

William Alden Collection of StaRRcar Material A&M 5275

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1955-2010



Title Statement

William Alden Collection of StaRRcar Material A&M 5275

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 5275

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/6923

Unit Date

1955-2010

Unit Date

circa 1960s-1970s

Language

English .

Extent

3.26 Linear Feet 1 film reel, 1 in.; 1 original film reel container, 1 in.; 1 document case, 2.5 in.; 2 flat boxes, 3 in. each; 1 flat box, 1.5 in.; 1 flat box, 3.5 in.; 1 index card box, 12 in.; 1 unboxed item, 3.75 in.; 1 unboxed item, 7.75 in.; 1 oversize folder, 0.1 in.; 1 StaRRcar

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/>

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research, but the StaRRcar is not available for viewing at this time.

Researchers may access digitized materials by requesting to view the materials in person by appointment or remotely by contacting the West Virginia & Regional History Center reference department at <https://westvirginia.libanswers.com/wvrhc>.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Judy Alden, 2019-2021.

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], William Alden Collection of StaRRcar Material, A&M 5275, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

William Lewis Alden (d. 11/16/2018) of Falmouth, Massachusetts worked in the transportation field of personal rapid transit (PRT). During the mid-1960s, Alden created a "dual mode" transportation prototype vehicle named the staRRcar (Self Transport/Transit Rail and Road). The staRRcar was able to drive on a standard roadway to a PRT station where it attached to an automated driverless track to continue on its journey. The staRRcar was selected in a study funded by the Urban Mass Transportation Authority as the prototype for an experimental PRT system to be constructed with federal funds at West Virginia University, using Boeing Vertol as the contractor. This became the PRT system that continues in operation at the University today.

Scope and Contents

This collection features material pertaining to William Alden (d. Nov. 16, 2018), Alden Self-Transit Systems Corporation, and the staRRcar (Self-Transport/Transit Road and Rail Car) which served as the model for West Virginia University's Personal Rapid Transit system (PRT). Formats include business materials, photographs, concept art, clippings, schematics and blueprints, artifacts, and audiovisual material.

Highlights include blueprints/schematics of the staRRcar; poster-sized illustrations and concept art of the staRRcar in operation; photographs of the 1972 PRT dedication ceremony, featuring Tricia Nixon; a portable television presumed to belong in a staRRcar; models of the railway system and stations; a model StaRRcar without the exterior body; and staRRcar number 1.

The audiovisual material in the collection is a reel of film showing an episode of CBS New's 21st Century titled, "Autos, Autos, Everywhere" featuring Walter Cronkite. Cronkite reported on the advances in automobile technology that could be expected in the mainstream in the 21st century, including William Alden's staRRcar. This film includes an interview with Alden and Cronkite's experience testing a staRRcar prototype. Other film features include Ford's experimental steering wheels, General Motors' battery-powered cars, and the DAIR or Driver, Aid, Information, and Routing system.

Keywords

West Virginia University - Personal Rapid Transit System (PRT)

Personal rapid transit

Automobiles

Alden StaRRcar

Alden, Judy

Alden, William, 1926-2018

Cronkite, Walter, 1916-2009

Description of Subordinate Components

Alden Self Transit Systems Corporation Material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/187616

Unit Date ca. 1966, 2005-2010

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Alden StaRRcar and PRT Concept Art, Photographs, and Clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/187617

Unit Date circa 1960s-1972

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Railway Transit Loop Model

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/187619

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Framed Material Depicting the StaRRcar and Other Vehicles

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/187620

Unit Date 1966, undated

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

StaRRcar Model

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/250195

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Extent 0.25 Linear Feet1 flat storage box (3 in).

Scope and Contents

Small model of the StaRRcar created by Alden

Keywords

Alden StaRRcar

West Virginia University - Personal Rapid Transit System (PRT)

Portable Color Television

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/187621

Unit Date 1984

Mixed Materials 1 (Item)

StaRRcar Station Model

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/187622

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Item)

StaRRcar Blueprints and Schematics

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/187623

Unit Date circa 1964-1966

Mixed Materials Oversized 1 (Folder)

"Autos, Autos, Everywhere" Reel and Original Container

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194462

Unit Date 1967

Moving Images 1 (Reel)

Mixed Materials 4 (Item)

StaRRcar Number 1

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194463

Unit Date circa 1960s

Realia 3 (Item)

Conditions Governing Access

This items is offsite and unavailable for viewing.