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:
   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.
Gustaferro, 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.
Petersen, 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

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISS</td>
<td>International Space Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>JSC</td>
<td>Johnson Space Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMS</td>
<td>Microelectromechanical Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACA</td>
<td>National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASA</td>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHP</td>
<td>Oral History Project</td>
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<td>SMD</td>
<td>Science Mission Directorate</td>
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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 (yyyyymmdd)
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
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 (yyyymmd)
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 (yyyyymmdd)
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
Gustaferro, 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 20000128
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
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<td>Young, Richard S.</td>
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