



University Libraries Special Collections & University Archives

Marvin J. "Jerry" Gordon Papers

Collection Summary

Title:	Marvin J. "Jerry" Gordon Papers
Call Number:	MS 2017-11
Size:	3.5 linear feet (5 boxes)
Acquisition:	Donated by Mrs. Marvin J. Gordon, 8-2001
Processed by:	JZ, 10-2016
Restrictions:	Box 5 is restricted.

Literary Rights

Literary rights were not granted to Wichita State University. When permission is granted to examine manuscripts, it is not an authorization to publish them. Manuscripts cannot be used for publication without regard for common law literary rights, copyright laws and the laws of libel. It is the responsibility of the researcher and his/her publisher to obtain permission to publish. Scholars and students who eventually plan to have their work published are urged to make inquiry regarding overall restrictions on publication before initial research.

Content Note

This collection contains the papers of aeronautical engineer Marvin J. "Jerry" Gordon, who worked primarily at Beech and Boeing from 1940 through 1982. Record types include correspondence, technical reports, notes, press clippings, promotional material, corporate publications, and images.

Biography

Marvin Jerome "Jerry" Gordon was born on March 16, 1916, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As a youth he enjoyed making and flying gliders. Gordon attended the University of Oklahoma and then New York University, graduating in 1938 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He then worked for DuBois Aircraft and Equipment Corporation and Grumman Aircraft Corporation before joining Beech in August 1940. Gordon contributed significantly to the design and postwar production of the Beech Bonanza, the company's most enduring airplane, while rising through the engineering ranks to become chief of aerodynamics and preliminary design in 1954, and then manager of commercial engineering in 1960. He also taught aeronautical engineering as a part-time instructor at the University of Wichita during the 1940s and 1950s.

After splitting with Beech in 1965, Gordon worked for Boeing on its Supersonic Transport program before becoming director of product planning at Aero Commander in 1966. Following this stint, he returned to Boeing, where he was the engineering manager for the company's modification center until retiring in 1982. Gordon was inducted into the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame in 1999. He died in Wichita on February 27, 2000, survived by his widow Vee Shawver Gordon.

Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1 FF 1-15, Box 5	Personal. This series contains personal and educational material relating to Jerry Gordon, 1936-1972. Items include academic transcripts, coursework, correspondence, records on aircraft owned by Gordon, and professional certificates. Material is arranged by subject.
Series 2	Box 1 FF 16-Box 3 FF 9	Engineering. This series contains correspondence, technical reports, press clippings, promotional material, corporate publications, speeches, and images documenting Jerry Gordon's career in aeronautical engineering, 1939-1966. Material is arranged chronologically by company name and then by subject.
Series 3	Box 3 FF 10-Box 4	Images and Press Material. This series contains clippings and images of Jerry Gordon, associates (including Danny Kaye visiting Beech), and various aircraft, 1947-1966. Some collected press material is included in this series.

Box and Folder Listing

Series 1 – Personal

Box 1	FF 1	Academic papers and transcripts, 1936, n.d.
Box 1	FF 2	Airplane calculators, charts, computers, and tables, 1938-1960, n.d.
Box 1	FF 3	Airplane Design (textbook), 1937
Box 1	FF 4	Clippings on Gordon and associates, 1939-1972
Box 1	FF 5	Correspondence, 1936-1963
Box 1	FF 6	Correspondence with Gordon family, 1951-1952, n.d.
Box 1	FF 7	Flight test course at the University of Wichita, 1947-1951, n.d.
Box 1	FF 8	Flying history of Jerry Gordon, 1946-1963, n.d.
Box 1	FF 9	Gliders, 1941-1945, n.d.
Box 5	FF 1	Medical records, 1962-1964
Box 1	FF 10	Other courses taught by Gordon, 1940s
Box 1	FF 11	Other personal records of Gordon, 1939-1940, n.d.
Box 1	FF 12	Piper PA-12, 1947-1949, n.d.

Box 1	FF 13	Pilot and professional certificates, 1939-1963
Box 1	FF 14	Taylorcraft BL-12, 1940-1946, n.d.
Box 1	FF 15	U.S. Army Officers' Reserve Corps, 1936-1942

Series 2 – Engineering

Box 1	FF 16	Dubois Aviation, 1939-1940, n.d.
Box 1	FF 17	Beech – Aerodynamics binder (1 of 2), 1945-1960
Box 1	FF 18	Beech – Aerodynamics binder (2 of 2), 1945-1960
Box 1	FF 19	Beech – Aerodynamics reports for Models A11 and C35, 1946, 1951
Box 1	FF 20	Beech – Beech Bonanza 35 Shop Manual, 1965
Box 1	FF 21	Beech – Beech Bonanza material, 1946-1951, n.d.
Box 1	FF 22	Beech – Brochures and sales sheets, 1946-1962
Box 1	FF 23	Beech – Correspondence, 1940-1964
Box 1	FF 24	Beech – Engineering department reorganization, 1960-1963
Box 1	FF 25	Beech – France trip, 1960
Box 1	FF 26	Beech – King Air Pilot's Operating Manual, 1964
Box 1	FF 27	Beech – King Air Shop Manual, 1964
Box 2	FF 1	Beech – Model 50 Twin Bonanza flight manual, 1951
Box 2	FF 2	Beech – Model PD66-5-9 Multi-Engine Utility Transport, 1954
Box 2	FF 3	Beech – NAA altitude record, 1947-1960
Box 2	FF 4	Beech – Notebook, 1948-1950
Box 2	FF 5	Beech – Other, 1941-1964
Box 2	FF 6	Beech – Pat Boling's flight across the Pacific, 1958
Box 2	FF 7	Beech – Rhein-Flugzeubau, 1956-1958
Box 2	FF 8	Beech – Sales Development Program binder (1 of 2), 1950s
Box 2	FF 9	Beech – Sales Development Program binder (2 of 2), 1950s
Box 2	FF 10	Beech – "Weight and Balance: Why Bother?" (article for AOPA Pilot), 1961-1962, n.d.
Box 2	FF 11	Boeing – Boeing Management Association album, 1965
Box 2	FF 12	Boeing – Memos by Gordon, 1965-1966
Box 2	FF 13	Boeing – Notebook for meetings, 1965-1966
Box 2	FF 14	Boeing – Related articles and reports, 1964-1966
Box 2	FF 15	Boeing – Reliability documents, 1965

Box 2	FF 16	Boeing – Reliability reports and correspondence (1 of 2), 1959-1966
Box 2	FF 17	Boeing – Reliability reports and correspondence (2 of 2), 1959-1966
Box 2	FF 18	Boeing – Travel expense reports, 1965
Box 2	FF 19	Boeing – Value engineering, 1962-1966
Box 2	FF 20	Aero Commander – Brochures and comparative data for competitors (1 of 2), 1965-1966
Box 2	FF 21	Aero Commander – Brochures and comparative data for competitors (2 of 2), 1965-1966
Box 2	FF 22	Aero Commander – Correspondence, 1966
Box 2	FF 23	Aero Commander – Expense reports, 1966
Box 2	FF 24	Aero Commander – Forms, 1966
Box 2	FF 25	Aero Commander – Progress reports, 1966
Box 3	FF 1	American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1963, 1965
Box 3	FF 2	Articles, 1947-1966, n.d.
Box 3	FF 3	FAA list of designated engineering representatives, 1965
Box 3	FF 4	Other, 1948-1964, n.d.
Box 3	FF 5	Press clippings on aviation, 1948-1964
Box 3	FF 6	Promotional material for aviation companies, 1946-1964
Box 3	FF 7	Reports and drawings, 1939-1942, n.d.
Box 3	FF 8	Society of Automotive Engineers, 1947, 1965-1966
Box 3	FF 9	Speeches, 1947-1948, 1958, 1960-1963, n.d.

Series 3 – Images and Press Material

Box 3	FF 10	Negatives, 1951, 1959, n.d.
Box 3	FF 11	Photographs (1 of 2), 1950s-1960s
Box 4	FF 1	Photographs (2 of 2), 1950s-1960s
Box 4	FF 2	Photographs – Beech aircraft, 1951, n.d.
Box 4	FF 3	Photographs – Wright Air Force Base, 1961

For information, please contact us at:

[Special Collections and University Archives](#)

Wichita State University Libraries

1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260-0068

E-mail: specialcollections@wichita.edu

Telephone: 316-978-3590