

Curtiss-Wright Flying Service Photograph Collection

This collection of photographs contains aerial views of the Kansas City area taken in the 1920s-1930s by the Curtiss-Wright Flying Service.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Curtiss-Wright Flying Service
Title: Curtiss-Wright Flying Service photograph collection
Dates: circa 1920s-1930s
Size: 1 box, 57 photographs
Location: P9

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Additional physical form available: The photographs have been digitized.

Acquisition information: Unknown.

Citation note: Curtiss-Wright Flying Service photograph collection (P9), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri

Collection Description

Scope and content note

This collection consists of local aerial views taken by the Curtiss or Curtiss-Wright Flying Service, Photo Division, 350 West 31st Street, New York City. This company's name was formed in 1929 from pioneer aircraft engine developer and airplane manufacturer Glenn Curtiss and the famous Wright brothers. There are 57 images, all 8" x 10" and black and white. Most of the photographs are not dated, but they appear to have been taken in the circa 1930s time period. All were placed in a cardboard paper frame as found in the first folder of the box. Although these were mostly labeled "Kansas City", the photos also include areas around Kansas City, Missouri.

Views include the downtown area; West Bottoms; Kansas City, Missouri; Kansas City, Kansas; the riverfront; and industrial areas. Some interesting views of the midtown area of Kansas City include the Union Station and Liberty Memorial. Other views include the Fairfax area, Municipal Airport, college campus scenes, and rural areas mostly unidentified. The collection includes an interesting mix of aerial views of the metropolitan area.

A number of pictures of the Curtiss-Wright Flying Service appeared in the local newspaper, probably in the *Journal Post*. One of the scrapbooks found in the department's unprocessed area had a number of these newspaper pictures in it. They were extracted from the scrapbook and added to this collection, being placed in the front of the box. The other pictures in this scrapbook were added to the vertical files.

Collection Inventory

#1 - Identified as Penn Valley Park area, shows much of midtown area

- #2 - Airport view, building says "Inland Sport"
- #3 - Riverfront area, one building identified as Kansas City Car Company
- #4 - Factory or utility company
- #5 - Procter and Gamble plant, Kansas City, Kansas
- #6 - Small suburban area, unidentified
- #7 - Appears to be layout of a new housing addition, unidentified
- #8 - Riverfront view, includes refinery, Phillips?, Kansas City, Kansas
- #9 - Riverfront area, includes several bridges
- #10 - Riverfront area, one bridge
- #11 - Rural area
- #12 - Highways crossings, houses in view
- #13 - Identified as packing houses, near river view
- #14 - Major railroad line and bridges over, suburban area
- #15 - Industrial plant area
- #16 - Riverfront, industrial area
- #17 - View of Country Club Plaza area, shows Brush Creek before being paved
- #18 - Identified as Schutte Lumber Company and area around it
- #19 - Sign on building says "Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Plant"
- #20 - View of Union Station, shows tracks in back and Business Men's Assurance building
- #21 - Fairfax Airport and river area
- #22 - Probably Fairfax Airport
- #23 - Riverfront area, train tracks
- #24, 25 - Riverfront area, train tracks
- #26 - Railroad tracks, possible Sears or Wards building
- #27 - Fairfax Airport
- #28 - Industrial scene

- #29 - View looking east toward Union Station, shows Liberty Memorial and midtown area
- #30 - View looking northwest, Liberty Memorial and mall area
- #31 - Identified as Haskill Institute
- #32 - Farm, identified as Naszigler Farm, Schuttz Baking Company
- #33 - Riverfront, housing
- #34 - Large building, may not be Kansas City
- #35 - Grain elevators, track scene
- #36 - Identified as Liberty, Missouri
- #37 - Farm Scene, Baker Farm
- #38 - College, unidentified
- #39 - Riverfront view and downtown in distance, looking east
- #40 - College campus, KU?
- #41 - Downtown, looking north
- #42 - Grain elevator and industrial area
- #43 - Downtown area, looking north
- #44 - Downtown, looking north toward Municipal Airport, Fairfax Airport
- #45 - Identified as Wornall Road at 69th, Romanelli Gardens
- #46 - Stockyards and riverfront area
- #47 - Riverfront area
- #48 - Riverfront area, railroad roundhouse
- #49 - Plant or utility
- #50 - Downtown, looking west
- #51 - Country club scene or country estate
- #52 - Similar to #11
- #53 - Water front area, rural setting
- #54 - Downtown looking north, similar to #44

#55 - Downtown, view of Convention Hall, Power and Light building being built

#56 - Riverfront area, tracks

#57 - Looking east toward Union Station, midtown area

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman in January, 1992.

