



Wichita State University Libraries
Special Collections and University Archives

Wichita State University Football Team Airplane Crash Collection

Collection Summary

Title:	Wichita State University Football Team Airplane Crash Collection
Call Number:	MS 87-11
Size:	9.0 linear feet
Acquisition:	Donated by the WSU Office of Information and Public Events
Processed By:	LTM, JEO, 12-14-1986; Reprocessed by: JEF, 9-22-1998; Additional Materials Added by JLY: 06-2007
Note:	None
Restrictions:	Some materials in Box 8 are restricted.

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Restrictions

Some materials in Box 8 are restricted.

Content Note

The Wichita State University Football Team Airplane Crash Collection contains various documents relating to the airplane crash that took place on October 2, 1970 when members of the WSU football team, staff and friends were killed in the Colorado mountains near Denver. This collection contains newspaper articles, news releases, correspondence, and audio tapes of the Federal Hearing investigating the event and of the Memorial and Dedication Services for those who died in the crash.

Detailed Description: Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1	News releases and correspondence relating to the Wichita State University football team airplane crash, October 2,
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1970.

Series 2	Box 2 and 2A	Audio tapes from the Federal Hearings related to the Wichita State University football team airplane crash dated October 22-24, 1970.
Series 3	Box 3 and 4	Printed materials relating to the Wichita State University football team airplane crash. Includes news releases, correspondence, and photographs from the Memorial of 1970 as well as the 20th Memorial Remembrance. Also includes various news clippings, correspondence, notes, and papers relating to the crash.
Series 4	Box 5	Contains 24 cassette tapes that are duplicate copies of the reels in Box 2.
Series 5	Box 6	Oversized. This series contains oversized items including photographs, resolutions and a sympathy card from a local elementary school.
Series 6	Box 7 FF 1-47	Clippings. This series contains both original and photocopied articles written about the crash. Dates range from 1970 to 2000.
Series 7	Box 7 FF 48	Correspondence. This series contains correspondence from others expressing their condolences to WSU.
Series 8	Box 7 FF 49-51	Memorial Plaque. This series contains material relating to the memorial plaque placed in the College Football Hall of Fame. The series contains correspondence, drawings, expense reports, and notes.
Series 9	Box 7 FF 52-56	Photographs. This series contains photographs of the 25th Commemoration of the crash; the crash site in 1990, 1995 and 1997.
Series 10	Box 8 and 9	Miscellany. Includes materials added after the initial processing was completed, including Restricted materials documenting Memorial Scholarships, a recording of audio/radio segments concerning the crash, and a piece of the plane.

Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

Series 1 – News Releases/Correspondence

Box 1	FF 1	Official program of the WSU football team vs. Arkansas State University prior to the accident, September 19, 1970.
Box 1	FF 2	News releases and other correspondence relating to the surviving and deceased WSU football players, staff and friends dated from October 2 to November 9, 1970.

Box 1	FF 3	“An Expression of Sorrow,” memorial service dated October 5, 1970. Includes service programs, transcript of president Ahlberg’s statements, photographs, planning materials, and an audio cassette.
Box 1	FF 4	<i>The Sunflower</i> , WSU student newspaper, regarding the Football 1970 memorial concert dated October 20, 1970 and the official program of the WSU Basketball Team vs. Bradley University dated February 4, 1971 regarding the memorial page (page 4) honoring the WSU football team crash victims.
Box 1	FF 5	Information concerning the deceased WSU football players, staff, and friends, 1970.
Box 1	FF 6	Press Releases, acid free photocopies of loose newspaper clippings relating to the hearings into the course of the WSU football team airplane crash, Golden Eagle, and suits filed. Folder also includes an Outline of Public Hearing and an aircraft accident report, March 3, 1971.
Box 1	FF 7	Original issue and photocopied article from <i>Sports Illustrated</i> , October 19, 1970, relating to the WSU football team airplane crash and a photocopied letter to Clem Work of the Rocky Mountain News from C. Eugene Schneider, June 29, 1971, discussing Schneider’s complaint of Work’s use of sensationalism in his article about the WSU plane crash.
Box 1	FF 8	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings relating to the airplane crash dated October 3 to November 10, 1970.
Box 1	FF 8A	Acid free photocopies of clippings in Box 1 FF 8.
Box 1	FF 9	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings relating to the airplane crash dated October 3 to November 12, 1970.
Box 1	FF 9A	Acid free photocopies of clippings in Box 1 FF 9.
Box 1	FF 10	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings relating to the airplane crash dated October 11, 1970 to March 26, 1971.
Box 1	FF 10A	Acid free photocopies of clippings in Box 1 FF 10.
Box 1	FF 11	General correspondence relating to the WSU football team airplane crash.

Series 2 – Audio Reels

Box 2	Reel 1	Air crash investigation and testimony of Arch Stephen.
Box 2	Reel 2	Air crash investigation ending with testimony from pilot Ron Skipper.
Box 2	Reel 3	Air crash investigation and testimony from Ron Skipper.
Box 2	Reel 4	Federal Hearings, October 22, 1970, conducted on the 1970 airplane crash of the WSU Football Team.
Box 2	Reel 5	Federal Hearings, October 22 and 23, 1970, conducted on the 1970 airplane crash of the football team, including testimony heard from Danielson.

Box 2	Reel 6	Federal Hearings, continued.
Box 2	Reel 7	Federal Hearings, October 23, 1970, conducted on the 1970 Airplane crash of the WSU football team.
Box 2A	Reel 8	Federal Hearings, October 24, 1970, conducted on the 1970 Airplane crash of the WSU football team.
Box 2A	Reel 9	Federal Hearings, October 24, 1970, conducted on the 1970 Airplane crash of the WSU football team.
Box 2A	Reel 10	Federal Hearings, October 23, 1970, conducted on the 1970 Airplane crash of the WSU football team.
Box 2A	Reel 11	Memorial Service for the victims of 1970 WSU football airplane crash held October 3, 1971 at Outdoor Theatre, Duerksen Fine Arts Center, 4:00 p.m., recorded by the Theatre Services Department at WSU.
Box 2A	Reel 12	Dedication Ceremony, Airplane Crash Memorial, held November 28, 1971 at Wilner Auditorium, 2:00 p.m. Recorded by the Theatre Services Department at WSU.
Box 2A	Reel 13	Press conference in the Campus Activities Center, Wichita State University, October 9, 1970, part I.
Box 2A	Reel 14	Press conference in the Campus Activities Center, Wichita State University, October 9, 1970, part II.
Box 2A	Reel 15	Press Conference, October 11, 1970.
Box 2A	Reel 16	Football Memorial Service, Cessna stadium, October 5, 1970.
Box 3	FF 1	Materials used in 20th anniversary of the Memorial '70 Remembrance. Two cassette tapes, one video tape, programs, newspaper article and some snapshots, 1990.
Box 3	FF 1A	Correspondence concerning the 20th anniversary of the Memorial '70 Remembrance, 1990
Box 3	FF 1B	Correspondence, news releases, program details, and photocopies of newspaper clippings concerning observances of the Memorial '70 Remembrances in 1971, 1972, 1976, and 1990 - 1995. The folder also includes an audio cassette from the 1972 service.
Box 3	FF 2	Business card of Stuart L. Boulter, Administrator at St. Anthony Hospital in Denver, Colorado, where some of the injured passengers were taken.

Series 3 – Miscellaneous Materials

Box 4	FF 1	Copy of Marshall University's newspaper, <i>The Parthenon</i> , dated Wednesday, November 18, 1970, dedicated to Marshall University football team's plane crash and correspondence between Dr. Rhatigan and Marshall University, December 1970.
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Box 4	FF 2	Correspondence, bulletins, news clippings, and reprints of articles by the National Traffic Safety Board regarding the WSU football plane crash.
Box 4	FF 3	Monty Hall -- Dinner. Correspondence regarding the dinner, a list of guests, and an "In Memoriam" list.
Box 4	FF 4	News Clippings: August 15, 1978; September 27, 1978; October 2, 1978; and November 23, 1971. Clippings from the Kansas Press Service concerning plane crash claims and the crash memorial.
Box 4	FF 5	Night of Stars, 1971. News bureau releases regarding "Night of Stars" program, correspondence, notes, patrons cards, and acid free newspaper copies of loose news clippings concerning the event. Also included in this file are photographs of performers at the "Night of Stars."
Box 4	FF 6	Press Releases. News releases from WSU and others, correspondence, letters of sympathy, and letters promising financial assistance.
Box 4	FF 7	Memorial Dedication, November 28, 1970. Correspondence regarding the memorial, lists of people attending, programs, and photographs of memorial and dedication.
Box 4	FF 8	Memorial, 1970. <i>WSU News</i> bulletins, photographs of memorial and dedication ceremony programs.
Box 4	FF 9	Historical Memorial, 1970. Correspondence regarding the memorial on campus.
Box 4	FF 10	Memorial Fund. Reports, news releases, correspondence, acid free photocopies of loose newspaper clippings, and financial statements concerning the funding for the football crash memorial.
Box 4	FF 11	Memorial Fund. Correspondence, contributions, news clippings and notes regarding payments on the memorial fund.
Box 4	FF 11A	Memorial Fund. Correspondence from contributors forwarded to WSU by Fourth National Bank, 1970-1971.
Box 4	FF 12	Memorial Subcommittee. Correspondence, bulletins, and news clippings regarding the efforts to build the memorial.
Box 4	FF 13	Condolences. Cards, telegrams, and correspondence expressing grief and sympathy concerning the WSU football team crash.
Box 4	FF 13A	Condolences. Original letters of condolence sent to Dr. James Rhatigan, Vice President for Student Affairs, from other colleges and universities, with copies of Dr. Rhatigan's replies.
Box 4	FF 13B	Copies of letters sent to the injured players and the families of the deceased. The original letters were accompanied by signatures and personal notes from the WSU community.
Box 4	FF 14	Robinson, Eugene. Correspondence, news clippings, notes and other materials concerning the funeral of Eugene Robinson, a WSU football player.

Box 4	FF 14A	Johnson, Ron. Memorial booklet.
Box 4	FF 14B	Funeral service programs.
Box 4	FF 15	Photographs - Plane Crash, October 2, 1970. Photographs of the plane crash site, victims of the crash, the Safety Board proceedings, and the memorial services honoring those killed in the plane crash.
Box 4	FF 16	October's Four Days By R. Doug Lewis. (R. Doug Lewis' personal account of the WSU tragedy.)
Box 4	FF 16A	Poem "In Memory of Gene."
Box 4	FF 16B	Framed untitled poem.
Box 4	FF 17	Western Editors Conference. Correspondence, and schedules of events regarding presentation of football team crash given by R. Doug Lewis at Conference.
Box 4	FF 18	<i>Wichita Eagle and Beacon</i> - Crash 1970. Newspaper clippings, including <i>The Sunflower</i> , <i>Wichita State News</i> , and <i>Midway</i> , regarding the plane crash, the memorial, and follow-up stories on the victim's families.
Box 4	FF 19	Crash Notes - Schaible. News clippings, correspondence, a WSU football roster and various notes regarding the plane crash.
Box 4	FF 20	Memorial Scholarships. Correspondence, financial aid transcripts, policies and procedures of memorial scholarship funds. Materials moved to Box 8.
Box 4	FF 21	Football Program - Second Season- Gold Fever Day. Press Releases, drafts of transcripts for Pre-Game Ceremonies and announcements, transcripts for promotional announcements, schedule of pre-game ceremonies, information regarding ticket sales, acid free photocopies of loose clippings, and news releases concerning the first game played at home after the plane crash, WSU v. Cincinnati October 31, 1970.
Box 4	FF 22	Football Program - Second Season- Acid free photocopies of loose newspaper clippings concerning Wichita State football after the crash.

Series 4 – Audio Cassettes

Box 5	Contains 24 cassette tapes that are duplicated copies of the reels in Box 2, reels 1-14; contents described previously in this finding aid.
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Series 5 – Oversized

Box 6	Black and white photographs: (19-1/2 x 13-1/2) electrical cords; (19-1/2 x 16) presentation during memorial service; (15-1/2 x 19-1/2) closeup of unidentified person during memorial service; (19-1/2 x 15-1/2): 5 men walking on football field for memorial service; men on field for memorial service; closeup of people during memorial service; blurred view over unidentified persons shoulder; (20 x 16) 5 picture collage includes on field events during memorial service; (20 x 16) 4 picture collage of memorial service, mostly crowd shots; (20 x 14-1/2) 6 picture collage of football
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facilities, flags at half staff; (14 x 15-1/2) crowd in stadium during memorial service; Black and white photographs (13-1/2 x 10-1/2): bundled copies of *Sunflower* with crash article; unidentified people during memorial service (3); view of sky above football field; wreath, podium, and chairs on field for memorial service; football helmet and cleats on ground; presentation on football field with players standing behind, 2 have crutches; Color photograph (9-1/2 x 14) of WSU memorial; (14 x 12) editorial sketch of a man labeled "Sports World" bowing his head over a wreath, the tail of an air plane and a WSU football helmet, drawn by artist from *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*; Black and white (20-1/2 x 9) line leading into football stadium; 2 (12 x 17) Resolution from Miami, Florida to express grief, signed by Mayor of Miami, October 1970; 2 black and white (8 x 10) photographs of Miami City Commission with a letter from the mayor; (17-1/2 x 12-1/2) card made by the Ingalls Elementary School Physical Education Department, card is signed by teachers and students, (8 x 10) black and white photo of Barbara Grayson, PE Teacher, Carl Tucker, 6th grade student, presenting card to Dr. Ahlberg; (8 x 10) black and white photo of Carl Tucker with Dr. Ahlberg.

Series 6 – Clippings

Box 7	FF 1	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle and Beacon</i> , October 3, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 2	Clipping: <i>The Telegraph-Journal</i> (Saint John, N.B.), October 3, 1970, original and photocopy.
Box 7	FF 3	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 5, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 4	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 7, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 5	Clipping: <i>Wichita Beacon</i> , October 8, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 6	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 8, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 7	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 9, 1970, original and photocopies.
Box 7	FF 8	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 9, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 9	Clipping: <i>Wichita Beacon</i> , October 9, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 10	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 10, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 11	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle and Beacon</i> , October 10, 1970.
Box 7	FF 12	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle and Beacon</i> , October 11, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 13	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 13, 1970, original and photocopies.
Box 7	FF 14	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 14, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 15	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 16, 1970, original and photocopies.
Box 7	FF 16	Clipping: <i>Sports Illustrated</i> , October 17, 1970, photocopies.

Box 7	FF 17	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 20, 1970, original and photocopies.
Box 7	FF 18	Clipping: <i>Wichita Beacon</i> , October 22, 1970, originals.
Box 7	FF 19	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 23, 1970, original and photocopies.
Box 7	FF 20	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 23, 1970, originals.
Box 7	FF 21	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle and Beacon</i> , October 24, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 22	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 25, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 23	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 30, 1970, original and photocopies.
Box 7	FF 24	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 30, 1970, photocopies.
Box 7	FF 25	Clipping: <i>Wichita Beacon</i> , October 30, 1970, original.
Box 7	FF 26	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle and Beacon</i> , November 1, 1970, original and photocopies.
Box 7	FF 27	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , November 9, 1970, original and photocopy.
Box 7	FF 28	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , November 23, 1970, original and photocopy.
Box 7	FF 29	Clipping: <i>National Transportation Safety Board</i> , March 3, 1971, photocopy.
Box 7	FF 29A	Clipping: unidentified source, June 25 or 26(?), 1971, photocopy.
Box 7	FF 30	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 7, 1977, original and photocopy.
Box 7	FF 31	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle and Beacon</i> , September 27, 1980, original.
Box 7	FF 32	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 3, 1980, original.
Box 7	FF 33	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 4, 1980, original.
Box 7	FF 34	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , September 30, 1990, original.
Box 7	FF 35	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , September 26, 1991, original.
Box 7	FF 36	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 3, 1991, original.
Box 7	FF 37	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 4, 1994, original.
Box 7	FF 38	Clipping: <i>The Sunflower</i> , October 2, 1995, original.
Box 7	FF 39	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 3, 1995, original.
Box 7	FF 40	Clipping: <i>South Bend Tribune</i> , May 2, 1998, originals.
Box 7	FF 41	Clipping: <i>Colorado Heritage</i> , Winter 1998, original.
Box 7	FF 42	Clipping: <i>Westword</i> , October 1-7, 1998, photocopy.

Box 7	FF 43	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , October 1, 2000, original.
Box 7	FF 43A	Clipping: <i>Denver Rocky Mountain News</i> , October 1, 2000, photocopy.
Box 7	FF 44	Clipping: <i>Wichita Eagle</i> , no date, original.
Box 7	FF 45	Clipping: <i>Wreckchasing 2</i> , 1993, photocopy.
Box 7	FF 46	KAKE TV "Night of Stars" finding aid.
Box 7	FF 47	Screenplay: "Second Season" written by Robert J. Kerr, 1995.

Series 7 – Correspondence

Box 7	FF 48	Correspondence/Condolences: Proclamation from city of Wichita, October 5, 1970; Resolution from Arkansas, October 22, 1970; correspondence expressing grief; telegram from Richard Nixon.
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Series 8 – Memorial Plaque

Box 7	FF 49	Correspondence: Correspondence related to the memorial plaque in the College Football Hall of Fame.
Box 7	FF 50	Expense: Documents relating to the expense of the memorial plaque placed in the College Football Hall of Fame.
Box 7	FF 51	Plans/Notes: Drawings and notes relating to the memorial plaque placed in the College Football Hall of Fame.

Series 9 – Photographs

Box 7	FF 52	Black and White 8 x 10: (15) photos taken during 25th Commemoration of crash, October 2, 1995.
Box 7	FF 53	Color snapshots: (12) snapshots (and negatives) taken of the memorial plaque in Colorado, October 2, 1990.
Box 7	FF 54	Color snapshots: (6) snapshots taken of the memorial plaque in Colorado. Photos were taken by Joseph Garrett, Jr on 25th Anniversary of crash, October 2, 1995.
Box 7	FF 55	Color snapshots: (6) snapshots taken of crash site and plaque in Colorado. Photos were taken by Tom DePetro, WSU Aviation/Engineering Librarian, 1997.
Box 7	FF 56	Color snapshot: 7 x 5, Kay McNeil, Bill Burch, Don Pankratz, and Bob Hayes holding drawings, November 22, 1970.
Box 7	FF 57	Color 8 x 8: (2) photos of crash site taken July 3, 1971.

Series 10 – Miscellany

Box 8	FF 1	Memorial scholarships.. See Special Collections staff. Includes contents of Box 4 FF 20
Box 8	FF 2	Memorial scholarships. RESTRICTED. See Special Collections staff.
Box 9	FF 1	Audio compilation (cassette and CD) of audio/radio segments concerning the crash. Also includes a content log of the recording.
Box 9	FF 2	Publication– <i>1970 Profile of a Season</i> .
Box 9	FF 2	Piece of the plane.

For information, please contact us at:

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