

Finding aid for the J. Gerald Vinkemulder aviation collection Collection 063

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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February 1988
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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Related Materials</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6
<u>Series I. PAPERS</u>	6
<u>Series II. PHOTOGRAPHS</u>	6
<u>Series III. APPENDED MATERIALS</u>	7

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	J. Gerald Vinkemulder aviation collection
Date [inclusive]	1926-1934, n.d.
Extent	0.21 Linear feet One box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>J. Gerald Vinkemulder (1900-1975) was an early aviator in West Michigan. During the 1920s and 1930s Vinkemulder was a test pilot and a stunt pilot, with some experience also as a dirigible pilot. He founded the Grand Rapids Civil Air Patrol during the 1940, and was active in other organizations related to aeronautics. The papers contain duplicates of various photographs, papers, licenses, news clippings and programs documenting aviation circa 1930. The photographs depict aerial views of Grand Rapids and its environs as well as various airplanes that visited Cassard Field. Also included is a dedication program for Daniel Waters Cassard Field in Grand Rapids, later called the Grand Rapids Airport and the Kent County Airport. Dedication of the field marked the beginning of scheduled air service between Detroit and Grand Rapids in 1926.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

J. Gerald Vinkemulder (1900-1975) was an early aviator in West Michigan. Although he worked first for Ackerman Electric and later built up a profitable business, Vinkemulder Termite Control, his early passion was for flying. He worked as a test pilot and stunt pilot of airplanes during the 1920s and 1930s, even working as a dirigible pilot at times. He founded the Grand Rapids Civil Air Patrol during the 1940s, as well as the Michigan Air Tours, Dawn Patrol and the American Legion Committee on Aeronautics.

Scope and Contents note

The Vinkemulder collection contains duplicates of various photographs, papers, licenses, and programs documenting aviation circa 1930 (ie. air shows, air circuses and air races). The dedication brochure of Cassard Field presents a brief history of transportation emphasizing the importance of air travel. The photographs depict aerial views of Grand Rapids and its environs as well as various airplanes that visited Cassard Field.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department February 1988

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Earl Spielmacher, accession number 1985.036, 1986.394

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Collection 075: Thomas Walsh papers

For further information on aviation history in Grand Rapids see: *On Wings of Progress : the Story of Kent County International Airport* / by James Van Vulpen. G.R. : Grand Rapids Historical Commission, Kent County Aeronautics Board, c. 1989. This source contains a biography of Vinkemulder, as well as his image, and at least one image from this collection.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Vinkemulder, J Gerald, 1900-1975

Subject(s)

- Aeronautics -- Michigan -- Kent County -- History

Series I. PAPERS

Collection Inventory

Series I. PAPERS 1926-1934, no date

Scope and Contents note

Programs from various aviation events (air shows, air circuses and air races); pilot's license and log; and newspaper clippings.

	Box	Folder
Air Circuses, Air Races, Air Shows, 1931-1934.	1	1
Dedication of Daniel Waters Cassard Field, 1926.	1	2
Michigan Air Tours, 1931.	1	3
Newspaper Clippings, 1928-1931, n.d.	1	4
Pilot's License, Pilot's Log Book, 1928-1931.	1	5

Series II. PHOTOGRAPHS circa 1930

Scope and Contents note

Views depict aerial views of Grand Rapids and its environs as well as various aircraft that visited Cassard Field.

	Box	Folder
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Series III. APPENDED MATERIALS

Airplanes (55 photos)	1	6
Dirigibles (2)	1	7
Chesapeake & Ohio RR Shops (1)	1	8
Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music (Calvin – 1 photo)	1	9
Grand Rapids Views (8)	1	10
Haskelite Manufacturing Company (1)	1	11
Kent County Airport (9)	1	12
People. Vinkemulder, J. Gerald (2)	1	13
Reeds Lake. Abrams Aerial Survey photo. (1)	1	14
	Collection	Folder
Oversized laser photocopy of the aerial view of Reeds Lake from 063-1-14, includes roller coaster, baseball diamond.	224	12

Series III. APPENDED MATERIALS**Scope and Contents note**

Series III. APPENDED MATERIALS

A additional item was found during the preparations for the 2000 move that is associated with this collection. It is a 1940 graphic for flight instruction. Due to its size and graphic nature, it is physically housed with Collection 224, the GRPL Art & Graphics Collection.

	Collection	Box
Learn to Fly. Grand Rapids Herald, June 2, 1940	224	20