Smith (Willis B.) Collection on Western Airlines

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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### Summary Information

**Repository:** University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections Division.

**Creator:** Smith, Willis B.

**Title:** Willis B. Smith Collection on Western Airlines

**ID:** MS-00123

**Date [inclusive]:** 1958

**Physical Description:** 0.1 Linear Feet 2 folders (shared box)

**Language of the Material:** English

**Abstract:** The Willis B. Smith Collection (1958) on Western Airlines consists of two news releases from Western Airlines about the company’s history and two letters to Willis B. Smith. The collection describes the founding of Western Airlines and its early flights from Salt Lake City, Utah to Los Angeles, California.

### Preferred Citation

Willis B. Smith Collection on Western Airlines, 1958. MS-00123. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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### Historical Note

Western Airlines operated between 1926 and 1987 when it merged with Delta Airlines. They began operation as Western Air Express on April 17, 1926, flying between Salt Lake City, Utah and Los Angeles, California via Las Vegas, Nevada as the first commercial air flight to carry United States mail. On May 23, 1926, Western Air Express started carrying passengers. In 1941, they changed their name to Western Airlines. Western Airlines and Delta Airlines merged on April 1, 1987.

Scope and Contents Note

The Willis B. Smith Collection (1958) on Western Airlines consists of two news releases from Western Airlines about the company's history and two letters to Willis B. Smith. The collection describes the founding of Western Airlines and its early flights from Salt Lake City, Utah to Los Angeles, California.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections Division.

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Revision Description

The finding aid was revised and enhanced by Angela Moor to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. July 2015
Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1975 by Willis B. Smith; accession number 75-89-1.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

Controlled Access Headings

- Western Airlines
- Airlines -- United States
- Smith, Willis B.

Collection Inventory

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter to Willis B. Smith from Salt Lake Tribune regarding mail flown on first Western Airlines flight, 1958 April 25</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Airlines news release about the history of the airline, 6 pages, undated</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter to Willis B. Smith from Western Airlines about company history and first flight, 1958 May 08</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Airlines news release about the history of the airline and its aircraft, undated</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
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