



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Clifford W. Henderson Papers

2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Clifford W. Henderson Papers
Identifier:	NASM.2008.0035
Date:	(bulk 1912-1943)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot ((3 boxes))
Creator:	Henderson, Clifford W., 1895-1939
Language:	English
Summary:	The Clifford W. Henderson Papers consists of one cubic feet of material documenting Clifford Henderson's aviation career, especially his role as Director of the National Air Races from 1928 until 1939. The collection includes photographs, including autographed photographs, National Air Races ephemera (programs, tickets, release and indemnity agreement, stationary), and correspondence.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Heritage Auction Galleries, Gift, 2008

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2008. Revised and encoded by Amandal Buel, 2019. Revised and digital assets attached by Allan Janus, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Clifford W. Henderson Papers, Acc. NASM.2008.0035, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Clifford W. Henderson (1895 -1984) was an aviation promoter and showman who managed the annual National Air Races from 1928 until 1939, bringing attention to the expanding field of sport aviation. Born in Iowa, Henderson graduated from the University of Southern California in 1917 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He served in the 35th Ambulance Unit, France, during World War I, before transferring to the 101st Aero Squadron where he learned to fly. After the war, Henderson returned to California and was chairman of ground arrangements for the departure and return of the Army's Around the World Flight in 1924 from Clover Field. In 1928 he became Director of Aviation of Los Angeles and served as the first manager of the Los Angeles airport system. Also in 1928 Henderson became director of the National Air Races and was responsible for interesting industry leaders in competition trophies, including the Thompson, Bendix and Grieve Trophies. He retired from managing the National Air Races in 1939. Henderson served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, rising to the rank of colonel. He played an instrumental role in planning the Burma Hump air route, and also served as military governor of Dakar in North Africa. After the war, Henderson was suffering from illness and injuries sustained in Africa, and so went to recuperate in California where he founded Palm Desert, California. He remained active in the Palm Desert community until his death in 1984.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one cubic feet of material documenting Clifford Henderson's aviation career, especially his role as Director of the National Air Races from 1928 until 1939. The following types of material are included: photographs, including autographed photographs; National Air Races ephemera (programs, tickets, release and indemnity agreement, stationary); correspondence; sheet music; newspaper clippings; first-day cover; and periodicals.

Note: The digital images in this finding aid were repurposed from scans made by an outside contractor for a commercial product and may show irregular cropping and orientation in addition to color variations resulting from damage to and deterioration of the original objects.

Arrangement

The Clifford W. Henderson Papers are-- is arranged by content type.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautical sports
- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Airplane racing

Types of Materials:

Articles
Correspondence
Ephemera
Photographs
Programs
Sheet music
Tickets

Names:

National Air Races

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	National Air Race Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 2	Parachutes - National Air Race Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 3	Clifford W. Henderson Pilot Championship Merit Award Trophy Photograph Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 4	Abrams Air Craft Corporation P-1 Explorer Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Bellanca 28-92 Trimotor Photograph Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 6	Boeing F3B Photograph Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 7	Bücker Bü 133 Jungmeister Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 8	Del Bush, Folkerts SK-4 NX 288Y Crash Photograph Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 9	McCarroll Duoplane Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 10	Piper J-3 Cub Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 11	Thunderbird Aircraft, Inc. Photograph Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12	USS Los Angeles Airship [ZR-3] Photograph Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 13	Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Engines Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 14	Photograph on Platform at Air Race - David Ingalls, ADM William Moffett, Frank Hawks, Unknown - Photograph

	Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 15	Autographed Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 16	Miscellaneous Photographs of People Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 17	Rudy Kling Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 18	Photographs of Drawings Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 19	Reception for Clifford W. Henderson - Photo Contact Sheets Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 20	Aerial Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 21	War Show [Military Display] Photographs Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 22	First Transcontinental Delivery by Motor Truck Photographs, 1912 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 23	Miscellaneous Captions Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 24	National Air Races Stationary Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 25	"The Texaco Star" Magazine Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 26	National Air Races, 1929 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 27	National Air Races Note, 1930
Box 1, Folder 28	National Air Races, 1931 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 29	National Air Races, 1933

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 30 National Air Races, 1934
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 31 National Air Races, 1935
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 32 National Air Races Schedules, 1938
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 33 List of Suggestions for 1939 National Air Races
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 34 Car Races
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 35 First Day Covers for First Flight of Air Mail Route AM 33, 1932; STS-1 Columbia Flight, 1981
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 36 Letter - Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran to Henderson, October 31, 1938
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 37 Round the World Flight Aviation Day Ticket, March 16, 1924
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 38 "The Goalie" - 1943 Season Program for the Southern California Hockey League
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 39 "Ground Observers' Guide" - US Air Force Manual 50-12, 1951
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 1 Release and Indemnity Agreement between the Chicago Air Race Corporation and Henderson, August 1, 1932
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 2 "The Thompson Trophy Race" - Booklet
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 3 "Hail to Aviation" by Nellie M. Gilbert - Sheet Music
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 4 "On Wings of Love" by Maurice Spitalny, Ted Meyn; Lyrics by Clifford Henderson - Sheet Music

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 5 "The Spirit of Aviation - Fox Trot Song" by Alice Huber and Opal Hemler - Sheet Music, 1929
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 6 Official Program for the 1930 Second Annual International Aircraft Exposition, St. Louis
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 7 Newspaper Clippings
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 8 "Light, Heat and Power" Newsletter, January, 1934; National Aircraft Show Programs
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 9 Correspondence; Telegrams
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 10 National Air Races Correspondence, 1932
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 11 Clifford W. Henderson Papers [Miscellaneous Printed Material]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 1 "Pilots Delight Sundae", National Air Races - Leaflets, 1930
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 2 "I Believe in Aviation" Poster, 1930
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 3 Oversized Photographs
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 4 Bendix Aviation Corporation Products Brochure
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 5 50th Anniversary Cleveland Air Races Calendar, 1979
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 4, Folder 1 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet - Photographs, 1910
[Image\(s\)](#)