



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0578

Nelda S. Higginbotham (1930-2011) Papers
1952-2009
1 cubic foot, oversize

Papers and artifacts of former Trans World Airlines (TWA) hostess. Includes hostess pins and name tags, public relations photographs, promotional items, an emergency procedures handbook, a framed award, model airplanes.

BIOGRAPHY:

Nelda S. Higginbotham was born December 3, 1930 to James C. and Mabel (Dicken) Higginbotham. She graduated from Panhandle High School in Pampa, Texas. In 1952, Higginbotham went to work for Trans World Airlines, where she worked for the next thirty years.

After retirement from TWA, Higginbotham returned to McKinney, Texas, where she worked for Texas Instruments as a receptionist in the security department for the next 18 years.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Gary Hartley as accession KA1932 on April 29, 2011.

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Specific item; folder number; *Nelda S. Higginbotham (1930-2011) Papers (K0578)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

CONTACT:

The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City
 302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City
 5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
 (816) 235-1543 SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>

DESCRIPTION:

The collection includes hostess pins and name tags, public relations photographs, promotional items, an emergency procedures handbook, a framed award, model airplanes. Donated uniforms were transferred to the Kansas City Museum/Union Station, and the TWA Museum.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

- Folder 1 *TWA issued pins:*
- One Million Mile, “thunderbird” design with emerald
 - One Year, “prop” red with TWA in center
 - Fifteen year, “rocket” with ruby
 - Twenty year, “rocket” with emerald
 - Twenty-five year, “rocket” with diamond
 - Name tag- ground agent
 - Hostess wings 1960-1968 (designed by Raymond Loy, worn with Don Loper uniform)
- Non TWA issued pins:*
- Junior pilots wings (2) (kept in passenger service kits on plane for flight attendants to give to kids)
 - Tie tacks (2), public relations hand-outs
- Folder 2 Mounted name tag pins (7)
- Supervisor pin (1)
 - TWA 50th Anniversary, First Coast to Coast Service, October 25, 1930 (1)
- Folder 3 Photographs (11):
- TWA airplanes: 747, Ford Tri-Motor, DC-3, Lockheed Constellation, and 1011
 - Flight Times –Then and Now 1930 vs. 1975
 - Ford Tri-motor plane at Harrisburg, PA ca. 1929
 - Public relations photo releases with descriptions
- Folder 4 Playing Cards of TWA planes, mounted on card;
- Ford Tri-Motor- 1929

Douglas DC-3 -1937
 Boeing Stratoliner -1940
 Douglas DC-4 -1946
 Martin 404 -1950
 Lockheed 749 -1950
 Lockheed 1049 -1952
 Lockheed 1649 – 1957
 Lockheed 1049G -1955

- Folder 5 TWA Public Relations folder ca. 1975
 re: 45th Anniversary of Coast to Coast Air Service in the U.S.
- Folder 6 TWA Emergency Procedures Handbook, Nelda Higginbotham,
 Tulsa 1981-1983
- Folder 7 “Class of 1983” addresses and phone list
- Folder 8 *Skyliners*-TWA Seniors June 2004-December 2005
- Folder 9 Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, TWA retirement, employee benefits
 information
- Folder 10 Color-fotos of TWA airplanes, print on paper (3)

FLAT BOX 001

- Folder 1 *In flight with TWA-The Super Constellation*, color-foto by Trans
 World Airlines, print on paper
- Folder 2 *Skyliners* June 30, 2000-January 31, 2001
- Item 3 Framed award: Nelda S. Higginbotham, 25 years of loyal service,
 March 9, 1979

ARTIFACTS

- Item 1 Model DC-3 airplane, TWA 386, NC1845, on stand with
 functioning propellers ca. 1990’s [contracted to be made by the
 Save-A-Connie museum], metal
- Item 2 Model Lockheed Constellation Super “G” airplane, TWA N8650,
 no stand, plastic replacement propellers, metal
- Item 3 Red plastic zippered RON (remain over nite) kit, empty [would
 have contained toiletries to give away to passengers compelled to
 remain overnight without their luggage]
- Item 4 Red plastic snap closure kit, empty [see above notation]
- Item 5 Blue zippered case, empty [would have been given to first-class
 passengers, containing paper, pen, pencil, stapler etc.]
- Item 6 TWA promotional items: pocket knife in black case

ITEMS REMOVED FROM COLLECTION

DONATED TO KANSAS CITY MUSEUM / UNION STATION (summer 2011)

- Item 1 Howard Greer uniform: "cut-out"; jacket, skirt; TWA blue, 1944-1952
- Item 2 Pierre Balmain winter uniform hat, (1), turquoise

DONATED TO TWA MUSEUM, 10 RICHARDS ROAD (summer 2011)

- Item 1 Ralph Lauren uniform: jacket, skirt, belt; size 10R, dark navy
- Item 2 Ralph Lauren uniform: jacket, pants; size 10R, dark navy
- Item 3 Ralph Lauren uniform: jacket, pants; size 10R, dark navy
- Item 4 Pierre Balmain winter uniform hat, (1), turquoise