



R.L. (Lewis) Proctor Papers (K0570)

Collection Number: K0570

Collection Title: R.L. (Lewis) Proctor Papers

Dates: 1942-2005

Creator: Proctor, R.L.

Abstract: The R.L. (Lewis) Proctor Papers outline the career of the Trans World Airlines (TWA) flight engineer. The papers include biographical information as well as training manuals for flight engineers. Additionally, the collection includes materials related to TWA operations and international flights during the 1950s and 1960s.

Collection Size: 0.3 cubic foot
(9 folders, 1 photograph)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the Society all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the Society from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *R.L. (Lewis) Proctor Papers* (K0570); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Ruthann Proctor on May 17, 2010 (Accession No. KA1795).

Notes: Collection is associated with the TWA Archives.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the R.L. (Lewis) Proctor Papers can be found in the following collections:

Trans World Airlines (TWA) Records (K0453)

Processed by: Processed by Whitney Heinzmann, January 2019

Historical Note:

In the early 1930s, R.L. (Lewis) Proctor of Carthage, Missouri, learned to fly and received a Limited Commercial Pilots License and Aircraft Engine Mechanics License at Parks Aircraft College in East St. Louis, Illinois. Trans World Airlines (TWA) hired Proctor in 1935 in a ground position responsible for cleaning and polishing Ford Trimotors.

In 1940, TWA was the first airline to introduce the flight engineer as a crewmember in domestic service. With the delivery of the Boeing 307, Proctor became a flight engineer and participated in the first flight of its operation as part of World War II.

Before the end of World War II, Proctor went to Lockheed for the testing of a new Constellation Aircraft as a TWA flight engineer. On April 17, 1944, Proctor was a flight engineer on the Lockheed Constellation's TWA Model 049 first transcontinental speed flight from Burbank, California, to Washington, D.C.

TWA later named Proctor chief flight engineer and placed him in charge of 25 flight engineers, as well as the new flight engineer program. When TWA consolidated the domestic and international divisions, Proctor was named systems manager of flight engineers, a position he held for several years.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into nine folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The R.L. (Lewis) Proctor Papers outlines the career of the TWA flight engineer. The papers include biographical information as well as training manuals for flight engineers. Additionally, the collection includes materials related to TWA operations and international flights during the 1950s and 1960s.

Container List:

| | | |
|---------|------|--|
| Box 001 | f. 1 | Biographical Information, 1998, 2005, no date |
| | f. 2 | TWA, 1963, no date |
| | f. 3 | International Flights, 1953, no date |
| | f. 4 | Photograph, no date |
| | f. 5 | <i>Constellation Flight Engineer's Handbook</i> , 1946 |
| | f. 6 | <i>Engine Principles</i> , 1943 |
| | f. 7 | <i>Far East Survey</i> , 1952 |
| | f. 8 | <i>Hydraulic Principles</i> , 1942 |
| | f. 9 | <i>Hydromatic Propellers</i> , 1952 |

Index:

| Index Term | Folder | Image |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Constellation (Transport planes) | 5 | |
| Pierson, Warren Lee, 1896-1978 | 4 | Yes |
| Trans World Airlines | 1-9 | Yes |