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FINDING AID TO THE JOSEPH P. MINTON COLLECTION OF PURDUE AERONAUTICS CORPORATION AND PURDUE AIRLINES INC. HISTORICAL MATERIAL, 1960s-2010

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
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Processed by: Mary A. Segó, July 28, 2011

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Minton, Joseph P.
Title	Joseph P. Minton collection of Purdue Aeronautics Corporation and Purdue Airlines Inc. historical material
Collection Identifier	MSA 257
Date Span	1960s-2010, predominant 1969-1971
Abstract	Photographs, newspaper clippings, clippings about Hugh Hefner's plane "Big Bunny" DC-9 housed at the Purdue University airport, Purdue Airlines annual reports and performance reports, 1969-1971, 1 st working papers, and pages from <i>Aviation Daily</i> , relating to Purdue Airlines Incorporated and miscellaneous historical documents.
Extent	0.2 cubic feet (1 small mss. box)
Finding Aid Author	Mary A. Sego, 2011
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 Joseph P. Minton October 13, 2010.
Accession Number:	20101013
Preferred Citation:	MSA 257, Joseph P. Minton collection of Purdue Aeronautics Corporation and Purdue Airlines Inc. historical material, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Minton, Joseph P.

Organizations

Purdue Airlines Incorporated

Topics

Purdue Airlines Incorporated

Hefner, Hugh M. (Hugh Marston), 1926--“The Big Bunny”

Form and Genre Types

Annual reports

Newspaper clippings

Photographs

Reports

Working papers

Occupations

President (Purdue Airlines Incorporated)

Airlines--Employees

History of Purdue Aeronautics Corporation and Purdue Airlines, Inc.

At 44, Col. Joseph P. Minton started a second career, managing an airline. He retired in 1967 from the Air Force, and then returned to West Lafayette to assume duties with Purdue Airlines Inc., as vice president and general manager. Minton, a Texan, was joined in West Lafayette by with his wife and six children. Sixteen years earlier he had been a student at Purdue University.

He took his first solo flight at 16 and won his wings at 19. He flew 432 missions in the China-Burma-India theatre. He studied air transportation at Purdue University, while in the Reserves. In the United States Air Force, he was with the Military Air Transport Service for seven years and in the Strategic Air Force bomber operations five years, and at the Pentagon four years.

Purdue Airlines Inc. known until 1967 as Purdue Aeronautics Corporation was incorporated in 1942 as an affiliate of the Aviation Technology Department of Purdue University, to operate the professional pilot training program. Purdue Airlines, Inc. operated from the Purdue University Airport, West Lafayette, Indiana, as one of the thirteen supplemental air carriers in the United States. Purdue Airlines, Incorporated activated officially May 1, 1968 and took over the DC-3 and DC-6B fleet business and operations of Purdue Aeronautics Corporation.

In 1967 the Purdue Airlines flew more that 15 million passenger miles within the U.S. and Canada. The supplemental air carrier certificate which Purdue Airlines Inc. held authorized operations throughout the U.S. and Canada. Other areas could be served by approval and exemption of the Civil Aeronautical Board. In 1969 they replaced the airline's 74 passenger DC-6B aircraft with DC-9s. The first Purdue Airlines' DC 9-30 twin-jet, 104 passenger aircraft arrived at the airport in March, 1969, the second in April and the last in August. At this time, Hugh Hefner's "The Big Bunny" plane was also housed at Purdue and was maintained by the aviation department of the University. Purdue was given the option to rent it for charter flights, but rarely did so. In 1968 and 1969 Purdue Airlines flew 539 military charters with 25 delays, for a reliability figure of 95 percent. For the entire supplemental airline industry the total was 1,949 trips with 255 delays, or an 87 per cent reliability rate. Purdue Airlines Incorporated recorded gross income of \$3,703,000 in 1969, compared with \$1,829,000 in 1968. Minton was elevated to the presidency of the airline from his previous position as vice president and general manager. Three operational divisions were created and vice presidents named to head the operations. On May 1, 1971 Purdue Airlines terminated commercial DC-9 charter service. Purdue continued its contract with the Playboy DC-9 but terminated operations with three other DC-9s in its fleet. One, under lease from Air West was returned on April 10, 1971. Reasons given for the sale of the two 104-passenger twin-jet planes included general economic conditions in the Midwest, cut-throat competition from major airlines that were also caught in the economic squeeze, proposed restrictions against the smaller lines, and a lack of adequate return on investment. As the DC-9 charter service was phased out, the workforce of 102 was also phased down. Because of financial considerations, Purdue Airlines ceased operations in 1971, thus ending a unique and rewarding relationship between industry and education.

Source(s):

Air Force Times, February 19, 1969.

Retrieved July 28, 2011 from: <http://www.flightglobal.com/pdfarchive/view/1969/1969%20-%200660.html>

Purdue Airlines *formerly* Purdue Aeronautics Corporation, *Air Charter Service* brochure, circa 1968.

Retrieved July 29, 2011 from: <http://www2.tech.purdue.edu/at/information/fthistory/>

Collection Description

Scope

The Joseph P. Minton collection of Purdue Aeronautics Corporation and Purdue Airlines Inc. historical material (1960s-2010; 0.2 cubic feet) documents Joseph P. Minton's tenure as president of Purdue University Airlines, Incorporated, 1969-1971. Included among the material are photographs, newspaper clippings, info on Hugh Hefner's plane, "The Big Bunny," housed and maintained at the Purdue airport, brochures, annual reports, stationery, performance reports, *Aviation Daily* articles concerning Purdue Airlines, 1st working papers and miscellaneous historical documents, some written by Joseph P. Minton. The collection is organized into six folders, relating to type of material.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. Some newspaper clippings have been photocopied for preservation purposes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Folder 1. *Photographs, 1969-1970*

(1 folder)

Item

1. Photograph of Joseph P. Minton, circa 1969 [black and white, 8" x 10"]
2. Photocopied image of Purdue Airlines, Incorporated brochure, 1969
3. Aerial view of Purdue campus, facing north, circa 1969 [color, 8" x 10"]
4. Aerial view of Purdue campus, facing northwest, circa 1969 [color, 8" x 10"]
5. Photograph of executives in front of a Purdue Airlines DC-9 plane, with two men in front holding a small replica of the plane, 1969 [black and white, 9 ½" x 7 ¾"]
6. Photograph of executives in front of a Purdue Airlines DC-9 plane, with six men, including Minton, in front holding a small replica of the plane, 1969 [black and white, 9 ½" x 7 ¾", signed in left, top corner, but can't read signature]]
7. Photograph of 3 men standing with Minton in hangar, circa 1969 [black and white, 9 ½" x 7 ¾"]
8. Color rendering of Purdue Airlines, DC-9 flying over campus, circa 1969 [11" x 8"]
9. 12 polaroid photographs of "first engine change," including two aerial shots of campus, June 4, 1970 [A/C 393 noted on front of sheet of 3 ½" x 3 ½" color photos]

Folder 2. *Newspaper Clippings, 1960s-1971*

(1 folder)

Item

1. "Second Careers – Colonel Who Soloed At 16 Directs Airline," *Air Force Times(Weekend)* February 19, 1969 [includes photograph of Joseph P. Minton with "new officers of the Purdue Aero Club," in sleeve with clipping is a black and white photo, 3 ½" x 5 1/2" of Minton in Air Force uniform with two Air Force officers and two civilians]
2. "Local Bomber Crew Takes 'Outsiders' on SAC Mission: 380th BW develops visual demonstration," circa 1960s [includes photo of Minton with 3 other men, no publication information available]
3. "Jet Travel for Class Trips Key to Unknown for Pupils," by Paul Lybrook, *Saturday Evening*, January 31, 1970, [no other publication information available, includes photo of Robert Q. Calloway, president of Imperial Equipment Corporation and Joseph P. Minton, Purdue Airlines president]
4. "Purdue Airlines and The DC-9s: PAI Completes First Full Business Year," *Tuesday Evening*, January 27, 1970 [on original, one photocopy, no publication information available]
5. "Business – Purdue Airlines Chief Is Angry," *Tuesday*, September 10, 1970 [no publication information available]
6. "Purdue Airlines To Terminate DC9 Jet Operation April 30," by Charles W. McClure, 1970 [one original copy and one photocopy, no publication information available]
7. Newspaper photo with caption, "For Sale," *Lafayette Journal and Courier*, *Tuesday*

- Evening, March 23, 1971 [one of Purdue's DC-9s on runway, one original and one copy]
8. *Peanuts* cartoon, circa 1970s [depicts Charlie Brown trying to fly a kite, then it crashes; no publication information available, one copy and one original]
 9. "Part of Purdue Airline Jet Fleet," photograph of jet with caption, 1969 [no publication information available]
 10. "Purdue Airlines Put In Tailspin By Route Limits," by John H. Lyst, Business and Industry section, Wednesday, March 24, 1971 [no publication information available]

Folder 3. Hugh Hefner's "The Big Bunny," 1970

(1 folder)

Item

1. Color Photocopy of front page of *Professional Pilot*, includes publisher Hugh Hefner, TV star Bill Cosby and Purdue Airlines President Joe Minton at Bunny Tail of Playboy DC-9 N950PB at ORD, vol. 4, no. 6, June 1970
2. "The Big Bunny Is Airborne: hefner hosts press on inaugural flight," 1970 [includes color photos from a magazine article, no publication information available]
3. "Look—Don't Touch – Playboy Plane Lease Pact For 2 Years Only," [includes photograph with caption "...To be maintained and flown by Purdue Airlines crews..." 1970 [no publication information available]
4. "Maggie Daly" column, Family Today, Chicago Today, Wednesday, February 11, 1970 [makes mention of Hugh Hefner's all black jet, \$5.5 million, PB 950]
5. "Airborne Playboy: Hefner Flies With Bed and Bunnies," 1970 [from a newspaper "Lifestyles" section, with detailed description of the interior, no publication information available]
6. "the bunny jet set: high-flying cottontails undergo elaborate training," circa 1970 [page from unidentified magazine, includes color pictures of "the Big Bunny"]
7. Black and white newspaper photograph, "Inside the Big Bunny," [UPI Telephoto, no publication information available]
8. Playboy name badge for Mr. Joseph Minton, Purdue Airlines, circa 1970
9. "Security Around Playboy Plane Likened to Air Force One's," includes photo of Joseph P. Minton with a replica of the Playboy jet, with caption, "What Else But a Bunny?" circa 1970 [no publication information available]

Folder 4. Brochures, Annual Reports, Stationery, Performance Reports, 1969-1971

(1 folder)

Item

1. Brochure, "Purdue Airlines formerly Purdue Aeronautics Corporation, Air Charter Service, A Certified Supplemental Air Carrier," circa late 1960s [includes a brief history of the airlines]
2. Purdue Airlines Incorporated Annual Report, 1969
3. Purdue Airlines, Inc. stationery and Joseph P. Minton, president, business card, circa 1969

4. Balance sheets, 1968-1969
5. Performance report, quarterly analysis, 1969-1970, released April 15, 1971 [2 copies]

Folder 5. *Aviation Daily Articles 1968-1974*

(1 folder)

Item

1. "Purdue Aeronautics Asks For Mexican, Caribbean Supplemental Authority," *Aviation Daily*, March 6, 1968, p. 23.
2. "Purdue Airlines Inc. announced that Grove Webster has been elected chairman and Joseph P. Minton president and chief executive officer....," *Aviation Weekly*, February 7, 1969, p. 207.
3. "Purdue Airlines, supplemental carrier, has taken delivery of a McDonnell-Douglas DC-9-30....," *Aviation Weekly*, February 7, 1969, p. 208.
4. "Purdue Requests Temporary Caribbean Authority," *Aviation Weekly*, June 27, 1969, p. 305
5. "Purdue Gets Exemption Covering Playboy's DC-9," *Aviation Weekly*, February 13, 1970, p. 276
6. "CAB Denied Exemption Request of Purdue Airlines....," *Aviation Weekly*, October 15, 1970, p. 247
7. "Congress Checks DOD Failure To Honor Small Business Law (Special Report – WVH)," *Aviation Weekly*, February 23, 1971 [Minton's role in case featured]
8. "Purdue Airlines To Cease DC-9 Supplemental Service," *Aviation Weekly*, March 24, 1971 [3 copies]
9. "Purdue Closes Out Charter Service On Up-Beat," *Aviation Weekly*, May 11, 1971
10. "Purdue Airlines For Sale; Interim Officers Announced," *Aviation Weekly*, July 22, 1971
11. "CAB Bureau, Trunks, Supplementals Push For Revocation Of Purdue's Authority," *Aviation Weekly*, May 31, 1974

Folder 6. "*1st Working Papers*" and *Historical Documents, 1969-2010*

(1 folder)

Item

1. Packet with "Newsletter," contents prepared by Joseph P. Minton, February 27, 1969 [includes letter to Mr. Jackson T. Stephens, Stephens, Incorporated, detailing state of affairs for Purdue Airlines, November 29, 1970; DC-9 operations analysis, January 1, 1970-December 31, 1971; revenue analysis 1967-1970; fact sheet and financial statement for the month of February 1971 and fiscal year to date]
2. Miscellaneous financial notations made by Minton, circa 1972
3. "Statement of Joseph P. Minton, Former President, Purdue Airlines, Inc., West Lafayette, Indiana," February 15, 1977 [details Purdue Airlines history]
4. "Purdue Aeronautics Corporation: a lease Corporation of Purdue University, 1967-1968," August 5, 2010 [history written by Joseph P. Minton]
5. "Purdue Airlines, Incorporated, 1968-1971," August 5, 2010 [history written by Joseph P. Minton]

