Finding aid for the Wilson Aero Corp. photograph album 7045

Sue Luftschein
USC Libraries Special Collections
2017 March
Doheny Memorial Library 206
3550 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, California 90089-0189
specol@usc.edu
URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
The Wilson Aero Corp. was founded by brothers Tave and Roy Wilson, two of the biggest names in early stunt aviation. The Wilson brothers owned the only airport ever licensed exclusively for motion picture work. Tave Wilson was a camera pilot and his younger brother Roy was a stunt pilot. Roy's career took off after his work on Howard Hughes' *Hell's Angels* (1930) at which point he and Tave were able to open their airfield. Roy Wilson died during the filming of *War Correspondence* (1932) while attempting a stunt flight. Tave Wilson quit flying shortly thereafter and sold the airfield in 1937.

Photograph album with 24 photographs depicting Wilson Aero Corp.'s motion picture work. Photographs include on the set images of *Dawn Patrol* (1930), the comedy short *Plane Crazy* (1930), and Paul Sloane's *War Correspondent* (1932) starring Jack Holt. The album documents much of the activity of the Wilson Aero Corp. and may have functioned as a sales tool--glamorous images of film shoots, various planes, and photographs of the turret camera mount that allowed for 360 degree in-air tracking shots. The cover of the album reads "Jimmie Clark/Wilson Aero Corp.,/The Home of Aerial Movies./Burbank, California". Some of the planes highlighted a Thomas Morse, a Speedwing Travelair, a Fiske with a 180 H.P. Hispana Suiza engine, and a Special C-3-B Stearman.

Advance notice required for access.

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Manuscripts Librarian. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

[Box/folder no. or item name], Wilson Aero Corp. photograph album, Collection no. 7045, Regional History Collection, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Purchased from The Bookshop, March 20, 2017.

Aerial photography -- California -- Photographs
Air pilots -- California -- Photographs
Airplanes -- California -- Photographs
Motion picture cameras -- Photographs
Motion pictures -- History -- Photographs
Stunt performers -- Archival resources
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- Photographs
Photograph albums
Wilson Aero Corp. -- Photographs