Ada Mitchell Barrett Collection

MS 017

International Women's Air and Space Museum

Burke Lakefront Airport

1501 North Marginal Road

Cleveland, Oh 44114

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Biographical Sketch

Ada Mitchell Barrett was born in January of 1905 but her flying career did not begin until 1928. Barrett received her private pilot's license in 1931 and by the time she retired from flying had logged more than 3,000 hours of flight time. For 25 years, Barrett was the FBI supervisor of the identification division and it was during these years that she became involved in the FBI Flying Club as well as the Ninety-Nines, eventually going on to be the president of the Washington D.C. chapter. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol during WWII, Barrett dropped bond leaflets. Upon moving to Maryland, Barrett became very involved with the state's chapter of the Ninety-Nines and was fondly referred to as the "Mother" of the chapter. She helped to establish the Southern Maryland chapter and was elected Chapter Chair upon granting of its charter.

Scope and Content Notes

The Ada Mitchell Barrett collection has been divided into fifteen series pertaining to different aspects of her life.

Series 1-General articles and correspondences pertaining to the Ninety-Nines

--Application for Airman License renewal in 1968

-Article in which Ada recounts her experience in the Florida-Canada race

-Certificate and article commemorating Ada's 30 yrs as a Ninety Nine

-Series of letters congratulating Ada on 30 yrs as a Ninety Nine

-Article about Ada and Anita Ruth flying to Quebec during the Angel Derby in 1976

-Approval letter and last check for Ada's lifetime membership to the Ninety-Nines

-Life membership card to the Ninety-Nines

- Message stating Ada will no longer owe dues to the Ninety-Nines

-Invitations to the eighth and ninth annual East Coast Fly-in

-Flyer for end of the summer party by Footlight Ranch Flying Society

-Photos of members of the Ninety-Nines donating a Christmas tree to St. Mary's County Airport in 1976 and planting a tree the following April

-Newspaper article about Southern Maryland chapter of Ninety-Nines getting their charter and announcing Ada would not participate in the Air Race

-Letter in which Ada transfers her membership to the Southern Maryland chapter of the Ninety-Nines

-Copy of letter from Kay Brick, chairman of All-woman Transcontinental Air Race telling the Potomac Speedway they could not use the term Powder Puff Derby

-Letter about chapter scarves

-Letter from Marguerite M. Lake about meetings and wishing Ada well with and upcoming operation

-Applications of various members for the Southern Maryland chapter of the Ninety-Nines

-Letter asking for help in locating two members of Ninety-Nines thought to be in Maryland

-Letter for ordering personalized Ninety-Nines stamps

-List of silver wing members as of 1980, 4th annual dinner for Maryland chapter

Series 2- Programs, cards, and Invitations

-Ninety- Nine's patch

-Brochure for Footlight Ranch Center in which Ada made notes

-Program for Ninth All Women's International Air Race August 15, 1958 (Ada in plane 17 as a copilot)

-Greeting Card

-Program for Ninety-Nines International Convention in 1957

-Poem "High Flight" by John Gilespie Magee, Jr.

-Program for Weather Seminar at La Guardia Airport

-List of events for Eastern Pennsylvania Ninety-Nines

-Invitation and itinerary for touring of McGuire Air Force Base

Series 3-1951 International Air Race

-Series of letters, articles, and signed business cards pertaining to the 1951 International Air Race wishing Ada luck and sympathizing about her forced landings

-Photographs taken before International Air Race

-Telegram from J. Edgar Hoover wishing Ada well in the race

-Letter from J. Edgar Hoover congratulating Ada on receiving her Federation Aeronautique Internationale License

-City of Atlanta brochure for Park Department

-Ada's flight plan papers from Department of Commerce

-Correspondence from Chamber of Commerce for donations to the Mitchell flight fund

-Letter from Helen McBride about rules and entry to the Air Race, Ada's response

-"My Experiences in the All Women's International Air Race" written by Ada Barrett

-Drawing of Ada for flight

-Bill from the Savannah Hotel in Savannah, Georgia

-Flight plans filed with Department of Commerce-Civil Aeronautics Administration

-Receipts from Standard Oil Company

-Newspaper photos from Orlando Aviation Day

-Letter announcing all Ninety-Nines would get a free oil change each race from Kendall Refining Co.

-Article from *Investigator* about Ada in race

Series 4- 1955 Race

-Letter from Joseph O. Janousek congratulating Ada on winning and photos he took before the race

Series 5- Washington Air Derby Association

-Membership list for 1962

-Program for Efficiency Race 1964

-Flyer and application for Efficiency Race

-Information for Efficiency Race, upcoming election of officers, and the bylaws of the Washington Air Derby

-Calendar of Events (year unspecified)

-Bill from the Carolinian Hotel in Nags Head, NC; August 23, 1964

-Flight schedule for 1965 and meeting minutes

-List of members 1967

-Letter from Robert Poole, the acting president in 1967, about cancelling the Christmas party and proficiency run

-Officers listing for 1968

-Request to change Ada Mitchell's duties

Series 6-Civil Air Patrol (1950-1979)

-Application for enrollment at Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama

-Cover of cadet handbook

-Course verification card

-Certifications of completion for various courses

-Photos and article from *The Sunday Star*; tenth anniversary of CAP

-Ada's application for senior membership, approved 1950

-Letter detailing transmittal of CAP membership card

-Renewal application for senior membership; 1951, 1954, 1955, 1956

-Personnel Orders for August 1951, Oct. 1951, June 1952, March 1953, and October 1960

-Recommendation for Ada to become Administrative Assistant to Executive Officer

-Recommendation for Ada to be made: 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain, Major

- Letters of Appreciation for escorting cadets who had been visiting Washington D.C.

-Various Special Orders from 1950 to 1961 in which changes in duty and promotions of rank were announced

-Civil Air Patrol Manual, Commanders Guide with notes on back; January 1954

-Civil Air Patrol Scholarships; 1961

-Letters of Appreciation for "untiring efforts" during the 20th Anniversary Banquet; 1962

-Transportation authorization to travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico; 1961

-Transportation authorization to attend the Middle East Region Conference in Myrtle Beach

-Itinerary for Southwest Region CAP Girl Exchange 1962

-Letter announcing establishment of various boards, 1968; Ada Mitchell assigned to Unit Membership Board

-Ada moved to Special Activities Selection Board; 1969

-Great Lakes Region Girl Exchange 1969

-Ada is made chairman of the Grievance Committee; 1970

-Employment of the United States Military Forces in a Unified Command Area by Ada R. Mitchell

-Civil Air Patrol News from November and December 1971

-Certificate of Charter for St. Mary's Composite Squadron

-Senior membership list for 1976

-Various duty assignments and changes

-Membership listing for May 1979

Series 7- International Organization of Ninety-Nines

-Constitution of the Ninety-Nines; 1964 (3 copies)

-Letter detailing the progress being made on the headquarters building in Oklahoma City

-Brochure for the Ninety-Nines

-List of rates for coloring books by the Ninety-Nines

-Letter addressing the new system for paying dues

-Letter stating all applications of membership or renewal must be accompanied by proof of Biennial Flight Review (BFR)

-Blank application for membership

-Blank member questionnaire

-Blank application for annual proficiency training program

-List of candidates for international officers 1975-76

-Civil Defense for Ninety-Nines

-Article; "99ers 'Induct' Husbands; details 49 ½ program

-suggested outline for the Governors' Annual Report

-Letter to chapters outlining when they should be doing specific duties

-Letter to chapters announcing the voting on a medal to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of aviation

-Permission to sell 'First Airplane Ride' cards; for sale by 99s only

-Itinerary for International Annual Meeting held in Cincinnati, Oh August 1964

-Initiation of a 49 ½

Series 8- Middle East Section of Ninety-Nines

-Thumbnail sketches of candidates for Sectional Officers 1964-65

-Invitation to the Sectional Meeting hosted by the Maryland Chapter; 1965

-Letters of anticipation and Thank you from Peggy Borek for a "wonderful sectional meeting"; 1965

-Entry blank and flyer for Flying Treasure Hunt in March 1965

-Letter from Marie D'Alterio about the upcoming sectional and writing to Congressman; 1965

-Letter to Ada asking for advice on a speech

-Letter to various chapter chairs announcing intent to initiate all the 49 1/2s in attendance at the Spring sectional; 1973

-Itinerary and minutes of the Spring Sectional Meeting; April 7, 1973

-Letter announcing the same officers had been elected

-Letter to Rena thanking her for a plaque and updating her on Ada's life; Feb. 1974

-Minutes of Fall Sectional Meeting; October 12, 1974

-Itinerary for meeting on Oct. 24, 1970 in Delaware

-Blank nomination ballot for Eastern Pennsylvania chapter

-Letter to all Ninety-Nines announcing approval to accept proposal to construct a headquarters building in Oklahoma City

-List of awards

-Letter to the Governor of the Middle East Section announcing that ¾ of all husbands are registered as 49 1/2; Maryland Chapter has 100% registered

-Letter to section officers about upcoming sectional; March 1974

-Flyer for proficiency flying contest October 5, 1974

-List of officers for Middle East Section 1974-75

-Minutes of Sectional Meeting April 12, 1975

-Itinerary for Section Meeting October 18, 1975

-Minutes of the fall Sectional Meeting October 30, 1976

-Campaign letter for Mary Clark as President of the Ninety-Nines

-Page from a magazine with Christmas gift ideas for flying friends

-Invitation to Sectional Meeting in Maryland October 21, 1972

Series 9- Maryland Chapter of the Ninety-Nines

-Chapter elects to participate in the Emergency Relief Assistance Program; 1973

-Chapter calendar for 1964-65

-Birthday list of Maryland Chapter members

-Roster of Maryland Chapter

-List of officers and committee chairmen for chapter

-Invitation for Middle East Sectional Meeting April 1965, hosted by Maryland Chapter

-Information on delegates and registering for Annual International Meeting

-Letter to Ada from Ruth Deerman thanking her for a scarf and updating on a memo sent to the executive board

-Updates on the current members of the chapter (first page not included)

-Letter for refunding dues of certain members

-Minutes from June meeting

Series 10- Southern Maryland Chapter

-Notes regarding what would need to be done to start new chapter

- Letter from Ada Barrett transferring membership to the Southern Maryland Chapter

-Letter to Ada stating everything has been approved for the chapter and application for charter has been sent to chairman

-Letter from Ginny Vogul asking for most recent membership list

-Applications for membership for Judith Ann Neuffer; Diane Watson; Ann Marie Davenport; Donna Jean Miller; Marilyn Anne Merkel; and Anita Doss Ruth

-Request from Ruth Freckleton to move membership from Washington D.C. chapter to Southern Maryland Chapter

Series 11- Misc. Air Races

-Photo of the Naval Air Material Center in Philadelphia welcoming the Ninety-Nines; April 14, 1962

-Letter thanking Ada and chapter for contribution to the race fund

-Letter about the Powder Puff Derby and asking for help in funding the race; January 1965

- Letter from the All-Woman Transcontinental Air Race, Inc. about the response they have received from Ninety-Nines to continue the Powder Puff Derby and so the AWTAR was still needed

-Contract between AWTAR and Ninety-Nines to insure there would be an annual race; June 1965

-Flyer for All-Woman New England Air Race; May 1965

-Invitation to Awards Banquet honoring winners of the 1969 Powder Puff Derby

-Information about the history of the Angel Derby and its development

-Poster for Powder Puff Derby; 1975

Series 12- Misc. News Clippings

-Ada receives award from Ninety-Nines for "aviatrix who has done the most to advance the activities of aviation of women flyers"

-Article about Ada Mitchell

-Photo of Ada, as head of Washington D.C. chapter of Ninety-Nines, presenting Dr. F Garber, director of aviation at the Smithsonian Institute, with 24 volumes of scrapbook material about the group

-"Women Pilots in Air Race Leave Harrisburg Today"

- "Ada Mitchell Barrett Attends Charter Dinners"

-Photo of Ada pointing out a "tour" to a visitor

-"FBI Girl Happiest When She Pilots Plane Over D.C."

-"8 Planes in Air Derby Land Here"

-"Japanese Zero Fighter Lands at St. Mary's County Airport"

-"French Aviatrix Impressed By Americans' Youthfulness"

Series 13- FBI Flying Club Clippings

-"Planes are Safest, Says This Flier"; photo of Ada and members of Flying Club

-Picture and articles on death of Fay Champeau who died when her plane crashed

-"Air-Minded Washingtonians Get to Heaven by Sacrifice"

Series14- Misc. Black and White Photos

Series 15- Booklets

-Powder Puff Derby program- 1969

-Ninety-Nine News February 1965

-Ninety- Nine News March 1965

-Ninety- Nine News May 1965

-Ninety- Nine News May 1969

-Ninety- Nines Membership Directory 1952

-Ninety- Nine Membership Directory 1955

-Ninety- Nine Membership Directory 1956

-Ninety- Nine Membership Directory 1979-80