

**MS – 305**

**W.J. Blanchard, Aeroproducts Inc. Collection**

**Wright State University  
Special Collections and Archives**

Processed by  
Brett Stolle  
Jan.-March 2002

## INTRODUCTION

This collection contains personal papers and correspondence belonging to Werner J. Blanchard co-founder of Vandalia, Ohio based Engineering Products Inc. Also included in this collection are business documents from 1937-1940 when the small corporation was purchased by General Motors Corp. and renamed Aeroproducts. The collection also contains patent information and blueprints for the inventions of W.J. Blanchard as well as marketing information for propellers designed by the company.

The collection is arranged into the following record series:

- SERIES 1: Werner J. Blanchard Personal Material**
- SERIES 2: Engineering Projects, Inc./Aeroproducts Business Records**
- SERIES 3: Engineering Blueprints and Marketing Booklets**
- SERIES 4: General Motors Strike**
- SERIES 5: Aviation Handbooks**
- SERIES 6: Oversize**

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Werner J. Blanchard was a father, an inventor, and a well respected member of the Dayton business community. He was born in Bennington, Kansas on April 4, 1900. He attended college at Wooster, Ohio and graduated from Kansas State College where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. In 1920 he went to work as a machinist for Cleveland Worm and Gear Co. in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1924 he moved home to Manhattan, Kansas to teach school until 1927. He began his professional career in the Aeronautics industry as an engineer for Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corp. It was at the Curtiss Corp. that he first patented some of his innovations for aircraft propellers. In 1935 he left the Curtiss Corp. to co-found his own new company with his friend Charles MacNeil. They called their new corporation Engineering Products and started it in Vandalia, Ohio. The company was the first to develop a new propeller that has since become known as the "Aeroprop". In 1940 Engineering Products was purchased by General Motors Corp. and renamed to Aeroproducts. Werner J. Blanchard was named first General Manager of the Aeroproducts division.

Mr. Blanchard was a member of many local organizations and charities. He was elected president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce in 1944. He also served as a founding member of the University of Illinois Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. In addition, he served as President of the Board at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio and was a member of the Dayton Engineers Club.

Werner J. Blanchard was sadly taken before his time in December of 1948 when he was killed in the crash of his Navion 85 airplane on a return trip from a business conference. After many days of searching rescuers found the wreckage of his plane outside of Columbus, Ohio. Shortly after his death he was awarded the Presidents Award for Service of Merit During Wartime. He was survived by his wife Juliet, daughter Eunice and son David.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

### **SERIES 1: Werner J. Blanchard Personal Material**

Included in this series are photographs, correspondence, and awards given to W.J. Blanchard for his service to the community. There is a biography on his life written by his wife Juliet. There are also copies of his wills, birth certificate, teachers certificate, and resume. Also included are memorial speeches and newspaper clippings related to his plane crash and death.

### **SERIES 2: Engineering Products/Aeroproducts Business Records**

Contains business documents relating to Engineering Products and Aeroproducts. Included are the original Articles of Incorporation, Minutes of the Board, Corporate Tax Returns, Letters of Patent, project agreements and employee lists. After 1940 the documents reflect the purchase of Engineering Products by General Motors. These documents include Audits, Bills of Sale, Patent assignments to General Motors, Liquidation of Assets, and the Certificate of Dissolution of Engineering Products. There are also a small number of photographs and newspaper clippings related to Aeroproducts.

### **SERIES 3: Engineering Blueprints and Marketing Booklets**

This series includes both blueprints and technical reports for various Engineering Products/Aeroproducts inventions and products. Also included are marketing booklets for Aeroproducts and Curtiss Propeller Company products.

### **SERIES 4: General Motors Strike**

Documents exclusive to the labor difficulties in America after WWII and the General Motors/UAW strike in 1946. These documents include memoranda, newsletters, pamphlets and newspaper clippings from both local and national sources.

### **SERIES 5: Aviation Handbooks**

Includes a military handbook and technical order for the *Type A-5 Automatic Pilot "MI"*. Also included is a Military Report on radio facility charts and an aerial map of Kansas City airport.

### **SERIES 6: Oversize**

Contains oversize photographs, maps and awards from the collection of W.J. Blanchard. Included are 4 Phonograph records containing speeches by W.J. Blanchard and Charles Kettering and the Dedication of the Blanchard-MacNeil Memorial.

## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

SERIES 1: Werner J. Blanchard Personal Material

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	<i>A Man Wants Wings</i> ; Story of W.J. Blanchard	(1900-1948)
	2	Changes and Drafts for <i>A Man Wants Wings</i>	No Date
	3	Will and Biography of W.J. Blanchard	1945
	4	W.J. Blanchard and Family Photographs (1-8)	No Date
	5	W.J. Blanchard's Teaching Certificate	1925
	6	W.J. Blanchard's Last Will and Testament	1943
	7	W.J. Blanchard's Birth Certificate	1944
	8	Curtiss-Wright Corp. Employee Record	1935
	9	Dayton Chamber of Commerce Newsletter	1944
	10	Board of Directors for Dayton Bureau of Community Service	1944-1947
	11	National Aeronautic Association Membership	No Date
	12	W.J. Blanchard Awards and Citations	1941-1946
	13	Presidents Certificate of Merit for Service	1947-1948
	14	W.J. Blanchard and Airplane Photographs (1-7)	No Date
	15	Registration, Insurance and Federal Regulations for W.J. Blanchard's Navion 85 Airplane	1945-1947
	16	Flight Log for Navion 85 Airplane	1947-1948
	17	Civil Aeronautics Board Investigators Report for December 4, 1948; W.J. Blanchard's Fatal Accident	1948
	18	<i>In Memorium</i> Pamphlet (2 copies)	1949
	19	Transfer of Custody of Children to Juliet Blanchard	1948
	20	Memorial Speech and Letters of Condolence	1948-1949
	21	Newsclippings of Comic Strips for Funeral	1948
	22	Newspaper Clippings of Death and Funeral	1948-1949
	23	Blanchard-MacNeil Memorial Boy Scout Craft Building Dedication	1952
	24	Blanchard Personal Correspondence	1927-1945
	25	Blanchard Personal Correspondence	1947
	26	Blanchard Personal Correspondence	1947
	27	Blanchard Personal Correspondence	1947
	28	Blanchard Personal Correspondence with Organizations and Charities	1941-1943
	29	Blanchard Personal Correspondence with Organizations and Charities	1944-1945
	30	Blanchard Personal Correspondence with Organizations and Charities	1946
	31	Blanchard Personal Correspondence with Organizations and Charities	1947-1948

**SERIES 2: Engineering Products/Aeroproducts Business Records**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	History of Engineering Products Inc.	No Date
	2	Engineering Products Corporate Account with Winters Bank and Trust	1937
	3	Engineering Products Articles of Incorporation	1937
	4	Engineering Products Minutes of the Board	1937-1938
	5	Engineering Products Minutes of the Board	1938-1940
	6	Engineering Products Employee List	1940
	7	Engineering Products Financial Statements	1937-1940
	8	Agreement with Hayes Manufacturing Corp.	1940
	9	Letters of Patent on Inventions	1938-1940
	10	Property Leases and Contracts of Property Sales for Engineering Products	1939-1940
	11	Assignment of Patents to Engineering Products	1937-1940
	12	Engineering Products Filing of Patents	1936-1937
	13	Engineering Products Filing of Patents	1936-1937
	14	Patents Issued on Inventions of W.J. Blanchard	1932-1938
	15	Patents Issued on Inventions of W.J. Blanchard	1939-1950
	16	Engineering Products Corporate Tax Returns	1937-1940
	17	Propeller Development Program	1940
	18	Project 1: Development of Aircraft Propellers	c. 1930's
	19	Engineering Products Agreements with Individuals and Corporations	1937-1938
	20	Engineering Products Agreements with Individuals and Corporations	1938-1940
	21	Contract Bids between Engineering Products and Purchasers	1938-1940
	22	Diary of Business Trip November 2, 1939	1939
3	1	General Motors Contract and Audit	1940
	2	Engineering Products Records concerning agreement to sell to General Motors Corp.	1940
	3	General Motors offer to purchase Engineering Products	1940
	4	Engineering Products Certificate of Dissolution	1940
	5	Bill of Sale of Property to General Motors Corp.	1940
	6	List of Equipment sold to General Motors Corp.	1940
	7	Engineering Products Liquidation of Assets	1940
	8	Engineering Products Affidavits of Sale	1940
	9	Engineering Products Audit Report	1940
	10	Engineering Products Termination of Staff	1940
	11	Assignment of Bace Patent to General Motors Corp.	1940
	12	Royalty Payments to Charles MacNeil for Patents	1942
	13	Trust Agreements with Winters National Bank	1941

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	14	Assignment of Patents to General Motors Corp.	1942
	15	Remission of Patent Rights and Privileges to General Motors Corp.	1942
	16	Aeroproducts Epic Propeller Project	1942
	17	Termination Docket for Contract W535-AC-14607	1944
	18	Aeroproducts Celebrations and Citations	1943-1945
3a	1	Winters National Bank and Trust Loan to General Motors	1946
	2	Aeroproducts Financial Statement	1947
	3	Status of Boeing XB52 Bomber Programs	1948
	4	General Motors Corp. Executive Conference	1948
	5	W.J. Blanchard Business Correspondence	1930-1951
	6	Aeroproducts Newspaper Clippings	1940-1955
	7	Aeroproducts Reunions and Christmas Newsletter	1977, 1981
	8	Aeroproducts Employee List (after 1960)	c.a.1960s
	9	Aeroproducts Company Photographs (1-20)	No Date
	10	18 <sup>TH</sup> Depot Repair Squadron & Lend Lease Pipeline	2001
	11	Cassette Tapes – Aeroproducts Oral Histories, Paul Stover and Charles Powers	2001

### **SERIES 3: Engineering Blueprints and Marketing Booklets**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	Masterlist of Blueprints and Drawings	No Date
	2	Handbook of Instructions <i>Opposite Rotation Controllable Pitch Propeller</i>	1936
	3	Opposite Rotating Propeller Mathematical Analysis #2508	1936
	4	Worm Gear Efficiency Working Charts and Formuli #2509	1936
	5	Consulting Reports, Opposite Rotating Propeller #2510	1936
	6	Condensed Spec. for Dual-Rotation Electric Prop #2563	1940
	7	Blueprints No. 2208-2264	1936
	8	Blueprints No. 2265-2343	1936-1938
	9	Blueprints No. 2344-2438	1936-1938
	10	Blueprints No. 2439-2705	1936-1938
	11	Blueprints No. 2710-3141	1936-1938
	12	<i>Aeroprop Constant Speed Propellers</i> Marketing Booklet	1943
	13	Aeroproducts <i>Turbine Propeller</i> Marketing Booklet	No Date
	14	<i>Curtiss Controllable Pitch Propeller</i> Marketing Booklet	1931
	15	<i>Curtiss New Curtiss Propeller</i> Marketing Booklet	1931
	16	<i>Curtiss Proportional Governor</i> Marketing Booklet	1943
	17	Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Sales Manual	1932
	18	<i>Curtiss Hollow Steel Blade Propeller</i> Marketing Booklet	1943
	19	Curtiss Marketing Photographs Part.1	No Date
	20	Curtiss Marketing Photographs Part.2	No Date

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	21	Curtiss Marketing Photographs Part.3	No Date
		Curtiss Marketing Photographs Part.4	No Date
		Curtiss Aeroplane Lithographs (2)	No Date

SERIES 4: General Motors Strike

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	1	Memoranda and Newsletters Concerning Labor Difficulties in America	1945-1946
	2	General Motors Strike Newspaper Clippings	1945-1946
	3	General Motors Strike Pamphlets and Newsletters	1947-1960
	4	Story of General Motors Corp.	1948

SERIES 5: Aviation Handbooks

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	5	U.S. Air Force/Navy AN 08-15-1 <i>Radio Facility Charts</i>	1948
	6	T.O. 05-45AD-1 Service Instructions <i>Type A-5 Automatic Pilot "MI"</i>	1944
	7	T.O. 05-45AD-2 Service Instructions <i>Type A-5 Automatic Pilot "MI"</i>	1944
	8	T.O. 05-45AD-3 Service Instructions <i>Type A-5 Automatic Pilot "MI"</i>	1944
	9	T.O. 05-45AD-4 Service Instructions <i>Type A-5 Automatic Pilot "MI"</i>	1942
	10	Aerial Map of Kasas City, Missouri Airport	1947

SERIES 6: Oversize

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	Photograph	Presidents Citation of Merit presented to David Blanchard	1949
	Photograph	View of Aeroproducts Building	No Date
	Phonogram	Speech by W.J. Blanchard and Charles Kettering	1947
	Phonogram	Dedication of Blanchard-MacNeil Memorial	1952
	Phonogram	Dedication of Blanchard-MacNeil Memorial	1952
	Phonogram	Dedication of Blanchard-MacNeil Memorial	1952
	Map	Sectional Aeronautical Chart of Huntington (T-8)	1948
	Map	Sectional Aeronautical Chart of Kansas Cty. (T-6)	1947
	Map	Sectional Aeronautical Chart Winston-Salem (S-8)	1944
	Map	Flight Chart Chicago to Oklahoma City (FC 177)	1947
	Award	Presidential Certificate of Merit to W.J. Blanchard	1948



<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	Booklet	Shell Oil Corp. <i>The Airport...Its Importance to Your Community</i>	1944
7	1	Projection Viewer for 35mm. Slides	
	2	W.J. Blanchard's Desk Nameplate	
	3	Large Engineering Compass	
	4	Jefferson Toy Transformer	
	5	Collection Box of Engineering Tools	

<u>Location</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
60	1	Handbook of Instructions, <i>Opposite Rotational Pitch Propeller</i>	c.a. 1930's
	2	Blueprints No. 55003 Through 6181519	c.a. 1930's
	3	Architectural Drawing of Aeroproducts Building	No Date
	4	Hand-drawn Blueprint for Steel Blade Propeller	1935