



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

We Saw It Happen Film Collection

Patti Williams

2020

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	<i>We Saw It Happen</i> Film Collection
Date:	1952-1953
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0637
Creator:	United Aircraft Corporation
Extent:	57.84 Cubic feet (457 film cans and 24 Betacam-Sp videos.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection includes a copy of the finished film, <i>We Saw It Happen</i> , as well as interviews and stock footage outtakes. Altogether this collection contains 481 black and white; silent and sound; 16 mm and 35 mm (mostly 35 mm) films covering a variety of aviation topics.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Unknown, Gift?, Unknown (found in collection), NASM.XXXX.0637

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2020.

Preferred Citation

We Saw It Happen Film Collection, NASM.XXXX.0637, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The United Aircraft Corporation produced *We Saw It Happen* , a 1953 documentary in honor of the 50th anniversary of flight. *We Saw It Happen* is a historic film concerning all aspects of aviation from the Wright brothers to 1953. Newsreel film is used to illustrate significant developments in flying and aircraft production as well as historic world events. Statements are made by important aviation figures who reminisce on aeronautic areas of their interest.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes a copy of the finished film as well as interviews and stock footage outtakes. Altogether this collection contains 481 black and white; silent and sound; 16 mm and 35 mm (mostly 35 mm) films covering a variety of aviation topics. This collection encompasses numerous interviews including those with: Wellwood E. Beall, Lawrence D. "Larry" Bell, William Boeing, William Bridgeman, Frank Caldwell, Clarence Chamberlin, James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, Donald W. Douglas, Ira C. Eaker, Oliver P. Echols, Earl Findley, Benjamin D. Foulois, Robert Gross, Carrie Grunbach, Sam Herron, Leonard S. "Luke" Hobbs, H. Mansfield Horner, Jerome Hunsaker, Alvin M. "Tex" Johnston, James H. "Dutch" Kindleberger, Frank P. Lahm, Glenn L. Martin, Thomas DeWitt Milling, Mundy I. Peale, Dewitt D. Ramsey, Frederick B. Rentschler, Edward V. "Eddie" Rickenbacker, Igor Sikorsky, Carl A. "Tooe" Spaatz, Charlie Taylor, John H. Towers, Roscoe Turner, and Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager.

Arrangement

Film items are individually described in film database and stored by size of film can.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Air pilots
- Aircraft

Types of Materials:

- Motion picture film