The Descriptive Finding Guide to the Wheels to Wings Book Collection
SDASM.SC.10190

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
10/2016
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego 92101
URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
The Descriptive Finding Guide to
the Wheels to Wings Book Collection SDASM.SC.10190

Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Title: Wheels to Wings Book Collection
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10190
Physical Description: 1.2 Cubic FeetSource materials used for creation of book.. Three boxes: 10.5x12.5x5 inches each.
Date (bulk): bulk
Abstract: The materials were collected, acquired, and donated to the San Diego Air & Space Museum over a long period of
time and used as background material to create the book Wheels to Wings, in preparation for the Ford Building’s 75th
anniversary in 2010.
Biographical / Historical
San Diego’s Ford building was constructed in 1935 for the California Pacific International Exposition and housed the Ford
Motor Company’s industrial and automotive display. Henry Ford invested $2 million to build a showcase for Ford Motor
Company’s 1935 line and the V-8 engine. The building was designed by the noted industrial designer Walter Dorwin Teague
and was a masterpiece of “Streamline Moderne” architecture. One of the major highlights of the exposition was the Ford
“Roads of the Pacific.” Visitors could take a tour around different Pacific roads in a new Ford V-8 model. The Ford exhibit
closed in 1936 and the building was renamed the Palace of Transportation. While not as successful as the Ford exhibit, it
still remained a popular attraction in 1936. The San Diego Aerospace Museum, now known as the San Diego Air & Space
Museum (SDASM) opened on February 13, 1963 in Balboa Park’s Food & Beverage Building. It quickly ran out of space and
in June of 1965 it moved into the Electric Building. With the growing collection of airplanes and memorabilia in the Museum
and its Library and Archives, the building became overcrowded and SDASM again needed to move. While plans were
underway, on February 22, 1978, the Electric Building burned to the ground by an arson-caused fire. The Museum staff
moved into the basement of the Ford Building. The building was completely renovated and, on June 28, 1980, it opened its
doors as the San Diego Aerospace Museum, exhibiting a growing number of donated and newly acquired artifacts. San
Diego’s Ford building was one of five buildings designed for the Ford Motor Company to be used as exposition halls during
the 1930s. San Diego is the only Ford building still in existence. The building is registered on the San Diego City Historical
Site Register and the National Register of Historic Places.
Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to research by appointment.
Scope and Contents
Description: Three boxes: 10.5x12.5x5 inches each. Content notes: Source materials used for creation of book..
Related Materials
San Diego Air and Space Historic Collection.
http://sandiegoairandspace.org/exhibits/online-exhibit-page/introduction
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Ford Building (San Diego)
Balboa Park (San Diego, Calif.)
San Diego Air and Space Museum

Box 1 of 3

Series I: History
Folder 1-- History of Ford Bldg/SDASM, 1935-2011
Series II: Research Articles

Folder 2 -- Research and Background Articles for Wheels to Wings (folder 1 of 5)


Folder 3 -- Research and Background Articles for Wheels to Wings (folder 2 of 5)


Folder 4 -- Research and Background Articles for Wheels to Wings (folder 3 of 5)


Series II: Research Articles (continued)

Folder 1 -- Research and Background Articles for Wheels to Wings (folder 4 of 5) 1. “The Ford Shows,” by Lorin Sorensen.

Folder 2 -- Research and Background Articles for Wheels to Wings (folder 5 of 5) 1. Biographical Information.

Series III: Research Notes

Folder 3 -- Research Notes for Wheels to Wings 1. Research Notes compiled for the writing of the history of the Ford Building - Wheels to Wings.

Series IV: Drafts -- Wheels to Wings

Folder 4 -- Drafts -- Wheels to Wings (folder 1 of 2) 1. Tasks and timeline for book. 2. Draft copies, with edits and notes, of Wheels to Wings: San Diego’s Ford Building.
Folder 5 -- Drafts -- Wheels to Wings (folder 2 of 2) 1. Draft copies, with edits and notes, of Wheels to Wings: San Diego's Ford Building.

Box 3 of 3

Series V: Correspondence
Folder 1 -- Correspondence, Contacts, Printing Prices, and Photo Requests for Wheels to Wings (folder 1 of 2).
Folder 2 -- Correspondence, Contacts, Printing Prices, and Photo Requests for Wheels to Wings (folder 2 of 2).

Series VI: Images
Folder 3 -- Images Contact Sheet and Postcard -- Wheels to Wings

Series VII: Courtyard Cover
Folder 4 -- Courtyard Cover

Series VII: Courtyard Cover
Folder 5 -- Wheels to Wings Picture Disks

Series IX: Finished Book -- Wheels to Wings