



Finding Aid for

**EDWARD F. SCHLEE AND WILLIAM S. BROCK COLLECTION**  
**Accession 68.160**

Finding Aid Published: April 2011



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## OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 68.160

CREATOR: Schlee, Edward F., 1887-1969.

TITLE: Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1923-1964

QUANTITY: 1.7 linear ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: In 1927 Edward Schlee and William Brock attempted to fly around the world in a monoplane, "Pride of Detroit." The collection consists primarily of records concerning the around the world flight, and includes correspondence, news clippings, and photographs.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research.
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** The records of Edward Schlee and William Brock were donated to The Henry Ford by Edward Schlee's brother, Harry, in 1967 and 1968.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- Schlee and Brock's plane, the "Pride of Detroit," is part of the collections of The Henry Ford.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 68.160, Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original inventory prepared by Benson Ford Research Center staff.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

On August 26, 1927 Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock left Ford Airport in Dearborn, Michigan to begin a historic around the world flight in a monoplane christened the "Pride of Detroit." However, poor weather conditions and hundreds of pleas from friends and relatives convinced the two flyers to prematurely end their "globe girdling" flight in Japan on September 15, 1927. Despite their unrealized goal, Schlee and Brock continued to draw the attention of the American public with a string of other record setting flights where they established new cross-country speed records.

William Stewart Brock (1896-1932) was the pilot for the "Pride of Detroit." Brock learned to fly at the age of 16 and employed his aviation skills training army pilots during World War I. After the war, Brock became involved in aerial stunt shows, and in 1925 moved to Detroit to fly mail in the newly developing business of air mail delivery. It was in Detroit that William Brock became acquainted with oilman Edward Schlee. Together they organized the Wayco Air Service and began planning the world flight for the "Pride of Detroit." With the completion of the first part of that journey, Brock became the only pilot other than Charles A. Lindbergh to fly to a predetermined destination in an all eastward Atlantic crossing prior to 1932.

Edward F. Schlee (1887-1969) was a native of Detroit. After studying business at Wesleyan College, Schlee spent 4 years in the Cadillac plant, and then worked at Liberty Motors as a parts buyer during World War I. After the war, Schlee, along with his three brothers, formed the Wayco Oil Company. In addition to distributing oil, they also sold planes for Eddie Stinson of the Stinson Aircraft Corporation. The profits made in the family oil business enabled Edward Schlee to provide the \$100,000 required for the around the world flight attempt. In 1928, Schlee sold Wayco Oil, investing his profits in several aviation related ventures, including the Schlee Brock Aircraft Corporation he formed with William Brock. The fledgling corporations failed to withstand the economic pressures of the Depression.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The **Schlee and Brock series** consists of correspondence, photographs, news clippings and printed material relating to Edward F. Schlee and William S. Brock, their aviation activities and business ventures. The majority of the records concern their attempted around the world flight in 1927.

The **General Aviation History series** contains news clippings, photographs and other material relating to other aviators and aviation events. Included in the series is information on Edward Rickenbacker, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Richard E. Byrd and Douglas Corrigan.

## **ARRANGEMENT**

The collection is arranged in two series:  
Series I: Schlee and Brock  
Series II: General Aviation History

## **SUBJECT TERMS**

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Schlee, Edward F., 1887-1969.  
Brock, William Stewart, 1896-1932.  
Wayco Air Service.  
Schlee-Brock Aircraft Corporation.  
Wayco Oil Company.

### Subjects

Air pilots--United States  
Aeronautics--United States--History.

### Genre and Form

Clippings  
Photographs

## CONTAINER LIST

**Box no.**                      **Description**

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### SCHLEE AND BROCK

#### Box 1

William O. Brock  
    Air Commerce Regulations  
    War Department - Pamphlets, 1927, 1928  
    Certificates  
    Membership Applications, 1928  
    Correspondence, 1927-1930  
    Invitations and Programs, 1927  
    Miscellaneous, 1923-1926  
    News Clippings, 1927, 1929, 1932, 1958  
    Park Field, 1918; Pilot's Book, 1918  
    Passport Licenses, 1925-1929  
    Photographs, 1927  
Daytona Flight  
    News Clippings, 1927, 1928  
    Photographs, 1927  
    General Flight Information, 1929 and undated  
The Schlee-Brock Aircraft Corp.  
    Advertisement Materials, 1929 and undated  
    Correspondence, Invoices, 1928, 1929  
    Memoranda, undated  
    News Clippings, 1929, 1930  
    Photograph, circa 1928

#### Box 2

Edward Schlee and William Brock Photographs undated  
Edward Schlee and Family  
    Correspondence, 1927  
    News Clippings, 1927  
    News Clippings, 1928, 1929  
    News Clippings, 1930-1964  
    Photographs, circa 1925  
Transcontinental Flight; News Clippings, 1930  
Wayco Air Service  
    Advertisement Materials, 1927 (2 folders)  
    Agreement, 1927  
    Photographs, circa 1927  
Wayco Oil Co.  
    Business, Credit Cards, 1928  
    Correspondence, 1927, 1928  
    News Clippings, 1927  
    Pamphlet, Programs, 1927, 1930

**Box 3**

World Flight

Correspondence, 1927  
Flight Information, Log, 1927  
Journal Articles, 1927 (2 folders)  
Maps, 7 August 1926  
Miscellaneous, 1927  
News Clippings  
    Pre-flight, January-August 1927  
    27 August 1927  
    28 August 1927  
    29 August 1927  
    30 August 1927  
    31 August 1927  
    1 September 1927  
    2 September 1927  
    3 September 1927  
    4 September 1927  
    5 September 1927  
    6 September 1927  
    7 September 1927  
    8 September 1927  
    9 September 1927  
    10 September 1927  
    11 September 1927  
    12 September 1927  
    13 September 1927  
    14 September 1927  
    15 September 1927  
    16 September 1927  
    17 September 1927  
    3-6 October 1927  
    Post-flight, September-October 1927 (2 folders)

**Box 4**

    Post flight, November-December 1927  
    1928, 1930  
    Pamphlet, Programs, 1927  
    Photographs (Christening), 15 August 1927  
    Photographs, August-September 1927  
    Photographs, (Home-Coming), 4 October 1927  
    Telegrams, June-July 1927  
    Telegrams, September 1927  
    Tributes, 1927

## GENERAL AVIATION HISTORY

### Box 4 (continued):

#### Airplanes

- Amphibians, photographs, circa 1925
- Bi-planes , photographs, circa 1925
- Historic Flights, photographs, circa 1925
- Military, photographs, circa 1925
- Monoplanes, photographs, circa 1925
- Tri-Motors, circa 1925
- Airport Blueprint, Plans, 5 April 1927
- Boyer, Lillian
  - News clippings, 1924
  - Photographs, circa 1925
- Bremen Flight; News Clippings, April-May 1928
- Byrd, Comm. Richard E.; News Clippings, 1927, 1928
- Chamberlin, Clarence D.; News Clippings, 1927
- Corrigan, Douglas; News Clippings, 1938
- Coste - LeBrix ; News Clippings, 5 March 1928
- Detroit Center of Aviation; News Clippings, 1927, 1928, 1930
- Detroit National Air Show; News Clippings, 1928-1931, 1935

### Box 5

- Doran, Mildred; News Clippings, 1927
- Earhart, Amelia; News Clippings, 1929
- Elder, Ruth; News Clippings, 1927, 1929
- General Aviation
  - News Clippings, 1926, 1927
  - News Clippings, 1928-1930
  - News Clippings, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1936
- Graham, Alger ; News Clippings, 1927
- Grayson, Frances; News Clippings, undated
- Hawks, Frank M; Photograph, 1929
- Japan-Aviation; News Clippings, September 1927
- Heath, Mary; Pamphlet, Photograph, undated
- Lindbergh, Charles; News Clippings, 1927, 1929
- Lowenstein-Wertheim, Princess; News Clippings, 1927
- Macintosh, Capt.; News Clippings, 1927
- McQueen, Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant; News Clippings, 1929
- National Aeronautic Association; Resolution, 1927
- National Air Tour
  - Check-over sheet, 1928
  - News Clippings, June-July 1927, 1928
  - Photographs, circa 1927
- New York Aviation Show; Application, 1928
- "Old Glory"; News Clippings, undated
- Omlie, Mrs. Phoebe; News Clippings, 1931



Photographs [Unidentified], circa 1927  
Pittsburgh Air Show; Mar., 1929  
Rickenbacker, Capt. Edward; News Clippings, 1929  
Stinson, "Eddie"; News Clippings, undated  
Von Mach, Mary; News Clippings, undated  
Woolson, Lionel M.; News Clippings, 1931  
Women Aviators; Cartoons, 23 October 1927, 23 April 1930  
Women's Aviation Organizations; Ballots, News Clippings, Program, 1928-1930  
Wright Brothers; News Clippings, 1934  
Wright Field; Dedications Program, 1927

**Box 6 Oversize**

Brock, Wm.; Photographs, circa 1913-1920  
Brock, Wm.; Portrait Proofs, circa 1927 (2 items)  
Citation from Detroit Common Council, 1927  
Newspaper, Detroit Free Press, March 4, 1927, "World Flight..." (Catalog number 68.160.38)  
Photograph of Notable People, 1927  
Portrait of an Associate--"Dick", circa 1928  
Souvenir Piece of "Pride of Detroit" Airplane, 1927  
Souvenir Banners--"Pride of Detroit", circa 1927  
World Flight--Maps, 1927 (2 folders)  
World Flight--New York Times--Clippings Scrapbook, 1927

**Box 7**

Edward Schlee - William Brock  
Scrapbooks  
Loose Photographs