

Finding aid for the Gordon L. Britton airport clippings Collection 437

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Gordon, Britton L, 1909-2002
Title	Britton L. Gordon airport clippings
Date [inclusive]	1946-1963
Extent	1.0 Linear feet 4 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Britton L. Gordon (1909-2002) was a Grand Rapids, Michigan businessman who strongly influenced aeronautics in the city. Gordon served on the Kent County Aeronautics Board from 1956-1978 and the Michigan Aeronautics Commission from 1963-1979. He was instrumental in developing the airport in Cascade Township, which is now known as the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. This collection contains newspaper clippings relating to aeronautics and the airport in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The clippings particularly cover discussion around expanding airport facilities and the opening of the new airport in Cascade Township.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Britton L. Gordon (September 21, 1909 - August 28, 2002) was born in Muskegon, Michigan to Lawrence O. and Margaret (Losey) Gordon. He graduated from Muskegon High School in 1927, then went on to graduate from Culver Military Academy in 1929. He earned a degree in engineering from Cornell University in 1933 and attended Cornell Law School in 1934.

For most of his career, Gordon was an engineer with the Blackmer Pump Company. He was also president of the company from 1965-1971. He retired from Dover Corp, the parent company of Blackmer Pump Division, as vice president in 1974.

Gordon served in the ROTC at Culver and Cornell and was commissioned as a second lieutenant, ordnance corps, Army of the United States in 1933. He served during World War II from 1940-1945 at the Chicago Ordnance District Office and the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Industrial Division, Washington, D.C. Gordon then served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1945-1969, and was promoted to full colonel in 1949.

Gordon also served on many boards, including those of Blodgett Memorial Hospital and Grace Church of Grand Rapids. His government affiliations included the Kent County Aeronautics Board (1956-1978) and the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (1963-1979)

Gordon and his wife, Mary (Norton) had three sons: Britton L. Gordon, Jr., Tracy N. Gordon and Scott W. Gordon.

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists entirely of newspaper clippings relating to aeronautics and the airport in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The clippings particularly cover discussion around expanding airport facilities and the opening of the new airport in Cascade Township.

Other topics relating to the airport are also included, such as snow removal, an air fair and a feature on the airport's disaster crew. Regional aviation news is occasionally covered as well.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department July 2015

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gordon L. Britton, accession number 1986.149

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Collection 239 - Grand Rapids Public Library scrapbook collection - Kent County Airport scrapbooks, boxes 8 and 9. The airport scrapbooks in Collection 239 are similar to the ones in this collection.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Gerald R. Ford International Airport.
- Kent County Airport.
- Kent County International Airport.

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 20th Century

Subject(s)

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

Collection Inventory

	Box
Newspaper clippings 1946-1956	1
Newspaper clippings 1949-1953	2
Newspaper clippings 1956-1958	3
Newspaper clippings 1959-1963	4