

THE WILLIAM W. BETTS COLLECTION

Papers, 1944-1971
(Predominantly, 1962-1971)

2.5 linear feet

Accession Number 558
L.C. Number

The papers of William W. Betts were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in June of 1972 by Mrs. Jessie Betts.

William Betts was born in Wilmington, North Carolina on May 24, 1917. After being graduated from Dallas Aviation School and Air College, Love Field, in 1935, he flew as a co-pilot and then a captain for Braniff Airlines; he received a diploma from the University of Southern California's Institute of Aerospace Safety. He was a leading figure in the Airline Pilots Associations, (ALPA), serving as Central Air Safety Chairman for Braniff and as Chairman of the Fourth Region Air Safety Committee. In those capacities, he participated in many important projects for ALPA such as the SST Boeing Committee, BAC 1-11 Evaluation, (making several trips to Britain and France), Crew Complement-BAC 1-11, Tall Buildings Dallas, Pilot Protective Provisions Committee ALPA 1958, besides serving on each Accident Investigation team Braniff/ALPA. Mr. Betts was well known for his conscientious attention to all information pertinent to the cases and his expert knowledge of all facets of aviation. Also, he served as a consultant assisting in many cases for the ALPA legal counsel in FAA/Pilot Hearings of violations. Mr. Betts died in Dallas in May of 1971 of leukemia, after many years of service working for air safety.

The papers of Mr. Betts reflect his work with Braniff and ALPA, especially his efforts as the Central Air Safety Chairman for Braniff.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- Skyscrapers and air safety
- Safety design for airports
- Aircraft safety testing
- Aircraft equipment testing

Among the correspondents is:

Erik Jonsson

Contents

5 manuscript boxes

Series I, ALPA Negotiations and Union Business, Box 1, folders 1-5
Hearing excerpts, correspondence relating to contract negotiations.

Series II, ALPA/Air Safety Committee, Boxes 1-4
Correspondence, memoranda, reports, clippings, from ALPA Dallas office files relating to the Air Safety Committee and Mr. Betts' chairmanship of that committee.

Series III, Memorabilia, Box 5
Personal file of Mr. Betts and his various diplomas, pilot's log books and airman's file.

Series I
ALPA Negotiations and Union Business
Box 1, folders 1-5

The series includes correspondence, excerpts of hearing transcripts, study reports concerning the workings of the national organization of ALPA. The files are arranged chronologically by subject, and chronologically within the subject, and cover the period between 1953 and 1967.

Box 1

1. ACMA Strike, hearing excerpt, 1953-1954.
2. ALPA Executive Committee Findings Charges: W.W. Betts vs. Former Mid Continent Airlines Pilots, 1954.
3. Contract Negotiations: committee correspondence, 1955.
4. 15 Man Study Group correspondence, 1966.
5. Brown Report and correspondence, 1967.

Series II
Air Safety
Boxes 1-4

The series includes correspondence, photos, clippings, reports, memoranda concerning various interests of the Air Safety Committee, as reflected in the Dallas office files of Mr. Betts. The files are arranged chronologically, beginning in 1952, but mostly concentrating on the period from 1962 to his death in 1971.

Box 1

6. Braniff Accident- J.W. Stanford Incident, Hugoton, Texas, 1952.
- 7-8. Braniff Master Executive Council: British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) 1-11 crew complement, 1961-1962.
9. Pilot's Near Miss Report, 1962.
10. Government Activities Committee (Brooks Report), 1962.
- 11-12. Kansas City Airport, 1962-1963.
- 13-17. Central Air Safety Committee Chairman Braniff (BNF) 1963.
18. Appointments, Central Air Safety Committee, 1963-1965.
19. Crew Complement, American Airlines (AAL) report 1962-1963.

Box 2

1. Crew Complement, ALPA report-regulation changes, preparation for FAA meeting, 1963.
2. Air Safety Committee, Chairman Betts, correspondence, 1964-1966.
3. Parallel Approaches, Chicago, O'Hare, 1964.
4. Meetings with Braniff, 1964-1967.
5. Accident reports: National, United, and Western Airlines, 1954-1967.
6. Air Safety Committee, Chairman Betts, correspondence, 1965.
- 7-8. KansasCity Airport, 1965.
- 9-10. BAC 1-11 ALPA Committee correspondence, 1963-1969.
11. BAC 1-11 ALPA Committee Evaluation report, 1965.
12. Minimum requirements, 200 1/2 jet, 1962-1967.
- 13-14. Air Safety Committee, Chairman Betts, correspondence with local safety chairman, 1965-1968.

Box 3

1. FAA correspondence, slippery runways, 100-hour rule, 1966-1967.
2. Kansas City Airport, landing on wet runways, 1967. 3-4.
- 3-4. FAA Maintenance Symposium, 1967.
5. Category II, Braniff All Weather Committee, 1965-1968.
6. ALPA Meetings with Braniff, 1967.
7. Collision Avoidance, paper for Air Safety Forum: "The Eyes Have It", 1967.
8. MB 155 Fuel Additives, 1965-1969.

9. Minimum Equipment List: Douglas (DC) 9, 1966-1969.
10. Houston Airport, 1969.
11. Region IV Air Safety Chairman Betts, correspondence, 1970.
12. Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Zoning Ordinance, 1970.

Box 4

1. FAA Case 69 Fort Worth 169-03, petition for discretionary review, (Tall Buildings, Dallas), 1969.
- 2-3. Tall Buildings, Dallas, 1969-1971.
4. Airport Obstructions, correspondence with Erik Jonsson, 1970.
5. Airport Obstructions, Press releases, clippings, 1970.
6. Super Sonic Transport (SST) Committee, correspondence, and reports, 1970-1971.
- 7-8. SST General, 1967-1970.
9. Air Safety Award to W.W. Betts, 1971.

Series III
Memorabilia
Box 5

The series contains memorabilia and other things, such as identification cards and airline logs. The files are arranged chronologically and by type of material, and cover the period of his career as an airman, from 1935 to 1971.

Box 5

1. Personal file, 1944-1971.
2. Identification cards
3. Pilot log book, 1935-1936.
4. Pilot log book, 1938-1940.
5. Airline log book, 1941-1944.
6. Airline log book, 1944-1947.
7. Diplomas, certificate of Air Safety membership
8. FAA complete airman file (photostat)

Index to Correspondence

Jonsson, Erik, 4-4