Alys McKey Bryant Papers

Collection Summary

Title: Alys McKey Bryant Papers
Call Number: MS 87-02
Size: 4.5 linear feet
Acquisition: Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum, June 1983
Processed By: DM, 8-1986; JEF, 12-12-1997; MN, 9-28-2009
Note: None
Restrictions: None

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Restrictions

None

Content Note

The Alys McKey Bryant collection contains her correspondence, photographs, slides, clippings and memorabilia. Included in the collection are copies of her memoir, "Born With Wings, Wings of a Lady Early Bird," which gives a detailed look into her life and times. A detailed inventory of the items in this collection is available.

Biography

Alys McKey, born in 1880 on an Indiana farm, took up flying in Los Angeles in 1912 and became a member of Early Bird Association. She soon married John Milton Bryant, and together they became popular aviators. An expert pilot, Bryant was the first woman to fly in Washington, Idaho and Oregon, and in Canada, where she performed for the Prince of Wales and Duke of York. In Seattle, she set a new women's altitude record of 2900 feet. Another of her interests was deep-sea diving. She trained U.S. pilots during World War I. In her sixties
during World War II, she was hired to work for TWA. She died September 6, 1954 at the age of 74.

**Detailed Description: Series Listing**

**Series 1**  
Box 1-Box 1A  
Correspondence and Personal Writings

**Series 2**  
Box 2-Box 5  
Clippings and Scrapbooks

**Series 3**  
Box 6-Box 7  
Photographs

**Series 4**  
Box 8-Box 9  
Miscellaneous

**Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing**

**Series 1 – Correspondence and Personal Writings**

**Box 1**  
**FF 1**  

**Box 1**  
**FF 2**  
Letters and personal writings dated March 23, 1936 to April 22, 1947. Some notable names are John J. McHale, Calbraith Perry Rogers, Orville Wright, etc.

**Box 1**  
**FF 3**  
Poetry by Mrs. Bryant dated January 1, 1932 to September 21, 1937.

**Box 1**  
**FF 4**  
Personal writings written on August 2, 1939. Some items have no dates. This folder contains information on an American women pilot. It also includes her memoir entitled *Born With Wings, Wings of a Lady Early Bird*.

**Box 1**  
**FF 5**  
Continuation of *Born With Wings, Wings of a Lady Early Bird*.

**Box 1**  
**FF 6**  
Continuation of *Born With Wings, Wings of a Lady Early Bird*.

**Box 1**  
**FF 7**  
Miscellaneous items and papers concerning Mrs. Bryant and aviation. Dates listed are from January 3, 1931 to February 26, 1947.

**Box 1A**  
**FF 1**  
Contains a typed duplicate manuscript copy of *Born With Wings, Wings of a Lady Early Bird*, pages 46-313 (incomplete).

**Box 1A**  
**FF 2**  
Contains a typed manuscript of one of Ms. Bryant's writings (incomplete).

**Box 1A**  
**FF 3**  
Contains a duplicate copy of the work in FF 2 (incomplete).

**Box 1A**  
**FF 4**  
Contains miscellaneous typed pages from various writings of Ms. Bryant.

**Box 1A**  
**FF 5**  
Contains miscellaneous typed pages from various writings of Ms. Bryant.

**Series 2 – Clippings and Scrapbooks**
Box 2  FF 1 This folder contains clippings from newspapers and magazines. The time period is 1920-1934. Subjects covered include poetry, news of important people, and events especially news of aviation. Some listed are: American fighters receive honor; Gift of Cherry Trees; Museum gets silk of noted balloon.

Box 2  FF 2 This folder contains clippings from newspapers and magazines. The time period is 1920-1934. Subjects covered include poetry, news of important people, and events especially news of aviation. Some listed are: Deep Stuff (Frank Crilley diver): (Rickenbacker) Holds United States Behind War Aviation; The Adventure of the 7-4; Lusitania Search offers problems; The Coronation of a New Air Queen, U. S. Akron; Phoebe F. Omlie takes over as Special Assistant for Air Intelligence; Frances Harrell Marsalis Breaks Record; Flying Reporter Visiting Here...Flying Grandmother of Off; Women Win Air Goal; Women set New Endurance Mark; Vast Air Fleet on Trade Lines Urged by Vidal; Ladybirds Ready for Endurance Try; D. C. Airwomen Will Organize Chapter Here; Patrol Airways as International Police; Mrs. Borah Settles Debt to Aviation in New Post; Three Women Sworn in as Air Police; Fog Prevents Wright Honors Aerial Display; Ocean Air Trip now Predicted in Ten Hours; First Woman Advisor; Piccard Plans To Take Wife to Stratosphere; Miss Earhart Praises U. S. Stimulation of "Air Madness"; Pioneer "Bird Woman" of 1912 Charts Weather for Aviators; Flying Around the World; A Real Pioneer; Amy Mollison Says Women Should Fly Only for Love of it; Section Chief in Bureau of Standards Enters Air Races and Hopes to fly Pacific; Aviatrix to Direct Airplane Building; Mrs. Alys McKey Bryant to open aviation school.

Box 3 Contains Scrapbook 1 (Black). Dates include February 19, 1937 to February 10, 1946.

Box 3 Contains Scrapbook 2. Dates include March 13, 1913 to June 9, 1945.

Box 4 Contains Album 3. Dates included are from 1912 to December 1914.

Box 5 FF 1 This box contains miscellaneous clippings. Dates included are from November 17, 1916 to September 9, 1954.

Series 3  Photographs

Box 6 FF 1 Contains photos relating to aviation. Includes pictures showing Army Air Service plane with case of model plane and memorabilia of coast to coast flight. One case contains model of Kittyhawk plane. Picture of Lieut. Paul W. Beck and Postmaster General Hitchcock carrying a bag of mail.

Box 6 FF 2 Contains miscellaneous photos of such persons as J. C. (Jim) Welsch, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Frank Bryant, Christofferson, John Milton Bryant. One enlarged photo of Bryant in his plane is located in the oversized collection.

Box 6 FF 3 Contains six or more collections of family pictures. Mrs. Bryant is in some of them. Most unidentified. Also negatives of family pictures and a lock of hair.

Box 6 FF 4 This folder contains pictures of Mrs. Bryant in many poses. Eight poses in deepsea diving gear. Eight poses when she was a welder, 1943-1946. Enlarged picture of her in deep sea diving gear. Large picture of Mrs. Bryant with sign "Wright Aeroplane" used by the United States Army.
1909-1910. Large picture of Mrs. Bryant in dress clothes (This picture is located in the oversized collection).

Box 6 FF 5 Several pictures of Alys Bryant.

Box 7 This box contains many slides of Alys Bryant as well as other slides.

Series 4 – Miscellaneous


Box 8 FF 2 Collection of information on The Early Birds. Cards expressing gratitude to Philatelists of Vancouver. List of members, 1935. Luncheons. Bulletins and circulars. Booklet about the Gallaudet Aviation School. Biographical notes on Thomas Scott Baldwin, a pioneer aeronaut (deceased). Copy of application for membership to The Early Birds. Brochure requesting her presence at The Cleveland Aviation Club. 3 copies of CHIRP. Poem "Spring" by Augustus Post.


Box 8 FF 5 Contains a detailed inventory of items in this collection.

Box 9 Items in this box have been moved to cold storage. For a list (incomplete) of subjects, names and/or places depicted in the negatives refer to Box 8 FF 5.

For information, please contact us at:

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