Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Coralie Hewitt Tillack Collection
Dates: 1930-1987
Identification: URB/CHT
Creator: Tillack, Coralie Hewitt, 1920-
Physical Description: 1.76 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Urban Archives

Abstract: In 1956, Coralie Hewitt Tillack began her 26-year employment with Lockheed Air Terminal in Burbank, California. Starting as a telephone switchboard operator and later transferring to Field Operations, Coralie was captivated by the history of the first million-dollar airport constructed in the United States, and gathered material to write a column for the company newspaper. Over the years, Coralie accumulated a large collection of newspaper clippings, magazines, books, and photographs, along with her notes from personal interviews with many of the airport's longtime employees. In 1982, she retired to write her own story of the airport, and her manuscript, *Once Upon an Airport*, was copyrighted in June 1987. The collection documents her work in writing that history.

Biographical Information:
Born in Colorado on August 6, 1920, Coralie Hewitt came to California in 1939 after completing two years at Texas A & M University. Soon after her arrival in California, she enrolled in night school and graduated from Beverly Hills Secretarial College. In 1956, Coralie began her 26-year employment with Lockheed Air Terminal which is located in Burbank, California. Starting as a telephone switchboard operator and later transferring to Field Operations, Coralie was captivated by the history of the first million-dollar airport constructed in the United States, and she began gathering material to write a column for the company newspaper. Over the years, Coralie accumulated a large collection of newspaper clippings, magazines, books, and photographs, along with her notes from personal interviews with many of the airport's longtime employees. In 1982, she retired to write her own story of the airport, and her manuscript, *Once Upon an Airport*, was copyrighted in June 1987. Later that year, she generously donated her fine collection to the Urban Archives.

The Hollywood-Burbank Airport opened its doors to the public on May 30, 1930 with a spectacular three-day celebration. At that time, it was named "United Airport," and it encompassed an area of 240 acres which had been purchased and developed by Boeing Air Transport, later known as United Aircraft and Transportation Corporation. In 1934, United Airlines, a subsidiary of the Corporation, merged with several other commercial airlines that had been operating out of the Grand Central Terminal in Glendale, and the airport was renamed "Union Airport." In a brief history of the airport, Coralie Tillack tells us that, "Under the ownership of United, the airfield was a mecca for the golden age of aviation, the time of the Lindberghs, Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post, and Howard Hughes. They all touched down on the field to set the first flight records of speed, altitude, and distance, and to fly the airplanes that became as famous as the pilots who flew them into history."

The Lockheed Aircraft Corporation purchased the airport in 1940 and renamed it the "Lockheed Air Terminal." Under Lockheed, the airport was expanded to 500 acres and the runways were lengthened. It became one of the four leading airports in the country. A quote from Coralie Tillack's manuscript tells us that during the war years, "...Lockheed Air Terminal assumed a dual role accommodating military flights from all over the world, and at the same time, served as the major commercial landing field in the Los Angeles area." With the opening of Los Angeles International Airport in 1946, Lockheed Air Terminal suffered a dramatic setback when the majority of the major airlines moved their operations to the Inglewood facility. In the ensuing years, however, the airport proved its ability for survival as it became the largest privately-owned airport in the United States. It was utilized for air cargo and aviation fuel services, and became the site for movie and television filming. In recent years, it has become the center for local service airlines. After a major fire in 1966, the terminal was reconstructed and modernized and was given the new name, "Hollywood-Burbank Airport," and today services an area of more than three million people. In 2004, the airport was again re-named in honor of Bob Hope and is called the Bob Hope-Burbank Airport.

Genre/Form of Material:
Ephemera
Paper records
Publications

Processing Information:
Robert G. Marshall, Mary L. Harem; September 1991
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**Arrangement of Materials:**
Series I: Tillack Manuscript, June 1987
Series II: Late News Newsletter, 1962-1986
Series III: Research Files, 1930-1987
Series IV: Photographic Material, 1930-1987

**Scope and Contents**
The Coralie Hewitt Tillack Collection contains articles, ephemeral items, historical sketches, manuscripts, newsletters, newspaper clippings, photographs, reports, research papers and related items documenting Mrs. Tillack's work writing her history of the Burbank Airport. It has been divided into four series: Tillack Manuscript (June 1987), Late News Newsletter (1962-1986), and Research Files (1930-1987), and Photographic Material (1930-1987).

Series I, Tillack Manuscript, contains a copy of the final typed manuscript draft of "Once Upon An Airport" by Coralie Hewitt Tillack. Included within the manuscript are numerous copies of photographs documenting the history of Burbank Airport. The manuscript is arranged by page number in five file folders.

Series II, Late News Newsletter, includes issues of the Lockheed Air Terminal newsletter, edited by Mrs. Tillack from 1969 until her retirement in 1979. There is almost a complete set of newsletters for this period with various issues before and after her work as editor. The newsletters are filed in chronological order.

Series III, Research Files, contains historical documents and sketches, newspaper clippings, public relation fact sheets and related published material gathered together by Mrs. Tillack during her research into the history of Burbank Airport. Materials are filed in alphabetical order.

Series IV, Photographic Material, consists of airport photographs, including opening day ceremonies, aerial views, interior and exterior scenes of the terminal, aircraft, airport employees, and notable aviation personalities. This material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Series I: Tillack Manuscript, June 1987**

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Tillack Manuscript; pp. 1-21; plus photographs |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Tillack Manuscript; pp. 22-53; plus photographs |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Tillack Manuscript; pp. 54-74; plus photographs |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Tillack Manuscript; pp. 75-99; plus photographs |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Tillack Manuscript; pp. 100-134; plus photographs |

**Series II: Late News Newsletter, 1962-1986**

| Box 1, Folder 6 | Various issues, 1962, 1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Subject index, 1969-1979 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Issue, December 1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Issues, January-December 1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Issues, January-December 1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Issues, January-December 1972 |
Box 1, Folder 12 | Issues, January-December 1973
Box 1, Folder 13 | Issues, January-December 1974
Box 1, Folder 14 | Issues, January-December 1975
Box 1, Folder 15 | Issues, January-December 1976
Box 1, Folder 16 | Issues, January-December 1977
Box 1, Folder 17 | Issues, January-December 1978
Box 1, Folder 18 | Various issues, 1979
Box 1, Folder 19 | Various issues, 1980-1986

Series III: Research Files, 1930-1987

Box 2, Folder 3 | "The California Phenomenon," California Magazine, PSA, May 1974
Box 2, Folder 7 | Charter Services: ephemera, 1964
Box 2, Folder 8 | "Charter: Supplements are an Important Part of Today's Commercial Market," AIR Classics, PDC, Fall 1975
Box 2, Folder 9 | "Flying," National Geographic Magazine, May 1933
Box 2, Folder 10 | Historical Sketches & Research Data, 1930-1986
Box 2, Folder 11 | Historical Sketches & Research Data, 1930-1986
Box 2, Folder 12 | Historical Sketches & Research Data, 1930-1986
Box 2, Folder 13 | Historical Sketches & Research Data, 1930-1986
Box 3, Folder 1 | Aviation Book Company Catalog, Aviation Book Company, Glendale, California, 1987
Box 3, Folder 2 | The Lockheed Profile Today, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, January 1972
Box 3, Folder 3 | Madcaps, Millionaires, and "Mose": A Pictorial History by John Underwood, Heritage Press, Glendale, California, 1984
Box 3, Folder 5 | Pacific Coast Aviation Directory: Bi-Centennial Issue, Whittier, California, [1975?]
Box 3, Folder 6 | Plaque, Metal: The Austin Company, Airport Engineers and Builders, 1930
Box 3, Folder 7 | Security: newspaper clippings; sketches
Box 3, Folder 8 | Sky Caps: sketches
Box 3, Folder 9 | Sky Room Restaurant: article, Burbank Traveler newsletter, 1987
Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 1 | Lockheed Air Terminal Field and Buildings Drawing - Engineering Department, May 1955
Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 2 | "Shell Progress" Shell Gasoline Publication with article on Lockheed Terminal, March 1954
Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 3 | Hollywood Burbank Airport Menu
Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 4 | Program for the Opening and Dedication of United Airport, Burbank, May 1930

Series IV: Photographic Material, 1930-1987

Box 4, Folder 1 | Aerial Views of Airport, Photographic Prints and Negatives, ca. 1938
Box 4, Folder 2 | Aerial Views of Airport, Photographic prints, ca. 1930-ca. 1939
Box 4, Folder 3 | Aerial Views of Airport, Photographic Prints, ca. 1942-ca. 1946
Box 4, Folder 4 | Aerial Views of Airport, Photographic Prints and Negatives, ca. 1959-ca. 1959
Box 4, Folder 5 | Aircraft and Notable Aviation Personalities, Photographic prints, ca. 1930-ca.1949
Box 4, Folder 6 | Aircraft and Notable Aviation Personalities, Photographic Prints, ca. 1950-ca. 1969
Box 4, Folder 7 | Auto Shop, Photographic Prints, ca. 1940-ca. 1949
Box 4, Folder 8 | Charter Service, Photographic Prints, ca. 1939-ca. 1959
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