



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Fred Weick Papers

2017

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Fred Weick Papers
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1940s-1990s)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2016.0016
<b>Creator:</b>	Weick, Fred E., 1899-1993
<b>Extent:</b>	49 Cubic feet ((47 boxes))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donald V. Weick, Gift, 2016

### Preferred Citation

Fred Weick Papers, Accession 2016-0016, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Fred E. Weick (1899-1993) was an aeronautical engineer who had a profound effect on light aircraft development. While working for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) he developed the NACA low-drag cowling for radial engines (1928) and built a low landing speed aircraft as an independent project sparked by a series of light aircraft design seminars at NACA's Langley Research Center (1931). At the same time he coined the concept of "50 foot obstacle clearance" as a measure of aircraft takeoff performance, which has remained a standard measure ever since. In 1936 he joined Henry Berliner at the Engineering and Research Corporation (ERCO) to develop and market a commercial version of Weick's aircraft. Although the resulting Ercoupe faded in the general aviation slump following World War II, Weick moved to Texas A&M (1948-56) where he developed a series of agricultural aircraft which evolved into the Piper Pawnee series. He remained at Piper until he retired (1956-c.1970) and developed the Piper Cherokee with John Thorpe and Karl Bergey. After retirement, Weick remained active in aeronautics, assisting in design studies for Beech Aircraft as well as private projects in aircraft trim and control.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of over 45 cubic feet of material created or collected by Fred Weick, which chronicle his distinguished aeronautical engineering career from the 1920s to the 1990s. The collection consists of the following types of material: log books, patents, proceedings and lectures, lawsuits, brochures and publications, photographs, correspondence, memorandums, scrapbooks, technical reports and engineering data sheets. Most of this material relates to Weick's engineering designs with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and with the following aircraft models: Weick W-1; Piper PA-25 Pawnee; Piper-28 Cherokee; Piper-32 Cherokee; ERCO Ercoupe models; and Texas A&M College AG-1 and AG-3.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautical engineers
- Aeronautics
- Piper PA-25 Pawnee Family
- Piper PA-28 Cherokee
- Piper PA-32 Cherokee
- Weick W-1

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Logbooks
- Photographs
- Publications
- Technical reports

Names:

- Erco (Engineering and Research Corporation)