

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center
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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Senior Archivist

TITLE: R.W. Stevens Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1976.083

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1967

Extent: 1 item

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Unkown

Administrative/Biographical History:

Robert William Stevens was born on a homestead near Baudette, Minnesota on May 22, 1918.¹ He grew up in Crookston, graduating from Central High School in 1936. Coming out of the depression there was no work to be had, and he enrolled in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Bena.

He later enrolled at Junior College in Hibbing, Minnesota in the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) program in conjunction with L. Millar Wittig Flying School at the local airport. He proceeded to take several other flight training and certification courses. During this time, he served in the United States Army as a Private, having enrolled in the Reserve on August 11, 1942. He received an honorable discharge September 29, 1943, and served as an instructor until the War Training Service closed their pilot training with the scaling down of the war.

In 1946, Stevens came to Alaska as copilot for Pacific Northern Airlines, Inc. (formerly Woodley Airways). Pacific Northern Airlines merged with Western Airlines in 1967, and Stevens became

¹ "Dr. Robert W. Stevens LLD." National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian, <https://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/dr-robert-w-stevens-lld>

part of that pilot group. Stevens retired at age 60 per government edict on May 22, 1978, making his last trip with Flight 722 on May 20 from Anchorage to Seattle. Stevens remained involved in researching and writing a complete "HISTORY OF ALASKAN AVIATION, 1897-1930"; the two volumes were published in 1990.

Stevens passed in July 2003.²

Scope and Content Description:

This collection consists of one photographic print of Robert William Stevens.

Arrangement: Collection arranged by previous archivist.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

R.W. Stevens Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1976.083

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Robert William Stevens in May 1976.

Processing Note

Guide created from card catalog data. The photograph was not physically consulted at the time of writing.

² Robert W. and Elizabeth L. Stevens Collection, ca. 1960s – 1970s, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks, <https://archivescatalog.library.uaf.edu/public/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AABC&record=49ea30ac-c7bf-47a8-ad9b-2e20218ecbaf>

RELATED MATERIALS

B1965.002 CIHS Bowden-Liston
B1989.016 Lu Liston Collection
B1993.020 Doris Rhodes Slides
B1995.010 George E. Allen Collection
B2007.016 Christenson Slide Collection
B2009.038 Henry M. deButts Slides
B2012.006 William Jennings Bryan Swank Photographs
B2012.030 Hobart Hyatt Collection
B2013.029 Anchorage Panorama Collection
B2014.019 Matthew P. Mullaney Slides
B2015.025 Ken Hinchey Collection
B2015.029 John E. "Pat" Ryan Collection
B2016.006 William C. and Frances P. Ray Slides
TL522 .A4 S7 v.1-.2, *Alaskan Aviation History* (1990)
Robert W. and Elizabeth L. Stevens Collection, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives,
University of Alaska Fairbanks

SUBJECTS

Stevens, Robert W. (Robert William), 1918 – 2003
Aeronautics – Alaska
Air pilots
Airline industry
Pacific Northern Airlines
Western Airlines

Detailed Description of the Collection

.1 – July 16, 1967. Robert William Stevens, Capt. Pacific Northern Airlines, Anchorage, Alaska.
[portrait of Robert William Stevens in captain uniform for Pacific Northern Airlines]

Guide written: May 12, 2025