19 - SST, Concorde, brochures, reports re: British Airways Concorde.
Folder 25 - Medical Data - SST, including report, "Human Elements in Supersonic Transport Planning," Robert E. Reedy, July 15, 1964 (2 copies); miscellaneous correspondence and notes.
Folder 26 - International Air Transport Association (I.A.T.A.) - SST, correspondence.
Box 2 of 5

Series II: Project Documents (continued)

Folder 28 - SST Miscellaneous, industry articles re: SST and supersonic transport.
Folder 29 - SST, press releases, correspondence, organization charts, publicity re: Lockheed Supersonic Transport.
Folder 30 - Lockheed Star (in-house newspaper) articles re: SST and R. E. Reedy.

Box 3 of 5

Series II: Project Documents (continued)

Folder 1 - Lockheed L-1011 Tristar Characteristics, drawings and notes.
Folder 2 - Lockheed L-1011 Flight Management Systems, press releases, publicity
Folder 3 - Lockheed L-1011, history, chronology, organization.
Folder 4 - Lockheed L-1011, publicity photos, notes.
Folder 5 - Lockheed L-1011, phase-out of L-1011 program, 1981-1983
Folder 6 - Lockheed L-1011, brochures, press releases, miscellaneous information.

Series III: Speeches and Presentations


Series IV: Personal Documents

Folder 19 - R. E. Reedy Certificates and Awards.
Folder 20 - R. E. Reedy Resumes and Patents.
Folder 22 - Aviation-related postal first day covers and first flights envelopes.

Series V: Lockheed Projects

Folder 27 - "Lockheed Altair/Sirius," Lockheed Star article and large drawings.
Folder 29 - Market Engineering Department, various Lockheed reports.
Folder 30 - CALC Commercial Deliveries, 1928-1958.
Folder 31 - Lockheed - cartoons, various projects.
Folder 32 - Bound report, "Aircraft," by Bob Reedy, articles on various airplanes, 1930s.

Series VI: News Clippings


Series VII: Scrapbooks and Photo Albums - images spanning Robert Reedy’s entire career, from his college days to his retirement from Lockheed. Scrapbook, brown cover, 12-1/2 x 14-1/2 x 1H, “Scrap Book on front cover, Thorp Sky Skooter, newspaper clippings, photographs, magazines.

AL 248A - Dark brown album, string tie, dancing couple and “Photographs” on cover, Stearman, Wichita, 1935 - 1937.
AL 248B - Maroon album, string tie, “Photographs” on cover
AL 248C - (Condition) Black album, very fragile binding.
AL 248D - (Condition) Dark brown album, fragile binding, “Photographs,” and decorative scrolling on cover, University of Wichita, Aero Department, glider club, airplanes, 1932 - 1936, very fragile loose pages.
AL 248E - Black album, key ring bound, with print of Berryloid Fleet #8 on cover, photographs, 1929 - 1930.
AL 248F - Black album, key ring bound, planes, visiting Amarillo, stamps, notes, 8 x 10 glossies, “Still no” (cf venetian blind drawing), 1926 - 1939.
AL 248G - Bound report, “Powerplant Flight Tests, Model 34 Prototype (Big Dipper) with photos.
AL 248H - Oversized black album, 15 x 17 x 1-1/2H.
AL 248I - Bound report, “Design Studies - One, Two and Four Place Types, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Series VIII: Photographs - a total of 920 images loose in five folders, and in photo albums, spanning Robert Reedy’s career, from his college days to his retirement from Lockheed.
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Folder 1 - Photographs: Reedy_0001 through 0050.
Folder 2 - Photographs: Reedy_0051 through 0101.
Folder 3 - Photographs: Reedy_0102 through 0150.
Folder 4 - Photographs: Reedy_0151 through 0200.
Folder 5 - Photographs: Reedy_0201 through 0264 (Photos 0232 through 0235 in Oversized box).

Series IX: Slides (in 3 folders)

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Series X: Oversized Material

Bound booklet, “LittleKnown Facts About the Scheduled Air Transport Industry,”
Poster, “…and he named it the Lockheed Mountain,” mounted on board, Detroit Aircraft, Lockheed Vega, 9-1/2 x 14
Black scrapbook with dog on cover, 1930x and 1940x logo designs, 9-1/2 x 12-1/2.
Photo, oversized, Reedy 0233, 11-1/2 x 14-1/2.
Photo, oversized, Reedy 0234, 11-1/2 x 14-1/2.
Photo, oversized, Reedy 0235, 11-1/2 x 14-1/2, aerial photo of Lockheed Air Terminal.