



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## National Air Races Negative Collection

2023

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
Business Number: Phone: 703-572-4045  
NASMRefDesk@si.edu  
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	National Air Races Negative Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1948-1949
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0555
<b>Extent:</b>	0.33 Cubic feet (1 box; 336 black and white 4 x 5 inch format negatives)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of 336 black and white 4 x 5 inch format negatives by Robert E. Burke Studios, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio; most of the photographs depict aircraft, personalities, and activities at or in relation to the National Air Races held at Cleveland in 1948 and 1949.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): NASM-9A02485: Cook Cleland's Goodyear F2G-1 Corsair, National Air Races, Cleveland, Ohio, September 3, 1949.</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Unknown, transfer from NASM Aeronautics Department, 1994, NASM.XXXX.0555.

### Related Materials

Additional photography by Robert E. Burke from the 1947 through 1949 National Air Races, as well as copies of the Official Programs for the 1948 and 1949 Races can be seen in the [Bendix Air Races Collection, NASM.1988.0115](#) .

### Processing Information

Digital scans of the original 4 x 5 inch negatives were created by volunteer A. Kevin Grantham in mid to late 2004; Grantham also researched and composed the initial NASM Archives catalogue descriptions for each image. Digital scans of the original negative envelopes, with annotations believed to have been made by a member of the NASM Aeronautics Department in the 1980s, were created by NASM Archives in April 2022.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#)

## Biographical / Historical

First held in 1920 at Mitchel Field outside of New York City, the National Air Races were an annual, week-long event including formation flying, parachute drops, aerobatic displays, and closed-circuit and cross-country air races. Through the 1920s, the location of the Races moved to a different American city each year, occurring at Cleveland, Ohio, for the first time in 1929. In the 1930s, the Races settled almost permanently at Cleveland Municipal Airport (later known as Cleveland Hopkins International Airport), with only the 1930, 1933, and 1936 races held in Los Angeles, California. The Races were suspended from 1940 to 1945 due to World War II, but resumed at Cleveland in 1946, with the post-war contestants now including many military surplus aircraft. The National Air Races, meant to be the high point of the air racing year, included privately sponsored races to both foster the development of aircraft and raise the profile of the sponsors. The 1948 Races (held September 4-6, 1948) and 1949 Races (held September 3-5, 1949) featured trophy races sponsored by Ohio companies Bendix Corporation, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Standard Oil of Ohio (Sohio), and the local Cleveland companies Tinnerman Products (makers of fasteners used in aircraft construction) and Thompson Products (makers of high-performance valves for both aircraft and automobile racing engines). High-speed aircraft races certainly helped draw huge crowds to the airport to see the action, but tragically, on September 5, 1949, Bill Odom, piloting the modified North American P-51C Mustang "Beguine" in that day's Thompson Trophy Race, crashed into a house in the Cleveland suburb of Berea, Ohio, killing himself and a woman and child. Berea and other municipalities in the area quickly passed ordinances prohibiting air racing in their airspace, signaling the end of the National Air Races as they had existed up to that point. The races would be reborn decades later in 1964 at Reno, Nevada, as the National Championship Air Races.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 336 black and white 4 x 5 inch format negatives and their original paper envelopes. The photography has been identified as the work of Robert E. Burke Studios, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio, advertised as the "Official Photographer" of both the 1948 and 1949 National Air Races. Most of the photographs cover aircraft, personalities, and activities at or in relation to the 1948 and 1949 National Air Races; views include racing and military aircraft on the ground and in flight, views of the spectators (including entertainment personalities such as actor James "Jimmy" Stewart and radio presenter Arthur Godfrey), presentation of awards on the Speaker's Stand, aerial views of Cleveland Municipal Airport, and views of pilots and their supporters. Pilots portrayed include Charles Brown, Cook Cleland, Jacqueline Cochran, Joseph C. De Bona, Ben McKillen, Betty Skelton, and Roscoe Turner. The collection also includes some non-aviation work apparently done for Thompson Products, a major producer of aircraft engine components and high-performance valves used in both aircraft and automobile engines.

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## Arrangement

During initial processing by NASM Archives in 2004, the negatives were assigned NASM Archives image reference numbers (NASM 9A02483 through NASM 9A02814-C) in the order in which they were received from the NASM Aeronautics Department; they are physically stored in NASM image reference number order. For the purposes of the online finding aid, the images have been intellectually rearranged into numerical order using the photographer's original 8-digit negative numbers as printed on the original negative envelopes. The images are grouped according to the first four digits of the negative number (Burke's "File" number) and divided into two chronological series for the years 1948 and 1949.

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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:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Awards
- Aeronautics -- Competitions
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Air pilots
- Airplane racing
- Airplanes
- Airports
- Parachutes
- Stunt flying
- Women air pilots
- Women in aeronautics

Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Names:

- Brown, Charles
- Cleland, Cook
- Cochran, Jacqueline
- De Bona, Joseph C.
- McKitten, Ben
- National Air Races
- Pulitzer Trophy Race
- Skelton, Betty, 1926-
- Thompson Trophy Race
- Turner, Roscoe, 1895-1970

Places:

- Cleveland (Ohio)

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## Container Listing

### Negatives, 1948

#### Box 1

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Group 2174 (Part 1): National Air Races banquet, 1948</a> Notes: Fred Crawford, president of Thompson Products, Inc., with others (including Roscoe Turner) at a 1948 National Air Races related banquet.
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Group 2174 (Part 2): National Air Races, 1948</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0029: Bell P-39Q Airacobra racer (r/n N92848, race number 11)</a> Notes: One-half left front close-up view of a Bell P-39Q Airacobra racer (r/n N92848, race number 11). The men in the photograph are unidentified; the man on the wing may be Charles Brown, who piloted it in the 1948 Thompson race.
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0044: Distant view of racers rounding pylon during a race</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0045: Distant view of racers rounding pylon during a race</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0050: Anson Johnson (center), 1948 Thompson Trophy winner</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0056: Cook Cleland's Goodyear F2G-1 Corsair racer (r/n N5590N, race number 94) on the ground</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0057: Three midget racers rounding the pylon during a race</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0058: Roscoe Turner (center) speaks with two men at an indoor event</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0059: Actor James "Jimmy" Stewart (second from left) in informal group</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0060: Anson Johnson (standing to the left of the trophy) on the Speakers Stand receiving the 1948 Thompson Trophy</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0071: Goodyear F2G-1 Corsair (race number 74) on the ground</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0072: Bell P-63C Kingcobra (r/n NX69702, race number 65) flown by Wilson Newhall in the 1948 Thompson Trophy race</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Negative 2174-0074: Bell P-63C Kingcobra clipped wing racer "Tucker Special" (r/n NX62995, race number 28)</a>

Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0075: Ruth Johnson's North American AT-6 Texan racer (r/n NX63770, race number 75)
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0076: Charles Tucker's clipped-wing Bell P-63C Kingcobra "Tucker Special" (r/n NX62995, race number 28)
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0077: Goodyear F2G-1 Corsair racer (r/n N5588N) with motor running
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0084: Grace Harris in the cockpit of her modified North American AT-6 Texan racer (r/n N90641)
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0085: Four racing aircraft rounding the pylon
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0086: Distant view of three North American P-51 Mustangs taking off
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0087: Bell P-39Q Airacobra (r/n N92848, race number 11) rounding the pylon
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0088: Nose of Cook Cleland's Goodyear F2G-1 Corsair (race number 74)
Box 1, Folder 2	Negative 2174-0089: Cook Cleland's Goodyear F2G-1 Corsair racer (r/n N5590N, race number 94)
Box 1, Folder 3	Group 2175: North American P-51D Mustang and Bell P-63A Kingcobra; National Air Races, 1948
Box 1, Folder 3	Negative 2175-0092: North American P-51D "The Galloping Ghost" (r/n NX79111, race number 77)
Box 1, Folder 3	Negative 2175-0094: North American P-51D "The Galloping Ghost" (r/n NX79111, race number 77) with pilot Notes: One-quarter left front view of North American P-51D Mustang "The Galloping Ghost" (r/n NX79111, race number 77). Standing on the wing is the pilot, either Steve Beville or Bruce Raymond, co-owners of the aircraft.
Box 1, Folder 3	Negative 2175-0098: Robert "Bob" Eucker in his Bell P-63A Kingcobra racer (r/n N69901, race number 55) Notes: Robert "Bob" Eucker, wearing the winner's wreath, steps out of the cockpit of his Bell P-63A Kingcobra racer (r/n N69901, race number 55) after winning the Sohio race.
Box 1, Folder 3	Negative 2175-0104: North American P-51D racer "The Galloping Ghost" (r/n NX79111, race number 77)

Box 1, Folder 3	Negative 2175-0112: Robert "Bob" Eucker on wing of his Bell P-63A Kingcobra racer (r/n N69901, race number 55)
Box 1, Folder 4	Group 2176: North American F-86A; Actor Jimmy Stewart; National Air Races, 1948
Box 1, Folder 5	Group 2177: Bendix Trophy Race, National Air Races, 1948
Box 1, Folder 5	Negative 2177-0146: Cmdr. Evan P. Aurand (USN) with his North American FJ-1 Fury Notes: Commander Evan P. Aurand, U.S. Navy, stands next to his North American FJ-1 Fury after he placed second in the 1948 Bendix Trophy Race, Jet Division; Aurand is being congratulated by an unidentified man.
Box 1, Folder 5	Negative 2177-0180: Linton B. Carney in the cockpit of North American P-51C Mustang "Houstonian" Notes: Linton B. Carney in the cockpit of a North American P-51C Mustang "Houstonian" (r/n N1202, race number 60), one of three P-51s owned by Paul Mantz and sponsored by Texas oilman Glenn McCarthy. The woman on the wing is unidentified.
Box 1, Folder 5	Negative 2177-0205: Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran with her North American P-51B Mustang racer Notes: Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran exits the cockpit of her North American P-51B Mustang racer (r/n NX28388, race number 13) after the 1948 Bendix Trophy Race in which she placed third. Vincent Bendix of the Bendix Corporation stands on the wing.
Box 1, Folder 5	Negative 2177-0206: Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran with announcer Notes: Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran and unidentified announcer at microphone after the 1948 Bendix Trophy Race in which she placed third.
Box 1, Folder 5	Negative 2177-0208: Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran with her North American P-51B Mustang racer Notes: Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran in the cockpit of her North American P-51B Mustang racer (r/n NX28388, race number 13); Vincent Bendix of the Bendix Corporation stands on the wing of the Mustang.
Box 1, Folder 6	Group 2178, Negative 2178-0212: Linton B. Carney in North American P-51C Mustang "Houstonian" (r/n NX1202, race number 60), National Air Races, 1948
Box 1, Folder 7	Group 2179, Negative 2179-0241: Lt. Lewis B. Thompson Jr. (US Navy) receiving Allison Jet Trophy; Roger Fleming of the Allison Division of General Motors holds microphone; National Air Races, 1948
Box 1, Folder 8	Group 2182, Negative 2182-0286: Bob Eucker with P-63A Kingcobra "Spirit of Tick" (r/n N69901, race number 55); National Air Races, 1948



Box 1, Folder 9	<p><a href="#">Group 2184: Aerobatics at the National Air Races, 1948</a></p> <p>Notes: Betty Skelton in the cockpit of her Pitts S-1 Special "Little Stinker"; acrobatic aircraft leaving smoke trails.</p>
Box 1, Folder 10	<p><a href="#">Group 2186: North American P-51 Mustang racers, National Air Races, 1948</a></p> <p>Notes: Jackie Cochran's North American P-51B Mustang racer (r/n NX28388, race number 13); Glenn McCarthy's North American P-51C Mustang (r/n NX1204, race number 46).</p>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Group 2187: Midget Racers, National Air Races, 1948</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0318: Howard (Benjamin O.) DGA-3 "Pete"</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0319: Long (Dave) Midget Mustang "P-Shooter" (r/n NX5111H, race number 67)</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0320: Dixon (Tom C.) Special (r/n NX1N, race number 41) piloted by C. W. Bing</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0321: Betty Skelton in her Pitts S-1 Special "Little Stinker"</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0322: Chester (Art) Sky Baby (r/n N8400H, race number 7)</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0323: Falcon Special II "Lil Rebel" (r/n NX1E, race number 10)</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0324: Howard (Benjamin O.) DGA-3 "Pete" (r/n NX400B, race number 36), possibly with Ray Baker</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Negative 2187-0325: Loose (Chet) Siem (Warren) Special "Loose Special" (r/n NX64573, race number 44)</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	<p><a href="#">Group 2189: Speaker's Stand, National Air Races, 1948 (Part 1)</a></p> <p>Notes: US Navy officer announces the Blue Angels aerial demonstration team; Sohio Band; Radio personality Arthur Godfrey; Paul Mantz receiving the Bendix Air Race Trophy.</p>
Box 1, Folder 13	<p><a href="#">Group 2190: Speaker's Stand, National Air Races, 1948 (Part 2); Cockpit of Douglas DC-3 in flight</a></p> <p>Notes: Radio personality Arthur Godfrey; 1948 "Queen of the National Air Races"; people in grandstand; cockpit of a Douglas DC-3 in flight.</p>
Box 1, Folder 14	<a href="#">Group 2191: "Queen of the 1948 National Air Races"</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	<p><a href="#">Group 2194, Negative 2194-0448: Spectators, Kendall Refining Company Section, National Air Races, 1948</a></p> <p>Notes: Spectators in the Kendall Refining Company's reserved section.</p>
Box 1, Folder 16	<a href="#">Group 2195, Negative 2195-0469: Goodyear Trophy, National Air Races, 1948</a>

Notes: Herman "Fish" Salmon, in his Levier Cosmic Wind "Minnow" midget racer (r/n N21C), gets a kiss after winning the 1948 Goodyear Trophy at the National Air Races, Cleveland, Ohio. The unidentified woman may be his wife.

Box 1, Folder 17 [Group 2196: Fairchild Publications, Carpet Club, September 22, 1948; Thompson Products Baseball Team](#)

Box 1, Folder 18 [Group 2197: Centerville Mills YMCA camp, Chagrin Falls, Ohio](#)

Box 1, Folder 19 [Group 2198: Thompson Products Factory and Staff, Cleveland, Ohio, September 9, 1948](#)

Notes: Publicity photographs of Thompson Products employees, including Thompson Products employee golf league champions Tom Shosky (1946 winner) and Basil Hopkosky (1945 winner) with their trophies, and several unidentified women employees.

Box 1, Folder 20 [Group 2199: Thompson Products Banquet and Auto Product Rollout](#)

Notes: Views of a Thompson Products event, possibly in connection with the 1948 National Air Races; Cleveland, Ohio. Activities include rollouts and demonstrations of various auto products, speakers at a luncheon or dinner, and a visit to the "Gay '90s" street of the Thompson Products Auto Album (later the Crawford Auto Aviation Collection, Western Reserve Historical Society).

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## Negatives, 1949

## Box 1

Box 1, Folder 21

[Group 2650: Midget Racers, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Box 1, Folder 22

[Group 2651: Bendix Trophy, Speaker's Stand, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Notes: Spectators in the reserved section for Bendix Aviation and Thompson Products; Joe De Bona receiving the 1949 Bendix Air Race Trophy on the Speakers Stand; Mr. and Mrs. Vernon A. Ford (USAF), winner 1949 Bendix Jet Division Race, pose with Bendix Air Race Trophy; Cook Cleland after winning the 1949 Thompson Trophy race.

Box 1, Folder 23

[Group 2653: Tinnerman Trophy, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Notes: Benjamin (Ben) W. McKillen, Jr. receiving the Tinnerman Trophy; start of an air race; race in progress, including McKillen in Goodyear F2G-1 Corsair (r/n N5588N, race number 57); Spectators sitting in the Tinnerman Products Inc. section of grandstand.

Box 1, Folder 24

[Group 2654, Negative 2654-0563: Jet Fighter Aircraft, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Notes: General view of field at the National Air Races, Cleveland, Ohio with a Republic F-84 Thunderjet and several Navy jet fighters with wings folded.

Box 1, Folder 25

[Group 2655: Thompson Trophy Race, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Box 1, Folder 26

[Group 2656: Dinner, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Box 1, Folder 27

[Group 2657: Aerobatics, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Notes: Grandstands, crowds, and spectators; Stearman biplanes trail smoke; parachutist Tommy "Batman" Boyd displays his jump suit wings; Aeronca C-3 "Kaddy's Krate"; Lockheed P-38 Lightning after a crash landing by Jack Becker; pilots of the USAF Acrojets Flight Demonstration Team; General Hoyt S. Vandenberg (USAF) with James "Jimmy" Doolittle.

Box 1, Folder 28

[Group 2658: Goodyear F2G-1 Corsairs, Bell P-39 Airacobra; Sohio Trophy Race; National Air Races, 1949](#)

Box 1, Folder 29

[Group 2659: Military Flight Displays, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Notes: USAF formation flights of Curtiss C-46 Commando cargo aircraft, Boeing B-29 Superfortress bombers, and Consolidated B-36 bombers; US Coast Guard Piasecki HRP-1 Rescuer (Flying Banana) helicopter demonstration; aerial views of Cleveland Municipal Airport.

Box 1, Folder 30

[Group 2660: Kendall Trophy, National Air Races, 1949](#)

Notes: Grace Harris, winner of the Kendall Trophy race, with her modified North American AT-6 Texan (r/n N90641, race number 44); Katherine

	"Kaddy" Landry in the cockpit of her modified North American AT-6 "Nuta's" (r/n N66134, race number 31).
Box 1, Folder 31	<p><a href="#">Group 2661: North American P-51C "Beguine" after Sohio Race, National Air Races, 1949</a></p> <p>Notes: Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran and pilot William P. "Bill" Odom following Odom's victory in the 1949 Sohio Race piloting Cochran's North American P-51C Mustang racer "Beguine" (r/n N4845N, race number 7).</p>
Box 1, Folder 32	<p><a href="#">Group 2662: Military Racers (Allison Trophy), National Air Races, 1949</a></p> <p>Notes: Lt. Walter C. Rew (USAF), pilot of Lockheed F-80C Shooting Star, receives Allison Trophy; Republic F-84 (P-84) and McDonnell F2H-1 Banshees on ramp; Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star with checkered flag at finish line.</p>
Box 1, Folder 33	<p><a href="#">Group 2663: Rounding the Pylon, National Air Races, 1949</a></p>
Box 1, Folder 34	<p><a href="#">Group 2668, Negative 2668-0558: Lockheed P2V Neptune JATO Demonstration, National Air Races, 1949</a></p> <p>Notes: Distant view of jet assisted take-off (JATO) of a Lockheed P2V Neptune maritime patrol aircraft at the National Air Races, Cleveland, Ohio. The Cleveland Airport NACA hanger is visible in the background.</p>
Box 1, Folder 35	<p><a href="#">Group 2669: Acrobat hangs from Bell 47B Helicopter, National Air Races, 1949</a></p> <p>Notes: An acrobat (possibly Marilyn Rich) dangles from a hovering Bell 47B helicopter (r/n NC102B) during a demonstration at the the National Air Races, Cleveland, Ohio.</p>
Box 1, Folder 36	<p><a href="#">Group 2670: Assorted aircraft, National Air Races, 1949</a></p>

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