



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Velma Maul Tanzer Scrapbook

Patti Williams

2019



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Velma Maul Tanzer Scrapbook
Identifier:	NASM.2005.0036
Date:	(bulk 1933-1983)
Extent:	0.29 Cubic feet (1 box)
Creator:	Tanzer, Velma Maul, 1911-1990
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of Velma Maul Tanzer's scrapbook which documents her career as flight attendant with American Airlines, 1933-1936.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jonathan Battle, Gift, 2005, NASM.2005.0036

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Velma Maul Tanzer Scrapbook, NASM.2005.0036, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Velma Maul Tanzer (1911-1990) was born in Alton, IL. She attended high school in Burlington, IA and received nurses' training at Chicago's Jackson Park Hospital in 1933. Later that year, Tanzer joined American Airways as one of its first four stewardesses, rising to the level of chief stewardess. She

remained with the company until 1936, and then went to work for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Los Angeles as a visiting nurse. After her stint with Metropolitan Life, she became a nursing supervisor at Frances Shimer Junior College in Mount Carroll, IL. In 1942, Tanzer joined the Army Nurse Corps with the rank of Second Lieutenant. She was assigned to Bushnell General Hospital in Brigham City, UT, where she met Radford Tanzer, a plastic surgeon who she married in December of 1943. Velma Maul Tanzer was assigned to the 104th Evacuation Hospital in Bend, Oregon, before being transferred to England in 1944 and serving one year in the European Theater. In 1946, the Tanzers were released from military duty and moved to Hanover, New Hampshire. Velma Maul Tanzer was a member of the American Airlines Kiwi Club.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Velma Maul Tanzer's 10 x 14 inch brown scrapbook which documents her career as flight attendant (Stewardess and Chief Stewardess) with American Airlines, 1933-1936. The scrapbook includes the following material: 8 X 10 inch American Airline publicity shots; newspaper articles; correspondence and a telegram; the passenger list for the first flight Chicago-New York direct service; American Airways brochure, "Travel Log for American Airways New York to Chicago;" a 1933 American Airlines menu; and American Airlines tickets. The collection also includes the following: later newspaper articles on Tanzer and American Airlines; American Airlines Kiwi Club documentation, including a few issues of the Kiwi Kaleidoscope (Kiwi newsletter) and a 1966 menu from the Kiwi Club in 1966; a few issues of the Flagship News, the American Airlines Employee newsletter; Tanzer's flight diary from April 17 - September 6, 1933; and a 12 x 13 inch color-tinted photograph of an American Airlines Curtiss Condor.

Arrangement

Arranged by type.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics, Commercial
Flight attendants

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

American Airlines

Container Listing

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Kiwi Newsletters and Menu
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Tanzer's Flight Diary
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Photographs
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | 30th Anniversary of First American Airlines Stewardesses
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Scrapbook
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Flagship News
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Newspaper Articles on Tanzer and American Airlines
Image(s) |