
Inventory of Vernon E. Johns Family Papers SPC.2015.006

Finding aid prepared by Dante Frye

California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections

2015

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Contributing Institution: California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections

Title: Johns (Vernon E.) Family Papers

Identifier/Call Number: SPC.2015.006

Physical Description: 15 boxes

Physical Description: 6 Linear Feet

Date (inclusive): 1911-1981

Abstract: The Vernon E. Johns collection contains Weiskopf and Johns family archival materials in the fields of education, and both civil and aerospace engineering. The archival collection concentrates on the professional and personal lives of Vernon's grandparents the Weiskopf's and his parents the Johns. This includes Charles H. Weiskopf's engineering patents and 32 years of employment documentation, and 20 years of both Margaret's High School and employment documents. The Vernon E. Johns collection primarily focuses on Harold V. Johns' 38 year long career in aerospace engineering. Included in the collection are books and periodicals, memory books, manuscripts, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, administrative papers, photographs, film negatives, and film and audio reels.

Language of Material: English .

Access

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

For information about citing archival material, see the [Citations for Archival Material](#) guide, or consult the appropriate style manual.

Acquisition Information

Collection donated to CSUDH Archives by Members of the Vernon E. Johns family.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Dante Frye in 2015/2016.

Biography

The Vernon E. Johns family papers collection relates to his grandparents, Charles and Amy Weiskopf, and his parents Harold and Margaret Weiskopf Johns. Charles H. Weiskopf was born January 24, 1884 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Amy C. Weiskopf was born October 18, 1886 in Pennsylvania. Charles H. Weiskopf moved to California in 1910 after his graduation from Ohio Mechanics Institute. Charles H. Weiskopf applied for the patent on his, "Resilient Wheel," on June 26, 1911 and three years later his patent was issued on June 16, 1914. The objective of his invention was to provide a cheap, strong, effective wheel that would have a non-puncturable aspect, as well as a practical and resilient substitute for the present forms of pneumatic tires. Therefore, drivers wouldn't be subject to injury by deflation of the inner pneumatic tube.

Charles H. and Amy C. Weiskopf were married in Los Angeles on May 14, 1914 and soon had three daughters June, Beatrice, and Margaret. The family moved to the City of Hawthorne in 1921, where they remained deeply involved in the community until they moved in 1941. Charles received his engineering certificate from the State of California Board of Registration for Civil Engineers on May 20, 1930, making him the first to receive this certificate in California. Charles eventually retired in June of 1954 from Western Precipitation Corp. Vernon E. Johns' mother Margaret Weiskopf Johns grew up and attended school in the City of Hawthorne. She graduated early from UCLA, receiving her degree on February 2, 1938. After being certified to teach she taught at Little Lake School in Santa Fe Spring's. Her tenure as the school's first Kindergarten teacher began on July 6, 1939 and lasted many years. Margaret taught in the demonstration school at UC Berkeley where she soon met and married Harold V. Johns. They had two sons Gordon and Vernon E. Johns.

Harold V. Johns grew up in Berkeley, CA, and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1935. In 1940 he graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor's degree in Geology and a minor in Engineering. After graduation he interviewed with North American Aviation using his drafting skills from college. He knew that NAA was looking for a college graduate qualified in drafting for the WWII war effort. After interviewing with NAA he was directed to report to North American Aviation in Los Angeles to start work towards the war effort. He started work for North American Aviation On December 11th, the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Initially North American Aviation placed Harold in wind tunnel and model testing design where his focus was on various vehicles and materials. Later he worked on jet fighter designs such as the XB 70 supersonic bomber, B 24, B 25, P 38

mustang, and the F 100 fighter plane as one of the original drafters specializing in the plane's wing area. In the late 1950s his work at NAA lead to experimental bomber work, which transitioned to his working on the Apollo moon mission as lead engineer on the command module.

The Apollo mission lead to his working on the Sky Lab project which was a part of the Apollo mission in its inception. In addition, he began working on a NASA collaboration with the Soviet Union where he assisted in the construction of the International Space Station. This was a significant event in the Gorbachev era because of the progress toward Détente. His involvement was centered on creating the universal docking module to join the Russian Soyuz.

Following the Russian Soyuz, Harold began work on the Space Shuttle Columbia. His main focus on this project was the heat shield tiles. His work on the foam tiles determined how various amounts of heat would be transmitted as well as the tiles level of durability. Harold V. Johns retired while working on the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Scope and Content

The Vernon E. Johns Family Collection consists of biographical material based on the history and life of the Weiskopf and Johns' families of Hawthorne, California. The biographical material includes letters, correspondence, employment documents, yearbooks, photos, magazines and scrap books related to both the Weiskopf and John's family.

The collection includes documentation of Charles H. Weiskopf's move to California in 1910 after his graduation from Ohio Mechanics Institute. The patent on his, "Resilient Wheel," on June 26, 1911. Patent papers describe the "Resilient Wheel," as a cheap, strong, effective wheel that has a non-puncturable aspect, as well as being a practical and resilient substitute for the present forms of pneumatic tires. Margaret Weiskopf Johns' collection material documents her schooling in the City of Hawthorne with both yearbooks and memory books. Her degree received on February 2, 1938 from UCLA is also included in the collection. In addition, the July 6, 1939 certificate to teach at the Little Lake School in Santa Fe Spring's as the school's first Kindergarten teacher is in the collection.

The collection also contains materials related to Harold V. Johns' career in aerospace engineering, and his work on fighter planes during the WWII war effort. The bulk of the material focuses on Harold Johns' work rather than his personal life. His work with North American Aviation, the Apollo Mission, and NASA, includes letters, correspondence, Apollo Mission photos of the Moon landing, heat shield tile, film footage of Apollo missions 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17, magazines, diagrams, and blueprints of the F 100 fighter plane, and XB 70.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series:

1. Series I: Charles H. Weiskopf Personal/Biographical; 1911-1940s; box 1
2. Series II: Margaret Elizabeth Weiskopf; circa late 1920s-1940s; box 2-3, 12.
3. Series III: Harold V. Johns circa 1920-1990s; box 3-12.

Related Materials

For material related to aviation please consult the Northrop Millar Collection, Aviation Magazine, Giacinta Bradley Koontz Aviation Sheet Music Collection, 1910 Los Angeles International Aviation Meet Research Collection, [1910 Los Angeles International Aviation Meet Research Digital Collection](#) and Mary Nolf Diaries and Correspondence for a diary entry regarding the 1910 airmeeet.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Automobiles -- Tires
High schools -- Lawndale (Calif.) -- Leuzinger High School
University of California, Los Angeles -- Alumni and alumnae
University of California, Berkeley -- Alumni and alumnae
F-100 (Jet fighter plane)
B-70 bomber
Aerospace engineers
Aerospace engineering
Aerospace planes
Technological innovations
Los Angeles (Calif.)
Hawthorne (Calif.)
Weiskopf, Charles H.
Weiskopf Johns, Margaret

Johns, Harold V.
Western Precipitation Corporation
North American Aviation
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Skylab Program
Apollo 12 (Spacecraft)
Apollo Soyuz Test Project
Ohio Mechanics' Institute
Columbia (Spacecraft)

Series I: Charles H. Weiskopf Personal/Biographical 1911-1948

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents

The series includes documentation of Charles H. Weiskopf's move to California in 1910 after his graduation from Ohio Mechanics Institute. The patent on his, "Resilient Wheel," on June 26, 1911. Patent papers describe the "Resilient Wheel," as a cheap, strong, effective wheel that has a non-puncturable aspect, as well as being a practical and resilient substitute for the present forms of pneumatic tires. Margaret Weiskopf Johns' collection material documents her schooling in the City of Hawthorne with both yearbooks and memory books. Her degree received on February 2, 1938 from UCLA is also included in the collection. In addition, the July 6, 1939 certificate to teach at the Little Lake School in Santa Fe Spring's as the school's first Kindergarten teacher is in the collection.

box 1, folder 1
box 1, folder 2
box 1, folder 3
box 1, folder 4
box 1, folder 5
box 1, folder 6

Diagrams undated

Notes 1931-1943

Employment Documents 1929-1934

Photos undated

Documents 1911-1934

Patent papers 1912

Series II: Margaret Elizabeth Weiskopf 1929-1948

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents

Margaret Weiskopf Johns' collection material documents her schooling in the City of Hawthorne with both yearbooks and memory books. Her degree received on February 2, 1938 from UCLA is also included in the collection. In addition, the July 6, 1939 certificate to teach at the Little Lake School in Santa Fe Spring's as the school's first Kindergarten teacher is in the collection.

box 2
box 2
box 2
box 2
box 2
box 2
box 12,
folder Unknown
box 3, folder 1
box 3, folder 2
box 3, folder 3
box 3, folder 4
box 3, folder 5
box 3, folder 6

Letters 1943-1948

Employment Documents 1938-1947

Photos undated

Margaret Weiskopf Documents undated

Employment Documents 1932-1946

Employment Documents 1930-1936

Homecoming Memorabilia 1930

Memory Books 1929

Memory Books 1929

Leuzinger High School Yearbook 1929

Leuzinger High School Yearbook 1930

Leuzinger High School Yearbook 1931

Leuzinger High School Yearbook 1932

Series III: Harold V. Johns**Physical Description:** 9 boxes.**Scope and Contents**

This series contains materials related to Harold V. Johns' career in aerospace engineering, and his work on fighter planes during the WWII war effort. The bulk of the material focuses on Harold Johns' work rather than his personal life. His work with North American Aviation, the Apollo Mission, and NASA, includes letters, correspondence, Apollo Mission photos of the Moon landing, heat shield tile, film footage of Apollo missions 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17, magazines, diagrams, and blueprints of the F 100 fighter plane, and XB 70.

box 4, folder 1	North American Aviation Inc. undated
box 4, folder 2	Yearbook 1935/Mechanical Drawing 8th grade undated
box 4, folder 3	North American Aviation Inc. undated
box 4, folder 4	Strength of Metal Aircraft Elements 1955
box 4, folder 5	Automotive Industries 1940
box 4, folder 6	Motor Magazine 1941
box 5, folder 1	Skywriter/Rockwell New 1957-1967; 1970-1981
box 5, folder 2	Newspaper Clippings 1972-1990
box 5, folder 3	Apollo Films: 12-15, 17 undated
box 5, folder 4	Photos (21) undated
box 5, folder 5	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 6	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 7	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 8	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 9	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 10	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 11	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 12	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 13	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 14	Photos: Apollo Mission July 21, 1969
box 5, folder 15	Certificates 1928-1972
box 6, folder 1	Employment Documents 1966
box 6, folder 2	Employment Documents 1967
box 6, folder 3	Employment Documents 1968-1969
box 6, folder 4	Employment Documents 1950
box 6, folder 5	Employment Documents 1940
box 7, folder 1	Letter Chancellor Ann Reynolds 1987
box 7, folder 2	Employment Documents 1970-1971
box 7, folder 3	Employment Documents 1972
box 7, folder 4	Employment Documents 1974
box 7, folder 5	Employment Documents 1976-1977
box 7, folder 6	Employment Documents 1963
box 7, folder 7	Employment Documents 1964
box 7, folder 8	Employment Documents 1965
box 7, folder 9	Employment Documents
box 8, folder 1	Palmdale: Wing Joint Data XB 70 SS Bomber
box 8, folder 2	Palmdale: Wing Joint Data XB 70 SS Bomber
box 8, folder 3	Wind Tunnel: Model Design late 1950s
box 8, folder 4	Wind Tunnel: Model Design late 1950s
box 9, folder 1	Space Craft (Blueprints/Diagrams) 1972-1974
box 9, folder 2	Apollo CM
box 9, folder 3	Blueprints
box 9, folder 4	Blueprints
box 10, folder 1	Blueprints
box 10, folder 2	Blueprints
box 10, folder 3	Blueprints
box 11, folder 1	Magazines

box 11, folder 2

misc

box 12

name stamp

box 12

Apollo (patch)