The Descriptive Finding Guide for the Thomas W. Sefton Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10129

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
11/13/2014
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: Thomas W. Sefton Personal Papers
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10129
Physical Description: 0.43 Cubic Feet1 box, 10” x 5” x 15”.
Date (inclusive): 1917-2006
Abstract: Thomas W. Sefton was in the US Air Corps and President at the San Diego Bank and Trust.

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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials in this Collection were donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum.

Preferred Citation
[Item], [Filing Unit], [Series Title], [Subgroups], [Record Group Title and Number], [Repository “San Diego Air & Space Museum Library & Archives”]

Biographical / Historical
Thomas W. Sefton, born on October 8, 1917 in New York City New york. Orphaned at a young age, he was adopted by Helen and Joseph W. Sefton. Thomas was then raised in the city of San Diego, California and resided in Point Loma suburbs. After graduating high school, Thomas started to accumulate flying hours at Speer Field with small planes. By 1938, Thomas started working at the San Diego Trust and Savings Bank where his father was President. He was a messenger until 1941 until he relocated at a near-by aviation plant. In 1942, Thomas left the aviation plant to join the U.S. Army Air Corps. He trained for many months across California and neighboring states until he was assigned to a carrier, which was sent to Italy, on assignment in the Mediterranean. He was honorably discharged in July 1946, having achieved the rank of Captain. When Thomas returned to San Diego, he resumed working at the San Diego Trust and Savings Bank as the President’s assistant. He then married to Donna Knox, daughter of then San Diego City Mayor Harley E. Knox on April 15, 1951. The couple had two children: Laurie Jo Sefton born on April 5, 1952 and Harley Knox Sefton born on November 17, 1953. Both children are still residents of San Diego. Thomas became President of the family operated bank after his father retired. During his time as bank president, he maintained a growth of 1.4 billion dollars in assets over 53 branches. He has been awarded with titles such as Mr. San Diego (1972), and Executive of the Year (1961). Since his death in 2006, his family still runs San Diego Trust and Savings.

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of 1 box, 10” x 5” x 15”. In this collection, there are a variety of documents including personal memorabilia. Of note, there are documents to and from Thomas W. Sefton regarding his work in the US Air Corps and this job as a President at the San Diego Bank and Trust. There are approximately 15 folders regarding his work and personal life.

Related Materials

Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Diego Trust and Savings Bank
San Diego (California)
Smithsonian Institution, National Space and Air Museum
United States. Army. Air Corps
Sefton, Thomas W.

Box 01
Folder 01- Personal Documents Inquired to Thomas Sefton

Folder 02- Letters Written By Thomas Sefton

Folder 03- Personal Inquiries

Folder 04- Air Force Manuscripts and Letters

Folder 05- National Air and Space Museum from Paul E. Garber
Folder 06- Flight Manuals

Folder 07- Aviation Year Books
Physical Description: 1. Contact Year Book 1944. 2. Air Force Basic Flying School Year Book 1944. 3. (2 Copies) Contact Class Year Book 1944.

Folder 08- Newspapers

Folder 09- Certificates and Documents

Folder 10- Personal Airplane Photography

Folder 11- Personal Photography and Postcard

Folder 12- Airline Pamphlets

Folder 13 and 14 Airlines Safety Manuals

Folder 15 Airline Seat Cards
Physical Description: 1. Domestic Airlines Seat Cards: 16 Aprox.