FINDING AID TO
THE LARRY GEE PAPERS AND SPACE MEMORABILIA, 1988-2011

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Processed by: Mary A. Sego, January 14, 2013
Descriptive Summary

Creator Information  Gee, Larry, 1951-

Title  Larry Gee papers and space memorabilia

Collection Identifier  MSA 276

Date Span  1988-2011, predominant 1988-2005

Abstract  Memorabilia and artifacts such as commemorative space flight flags, shuttle patches, commemorative pins, Columbia commemorative coin, DVDs, astronaut space shuttle crew photographs and various documents from Larry Gee’s 22 year career as an engineer in the aerospace industry. Gee was involved in work with Space Shuttle main engines, Atlas engines, Delta engines, the International Space Station, THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) and other space programs.

Extent  2 cubic feet

Finding Aid Author  Mary A. Sego

Languages  English

Repository  Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:  ASC

Access Restrictions:  Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information:  Donated by Larry Gee to Purdue University School of Mechanical Engineering, April 13, 2012.

Custodial History:  Transferred to Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries by Laura M. Edwards, Senior Director of Development, Purdue University School of Mechanical Engineering on April 17, 2012.

Accession Number:  20120417
Subjects and Genres

**Persons**
Gee, Larry, 1951-

**Organizations**
Boeing Aerospace Company
NASA
Rockwell International. Aerospace Operations
Rocketdyne

**Topics**
Boeing Aerospace Company
Boeing Aerospace Company. Space Station Program
Rockwell International. Aerospace Operations
Space Shuttle Program (U.S.)
Space shuttles--Propulsion systems
Space programs
Flight Archives at Purdue University
Purdue University--Alumni and alumnae

**Form and Genre Types**
Artifacts
Awards
Certificates
Commemorative coins
Commemorative pins
Data sheet
DVD
Electronic resources
Lanyards
Memorabilia
Newsletters
Patch
Photographs
Posters

**Occupations**
Aerospace engineers
Biography of Larry Gee

Born April 18, 1951, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, Larry is the third of seven children (four sons and three daughters) of Jeannie Sun Chan and Tommy Won Gee. His mother and father were both born in Toishan, Southern China, emigrated from China to America and became naturalized citizens of the United States. Larry and his six siblings were all born in the United States. All seven Gee children are graduates of Purdue University. Larry completed both a B.S. Mechanical Engineering 1975 and M.S. Engineering 1984 at Purdue; in addition, he completed an M.B.A. 1989 from California Lutheran University.

Larry lived in Logansport, Indiana, from the ages of four through eighteen where he graduated from Logansport High School in 1969. Upon his graduation from Purdue University, his first job as an engineer was that of a Maintenance Engineer/Power Engineer with PPG in New Martinsville, West Virginia. Larry went on to hold engineering positions with Delco Electronics/GM, Kokomo, Indiana, as a Machine Design Engineer; Detroit Diesel Allison Transmission, Indianapolis, Indiana, as a Production Engineer and Biosound, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana, as a Senior Manufacturing Engineer.

In 1985 Larry was contacted by a California firm, Cilco, Inc., due to his work in the ultrasonic imaging field. This led to his engineering career in California as he accepted a position as a Project Engineer with Cilco, Inc., Pomona, California. He later worked as a Manufacturing Engineer with Viking Connectors, Chatsworth, California, and Senior Manufacturing Engineer with DDC Pertec, Chatsworth, California. Larry joined Rocketdyne (Rockwell International, later Boeing Corporation then United Technologies Corporation), Canoga Park, California, in 1988 as a Senior Quality Engineer where he began working in the aerospace industry. It was here that he participated in programs such as the Space Shuttle Main Engine Turbopumps, International Space Station, Atlas and Delta rocket engines, RS-68 and J-2X pre-production rockets, as well as THAAD (anti-missile program). He later worked at Boeing Corporation in Long Beach, California, on the C-17 Globemaster III (“Jumbo Jet”). Larry participated in more than 100 successful rocket launches, including over 50 Space Shuttle launches, during his career but is particularly fond of the Space Shuttle Endeavour. He initially toured the Palmdale facility in 1991 where the Endeavour was being built. In 2012 Larry watched the Endeavour, now retired from the fleet, being flown into Los Angeles on top of a specially fitted Boeing 747, and again followed its final historic journey through the streets of Los Angeles to the California Science Center where it is now on exhibit. Larry retired in 2006 from United Technologies Corporation and in 2007 from Boeing Corporation.

Larry and his wife Susan B. Sutphin live in Simi Valley, California, a community northwest of Los Angeles. They are avid travelers and have visited all seven continents.
Sources:

As told by Larry Gee, March 20, 2013.
Collection Description

Scope

The Larry Gee papers and space memorabilia (1988-2011; 2 cubic feet) document Larry Gee’s 22 year career as an engineer in the aerospace industry. Memorabilia and artifacts include commemorative space flight flags, Space Shuttle Mission patches, commemorative pins, Apollo 11 anniversary memorabilia, Columbia commemorative coin, DVDs, astronaut space shuttle crew photographs, data sheets, awards, certificates, newsletters and various documents from Gee’s work with Space Shuttle main engines, Atlas engines, Delta engines, the International Space Station, THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) and other space programs. Most of the adhesive patches include a description of the insignia on the back. The patches have been housed in their own small, labeled box to aid researchers. This box can be found in box 1. There is one series in this collection. Most of the artifacts have been grouped by type and placed in chronological order or STS number when possible. The artifacts and papers are organized into two cubic feet boxes.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. The Space Shuttle patches have been housed in their own acid free box within box 1.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1  Adhesive and Cloth Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patches and Photographs, Commemorative Pins and Coins, and Apollo 11 and Columbia Anniversary Memorabilia, 1988-2011

Item
1. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-26, 1988
8. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-33, 1989
25. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-51, 1993
27. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-53, 1992
32. Columbia Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-58, 1993
33. Endeavour Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-59, 1994
34. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-60, 1994
35. Endeavour Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-61, 1993
37. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-64, 1994
42. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-85, 1997
43. Atlantis Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-86, 1997
44. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch (100th Mission of the Space Shuttle), STS-92, 2000
45. Endeavour Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-100/6A, 2001
46. Discovery Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-102, 2001
47. Columbia Space Shuttle Flight Crew Patch, STS-107, 2003
53. Endeavour Photocopied Flight Crew Photograph, Mission Information, Space Shuttle Patch and Shuttle Main Engine Team Member Patch, STS-89, 1998
55. Columbia Photocopied Flight Crew Photograph, Mission Information and Space Shuttle Patch, STS-93, 1999
57. Discovery Photocopied Flight Crew Photograph, Mission Information and Space Shuttle Patch, STS-96, 1999
61. Discovery Photocopied Flight Crew Photograph, Mission Information and Space Shuttle Patch, STS-103, 1999
63. Discovery Photocopied Flight Crew Photograph, Mission Information and Space Shuttle Patch, STS-114, 2005
64. Discovery Flight Crew Photograph, Mission Information and Space Shuttle Patch, STS-121, 2006
65. Expedition Crew Photocopied Photograph, Mission Overview and International Space Station Patch, 2003
| 66. | Expedition Crew Photocopied Photograph, Mission Overview and International Space Station Patch, Expedition 8, 2003 |
| 67. | Expedition Crew Photocopied Photograph, Mission Overview and International Space Station Patch, Expedition 9, 2004 |
| 68. | Expedition Crew Photocopied Photograph, Mission Overview and International Space Station Patch, Expedition 10, 2004 |
| 69. | Expedition Crew Photocopied Photograph, Mission Overview and International Space Station Patch, Expedition 11, 2005 |
| 70. | Expedition Crew Photocopied Photograph, Mission Overview and International Space Station Patch, Expedition 12, 2005 |
| 71. | Expedition Flight Crew Patch, Expedition 13, 2006 |
| 73. | Expedition Crew Photograph, Mission Overview and International Space Station Patch, Expedition 16 and STS-120, 2007 |
| 75. | Adhesive paper patch: Columbia 10th Anniversary, 1991 |
| 76. | International Space Station/Mir, 2 Information Sheets, Commemorative Coin, 2 Patches, 1997 |
| 77. | NASA Space Shuttle Program Patch (represents entire program), undated |
| 78. | Cloth Patch: “We Made History, America’s Shuttle Team, 1981-2011” |
| 82. | Apollo 11, 20th Anniversary Data Sheet and Patch, 1989 |
| 83. | Apollo 11, 25th Anniversary Patch, Pin and Rockwell postcard, 1994 |
| 84. | Apollo 11, 30th Anniversary Pin, Card and Rocketdyne, Skywriter issue, 1999 |
| 85. | Apollo 11, 35th Anniversary Pin and Information Card and Boeing, Rocketdyne information sheet, 2004 |
| 86. | Pin and Information Sheet, STS-1, 10th Anniversary of 1st Launch, 1991 |
| 87. | Pin and Information Sheet, Delta Engines 100th Successful Launch, 1991 |
| 89. | Return to Flight Mission Photograph (photocopied), Pin and Patch, 2005 |
| 90. | Return to Flight (Post-Columbia Disaster) Data Sheet and Ribbon, 2005 |
| 95. | Commemorative Pin: Boeing/Siemens, USA Airports, 12-31-2002 |
| 96. | Commemorative Pin: ISS, USA/Russia, Dunbar, Harbaugh, Baker, etc., undated |
| 97. | Commemorative Pin: Endeavour First Flight, 1992 |
| 98. | Commemorative Pin and Information Card: Boeing Celebrates 100 Space Shuttle Flights, undated |
| 99. | Commemorative Pin: Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) 100+ Missions, undated |
100. Commemorative Pin: Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL Pin, undated
101. Commemorative Pin: International Space Station and Space Shuttle, undated
102. Commemorative Pin: NASA Team Excellence, undated
103. Commemorative Pin: Voyager 7 Grand Tour, undated
106. Commemorative Coin and Information Sheet: International Space Station, undated
107. Commemorative Pin and Information Sheet: Heroes of Columbia, undated
108. Commemorative Pin and Information Sheet: Boeing Tournament of Roses Parade, 2000
109. Commemorative Pin: Boeing Tournament of Roses Parade, 2004
110. Commemorative Coin: Heroes of Columbia, undated
111. Commemorative Coin, Information Sheet, Stand and Pouch: Delta IV First Launch, undated
113. Commemorative Coaster, Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME), STS-117, 2007
114. Rocketdyne 40th Anniversary Paperweight, undated

Box 2  Commemorative Paperweight, Mugs, Lanyards, T-shirt, Watches, DVDs, Awards, Astronaut Shuttle Crew Photographs, Newsletters, Information and Data Sheets and Miscellaneous Material, 1988-2007

Item
116. Lanyard: Boeing, undated
118. Commemorative Watch: Space Shuttle Main Engine with date, undated
119. Commemorative Watch: Boeing International Space Station, undated
120. T-shirt, Boeing Tournament of Roses Parade, 2004
121. Coffee Mug: Rocketdyne Black and Gold 23k with coaster, undated
122. Coffee Mug: Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne SSME, blue mug, undated
123. Coffee Mug: Government Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP), black mug, undated
125. DVD: “Space Shuttle the First 100 Flights,” 2000 [electronic resource]
126. DVD: Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) 1 Million Seconds,” January 21, 2004 [electronic resource]
127. DVD: Pratt and Whitney 80th Anniversary with Information sheet, undated [electronic resource]
129. Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) Recognition Award Turbomachinery Best Product Team, 1996 and The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Group Achievement Award – Integrated Electrical Assembly Thermal Balance Test Team, 1997
130. Space Flight Awareness Team Award and Commemorative Flight Flag, flown on Space Shuttle Endeavour, 1997
134. NASA Group Achievement Award, Station-Shuttle Power Transfer System Team, 2007
135. NASA Group Achievement Award, Station-Shuttle Power Transfer System Team, 2007
136. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-37, 1991
137. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-38, 1990
139. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-40, 1991
140. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-41, 1990
141. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-43, 1991
142. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-44, 1991
143. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-45, 1992
144. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-47, 1992
146. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-49, 1992
147. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-50, 1992
148. Photograph, with Profile and Information Sheet, Astronaut Crew, STS-51, 1993
149. Photograph, Astronaut Crew, STS-53, 1992
150. Photograph on Postcard, Astronaut Crew, STS-58, 1993
151. Autographed Photograph, Astronaut Carl Meade, circa 1990
152. Photograph and Biographical Data Sheet, Astronaut Jim Voss, 1990
153. Photograph and Biographical Data Sheet, Astronaut Pierre J. Thout, 1992
154. Photograph and Biographical Data Sheet, Astronaut Kevin P. Chilton, 1992
155. Autographed Photograph, Astronaut Steven L. Smith and 2nd photograph of Larry Gee with Astronaut Smith, circa 1992
156. Photograph and Biographical Data Sheet, Astronaut David C. Leestma and 2nd photograph of Larry Gee with Astronaut Leestma, 1991
157. Autographed Photograph, Astronaut Robert “Hoot” L. Gibson, undated
166. Space Shuttle Main Engine Information Sheets, Boeing and Rockwell, circa 1990
168. Threshold: an engineering journal of power technology, Summer 1991
169. Photograph, “President Clinton visits Rockwell,” December 4, 1993
172. Photograph, Pin and Information Sheet, “Boeing Celebrates 100 Space Shuttle Flights,” 2000
173. Commemorative Pamphlet, International Space Station, Expedition 1 Crew, 2000
175. Boeing, Catalog Cards featuring products, undated
176. NASA Booklet, “The Best We Can Be,” undated
177. Rockwell Postcard, “Greetings from Space,” (photograph on front features one taken during Apollo 17 Mission), undated
179. Packet of Rockwell and Boeing pens and pencils and plastic Space Shuttle pocket protector, along with a note card with note to “Purdue Engineering students” from Larry Gee, undated