

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Western Airlines**

**Western Airlines Photograph Collection, 1926–1969**

**PCA 51**

1 Box

**ACQUISITION:** This collection of views of Alaska was donated Oct. 10, 1975, by Howard Clifford who works for the Public Relations Department of Western Airlines. (Acc. No. 1975-005).

**ACCESS:** The photographs may be viewed, however they may not be photocopied.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to publish or reproduce from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The 8x10 inch photographs are sleeved in Mylar. An item-level inventory was created for the first folder (28 images of airplanes). The remaining 4 folders are described at the subject level. There are no negatives for these views.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Western Air Express flew its first flight in a Douglas M-2 airplane, April 1926. It was awarded the US Postal Service contract to fly the mail from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles. In 1928, the Guggenheim Foundation chose Western to set up a model airway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. They purchased 3, Fokker F-10 Trimotor aircraft, provided comfortable wicker chairs and meal service to passengers.

Western developed the first air-to-ground radio, in cooperation with Thorpe Hiscock of Boeing, in 1929. They also introduced the Fokker F-32 aircraft to commercial airline operation, the largest airplane in the world at the time.

In 1930 it merged with Transcontinental Air to form Transworld Airlines (TWA). Western Air Transport broke off in 1934 and changed its name to General Air. In 1941 it changed its name again to Western Airlines. During World War II Western trained pilots for the military and also transported materials to Alaska in the "Sourdough Operation." Western was bought by Delta Airlines in 1987.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Photographs used by Western Airlines to promote travel to Alaska. Included are airplanes, from the 1920's to the '60's, communities and towns around Southeast Alaska, totem poles and carving, boats, ships, mining. An aerial view of the old Douglas Island bridge is included.

## INVENTORY

### Folder 1: #1-28

#### AIRPLANES (1926-1969)

- 1 Douglas M-2 (1926)
- 2 Stearman Model 4-D (1927)
- 3 Fokker F-10 Tri-Motor (1928)
- 4 Lockheed Air Express (1928)
- 5 Boeing 204 Flying Boat (1928)
- 6 Boeing Model 95 (1929)
- 7 Keystone Loening C2M Amphibian (1929)
- 8 Sikorsky S-38A Amphibian (1929)

- 9 Boeing Model 40-B-4 (1930)
- 10 Fokker F-32 (1930)
- 11 Lockheed Vega (1930)
- 12 Northrop Alpha (1930)
- 13 Fokker Super-Universal (1932)
- 14 Clark GA-43 (1934)
- 15 Douglas DC-2 (1934)
- 16 Boeing 247D (1935)
- 17 Douglas DC-3 (1937)
- 18 Douglas DST (1937)
- 19 WACO EQC-6 (1937)
- 20 Lockheed Lodester (1942)
- 21 North American AT-6A (1946)
- 22 Douglas DC-4 (1946)
- 23 Convair 240 (1948)
- 24 Lockheed Electra II (1959)
- 25 Boeing 707 (1960)
- 26 Boeing 720B Fanjet (1961)
- 27 Boeing 737 Twinjet (1968)
- 28 Boeing 727-247 (1969)

**Folder 2: #29-56**

SCENICS AND RECREATION

Matanuska Valley  
Glaciers  
Parks  
Skiing  
Hiking

Fishing

**Folder 3: #57-67**

INDUSTRY

Mining  
Pulp Mill  
Fishing

**Folder 4: #68-81**

TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES

Anchorage  
Fairbanks  
Aerial Views

**Folder 5: #82-104**

BUILDINGS

**Folder 6: #105-151**

TOTEMS AND MASKS