



Guide to the
Oral History Interviews of Ames Personnel Collection
ARC20.06

NASA Ames History Archives
NASA Ames Research Center

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Descriptive Summary

Title:

Oral History Interviews of Ames Personnel Collection

Collection Number:

ARC20.06

Creator:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Dates:

Inclusive: 1961-2018

Extent:

101 digital items (34 Megabytes)

Repository:

NASA Ames History Archives
Moffett Field, California 94035

Abstract:

This collection contains an assemblage of oral history interview transcripts of personnel from NASA Ames Research Center and its precursor organization, the NACA Ames Aeronautical Laboratory. These were selected from larger oral history collections held at the NASA Headquarters History Office Archives and the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) History Office. The collection documents contributions of Ames personnel to the development, management, and execution of a wide range of NACA and NASA programs and projects.

Administrative Information

Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

Copyright does not apply to United States government records. For non-governmental material, researchers must contact the original creator.

Languages and Scripts:

All materials in this collection are in English.

Preferred Citation:

Expanded:

NASA Ames History Archives, NASA Ames Research Center. Moffett Field, California.

ARC20.06, Oral History Interviews of Ames Personnel Collection, [Container number] :
[Folder number]. [Identification of item]. [Date, if available].

Abbreviated:

NASA ARC. ARC20.06, [Container number] : [Folder number]. [Identification of item].
[Date, if available].

Acquisition Information:

Acquired from the NASA Headquarters History Office Archives (Accession 2020-005 and 2020-013) and the NASA Johnson Space Center History Office (Accession 2020-006) in March and October 2020.

Scope and Content

The bulk of this collection contains transcripts of interviews with personnel from the NACA Ames Aeronautical Laboratory and NASA Ames Research Center. The collection captures the perspectives of a diverse group of contributors to our nation's aerospace programs, coming from backgrounds in administration, management, science, and engineering. These materials are copies of documents selected from collections at the NASA Headquarters History Office Archives and from oral history projects conducted by the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) History Office. Audio recordings are not included but may be obtained from Headquarters and JSC within the scope of their release policies. The capture of oral histories is ongoing and new materials will be added as projects are completed. All of the materials in this collection are available in digital form and indexes are available for each series.

System of Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series according to the center where the materials originated (JSC and NASA Headquarters). Each series is divided into two subseries, one for NACA-themed interviews and the other for interviews that are mainly focused on NASA. Interviews are arranged alphabetically by narrator last name with the associated interviewer, project name, and interview date(s). A file index is included for each series. For Series I.2, biographical information sheets follow the individual interview(s), where applicable.

Series Descriptions**Series I: Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Oral History Project Interviews, 40 files**

This series contains interview transcripts and biographical documents featuring Ames personnel that were selected from oral history project collections at JSC. The series is broken into two subseries. Subseries 1 contains interview transcripts of fourteen men who worked at the NACA Ames Aeronautical Laboratory (AAL), which later became NASA Ames Research Center with the passage of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958. In

addition to the transcripts, there is a compilation of responses to a biographical questionnaire that was sent out to former AAL personnel. This spreadsheet includes responses from both narrators and individuals who were not interviewed, regarding their educational background, work experience, dates of NACA employment, awards, publications and patents, and other information. Most of the respondents were male aeronautical, mechanical, and electrical engineers who worked on design and operation of wind tunnels and applied flight research projects. Two female respondents performed clerical work. Also included are biographical data sheets for some of the interviewees.

Subseries 2 contains interview transcripts from Ames personnel who participated in various JSC oral history projects that focused on the achievements of NASA employees, including: "Herstory," International Space Station, Science Mission Directorate, and NASA at 50.

Series II: NASA Headquarters Oral History Interviews, 61 files

This series contains edited interview transcripts and interview notes featuring individuals from Ames that were selected from the Oral History Collection at the NASA Headquarters History Archives. It is broken into two subseries.

Subseries 1 provides interview transcripts of twelve men associated with the NACA Ames Aeronautical Laboratory. Topics covered include the establishment of Ames as a West Coast NACA laboratory; NACA aeronautical theories, research, and engineering projects; design and development of wind tunnels; and the transition from NACA to NASA. These interviews were collected to support NACA and early NASA histories that were not published, as well as the NASA History Series publication "NASA's First A."

Subseries 2 contains interview transcripts that were collected to support historical research projects on various subjects, including: aeronautics, the Apollo Program, NASA engineers in the age of Apollo, astrobiology, the formation of the Exobiology Program at Ames, life sciences research at Ames, NASA's Grand Tour program, microelectromechanical systems research, NASA's "human factor," planetary astronomy, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), the Space Shuttle, and the International Space Station.

Indexing Terms

The following terms may be used to index this collection.

Corporate Name

Ames Aeronautical Laboratory

Ames Research Center

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. History Office

United States. NASA History Program Office

United States. National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics

Personal Name

Anderson, Joseph L.

Belsley, Steven E.

Berry, William E.
Billingham, John, 1930-2013
Bioletti, Carlton
Blackman, Edith W.
Boyd, John W.
Bray, Richard
Carle, Glenn
Chang, Sherwood
Cleary, Joseph W.
Cole, Henry A.
Cruikshank, Dale P.
Dalton, Bonnie P.
DeFrance, Smith J.
DesMarais, David J.
DeVincenzi, Donald
DeYoung, George E.
Dusterberry, John C.
Farmer, Jack D.
Foster, John V.
Goett, Harry J.
Gustafarro, Angelo
Hallett, Ralph K., Jr.
Harper, Lynn D.
Hartman, Harvey L.
Hawley, Steven A.
Hines, John W.
Hubbard, G. Scott, 1948-
Jones, Robert T. (Robert Thomas), 1910-1999
Jorgensen, Leland H.
Keener, Earl R.
Kirschbaum, Howard W.
Klein, Harold P.
Kurkowski, Richard
Levine, Alan
Levy, Lionel L. Jr.
Mark, Hans, 1929-
Martin, Norman J.
Moorhead, Barbara J.
Morey-Holton, Emily
Morrison, David D.
Mort, Kenneth A.
O'Hara, Dee
Ochoa, Ellen L.
Parsons, John
Pearson, B. Douglas, Jr.
Pendleton, Yvonne J. (Yvonne Jean)

Petersen, Richard H.
Peterson, Victor L.
Pitts, William
Presley, Leroy L.
Ramos, Ruben
Randt, Clark T.
Reller, John O. Jr.
Robinson, Russell G. (Russell Gideon), 1907-2003
Rogallo, Robert
Rossow, Vernon J.
Rummell, John D.
Sandler, Harold
Scherrer, Richard
Schmidt, Stanley F.
Seiff, Alvin
Squyres, Steven W.
Stephenson, Jack
Stone, Jay E.
Swenson, Byron
Syvertson, Clarence A.
Treon, Stuart L.
Vincenti, Walter G. (Walter Guido), 1917-2019
Wasson, Edward L.
Worden, Alfred M. (Alfred Merrill), 1932-2020
Worden, Simon P.
Young, A. Thomas
Young, Richard S.

Related Collections

Location of Originals

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Oral History Project Collections. Originals, audio recordings, and release forms are held at the Johnson Space Center History Office and the University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections.

NASA Headquarters History Office Archives Oral History Collection. Originals, audio recordings, release forms, and supporting files are held at the NASA Headquarters History Program Office.

Related Materials

NASA Ames Research Center History Archives. Related biographical and subject area material, as well as interviews that were not part of an oral history project, can be found in various collections, such as: Archives Reference Collection (AFS1070.8A) and Histories of Ames Research Files (AFS1070.9).

National Archives and Records Administration. Records of the Ames Aeronautical Laboratory and Ames Research Center are in Record Group 255.

Container List

Acronyms

ISS	International Space Station
JSC	Johnson Space Center
MEMS	Microelectromechanical Systems
NACA	National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
OHP	Oral History Project
SMD	Science Mission Directorate

Series I: Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Oral History Project Interviews

Series I Interview Index

(https://history.arc.nasa.gov/hist_pdfs/guides/arc2006_FileIndex_SeriesI.xlsx)

Subseries 1: NACA Oral History Project

Description

Narrator, Interviewer, Date of Interview (yyyymmdd)

Compilation of biographical questionnaire responses (spreadsheet)

Boyd, John W. "Jack," interviewed by Jennifer Ross-Nazzal on 20051003

Cole, Henry A. "Hank," interviewed by Sandra Johnson on 20140716

Dusterberry, John C., interviewed by Jennifer Ross-Nazzal on 20050929

Keener, Earl R., interviewed by Rebecca Wright on 20140717

Kurkowski, Richard "Dick," interviewed by Sandra Johnson on 20140714

Mort, Kenneth A., interviewed by Sandra Johnson on 20140717

Pearson, B. Douglas, Jr. "Doug," interviewed by Sandra Johnson on 20140718

Petersen, Richard H., interviewed by Rebecca Wright on 20140714

Peterson, Victor L. "Vic," interviewed by Rebecca Wright on 20051003

Presley, Leroy L. "Roy," interviewed by Rebecca Wright on 20140716

Schmidt, Stanley F., interviewed by Sandra Johnson on 20140715

Stone, Jay E., interviewed by Rebecca Wright on 20140718

Syvertson, Clarence A. "Sy," interviewed by Rebecca Wright on 20050929

Vincenti, Walter G., interviewed by Rebecca Wright on 20140715

Subseries 2: NASA-Themed Oral History Projects

Description

Narrator, Interviewer, Date of Interview (yyyymmdd)

Dalton, Bonnie P., interviewed by Rebecca Wright (NASA "Herstory" OHP) on 20020423

Hartman, Harvey L., interviewed by Sandra Johnson (JSC OHP) on 20020507

Hartman, Harvey L., biographical sheet

Hawley, Steven A., interviewed by Sandra Johnson (JSC OHP) on 20020412, 20021217, and 20030114

Hawley, Steven A., biographical sheet

Hubbard, G. Scott, interviewed by Sandra Johnson (NASA SMD) on 20170822, 20180820, and 20181113

Morrison, David D., interviewed by Sandra Johnson (NASA SMD) on 20170509

Mark, Hans M., interviewed by Rebecca Wright (ISS OHP) on 20150708

Ochoa, Ellen L., interviewed by Jennifer Ross-Nazzal (JSC OHP) on 20170613, 20170822, 20171212, and 20180515

O'Hara, Dee, interviewed by Rebecca Wright (JSC OHP) on 20020423

O'Hara, Dee, biographical sheet

Squyres, Steven W., interviewed by Sandra Johnson (NASA SMD OHP) on 20170822, 20170914

Worden, Alfred M. "Al," interviewed by Rebecca Wright (JSC OHP) on 20000526

Worden, Alfred M. "Al," biographical sheet

Worden, Simon P. "Pete," interviewed by Rebecca Wright (NASA at 50 OHP) on 20071203

Young, A. Thomas, interviewed by Rebecca Wright (NASA Administrators OHP) on 20130610

Series II: NASA Headquarters Oral History Interviews

Series II Interview Index

(https://history.arc.nasa.gov/hist_pdfs/guides/arc2006_FileIndex_SeriesI.xlsx)

Subseries 1: NASA Headquarters Oral History Interviews (NACA)

Description

Narrator, Interviewer, Date of Interview (yyyymmdd)

Belsley, Steven E., interviewed by Walter Bonney on 19740924

Bioletti, Carlton, interviewed by Walter Bonney on 19740925

Boyd, John W., interviewed by Robert G. Ferguson on 20050114

Bray, Richard, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19850809

DeFrance, Smith J., interviewed by Michael Keller on 19670616

DeFrance, Smith J., interviewed by Walter Bonney on 19740923

Goett, Harry J., interviewed by Howard McCurdy on 19880617

Goett, Harry J., interviewed by Lane Wallace on 19980213

Jones, Robert T. "R.T.," interviewed by Walter Bonney on 19740924

Jones, Robert T. "R.T.," interviewed by Richard Hallion on 19770714

Kirschbaum, Howard W., interviewed by Michael Keller on 19670615
Peterson, Victor L., interviewed by Robert G. Ferguson on 20050117
Robinson, Russell G., interviewed by Walter Bonney on 19740924
Robinson, Russell G., interviewed by Howard McCurdy on 19880617
Stephenson, Jack, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19850808
Syvertson, Clarence A. "Sy," interviewed by McCurdy, Howard on 19880617
Syvertson, Clarence A. "Sy," interviewed by Lloyd S. Swenson and James Grimwood on 19710629
Syvertson, Clarence A. "Sy," interviewed by Walter Bonney on 19740925
Syvertson, Clarence A. "Sy," interviewed by Richard Hallion on 19790307

Subseries 2: NASA Headquarters Oral History Interviews (NASA)

Description

Narrator, Interviewer, Date of Interview (yyyymmdd)

Berry, William E., interviewed by Maura Mackowski on 20050000
Billingham, John, interviewed by Steven J. Dick on 19900912
Billingham, John, interviewed by Steven J. Dick on 19920601
Billingham, John, interviewed by Steven J. Dick on 19920917
Billingham, John, interviewed by Steven J. Dick on 19930608
Carle, Glenn, interviewed by Steven Dick on 19970513
Chang, Sherwood, interviewed by Steven Dick on 19971121
Cruikshank, Dale, interviewed by Ronald Schorn on 19931019
DesMarais, David J., interviewed by Steven Dick on 19970512
DesMarais, David J., interviewed by William Clancey on 20060810
DeVincenzi, Donald, interviewed by James Strick on 19970121
DeVincenzi, Donald, interviewed by Steven Dick on 19970512
Farmer, Jack D., interviewed by Steven Dick on 19971119
Gustafarro, Angelo, interviewed by John Logsdon on 19860314
Harper, Lynn D., interviewed by Steven Dick on 19970513
Harper, Lynn D., interviewed by Steven Dick on 19971121
Harper, Lynn D., interviewed by Steven J. Dick on 20010117
Harper, Lynn D., interviewed by Maura Mackowski on 20050916
Hines, John W., interviewed by Jennifer Ross-Nazzal on 20041004
Klein, Harold P. "H.P.," interviewed by Steven J. Dick on 19920915
Klein, Harold P. "H.P.," interviewed by James Strick on 20001128
Klein, Harold P. "H.P.," interviewed by Steven Dick on 19970514
Levine, Alan, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19850807
Mark, Hans, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19840907
Mark, Hans, interviewed by Howard McCurdy on 19871111

Mark, Hans, interviewed by on 19911016
Morey-Holton, Emily, interviewed by Maura Mackowski on 20050916
Morrison, David D., interviewed by Steven Dick on 19971118
Morrison, David D., interviewed by Ronald Schorn on 19990107
Parsons, John, interviewed by on 19670616
Pendleton, Yvonne, interviewed by Steven Dick on 19970000
Ramos, Ruben, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19850809
Randt, Clark T., interviewed by Eugene Emme on 19610330
Randt, Clark T., interviewed by John Pitts on 19790814
Rogallo, Robert, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19850808
Rummell, John D., interviewed by Steven Dick on 19971116
Rummell, John D., interviewed by James Strick on 19980902
Sandler, Harold "Hal," interviewed by Jennifer Ross-Nazzal on 20041015
Seiff, Alvin, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19850807
Swenson, Byron, interviewed by Sylvia Fries on 19850809
Young, Richard S., interviewed by Edward Ezell on 19770830