

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Alaska Washington Airways Scrapbook, 1930-1931

MS 248

1 oversize box (1 scrapbook)

Processed By: Alea Oien, 6/2009

Revised by: Anastasia Tarmann 7/2010

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Joseph L. Carman III to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections July 11, 2002 and is accessioned as 2002-91.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

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PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the item level. All items have been placed into a pH-neutral box.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Alaska-Washington Airways was founded by Joseph L. Carman Jr, a Seattle furniture manufacturer who also owned an aviation school. In addition to flight instruction, the company did charter work in the Northwest. At the urging of Carman's father-in-law, H. F. Alexander, president of the Admiral Steamship line, Carman expanded his operations into central Washington. As the airline progressed Carman added service [to several Washington cities].

Carman was a man of intelligence and imagination. He envisioned an airline running from Seattle to the Orient, the first leg being southeastern Alaska, then on to the Interior, and finally the Orient.

On April 15, 1929, Pilot Ansel Eckman flew the Juneau (NC-432E) nonstop from Lake Union to Juneau, a distance of 940 miles. The flight took a little over seven hours. Pioneer aviator Robert "Bob" Ellis was the navigator and Jack Halloran was the mechanic. Upon receiving the news that they had arrived safely in Juneau, Carman Alaska-Washington Airways formed.

[Side note: Bob Ellis went on to fly for Pacific Alaska Airlines (a subsidiary of Pan American Airlines). He then started Ellis Airlines out of Ketchikan and later merged with Sheldon Simmons' Alaska Coastal Airlines in 1962, Alaska Airlines bought the company out in 1968.]

...[The] Alaskan leg of the operation was making money [and] the Washington leg was losing it faster. Money had become tight, primarily due to the the impending depression. Also, as with any small airline operation, aircraft losses occurred...By the summer of 1932, Alaska-Washington Airways was down to three Vegas...[and] ceased to exist in March 1932.

-- Excerpted from: Ruotsala, Jim. "Alaska-Washington Airways." *Air Alaska*, v. 8, no. 1 (Januray 1987) p. 13-14. Photo by Lloyd Jarman: Vega NC-657E, the Wrangell in Ketchikan, 1930.

Lockheed Vegas:

Reg	S/N	Name	Fate
NC200E	41	"Taku"	Burned on water 8/4/1930
NC432E	48	"Juneau"	Scrapped
NC675E	54	"Ketchikan"/"Wrangell"	Sold to Shell Oil, Crashed Boeing Field. 1930
NC102W	119	"Taku' II"	Detroyed in flight fire near Vancouver B.C
NC103W	120	"Skagway"	Missing on search mission, Annette Island 10/28/1930
NC336H	81	"Petersburg"/"Chichagof"	Sold to Alaska-Southern Airways
NC974H	94	"Sitka"/"Baranof"	Crashed on Chichagof Island at Pinta Bay 10/10/1934

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Newspaper clippings regarding Alaska Washington Airways dating from 1930 to 1931.

SUBJECTS

Alaska Washington Airways, Southeast Alaska, Seattle, Alert Bay

INVENTORY

Box 1 of 1 (*Located in MS Oversize*)

1 Large scrapbook filled with newspaper clippings regarding Alaska Washington Airways dating from 1930 to 1931.