

MS-333

Huffman Prairie Chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society Records

**Special Collections and Archives
Wright State University Libraries**

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Introduction

The Huffman Prairie Chapter American Aviation Historical Society Records were accessioned in 2004. The collection was generated and donated by the Huffman Prairie Chapter of AAHS, a Dayton area organization of aviation historians and enthusiasts.

MS-333 consists of meeting announcements, newsletters, correspondence, minutes, transcripts and videotapes of program speakers, membership lists and member biographies dating from 1990 to the present. Filling 6 Hollinger boxes (1.5 linear foot of shelf space), the records have been organized as follows:

- Series I: Administrative Papers
- Series II: Meetings
- Series III: Membership
- Series IV: Presentations

There are no restrictions on the use of the Huffman Prairie Chapter AAHS records. Additions to this collection are ongoing.

Organizational History

The Huffman Prairie Chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society was formed in 1990 by several individuals from the Dayton, Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area to share experiences and knowledge of aviation history. Many of the Huffman Prairie Chapter members are veterans, and many have a background in aviation. The national organization of American Aviation Historical Society was founded in 1956 as a non-profit educational organization. The primary objective of the organization is the preservation and dissemination of the rich heritage of American aviation. The membership of the Huffman Prairie Chapter has chosen not to have a constitution, officers, or a formalized structure.

Since its inception, the Huffman Prairie Chapter has maintained close ties and a mutually beneficial relationship with the Special Collections and Archives Department at Wright State University. The organization supports the mission of the archives by volunteering to organize and identify aircraft in aviation collections, and by donating archival materials and aviation books to enrich holdings in the archives. In appreciation, the Archives' staff hosts the monthly chapter meetings in the University's Paul Laurence Dunbar Library on the first Monday of each month and makes arrangements for speakers at the meetings. On occasion the group may take a field trip in place of the meeting. In addition, the archives sends a monthly mailing consisting of a meeting announcement, newsletter, list of upcoming speakers, and a newsletter by Stuart Faber titled "Hangar Flying", which highlights aviation items of interest. The meetings begin with opening remarks and sharing of news items and announcements, followed by an informational program on an aviation-related topic given by a chapter member or guest presenter. Beginning in 2004, speaker presentations were videotaped, and the tapes are included in this collection. The 2005 membership list includes more than 100 names, however attendance at the meetings range on average between 20-45.

It is important to note that during 2006 the chapter voted to sever the association with AAHS, in part to demands of the national organization concerning dues, officers, and meeting organization. The group voted to rename themselves the Huffman Prairie Aviation Historical Society. In 2007, the group is working to develop a logo for the new organization.

Scope and Content Note

The records document the programming of the Huffman Prairie Chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society. The records also include personal and professional information about its members and articles written or published by them.

Series I: The Administrative Papers include the meeting announcements and accompanying newsletters which are mailed to members once a month. The announcements and newsletters are arranged chronologically and consist of a meeting reminder, a newsletter from the Head of Special Collections & Archives at Wright State University, a program schedule of speakers for the upcoming months, and a newsletter by Stuart Faber, a member who compiles aviation items of interest. Also included in this series is correspondence relating to the founding and the activities of the organization, including the decision to disassociate from AAHS and to become a new, independent organization called the Huffman Prairie Aviation Historical Society.

Series II: The Meeting Program Materials document the main activity of the Huffman Prairie Chapter AAHS, its monthly meeting. This series includes attendance sheets, minutes, and transcripts.

Series III: The Membership series includes membership directories, biographies, photographs, and oral histories by and about Huffman Prairie Chapter members.

Series IV: The Presentations series includes mixed media copies of speaker presentations.

Container Listing

Series I		Administrative Papers	
Box	File	Item	Date
1	1	Announcements & Newsletters	1996-2000
	2	Announcements & Newsletters	2001-2002
	3	Announcements & Newsletters	2003
	4	Announcements & Newsletters	2004-2005
	5	Announcements & Newsletters	2006-2007
	6	Announcements & Newsletters	2008
	7	Attendance Sheets	2002-present
	8	Speaker Schedules	1996-present
2	1	Separation from AAHS and name change	2006
	2	Parking information and registration	1997,98,99, 2006
	3	Donation information for collection support	n.d.
	4	Correspondence	1990-present
Series II		Meetings	
Box	File	Item	Date
2	5	Minutes	1990-1996
	6	Presentation transcripts	2001-2005
	7	Red Tail Reborn Event materials	March 2007
	8	Bob Gilliland Event materials	May 2007
	9	Ed Mechenbier Event materials	September 2007
Series III		Membership	
Box	File	Item	Date
3	1	Calling Lists and Directories	1990-2006
	2	Biographies, A-F	2000-
	3	Biographies, Charlie Frey	2000-
	4	Biographies, G-Z	2000-
	5	Oral Histories	2000
	6	Photographs	2001-2007
	7	Photographs, airplane	n.d.
	8	Publications by members	1998-2000
	9	Donations, miscellaneous	1997-
	10	Donations, Harrison "Bud" Golum	2007
Series IV		Presentations	
Box	File	Item	Date
4	1-11	Presentation videotapes	2004-2005
5	1-11	Presentation videotapes	2005-2006
6	1-3	Presentation videotapes	2006-2007