Descriptive Finding Guide

for

Women of Flight Collection

By Jessica Quintero

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Provenance

This collection consists of several donations made in 1981 for the Women of Aviation Exhibit at the San Diego Aerospace Museum. All items have been removed from exhibit, while the new exhibition, Women of Flight, is being developed (opening in 2007). Donations have also been made by the women in this collection that belonged to the Ninety-Nines or from miscellaneous collections.

History

The female pioneers of flight all began with aviatrices, such as Amelia Earhart, Betty Wharton, and Blanche Noyes, in 1929. Their fame started with the creation of the “Ninety-Nines,” an international organization of licensed women pilots established to educate and support their fellow women who have passion for flight. Named for the original 99 members, the “Ninety-Nines” were established at Curtiss Field, Long Island, New York. Of course each woman began her flying career in her own time and reached success for her own achievements, but all thanks to the support of her fellow aviatrices and their organizations gave these female pilots the strength to fulfill their passion for flying.

Along with the “Ninety-Nines,” the Women’s Air Derby was born in 1929 as an official air race for women to compete in flight in the United States, modeled after the men’s transcontinental races. As part of the National Air Races, the Women’s Derby, also known as the “Powder Puff Derby,” was a cross-country race where only women pilots participated, the first of which included Amelia Earhart, Ruth Elder, Betty Gillies, Blanche Noyes, Thea Rasche, Bobbi Trout, Gladys O’Donnell, along with many more. Unfortunately with the stock market crash, flying planes became too expensive and only a few women could continue to race.

During World War II, under the direction of the United States Army Air Forces, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) was established for civilian female pilots to fly military aircraft. Two famous aviatrices, known as Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran and Nancy Harkness Love, proposed to free male pilots from their duties by employing female pilots for non-combat missions. Although both proposals were denied in 1940, once the U.S. was involved in the war they began to realize there
weren’t enough male pilots, therefore establishing two programs that later merged together to become WASP under the direction of Cochran in 1943. After the war was won, WASP was disbanded since the female pilots weren’t needed anymore. In 1947, the “Ninety-Nines” (also written as 99’s in this collection) resurrected the Powder Puff Derby for those women who still wanted to pursue their dreams of flying. For 30 years, women raced for AWTAR, the All Women's Transcontinental Air Race, which had its own office and board members preparing for the annual races. In 1947, the final race was held due to high costs and a lawsuit for not allowing male pilots to race.

The Whirly-Girls was established in 1955 as an organization for international women helicopter pilots. The goals of this organization are to promote women in the helicopter industry through scholarship awards and mentoring for training women pilots, exchange information among other female helicopter pilots, and promote community acceptance of rotorcraft. As of 2011, there are over 1700 registered members representing 44 countries.

The women featured in this collection, and their involvement in history as avatrixes, are listed below and their individual info can be found in boxes #5 and #6.

Scope & Content Notes

Important Personalities & Subjects

Amelia Earhart
American Airlines
Angel Derby
Anna Fisher
Anne Lindbergh Gliders
Army
AWTAR, All Women's Transcontinental Air Race
Aviation Sales Co. Booklet
Barbara Ann Allen
Barbara Kibbee Jayne
Bessie Coleman
Betty Gillies
Betty Wharton
Blanche Noyes
Bonnie Dunbar
Cirrus Aircraft
Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation
Convair
Curtiss
DuPont Co.
Evelyn “Bobbi” Trout
Gossamer
Grumman
Hanna Reitsch
Harriett Quimby
Helen R. Dick
Howard Hughes Memorial Award
International Aerospace Hall of Fame
Janice Brown
Jacqueline Cochran
Joellen Drag Oslund
Judith Resnik
Kathryn Sullivan
Kinner Airplane & Motor Corp.
Laura Ingalls
United Airlines
WAFS
Walt Disney
WASP
Whirly-Girls
Women's Air Derby, 1929
Women's National Aeronautical Association
World War II

Content & Series Description

SERIES I: Oversized Materials

SERIES II: Artifacts, Documents, Magazines, Newspapers, and Photographs

SERIES III: Cabinet in Basement

Box Listing

Series I: Oversized Materials

Box 1

1. (4) 11x14 images of Amelia Earhart
2. Large manila folder full of original newspaper clippings of Amelia Earhart and Ruth Elder
3. Calligraphy of "Why Women Make Better Pilots"
4. (2) large photos on foam of the 99's El Cajon Chapter, 1979
5. Color print poster of various aircrafts flown by the WASPs
6. (3) photographs on foam of Amelia Earhart
7. (2) vinyl records of Amelia Earhart Exhibit presentation
8. "World's Premiere Aviatrix" black book of Amelia Earhart articles and pictures
9. (2) Denali performance computers
10. (1) Slide Rule
11. (1) Dead Reckoning Computer, specification AN-C-74-A in its leather pouch
12. "Kane MK-6B Dead Reckoning Computer" instruction booklet
14. Pilot's Bill of Rights
15. Flight Organizer with Enroute Flight Log papers
Series II: Artifacts, Documents, Magazines, Newspapers, and Photographs

Box 2

1. 99's Calendar 1981: (3) calendars produced by the Phoenix Chapter
2. Folder with (18) photos of 99's
3. 99's SD chapter 7th annual air race: programs and newspaper clippings, folders with meeting agendas, and (3) black & white 8x10 photographs
4. Buffington, H. Glenn: 99's photo album with (41) pictures of 1929 Air Races
5. Press releases and newspaper clippings, magazines, articles on the 99's
6. Rogers, Will: meets with the 99's, letter and photocopy
7. 99's: Photocopies of articles on the 99's
8. Angel Derbies: All Women's International Air Race, "Angel Derby" race results, programs, and newspaper clippings
9. Women's Air Derby of 1929: copies of first race female pilots articles written by Buffington; (23) photos of the 99's including aviatrixes Bobbi Trout, Vera Walker, Ruth Elder, Pancho Barnes, Edith Kuntz, Gladys O'Donnell, Phoebe Omlie
10. Angel Derby: 1973, '77, '78 programs
11. Powder Puff Derby ‘73: Rules and regulations, and results

Box 3

1. Aerobatics: newspaper clippings and photocopies
2. Ballooning: photocopies of articles on Ann Meuer and Mary H. Myers, "Carlotta the lady Aeronaut" (known as the first woman in the US to pilot her own aircraft-hot air balloon)
3. Convair painting: (3) pictures of Convair's montage with information written by Glenn Buffington, along with photocopies
4. Donation letters: includes all of the donation papers and letters for the women of flight collection
5. Female Shuttle Astronauts-Women in Space: newspaper clippings from the San Diego Union, photocopies and original biographical data from NASA in Margaret Rhea Seddon, Judith Resnik, Shannon Lucid, Anna Fisher, Bonnie Dunbar, Kathryn Sullivan, and Sally Ride
6. Flight Attendants: United Airlines information and (11) original uniform pictures; (8) TWA hostess uniform pictures and photocopies
7. ISA exhibit opening, 1994: (24) loose photos, Women in Aviation guestbook, and (14) photos in small album
8. NASA, 1 of 3: (39) total 8x10 color and black & white photos from the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center- (6) Mary Cleave; (4) Bonnie Dunbar; (18) Anna Fisher; (7) Shannon Lucid; and (4) of multiple women
9. NASA, 2 of 3: (29) total 8x10 color and black & white photos from the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center- (10) Judith Resnik; (12) Rhea Seddon; and (7) Kathryn Sullivan
10. NASA, 3 of 3: 47 total 8x10 color and black & white photos from the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center of Sally Ride
11. Naval Aviation Women: photocopies of Joellen Drag appearing in two Japanese magazine articles, "Women in the Navy," military/aviation magazines from the Navy in the 70s; photocopies of articles on Rosemary Merims Conaster and Joellen Drag Oslund
12. Negatives w/o Provenance

Box 4

1. Reunion Party: Ninety-Nine’s reunion party proofs and negatives of [names of women]; and also negatives of ‘99’s painting the Lindbergh Field runway
2. Smithsonian Institution Women Aviation: (9) black & white photos of Tiny, Bessie Coleman, Anne Lindbergh, etc from the Smithsonian Institute of D.C.
3. Soaring: contains article from 1978 “The San Diego Union” about the “Anne Lindbergh Gliders;” a photocopy of missing Lindbergh glider story written by Richard Benbough member of the San Diego Aerospace museum; Information about Helen R. Dick and the soaring hall of fame; photocopy of Hanna Reitsch (Whirly-Girl #1) German aviator in World War II article on her many flight records
4. Swain Artwork: black & white ink drawings from book “We Were WASPs” by Winifred wood, drawings by Dot Swain
5. Various Women: lots of articles and photocopies on many women of flight, 3 foam photos, and (1) 8x10 black & white photo
6. WASP: copies of 30th Memorial Reunion of WASP, ground school WASP report, WASP roster from Marana Army Air Field, sign-in sheet for WASP reunion meeting in 1978; photocopies of Meredith Campbell; original 1984 “The San Diego Union” article about the WASPs; written address by Betty Gillies for a 99’s international convention about the WAFS-Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron; (2) negatives on WASPs; photocopies of women pilots and articles about WASP history; photocopy of Life magazine from 1943; negative and (1) 8x10 photo of WASP logo designed by Walt Disney; photocopies of graduation ceremony of Mary Lou Colbert and Jacqueline Cochran
7. Women In Aviation: exhibition development and info; proofs and negatives of women in aviation exhibit; proofs and negatives of Laura Ingalls; 2 programs; bibliography of women in aeronautics for WIA exhibit by Camilla Hutson; articles on “Girl Pilots”; cover of Life magazine; (1) photo from exhibit
8. Women’s National Aeronautical Association: an original 1940 newspaper clipping from “The San Diego Union” on the WNA members
9. Whirly-Girls: photocopies of Whirly-Girls articles; Whirly-Girls logo illustration; Hanna Reitsch articles; Dora Jean Doughty Strother; photocopy of picture of Whirly-Girls with Prince Philip; Lauretta Foy-Bell helicopter news photocopy; actual Whirly-Girls logo patch; Judy Short Memorial Heliport Hospital certificates; Peanuts and Whirly-Girls comic and correspondence photocopy; April 1956 Pegasus

Box 5

1. Baumann, Joan Ruth: original resumes; copy of photograph; letters from JB
2. Bera, Fran: (real name: Frances Bera) many photocopies of pictures of Fran Bera and aircraft/other people; original articles on Fran Bera
3. Bledsoe, Anna: black & white photocopies of pictures of Anna Bledsoe
4. Brown, Janice: article from National Geographic; negative of Solar Challenger; (17) black and white photos from Solar Challenger, pilots, and project people, including Janice Brown, photos by Randa Bishop; packet information and biographical information
5. Cadman, Vivian (Eddy): photocopies of Cadman, a WWII WASP female pilot (class 43-W-5)
6. Cobb, Jerrie: (6) photos of Cobb and many articles and photocopies of articles on Jerrie Cobb's achievements; Jerrie Cobb Foundation brochure
7. Dick, Helen: list of Helen Dick's soaring achievements and photocopy of Helen Dick and Cirrus sailplane
8. Earhart, Amelia, I of 5: 2 first day covers of Amelia Earhart; (1) black & white photo of Amelia Earhart with Blanche Noyes; (2) black & white pictures of Amelia Earhart's mom at her memorial exhibit; (2) photos on foam, one signed by Amelia Earhart; (1) 8x10 color photo reproduction of Amelia Earhart painting; (1) photo of the 99's for the 50th anniversary of Earhart's solo flight across the Atlantic donated by Betty Gillies
9. Earhart, 2 of 5: photocopies of pictures; Amelia Earhart fellowship awards 1978-79; 1949 program for Smithsonian Amelia Earhart Memorial; Liberty magazine with article on page 30; maps regarding the search for Amelia Earhart
10. Earhart, 3 of 5: Hall of Fame gift consisting of (6) photos of aviatrices
11. Earhart, 4 of 5: Amelia Earhart handwritten letters to Lloyd Royer and a Kinner Airplane and Motor Corp passenger ticket
12. Earhart, 5 of 5: folder with many articles and cutouts from Air Classics and National Geographic about Amelia Earhart
13. Funk, Wally: (real name: Mary Wallace Funk II) copy of article about Wally Funk; business card; copy of picture; letter from Wally; FAA background from National Transportation Safety Board; biography from AIAA student journal
14. Gillies, Betty: (1) picture of Betty Gillies from 1930, (24) pictures from Betty's scrapbook (including a picture of Betty Gillies skating for charity along with Amelia Earhart, Frances Marsales, and Elvy Kalep), photocopy of letter informing Betty Gillies of winning the Paul Tissandier diploma of honor along with (1) photo of the diploma, photocopies of pictures of Betty Gillies with other women
15. Hopkins-Tier, Nancy: 8x10 black & white picture of Nancy in cockpit of airplane; (1) 5x7 black & white picture next to tail of Cessna 170A with Bicentennial seal; page with biographical summary of activities and wards; 7-page typed bio of Nancy Hopkins-Tier; copy of pilot's log for the 6th Annual Air Tour, September 11-27, 1930; copy of pilot's license with signature of Orville Wright, August 9, 1930; photocopies of article and pictures
17. Knapp, Brooke: (2) 8x10 black & white photos; copies of biographies on Brooke Knapp; copies of articles from magazines
18. McDermott, Elysia: "The San Diego Union" article on Elysia McDermott and her Navy husband
19. Noyes, Blanche: articles of Blanche Noyes; proofs and negatives of Blanche Noyes; photocopy of Blanche Noyes and Amelia Earhart picture
20. Scott, Blanche Stuart: (AKA: Betty Scott) possibly the first woman aviator, First Day Cover of 28c cent Airmail stamp commemorating Scott's achievements in aviation
21. Schmidt, Maxine Crookston: pictures of Maxine Crookston Schmidt and her autobiography
22. Thaden, Louise: articles, photocopies of pictures; personal and professional biography; letter written by Louise Thaden; (27) color and black & white photographs varying in size;
National Aeronautic magazine from August 1936 with article of Louise Thaden; photocopies of National Air Races and Bendix Aviation checks written to Louise Thaden
23. Warner, Emily: proof of picture of first female airline pilot
24. Willhite, Nellie: ticket #1044 for plane ride with Nellie Willhite in her plane “Pard”
25. Waterford Bragg, Janet Harmon: African American with commercial pilot’s license article
26. Yeager, Jeana: Lindbergh dinner autographed program where Yeager presented an award; (3) 8x10 photographs of Jeana Yeager and the Voyager; (1) large photograph of the world map tracing its flight, and articles on the Voyager’s flight around the world, (1) black & white photo of Yeager with her autograph

Box 6

2. Ayers, Elufeda: article biography
3. Banks, Marian: typed letters from Marian Banks; articles about her races; donated picture proofs
4. Barnes, Florence “Pancho”: many articles and photocopies of pictures
5. Barr, Mary: (3) color photos; many articles and article cut-outs; magazines from the 70’s
6. Barrett, Barbara: newspaper article cut-out
7. Barth Bear, Ida: article on flight attendant from 1933 United Airlines
8. Bass, Beverly: 3-page autobiography; copy of FAA letter to Bass; copies of articles about Beverly Bass; photocopy of picture
10. Beard, Melba: photocopies of articles on Melba Beard, article about daughter, and letters by Melba Beard
11. Beech, Olive Ann: articles and photocopies of articles; photocopy of picture
12. Berndt, Lydia: newspaper article cut-out
13. Bixby, Dianna: article about her death
14. Black, Gertrude: Lockheed-Vega Employee’s Victory Committee certificate
15. Bonney, Dolores: newspaper article cut-out
16. Borden, Sylvia: article on her parachuting
17. Bowman, Leslie and Martie: newspaper article on sisters
18. Boyer, Lilian: many newspaper articles, photograph, biosographies, autographed flyers
19. Breckenridge (De Acosta), Mrs. Henry: article
20. Brick, Kay A.: Aviation Hall of Fame Museum postcard of Kay Brick
22. Broadwick, Georgia “Tiny”: many articles about the first lady parachutist; Ripley’s parachute cartoon drawing of “Tiny” Broadwick from February 24, 1941
23. Bryant, Alys: business card
24. Callaway, Margaret: resumes and letters, All Woman Baja California Air Race program (page 8)
25. Cochran, Jacqueline: (3) 8x10 black & white photos
26. Cuddy, Helen: collection of life stories for Helen Cuddy on her 100th birthday
27. Elder, Ruth: photocopies of pictures
28. Hlavacek, Jane Page: biography of aviation career
29. Hopflinghen-Bergendorf, Frau von: German certificates and documents
30. Hytinen, Mary G.: Ground School graduation certificate
31. Jayne, Barbara Kibbee: articles and letters, membership form, telegraph from Jayne, (9) black & white photos of Jayne and test pilots
32. Kennedy, Kay J.: letters to Bruce Reynolds at the San Diego Aerospace Museum in 1984
33. Keppen, Caroline: letters to and from Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, postcards written to Keppen-Rawlins; passes and forms; letters
34. Lindbergh, Anne Morrow: letters to International Aerospace Hall of Fame
35. Madson, Marie Kovar: hand-written biography
36. Markham, Beryl: original biography article from Aviation News, Jan- Feb 1987 edition
37. McGee, Helen: article about Helen McGee
38. Mock, Jerrie: photocopied articles and pictures
39. Moffatt, Virginia: Stanavo Pilot's handbook; class log book with signatures; WASP poster booklet; composition book with handwriting; original Private Pilot's license; restricted radio telephone operator permit; Private Fliers Association membership identification; (2) black & white photos
40. Myrland, Isabel: original Airman identification card, pilot's license and aircraft radio-telephone operator authorization
41. Nichols, Ruth: photocopy of pictures and biography
42. Nickerson, Ada: Honorary Life Member certificate for the Space and Flight Equipment Association
43. O'Donnell, Gladys: photocopies of pictures
44. Omelie, Phoebe: Biography of Omelie written and donated by Jane Stevens, along with photocopies of articles and pictures of Omelie
45. Pellegrino, Ann H.: letters, and their photocopied articles, between Mrs. Pellegrino and Bruce Reynolds concerning donations to the museum; photocopies of pictures
46. Penfield, Phyllis Goddard: letters between Penfield and Mr. Lesley Forden regarding the Dole Air Race
47. Quimby, Harriet: photocopies of articles on Quimby's biography and achievements
48. Rinehart, Terry London: 1978 Working Woman magazine donated by Terry L. Rinehart with article about her on page 33; letter from a child written to Terry London Rinehart; notes written by Rinehart on Whirly-Girls paper; brochure for the University of Colorado flying hot air balloons; copy of Whirly-Girls article of Terry London Rinehart, Terry London Rinehart's resume
49. Ross, Polly Potter: small biography
50. Sanders, Dottie: San Diego Aerospace Museum certificate; 99's certificate of appreciation; Christmas photo card
51. Smith, Joan Merriam: petition to honor Amelia Earhart and Joan Merriam Smith as two aero pioneers to give them an Earhart-Merriam Aviation Day on May 12th
52. Spring, Priscilla "Tory": American Airlines employee identification
53. Trout, Bobbi: autographed letters
54. Wagner, Judy: biography photocopy and (1) 8x10 color photo

End of Box Listing

Drawer Listing

Series III: Cabinet in Basement
Drawer 1
1. 99’s Membership Directories from 1973 to 2005
4. Powder Puff Derby commemorative album
5. The Ninety-Nines international convention booklet from August 1983
6. Programs and pictures for the San Diego chapter of the 99’s
7. Betty Wharton folder: Powder Puff Derby ribbons, postcards, brochures, maps, newspaper clippings about Powder Puff Derby, the 99’s, Palms and Pines race, and “The San Diego Union”

Drawer 2
1. Folders with Women’s Air Races and Powder Puff Derby newspapers and programs
2. Folders filled with photocopies of pictures, newspaper clippings and programs on the 99’s, Air Races, military female pilots, airline pilots, WWII-WASPs
3. Binder from Betty Wharton with All Women’s Transcontinental Air Races (AWTAR) pictures: (65) photocopies and (2) photos of the 50th Annual Powder Puff Derby in Palm Springs, 1997

Drawer 3
1. Memorabilia from San Diego 99, Clara Aldridge: Powder Puff Derby and Air Races programs, along with newspaper clippings
2. Flight Service map
3. Betty Gillies plaque
4. (1) photo on foam of Melba Beard
5. Bobbi Trout’s Pilot’s Handbook
6. (1) large photo in cylinder of 99’s in Culver City, CA airport donated by Melba Beard: “largest group of women pilots pictured”
7. (2) large photos in cylinder of 1942 Newsday on Women Fliers and Roosevelt Field, donated by Barbara Jayne

Drawer 4

Folders found in this drawer are not listed; I was not sure if they belonged to the Women of Flight collection

End of Drawer Listing