



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Louise Thaden Photograph Collection

2017

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Louise Thaden Photograph Collection
Identifier:	NASM.1989.0132
Date:	(bulk 1928-1973)
Creator:	Thaden, Louise (McPhetridge), 1905-1979
Extent:	0.1 Cubic feet ((2 folders))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Patricia Thaden Webb, Gift, 1989

Preferred Citation

Louise Thaden Photograph Collection, Accession 1989-0132, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Louise McPhetridge Thaden (1905-1979) distinguished herself as a pilot who set a number of speed and endurance records in the early years of aviation. In December 1928 she set a new altitude record of 20,260 feet. Three months later she set a new US women's endurance record, remaining aloft in a Travel Air 3000 for 22 hours, 3 minutes. In the 1929 National Women's Air Derby she flew a Travel Air B-4000 to a first-place victory, then set a refueling duration record (with Frances Marsalis) at 196 hours, a light plane speed record (100 km), and a new east-west speed record. In 1936 she became the first woman to win the Bendix Trophy, flying a Wright-powered Beech C17R Staggerwing. Thaden was a founder and charter member of the Ninety-Nines (VP, 1931-33), and later was closely associated with the Civil Air Patrol and Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS; member, 1959-61).

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 48 copy photographs with copy negatives, mostly from the 1930s, of Thaden. Subjects included in the prints are as follows: her fellow woman pilots, including Amelia Earhart, Blanche Noyes, Ruth Elder, and Florence Barnes; her Beech C17R Staggerwing, Beech Travel Air, and a Porterfield Model 35 aircraft; and a few photographs of her family. The collection also includes a citation and a copy of the portrait painted for Thaden's investiture into the International Aerospace Hall of Fame at the San Diego Aerospace Museum, as well as a video tape of her induction.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Women in aeronautics

Types of Materials:

- Photographs
- Video recordings

Names:

- Barnes, Florence Lowe "Pancho"
- Earhart, Amelia, 1897-1937
- Elder, Ruth
- Noyes, Blanche Wilcox.