Theodore Edmonds Gildred was born on October 18, 1935, in Mexico City; the second of four children of real estate developer Theodore Gildred and Maxine Edmonds Gildred. His early years were spent in San Diego, California and Mexico City. He attended Francis Parker School in San Diego, followed by a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University, 1959. His post-graduate studies were taken at Sorbonne University, Paris, and the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Mr. Gildred is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and German.

As an aviator, Mr. Gildred holds an airline transport rating with more than 2,000 hours experience. His greatest aeronautical achievement was duplicating his father’s 1931 Goodwill Flight from San Diego, California, to Quito, Ecuador, which took place March 13, 1981 to March 31, 1981. Theodore E. Gildred, along with copilot Wally Moore, flew a 1942 Stinson Reliant. It was hoped that both flights would promote good will between the US and Latin America. Like his father, Theodore E. Gildred received a warm welcome upon landing in Ecuador, and donated his aircraft, Ecuador II, to the Ecuadorian government as a gesture of goodwill between the two nations.

This collection primarily contains information on the second of the 4,200 mile flights.
Box 01

Folder 01 - Correspondence


Folder 02 - Biographical Narrative of Theodore E. Gildred & Theodore Gildred.

Physical Description: 1. Ten pages of narrative about Theodore Edmonds Gildred, with content about Theodore Gildred Sr., by Dolly Maw.
Folder 03 - San Diego Aero-Space Museum related documents


Folder 04 - National Aeronautic Association Materials


Folder 05 - Envelopes related to Ecuador

Folder 06 - Magazine Articles featuring Spirit of Goodwill


Folder 07 - Logbook Documents

Physical Description: 1. Ninety-three pages of a flight logbook (all photocopied).

Folder 08 - Spirit of Goodwill Documentary Material

Folder 09 - Spanish Newspaper Articles

Folder 10 - Spanish-language Materials


Folder 11 - Theodore Gildred/Flight to Ecuador Tape – KIFM Margaret Cooper


Folder 12 - Narration Scripts, Narration written by William L. Simons, Seavision Productions

Folder 13 - English Newspaper Articles

Folder 14 - Miscellaneous

Folder 15 - Currency
Physical Description: 1. Envelope from Lomas Santa Fe Inc. that contained currency from various countries. 2. Four different valued coins in a handmade envelope. 3. Five paper bills from different Latin American countries valued at 1, 5, 50, and 100 (two 100's).

Folder 16 - Negatives
Physical Description: 1. Kodak negative sleeve. 2. Ten negative sleeves containing images of Ecuador II, people, and cityscape.

Folder 17 - Digitized Folder
Physical Description: 1. Flight of the Ecuador San Diego to Quito, Ecuador stamp draft. 2. Flight of the Ecuador San Diego to Quito, Ecuador stamp. 3. From: Richard L. Cormier, Executive Director of San Diego Aero-Space Museum, To: Theodore E. Gildred, correspondence agreeing to sponsor the commemoration of Theodore Gildred Sr.’s historic flight to Quito, Ecuador, June 20, 1980. 4. The City of San Diego Proclamation by Mayor Pete Wilson, March 13, 1981.

Folder 18 - Photograph Folder 1
Physical Description: 1. Five photographs of Theodore E. Gildred with his plane and planning his flight. 2. One Panama stamp. 3. One Panama cardboard card. 4. One photograph of broken metal. 5. One photograph of an envelope from Ecuador.

Box 02
Folder 19 - Photograph Folder 2
Physical Description: 1. Eighty-seven photographs ranging from plaques and medals, aerial photos, Theodore E.Gildred and acquaintances, buildings and cityscape in several cities, the Ecuador II, and San Diego Aero-Space Museum’s Spirit of Goodwill commemoration in March, 1981.

Folder 20 - Photograph Folder 3

Folder 21 - Photograph Folder 4
Physical Description: 1. Eighty-seven photographs of Theodore E. Gildred with acquaintances, random people, and buildings.

Folder 22 - Photograph Folder 5
Physical Description: 1. Thirty-four photographs of Theodore E. Gildred with acquaintances, Theodore Gildred and acquaintances, and Ecuador I.
Folder 23 - Photograph Folder 6
   Physical Description: 1. Twenty-seven photographs of Theodore E. Gildred, Theodore Gildred, the government certificates from Ecuador being handed to Theodore E. Gildred, and random individuals.

Folder 24 - Photograph Folder 7
   Physical Description: 1. Thirty-one photographs of Theodore Gildred, Ecuador I, Ecuador II, random individuals.

Folder 25 - Photograph Copies 1
   Physical Description: 1. Fifty-nine photographic duplicates of photographs from previous folders.

Folder 26 - Photograph Copies 2
   Physical Description: 1. Twenty-one photographic duplicates of photographs from previous folders.