



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

William "Pat" Patterson Collection

Patti Williams

2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	William "Pat" Patterson Collection
Date:	1965-1969
Identifier:	NASM.2018.0068
Extent:	1.43 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection documents William "Pat" Patterson's aviation career with United Air Lines.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Patricia P. Dudley, Gift, 2018, NASM.2018.0068

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2018.

Preferred Citation

William "Pat" Patterson Collection, NASM.2018.0068, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

William "Pat" Patterson (1899-1980) was a pioneer of commercial aviation and served as the President of United Airlines from 1934 until 1966. Born in Oahu, HI, Patterson began his career in banking, starting as an office boy at Wells Fargo Bank and working his way up to the loan department. In 1927, he approved a loan to Pacific Air Transport Company and became friends with the airline's president, Vern Gorst. Patterson suggested that Gorst sell the company to Boeing Airplane Company, and Boeing's president, impressed with Patterson's role in the sale, hired him to be his assistant in 1929. In 1931 Boeing Air Transport, Pacific Air Transport, National Air Transport, and Varney Air Lines merged to form United Air Lines and Patterson moved to Chicago to become the new airline's general manager. In 1933, Patterson was promoted to vice president and in 1934, he became United Airlines' president, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1966. After his retirement, Patterson was elected Chairman of the United Airlines Board, a position he held until 1966; he was then named Director Emeritus and Honorary Chairman of United Airlines. Patterson was

an NAA Elder Statesman (1969), winner of the National Aeronautic Association's Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy (1976), and enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame (1976).

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the following types of material documenting William "Pat" Patterson's aviation career with United Air Lines: photographs, newspaper and magazine articles, certificates, invitations, programs, and one 16 by 18 inch black scrapbook.

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
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Newspapers -- 20th century
- United Airlines

Types of Materials:

- Photographic prints
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Boeing Company
- Patterson, William