

Descriptive Finding Guide for

Horton Wingless V-16 Special Collection



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Cataloging Information

Collection Number: SC.10075

Location: Archives

Restrictions: None

URL SDASM: <http://sandiegoairandspace.org/collection/item/horton-wingless-v-16-special-collection>

URL Flickr: (Collection has not been digitized yet)

URL OAC:

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/San+Diego+Air+and+Space+Museum+Library+and+Archives>

Copyright: SDASM

Provenance

The materials in this collection were donated to the San Diego Air & Space Museum on July 31, 2013. The collection has been processed and is open for research with no restrictions.

History

The Horton Wingless aircraft was invented by William Horton of Huntington Beach, California in 1952. He called the strange-looking plane "wingless" because he claimed the entire craft was a simple air foil with vertical fins and utilized all surfaces for lift. Unfortunately, Horton did not have the money to develop it, but was able to get into a partnership with billionaire Howard Hughes and Harlow Curtis.

The plane was test-flown but not more than 1000 feet down the runway. The venture failed not because the airplane didn't fly, but because Hughes wanted to take full credit for the patents and production rights, which Horton refused to allow. Hughes sued Horton which effectively stopped any further development of the aircraft.

Hughes managed to have the prototype and partially-constructed production version destroyed. One aspect of the law suit was a statement that the aircraft could not fly, which witnesses, photographs and video obviously show not to be true. At one point, Horton served jail time for selling stock in a company for an airplane that "couldn't fly" and had several violent confrontations with people associated with Hughes and Curtis because of the law suit and resulting injunctions."

Description & Content Notes

Description: One Box containing 5 folders.

Content notes: The collection includes a poster, newspaper clippings and documents.

Important Personalities & Subjects

Horton Wingless; Horton, William; Hughes, Howard; V-16; Las Vegas, Nevada; Nevega Aircraft Corporation.

Series Description

Before processing, the collection was organized into like materials and the original order was maintained in describing this collection and it is not described by series.

Box Listing

Box 1 of 1

Item 1 – Horton Poster

Folder 1 – Newspaper Clippings, Copies, & Correspondence

This folder contains a variety of correspondence, newspaper clips, brochures, and a postcard.

Folder 2 – Patent Copyright

1. Certificate of Registration for the Howard Hughes Partnership and the Horton Wingless Airplane, March 25, 1997.
2. United States Patent Office Document or an Airplane with Retractable Variable-Incidence Wings, #2,734,701, February 14, 1956.

Folder 3 – Stock Certificate

1. Envelope containing Nevega Aircraft Corporation special meeting of Shareholder's proxy designation form and two Nevega Aircraft Corporation stock certificates for \$1.00, August 9, 1961.
2. Norton Aircraft Corporation Stock certificate for 500 shares, December 11, 1953.

Folder 4 – SEC vs Horton Aircraft Committee

This folder contains over a hundred pages of documents including correspondence, legal exhibition, court proceedings and civil suit, and a magazine.

Folder 5 – TV Production Inquiries/Answers

This folder contains eight letters to various talk shows, TV shows, and radio stations, including Oprah Winfrey, Jerry Springer, and 48 Hours.

End of Box Listing
