

Arthur C. Goebel (1895-1973) Photograph Collection

Repository:

Seaver Center for Western History, Research, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Span Dates:

1640 – 1971, undated, bulk is 1920 – 1940

Extent:

Boxes: 22 letter (photographs); 5 oversized (photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper); 4 letter, 1 ½ letter (negatives); 5 record storage, 1 oversized, 1 letter (film reels). 1 oversized folder (photographs)

Language:

English

Conditions Governing Use:

Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder

Conditions Governing Access:

Research is by appointment only

Preferred Citation:

Arthur C. Goebel Photograph Collection, Seaver Center for Western History Research, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

Special Formats:

2 photograph offset plates in Box 18

1 set of x-rays in Box 2 oversized

1 camera film role in Box 21

1 wood cutout in Box 21

Related Collections:

GC-1079 Arthur C. Goebel Collection

P-268 Aviation Photo Collection

Processing Information:

Processed by Duncan Hodur Scharpf, March 2024

Abstract:

The Arthur C. Goebel Photograph Collection consists of photographs, negatives, film reels, posters, scrapbooks, and a newspaper from his personal and military life, career as a stunt, race, and film pilot, and his travels. The collection emphasizes the early age of aviation in the 1920s and 1930s and shows Goebel performing numerous stunts around Los Angeles and the Dole Air Race from Oakland, California to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1927.

Biographical Note:

Arthur C. Goebel began his piloting career in 1920 when he began to learn to fly, though he would not get his pilot's license until 1925. He would become a member of the 13 Black Cats in 1925 where he and his fellow pilots and stunt performers would perform stunts for a set price. These stunts included wing walking, flying upside down, transferring from a car to a plane, flying under bridges, and going from one plane to another to replace a lost wheel. These stunts would be recorded and played on newsreels around the country for the entertainment for all. The group would disband in 1929.

Goebel offered lessons in stunt flying from Clover Field in Santa Monica, California and performed in various stunt shows in and around Los Angeles. He would also fly planes in movies such as *Three Miles Up*, and take aerial photography.

Goebel's biggest claim to fame is his victory in the Dole Air Race with his navigator Bill Davis flying the *Woolaroc*. Inspired by Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean James D. Dole, founder of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, decided to hold a race that went from Oakland, California to Honolulu, Hawaii with a grand prize of \$25,000. Nine planes began the race, and only two would eventually make it to Hawaii. The rest either had to turn around back to Oakland or crashed. Ten people died in the race. Goebel and Davis would arrive in Honolulu after twenty six hours and seventeen minutes in the air, becoming stars across the country.

Goebel would fly from Los Angeles to New York City the following year, completing the trip in eighteen hours and fifty eight minutes becoming the first person to fly nonstop between the two coasts and completing it in the fastest time. Goebel regularly competed in various races after his stunt flying days, winning awards around the country.

Scope and Content:

The Arthur C. Goebel Photograph Collection consists of photographs, negatives, film reels, and scrapbooks from his personal and military life, career as a stunt, race, and film pilot, and his travels. The collection emphasizes the early age of aviation in the 1920s and 1930s in and around Los Angeles. One subject matter is stunt flying with hundreds of photographs showing Goebel and his fellow pilots and stunt performers flying upside down, wing walking, going from one plane to another, and flying under bridges. These stunts would be filmed and played in movie theaters across the country.

Another major topic is the Dole Air Race from Oakland, California to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1927. James D. Dole, founder of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, was inspired by Charles

Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic flight to create his own race and to see how viable air travel was between Hawaii and the mainland would be to move his products. This is the race that elevated Goebel's fame around the country when he and his copilot, Bill Davis, won the race. There are no photographs of them flying, instead they are taken before the race in Oakland, after they have won in Honolulu, or celebrating in Santa Monica.

There are photographs that detail different parts of his life including his travels, family heritage, various planes, military career, and portraits. One of the planes in the collection is the *Woolaroc* which he flew in the Dole Air Race. Many of the negatives are for these pictures.

Of particular note are photographs of Exposition Park from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These include photographs of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, then called The Museum of History, Science, and Art. These are located in photo album in Box 14; in the folder Aerial Photography, Los Angeles in Box 2 – Oversized; Aerial Demonstration Advertisement Posters in Box 4 – Oversized.

There are also photographs of actors, actresses, and others in the film industry from the 1920s and 1930s. Many of these are autographed, some of them to him. These are located in the folder Individuals – Identified in Box 19; Individuals – Identified in Box 1 – Oversized; and Individuals – Identified #1 and Individuals – Identified #2 in Box 4 – Oversized.

#### Arrangement:

Series 1: Binders, 1640 – 1971

Series 2: Boxes, 1878 – 1972, bulk is 1920s

Series 3: Original Prints, 1640 – 1953, bulk is 1910s – 1920s

Series 4: Stunt Flying, 1862 – 1928, bulk is 1926 – 1928

Series 5: Dole Air Race, 1927, 1952, 1967

Series 6: Geographic Locations, 1870 – 1951, bulk is 1910s

Series 7: Subjects, 1876 – 1971, bulk is 1910s – 1930s

Series 8: Scrapbooks and Newspaper, 1923 – 1954

Series 9: Film Reels, 1914 – 1971

Series 10: Negatives, 1640 – 1971, bulk is 1910s – 1930s

#### **Series 1: Binders, 1640 – 1971**

Thirty three binders, an index for binders 1-30, and four scrapbooks. The first thirty binders were created by Goebel and document his family in Germany, his life growing up, his career as a stunt and race pilot, and his later life and travels. Binders 31-33 are not mentioned in the index and likely assembled later. The index included has a date range and description of each item in the binder. A copy is included in this finding aid. Two of the scrapbooks are about his family in Buer, Germany and the other two contain pictures of his travels around the world.

Box 1: Binders 1-4

<u>Box 2:</u>	Binders 5-8
<u>Box 3:</u>	Binders 9-12
<u>Box 4:</u>	Binders 13-16
<u>Box 5:</u>	Binders 17-20
<u>Box 6:</u>	Binders 21-24
<u>Box 7:</u>	Binders 15-28
<u>Box 8:</u>	Binders 29-31
<u>Box 8 – A:</u>	Binders 32-33
	Index for binders 1-30
	Scrapbook – Round Africa Cruise, 1939
	Scrapbook – Mediterranean trip, circa 1930s
	Views of Buer [Germany] I, 1891
	Views of Buer [Germany] II, 1891

**Series 2: Boxes, 1878 – 1972, bulk is 1920s**

Boxes of pictures that have been put together by Goebel that are based on a central theme. These include his life as a pilot, his interests, and his travels. Some of the pictures in the boxes do not correspond to the title. The titles listed below are the original titles unless surrounded by a bracket. There are two boxes that contain pictures of Mike, his pet dog from the late 1960s until the dog's death in 1971. Goebel routinely took the dog with him on vacations and gave him birthday parties.

<u>Box 9:</u>	Box 1 – Personal Pictures Germany, Japan, USA
	Box 2 – Personal Pictures and Norway
	Box 3 – Personal Pictures, Japan, Germany, New Mexico
	Box 4 – [Art Goebel – Airplanes and Air Races]
	Box 5 – Germany, Japan, Soviet Union
<u>Box 10:</u>	Box 6 – Important Pictures 1972, Personal Pictures Arthur C Goebel
	Box 7 – [Wright Brothers, Maps]
	Box 8 – Colorado Rocky Ford
	Box 9 – New Mexico, Belen – Socorro and San Antonio
	Box 10 – Last Prints Mike and Art December 1970
<u>Box 11:</u>	Box 11 – “Mike” Cross Country and Belen N Mexico

Box 12 – Rocky Ford Colorado, Early School Days, 1913-1919, Personal Pictures 1922, 1924, 1926, 1955

Box 13 – Sarajevo, Bosnia June 28, 1914

Box 14 – Important Pictures, [German] Royal Family

Box 15 – [Title Cards]

Box 12: Box 16 – Wright Brothers 1903 – 1948

Box 17 – Rocky Ford, Colorado

Box 18 – South America

Box 19 – Personal Pictures

Box 20 – Texas Family, 1919 – 1970

Box 13: Box 21 – Sarajevo, Bosnia, Assassination Arch Duke, June 28, 1914

Box 22 – Historical Pictures

Box 23 – Texas Family, 1919 – 1970

Box 24 – Personal Pictures and Aviation

Box 25 – [Titles Cards]

**Series 3: Original Prints, 1640 – 1953, bulk is 1910s – 1920s**

Original prints of Goebel's family and friends, and his piloting career. There is also a small photo album that contains aerial photography of Los Angeles and the surrounding area in the 1910s. Original prints. Arranged alphabetically by subject except for the photo album which is first.

Box 14: Photo Album

Photograph of Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, circa mid 1910s

Artic flight, July 1, 1949

Aunt Francin – Plant City, Florida 1917

Belen, New Mexico – Birthplace February 22, 1898

Brockman, Hampton

Campbell, Babe

Clippings

Clover Field Air Meet – Santa Monica, California 1923

Crissy Field October 19, 1928

Dole Air Race August 16, 1927

Funeral

Glad and Harry

Goebel, Art

Goebel, Art – 21<sup>st</sup> birthday October 19(?), 1916 Rocky Ford, Colorado

Goebel, Art – Charlie Babb July 6, 1927

Goebel, Art – Clover Field Santa Monica, California 1924 – 1927

Goebel, Art – Group photographs

Goebel, Art – Hawaii

Goebel, Art – Military service

Goebel, Art – “Skywriter” plane (1933)

Goebel, Art with coworkers – Fort Worth, Texas 1920

Goebel, Art with friends – Colorado Springs, Colorado 1915

Goebel, Art with mother

Goebel, Art – WWI

Goebel, Art – WWI uniform (1919)

Goebel Crest 1640

House

Individuals – Unidentified

Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

Luke, Frank

Mines Field – Los Angeles, California August 19, 1928

Negative

Negative photos – WWI

Peterson, Leonard R. “Pete”

R., Daisy

Stunt Flying

Thelma

Two Young Men

Unger, Ivan W.

Vroman, Colorado May 20, 1903

Vroman, Colorado May 20, 1953

Oversize folder: [World War I] - Panoramic of uniformed military officers

**Series 4: Stunt Flying, 1862 – 1928, bulk is 1926 – 1928**

Photographs of Goebel and his friends doing various aerial stunts including wing walking, flying upside down, flying under a bridge, and putting on a wheel in midair. Also included are photographs from a trip to Japan and from a non-stop flight from Los Angeles to New York City. A mixture of original and copy prints. Arranged chronologically except for the last two folders which are a mixture of photographs. Folders in the oversized boxes are arranged by size then alphabetically.

Box 15: #1a – Travel in the air 1862 – 1865 – 1871 London, England

#1b – “Chief White Eagle” 1926

#2 – Stunt Flying

#3 – Stunt Flying Clover Field, Santa Monica 1926

#4 – Clover Field, Santa Monica 1926

#5 – Gene Lavoche – Auto to Plane

#6 – Stunt Flying

#7 – Stunt Flying

#8a – Stunt Flying – Pasadena Bridge 1926

#8b – Stunt Flying – Arroyo Seco – Pasadena 1926

#9 – Stunt Flying – Japan

#10 – Non-stop flight Los Angeles to New York City

#11 – Stunt Flying

#12 – Stunt Flying

Box 1 – Oversized: Stunt Flying #1

Midair plane crash #1

Midair plane crash #2

Midair plane crash #3

Stunt Flying #2

Stunt Flying and shooting

**Series 5: Dole Air Race, 1927, 1952, 1967**

Photographs from the Dole Air Race in 1927; reunion in 1952; 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1967. Name variations: Dole Derby, Pineapple Derby. A mixture of original and copy prints. Arranged chronologically, undated photographs arranged alphabetically at the end.

Box 16: Bill Davis, (?), Art Goebel in front of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, August 1927

Dole Race – 1 – Oakland #1

Dole Race – 1 – Oakland #2

Dole Race – 2A – Hawaii #1

Dole Race – 2A – Hawaii #2

Dole Race – 2B – Presentation with Jim Dole #1

Dole Race – 2B – Presentation with Jim Dole #2

Dole Race – 2B – Presentation with Jim Dole #3

Dole Race – 2B – Presentation with Jim Dole #4

Dole Race – 3 – San Francisco

Dole Race – 4 – Clover Field #1

Dole Race – 4 – Clover Field #2

Dole Race – 4 – Clover Field #3

Dole Race pilots and navigators, August 1927

Hawaii – Reunion 1952

Dole Race 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Oakland, California, August 1967

Dole Race Airplane, Breese Monoplane “Aloha,” Pilot Martin Jensen, Navigator Paul Schluter

Dole Race Airplane – City of Peoria

Dole Race Airplane, Travel Air 5000 – Oklahoma, pilot Bennet Griffin, navigator Al Henley

Box 1 – Oversized: Dole Race

Box 4 – Oversized: Dole Race

Oversize folder: [Dole Race reunion] – enlarged print with handwritten messages

**Series 6: Geographic Locations, 1870 – 1951, bulk is 1910s**

Photographs from Goebel's travels. Because of his life as a race pilot he was constantly traveling and this continued late into his life after he had finished his piloting career. He would also go on goodwill tours around the world on behalf of the United States, particularly Japan. A mixture of original and copy prints. Arranged by geographic location alphabetically.

Box 17: California, Santa Monica  
 California, Santa Monica – Clover Field  
 California, Los Angeles – de Mille Field  
 Colorado  
 Colorado, Rocky Ford  
 Ecuador  
 Europe – Austria-Hungary #1  
 Europe – Austria-Hungary #2  
 Europe – Germany  
 Hawaii, Mauna Loa, November 21, 1935  
 Japan  
 Locations – Identified  
 Locations – Unidentified  
 Missouri, Kansas City  
 New Mexico, Belen  
 New York – Curtis Museum  
 Peru

Box 21: Locations – Unidentified

Box 1 – Oversized: Japan Trip #1  
 Japan Trip #2  
 Locations – Identified  
 Locations – Unidentified

Box 2 – Oversized: Japan Trip

**Series 7: Subjects 1876 – 1971, bulk is 1910s – 1930s**

Photographs relating to various aspects of Goebel's personal life including his family, various airplanes he flew or his friends flew, events he took part of, his piloting career, and his military career. Includes photographs of airplanes from the 1920s and 1930s. A mixture of original and copy prints. Arranged alphabetically by subject. Oversized boxes arranged by size then alphabetically by subject.

**Box 17:**

Aerial views  
 Aerial views, Airfield  
 Airplanes – Construction + parts  
 Airplanes – Crashes – #1  
 Airplanes – Crashes – #2  
 Airplanes – Identified  
 Airplanes – Unidentified #1  
 Airplanes – Unidentified #2

**Box 18:**

Airplanes – Unidentified #3  
 Airplanes – Unidentified #4  
 Art Goebel greets the crew of the “Southern Cross” in Hawaii – En route to Australia – 1928  
 Art Goebel breaking ground for Knoll Aircraft Factory, Wichita, Kansas 1928  
 Art Goebel – Flanked by Sioux Indian chiefs, Bismarck, North Dakota 1936  
 Art Goebel, Frank Clarke, (?)  
 Art Goebel in plane, Stunt Flying – Photo offset plates  
 Art Goebel at breakfast in Kansas City with first Powder Puff Derby fliers (1929?)  
 Art Goebel performing maintenance on JN-4  
 Art Goebel, R.L. Riss, Guiberson diesel airplane 1932  
 Art Goebel with two JN-4's circa 1924  
 Art Goebel's skywriting Boeing “Speed Wing”  
 Babe Kalishek (?), Art Goebel, Gladys Ingle, Bon MacDougal (?) June 14, 1926

Cemetery  
Dogs  
Events (Races, shows, + appearances) #1  
Events (Races, shows, + appearances) #2  
Events (Races, shows, + appearances) #3  
First flight of aviation December 17, 1903  
Gladys Ingle, Art Goebel, Babe Kalishek  
Goebel – Airplanes  
Goebel – Car  
Goebel – Cold War #1  
Goebel – Cold War #2  
Goebel + David #1  
Goebel + David #1  
Goebel + David #3  
Goebel Family #1  
Goebel Family #2  
Box 19: Goebel – Groups identified  
Goebel – Groups – Location identified  
Goebel – Groups unidentified #1  
Goebel – Groups unidentified #2  
Goebel – Individual identified  
Goebel – Individual unidentified  
Goebel – Pilot license  
Goebel – Portraits  
Goebel – Single informal #1 aviation  
Goebel – Single informal #2  
Goebel – World War II  
Group Picture – Wiley Post, Art Goebel  
Groups – Identified

## Groups – Unidentified

Guiberson diesel powered airplane – Destroyed in crash at McKinney, Texas, May 28, 1932

Harry Tucker (?), Art Goebel, Alan Lockheed

## Individuals – Identified

Alma Taylor

Roy Rogers

Shirley Temple

William “Bill” Desmond

## Individuals – Unidentified

Box 20:

Los Angeles, September 1927. Bill David and Art Goebel

Man on left (?), Art Goebel, Will Rogers, Hap Arnold (?), Los Angeles

“Mike” – pet dog – 1971

Newspaper clipping

Non-photos

OX5 Club

Parachutes

Parades

Pilots

Postcards

Rocky Ford Motorcycle Club alumni, 1967

Scenery

Text

Turbee Davidson, Art Goebel, Alan Lockheed (?) Airplane Yankee Doodle – 1928

TWA

Vacations

Woolaroc – #1

Woolaroc – #2

Woolaroc – #3

Woolaroc airplane at Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle group picture

Box 21:

Art Goebel; Party circa 1940s, 1950s

Art Goebel – Family; Sinking ship

Clover Field Air Meet – 1924 (two copies)

Frontier Days – 1936

Frontier Days – 1938

Group – Unidentified (two copies)

Pony Express route map

Wood cutout

Box 1 – Oversized:

Art Goebel – Collage

Airplanes #1

Art Goebel – Group unidentified #1

Art Goebel – Native Americans

Individuals – Identified #1

Scenery

Sphinx and Great Pyramids, Egypt

Airplanes #2

Art Goebel – Airplanes

Art Goebel – Group identified

Art Goebel – Group unidentified #2

Art Goebel – Individuals identified

Art Goebel – Individuals unidentified

Art Goebel – Road trip

Art Goebel's father

Boats

Check and stock certificate

Clouds

Family reunion (?)

Group – Identified

Individuals – Identified #2

Dolores Del Rio

Greta Garbo

Joan Crawford

Sue Carol

Individuals – Unidentified

Prussian and German Royal Wedding

Signed appreciation card

Title cards

Woolaroc at airfield

Box 2 – Oversized: Air Exhibition – Dallas, Texas 1932

Club banquet

Great Temple of Ramses II, Abu Simbel, Egypt

Aerial Photography, location unknown

Aerial Photography, Los Angeles

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Natural History Museum of  
Los Angeles County, circa 1921, 1922

Airplanes, blimp

Art Goebel – Airplanes

Art Goebel – Group unidentified

Art Goebel – Individual unidentified

Emma Goebel's x-rays

Pilots poster

13 Black Cats, 13 Flying Black Cats – 1925

Box 4 – Oversized: Art Goebel – Portraits #1

Art Goebel – Portraits #2

Aerial demonstration advertisement posters

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Natural History Museum of  
Los Angeles County, circa 1931

Art Goebel – Parents

Individuals – Identified

Gladys Ingle

Newsprint, posters

**Series 8: Scrapbooks and Newspaper, 1923 – 1954**

Scrapbooks that contain newspaper clippings related to Goebel's piloting career and achievements and to his pilot friends' careers. Arranged by size.

Box 3 – Oversized: Newspaper: Amarillo Sunday News – Globe, August 14, 1938

Scrapbook – Stunt Flying, 1932

Box 5 – Oversized: Scrapbook “Art Goebel” – Dole Air Race, 1927; Article from 1952;  
Article from 1954

Scrapbook “The Ideal Scrapbook” – Stunt Flying, 1923 – 1926

**Series 9: Film Reels, 1914 – 1971**

16mm and 35mm nitrate film reels that show various stunts, travel, newsreels, flying and home movies. The newsreels are what people would see across the country. There are also reels of the Dole Air Race in Oakland, Honolulu, and Santa Monica. Locations also seen in the film reels include Tokyo, Los Angeles, New York City, India, Turkey, Sarajevo, Central and South America, and Africa.

Box 4: Letter box

Box 5 – 9: Record storage

Box 12 – Oversized

**Series 10: Negatives, 1640 – 1971, bulk is 1910s – 1930s**

Negatives for many of the photographs in the collection. A majority of the negatives have a description written on their envelope and two indexes are written about the negatives in boxes one and two. Some developed photographs are in envelopes 1, 10, and 21 in Box 3 and a roll of film is in Box 4. Arranged by envelope number. Majority of envelopes were originally numbered by Goebel. Remaining envelopes were numbered by the archivist and is denoted with brackets. A copy of the index for the negatives is included with the finding aid.

Box 1: Index of Negatives

Negatives 1 – 163

Box 2: Negatives 164 – [393]

Box 3: Envelopes 1 – 35

Box 4: Envelopes 36 – [46]

Pilots poster

Box 5: Photocopies of negatives envelopes 1 – 163

Photocopies of negatives envelopes 164 – 388

Additional, Separate Indexes:

Please email [seavercenter@nhm.org](mailto:seavercenter@nhm.org) to request a copy.

Series 1 Index (60 pages) P-56 Goebel Index of Binders 1-30

Series 10 indexes (14 pages) P-56 Goebel Index of Negatives Bx1-2superceded