



Guide to the Bob McCaffery Collection on the Save the Hughes Flying Boat Campaign

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f14g86>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	McCaffery, Bob
Title:	Bob McCaffery Collection on the Save the Hughes Flying Boat Campaign
ID:	MS-00693
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1980 to 1983
Physical Description:	0.37 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	0.42 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Bob McCaffery Collection on the Save the Hughes Flying Boat Campaign (1980-1983) documents efforts by activists to preserve the plane from destruction and its subsequent acquisition by the Aero Club of Southern California in 1980. The collection contains photographs and newspaper clippings about the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat nicknamed the "Spruce Goose" from the 1980s.

Preferred Citation

Bob McCaffery Collection on the Save the Hughes Flying Boat Campaign, 1980-1983. MS-00693. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The Hughes H-4 Hercules, nicknamed the "Spruce Goose," was designed by the Hughes Aircraft Company. It has the largest wingspan of any aircraft in history and was designed as a transatlantic transport during the Second World War. The plane was not finished before the end of the war, and its only flight occurred on November 2, 1947. After its flight, Hughes had a hangar constructed around the plane in Long Beach, California.

After Hughes' death in 1976, his Summa Corporation decided to dismantle the plane and send pieces of it to museums across the United States. McCaffery's Committee to Save the Hughes Flying Boat led public protest of the plan and Summa instead donated the boat to the Aero Club of Southern California, who then leased it to the Wrather Corporation. Wrather also had the lease to the Queen Mary in Long Beach and moved the boat to a domed hangar next to the Queen Mary in 1982, opening it to the public in 1983. The Walt Disney Company purchased the Wrather Corporation in 1988, taking over Wrather's leases in Long Beach. Disney decided to discontinue the leases in 1992.

The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon purchased the Hughes H-4 Hercules in 1992. After disassembly, the boat was transported to Oregon, and in 2001, Hughes Flying Boat was fully reassembled in its new home.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Bob McCaffery Collection on the Save the Hughes Flying Boat Campaign (1980-1983) documents efforts by activists to preserve the plane from destruction and its subsequent acquisition by the Aero Club of Southern California in 1980. The collection contains photographs and newspaper clippings about the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat nicknamed the "Spruce Goose" from the 1980s.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Bob McCaffery in 2014; accession number 2014-103.

Processing Note

Materials were minimally processed at time of accessioning by Lindsay Oden in 2014 in compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Lindsay Oden entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Angela Moor revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Howard Hughes Professional and Aeronautical Photographs, 1916-1997. PH-00321. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Howard Hughes Public Relations Photograph Collection, 1930-1950. PH-00373. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Howard Hughes Public Relations Reference Files, 1931-1997. MS-00380. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hughes Electronics Corporation Records, 1935-2003. MS-00485. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Aviation
- Historic preservation
- Hughes Flying-boat (Seaplane)
- photographs
- Hughes, Howard, 1905-1976

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Save the Hughes Flying Boat campaign photographs, approximately 1980	box 01
Historic photographs of the Hughes H-4 Hercules, undated	box 01
Hughes H-4 Hercules 4x6 photographs, undated	box 01
Negatives of Hughes H-4 Hercules, undated	box 01
Ode and Howard exhibit board, undated	box 01
Committee to Save the Hughes Flying Boat newspaper clippings, 1980 July	box 01
Magazine articles about the Hughes H-4 Hercules, photocopies, undated	box 01
Airline Pilot magazine, 1980 July	box 01
Hughes H-4 Hercules plans, copies, undated	box 01
Invitation to Hughes Flying Boat pre-opening, 1983	box 01