Finding Aid for

EDWARD F. SCHLEE AND WILLIAM S. BROCK COLLECTION
Accession 68.160

Finding Aid Published: April 2011
OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
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Dearborn, MI  48124-5029
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 68.160


TITLE: Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1923-1964

QUANTITY: 1.7 linear ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: In 1927 Edward Schlee and William Brock attempted to fly around the world in a monoplane, "Pride of Detroit." The collection consists primarily of records concerning the around the world flight, and includes correspondence, news clippings, and photographs.
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The collection is open for research.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).

ACQUISITION: The records of Edward Schlee and William Brock were donated to The Henry Ford by Edward Schlee's brother, Harry, in 1967 and 1968.

RELATED MATERIAL: Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- Schlee and Brock’s plane, the “Pride of Detroit,” is part of the collections of The Henry Ford.

PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 68.160, Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Original inventory prepared by Benson Ford Research Center staff.
HISTORICAL NOTE

On August 26, 1927 Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock left Ford Airport in Dearborn, Michigan to begin a historic around the world flight in a monoplane christened the "Pride of Detroit." However, poor weather conditions and hundreds of pleas from friends and relatives convinced the two flyers to prematurely end their "globe girdling" flight in Japan on September 15, 1927. Despite their unrealized goal, Schlee and Brock continued to draw the attention of the American public with a string of other record setting flights where they established new cross-country speed records.

William Stewart Brock (1896-1932) was the pilot for the "Pride of Detroit." Brock learned to fly at the age of 16 and employed his aviation skills training army pilots during World War I. After the war, Brock became involved in aerial stunt shows, and in 1925 moved to Detroit to fly mail in the newly developing business of air mail delivery. It was in Detroit that William Brock became acquainted with oilman Edward Schlee. Together they organized the Wayco Air Service and began planning the world flight for the "Pride of Detroit." With the completion of the first part of that journey, Brock became the only pilot other than Charles A. Lindbergh to fly to a predetermined destination in an all eastward Atlantic crossing prior to 1932.

Edward F. Schlee (1887-1969) was a native of Detroit. After studying business at Wesleyan College, Schlee spent 4 years in the Cadillac plant, and then worked at Liberty Motors as a parts buyer during World War I. After the war, Schlee, along with his three brothers, formed the Wayco Oil Company. In addition to distributing oil, they also sold planes for Eddie Stinson of the Stinson Aircraft Corporation. The profits made in the family oil business enabled Edward Schlee to provide the $100,000 required for the around the world flight attempt. In 1928, Schlee sold Wayco Oil, investing his profits in several aviation related ventures, including the Schlee Brock Aircraft Corporation he formed with William Brock. The fledgling corporations failed to withstand the economic pressures of the Depression.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Schlee and Brock series consists of correspondence, photographs, news clippings and printed material relating to Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock, their aviation activities and business ventures. The majority of the records concern their attempted around the world flight in 1927.

The General Aviation History series contains news clippings, photographs and other material relating to other aviators and aviation events. Included in the series is information on Edward Rickenbacker, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Richard E. Byrd and Douglas Corrigan.
ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged in two series:

Series I: Schlee and Brock
Series II: General Aviation History

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate
Wayco Air Service.
Schlee-Brock Aircraft Corporation.
Wayco Oil Company.

Subjects
Air pilots--United States
Aeronautics--United States--History.

Genre and Form
Clippings
Photographs
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   Historic Flights, photographs, circa 1925
   Military, photographs, circa 1925
   Monoplanes, photographs, circa 1925
   Tri-Motors, circa 1925
Airport Blueprint, Plans, 5 April 1927
Boyer, Lillian
   News clippings, 1924
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Bremen Flight; News Clippings, April-May 1928
Chamberlin, Clarence D.; News Clippings, 1927
Corrigan, Douglas; News Clippings, 1938
Coste - LeBrix; News Clippings, 5 March 1928
Detroit Center of Aviation; News Clippings, 1927, 1928, 1930
Detroit National Air Show; News Clippings, 1928-1931, 1935

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Japan-Aviation; News Clippings, September 1927
Heath, Mary; Pamphlet, Photograph, undated
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Lowenstein-Wertheim, Princess; News Clippings, 1927
Macintosh, Capt.; News Clippings, 1927
McQueen, Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant; News Clippings, 1929
National Aeronautic Association; Resolution, 1927
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   Check-over sheet, 1928
   News Clippings, June-July 1927, 1928
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"Old Glory"; News Clippings, undated
Omlie, Mrs. Phoebe; News Clippings, 1931
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Pittsburgh Air Show; Mar., 1929
Rickenbacker, Capt. Edward; News Clippings, 1929
Stinson, "Eddie"; News Clippings, undated
Von Mach, Mary; News Clippings, undated
Woolson, Lionel M.; News Clippings, 1931
Women Aviators; Cartoons, 23 October 1927, 23 April 1930
Women's Aviation Organizations; Ballots, News Clippings, Program, 1928-1930
Wright Brothers; News Clippings, 1934
Wright Field; Dedications Program, 1927

Box 6 Oversize
Brock, Wm.; Photographs, circa 1913-1920
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Citation from Detroit Common Council, 1927
Newspaper, Detroit Free Press, March 4, 1927, “World Flight…” (Catalog number 68.160.38)
Photograph of Notable People, 1927
Portrait of an Associate--"Dick", circa 1928
Souvenir Piece of "Pride of Detroit" Airplane, 1927
Souvenir Banners--"Pride of Detroit", circa 1927
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Box 7
Edward Schlee - William Brock
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