

Collection #
SC 3251

ALLISON COMPANY COLLECTION ADDITION, CA. 1970S–1990S

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder, 1 color photo folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1970s-90s

PROVENANCE: John M. Leonard, Greencastle, IN; August 2011

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Allison Company Collection M 1040; Allison Engineering Company Collection P 0199

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0213

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Indianapolis industrialist James A. Allison established the Allison Speedway Team Company to produce race car components. With the entry of the United States in World War I, racing production and started manufacturing components for the Liberty aircraft engines and the firm's name was altered to the Allison Engineering Company. Allison received additional government contracts for the manufacturing of aircraft engines which continued after war.

When Allison died in 1928, the company was purchased by General Motors the following year. Allison continued manufacturing aircraft engines under GM ownership. The Second World War provided additional work for the facility. In 1943 Allison produced an average of 3,000 aircraft engines a month and had a work force of over 23,000.

After the war the company entered into the production of transmissions in 1946 in addition to maintaining its aircraft engine operation. In 1970 GM's Detroit Diesel Engine Division was consolidated with the Allison and the company was renamed Detroit Diesel-Allison and the facility started production of gas turbine engines. The merger was not financially successful and in 1983 the company was split into two separate divisions—the Detroit Diesel Allison Division and the Allison Gas Turbine Division.

In 1987 Allison Turbine formed a joint venture with Pratt and Whitney of East Hartford Connecticut to design and produce a new airplane engine. In 1988 Allison Transmission introduce its new automatic for trucks called World Transmission.

By the 1990s both Allisons looked to international markets because of spending cuts in defense, formerly sixty percent of Gas Turbine's business. New general manager F. Blake Wallace attempted to increase civilian but despite some production opportunities during the Persian Gulf War, the rumors of selling Allison pushed management to improve labor relations and offset the threat of lay-offs and downsizing. The expansion and modernization of DDAD led to the efficient production of Allison Gas Turbine engines in aircraft commuter planes while employing 10,000 people at both Allison plants.

In 1993, General Motors sold Allison for \$337 million to Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, a New York buyout firm. Two years later, Rolls-Royce bought Allison Engine Company for \$525 million as a part of the company's growth through mergers and acquisitions. The sale allowed Rolls-Royce to provide engines in most segments of the market.

Sources:

A Brief History of Allison Transmission. Accessed 31 October 2012.
<http://www.allisontransmission.com/company/history/>

Collection materials.

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis.

Rolls-Royce. "Heritage: The history of Rolls-Royce in North America." Accessed 10 May 2017. <https://www.rolls-royce.com/country-sites/northamerica/heritage.aspx>

Stevenson, Richard W. "Rolls Will Buy Allison to Broaden Engine Line." *The New York Times*, 22 November 1994. Accessed 10 May 2017.

<http://www.nytimes.com/1994/11/22/business/company-news-rolls-will-buy-allison-to-broaden-engine-line.html>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains printed materials related to Allison Engine Company from approximately the 1970s through the 1990s. This includes an informational packet on the Allison GMA 2100 turboprop engine, a list of historic dates for the company from 1915 to 1983, flyers for assorted engine models, prints of engine models, and two engine photos.

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CONTENTS

Allison GMA 2100 turboprop engine informational packet, ca. 1990s

Allison historic dates list, n.d.

Assorted engine model flyers, ca. 1970s-90s

Engine model prints, n.d.

Engine photos, n.d.

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 1

Folder 1

Folder 1

Visual Collections:
Color Photographs,
Folder 1