

Aero Club of Greater Kansas City Collection (SC170)

Introduction

The Aero Club of Greater Kansas City Collection contains a banquet program, eleven 8x10 photographs taken at the banquet, and news articles detailing events involving the club, particularly balloon races.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Aero Club of Greater Kansas City
Title: Aero Club of Greater Kansas City Collection
Dates: 1909- 1959, n.d., bulk 1909-1920
Size: .42 linear feet, 4 folders
Collection Number: SC170

Donor Information

Found in Collection.

Citation Note

Aero Club of Greater Kansas City Collection (SC170), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Additional form available: The eleven photographs in this collection can be viewed online by searching "Aero Club of Greater Kansas City" in the Missouri Valley Special Collections Digital Gallery.

Historical Sketch

The Aero Club of Greater Kansas City, also referred to as the Kansas City Aero Club and the Aero of Kansas City, was an affiliate of the Aero Club of America. The club office was located at 506 New England Building according to *Aero Club of America* published in 1916. Financier, automobile enthusiast, noted sportsman and a founder of the Aero Club of America, Charles J. Glidden, organized the Aero Club of Kansas City during his automobile endurance run in 1909. The endurance run, or the Annual Reliability Tour of the American Auto Association, was a contest sponsored by the AAA and promoted by Glidden between American auto manufacturers testing the endurance and reliability of American automobiles. It began in Detroit and ended in Kansas City July 30, 1909. Glidden, a pioneer in aeronautics and ballooning was a staunch supporter of bringing about the use of airplanes for touring and general use and opened a string of aeronautical clubs from Detroit to Denver at this time. The Aero Club of Kansas City was one of the most active branches affiliated with the Aero Club of America. They organized and participated in a number of contests

including the National and International Balloon Races. George M. Myers served as president of the club for many of the early years.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains copies of articles found in newspapers, books and magazines. The majority of articles are about balloon races that the Aero Club of Greater Kansas City Club has hosted and participated in. Sources for these articles that come from the Kansas City Public Library collection include, *Kansas City Journal*, *Kansas City Times*, *The Kansas Citian* (Q330.9778), and *Kansas City in Caricature* (741.5 K162). Sources for articles retrieved online include *Aeronautics*, *Aero*, *Aero and Hydro* and *The New York Times*. Additional materials in this collection include a program for the First Annual Wright Day Banquet held December 17, 1959 at the Hotel President, sponsored by the Aero Club of Greater Kansas City, and 11 black and white, 8x10 photos that are assumed to be taken at the same event. Although there are no notations on the back of photos that identify people or the event, photos with captions from a news article and the banquet program allow some of the people featured in the photographs to be identified. The photographs display men sitting at a head banquet table, men standing at the podium behind the banquet table, and men holding trophies. A banner, "Aero Club of Greater Kansas City," is shown hanging behind the banquet table. Montgomery Foto is printed on the front lower right corner of each photograph.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Research file
- f. 2 Wright Day Banquet, 1959
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Processed by Jennifer Huffman, Intern, March, 2014