
Descriptive Finding Guide for the Horton Wingless V-16 Special Collection SDASM.SC.10075

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

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San Diego 92101

URL: <http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/>

Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

Title: Horton Wingless V-16 Special Collection

Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10075

Physical Description: 0.3 Cubic Feet1 Box

Date (inclusive): 1952-1997

Abstract: The Horton Wingless aircraft was invented by William Horton of Huntington Beach, California in 1952. He called the strange-looking plane "wingless" because he claimed the entire craft was a simple air foil with vertical fins and utilized all surfaces for lift.

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.

Preferred Citation

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

Scope and Contents

One Box of Materials related to the Horton Wingless Airplane. Copyright, Stock Certificate and misc documents are included in the Collection.

Biographical / Historical

The Horton Wingless aircraft was invented by William Horton of Huntington Beach, California in 1952. He called the strange-looking plane "wingless" because he claimed the entire craft was a simple air foil with vertical fins and utilized all surfaces for lift. Unfortunately, Horton did not have the money to develop it, but was able to get into a partnership with billionaire Howard Hughes and Harlow Curtis.

The plane was test-flown but not more than 1000 feet down the runway. The venture failed not because the airplane didn't fly, but because Hughes wanted to take full credit for the patents and production rights, which Horton refused to allow. Hughes sued Horton which effectively stopped any further development of the aircraft. Hughes managed to have the prototype and partially-constructed production version destroyed. One aspect of the law suit was a statement that the aircraft could not fly, which witnesses, photographs and video obviously show not to be true. At one point, Horton served jail time for selling stock in a company for an airplane that "couldn't fly" and had several violent confrontations with people associated with Hughes and Curtis because of the law suit and resulting injunctions."

Related Materials

SDASM Aircraft Subject Files.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Horton Wingless (1952)

William E. Horton (Firm)

Hughes, Howard, 1905-1976

Horton, William E.

Box 01

Item 01 - Horton Poster

Folder 01 - Newspaper Clippings, Copies, & Correspondence

Physical Description: This folder contains a variety of correspondence, newspaper clips, brochures, and a postcard.

Folder 02 - Patent Copyright

Physical Description: 1. Certificate of Registration for the Howard Huges Partnership and the Horton Wingless Airplane, March 25, 1997. 2. United States Patent Office Document or an Airplane with Retractable Variable-Incidence Wings, #2,734,701, February 14, 1956.

Folder 03 - Stock Certificate

Physical Description: 1. Envelope containing Nevega Aircraft Corporation special meeting of Shareholder's proxy designation form and two Nevega Aircraft Corporation stock certificates for \$1.00, August 9, 1961. 2. Norton Aircraft Corporation Stock certificate for 500 shares, December 11, 1953.

Folder 04 - SEC vs Horton Aircraft Committee

Physical Description: This folder contains over a hundred pages of documents including correspondence, legal exhibition, court proceedings and civil suit, and a magazine.

Folder 05 - TV Production Inquiries/Answers

Physical Description: This folder contains eight letters to various talk shows, TV shows, and radio stations, including Oprah Winfrey, Jerry Springer, and 48 Hours.