

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Robert O. Piland

ORAL HISTORY: 21 August 1998

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Mathematics, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1947
Certificate in Advanced Management, Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts, 1978
M.S. in Environmental Management, Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts, 1978
D.P.A. in Organization, University of Colorado at Denver, Denver, Colorado, 1984

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Aviation Cadet, V-5 Program, United States Navy (July 1945- April 1947)

PRE-NASA CAREER:

NACA Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, Langley, Virginia
Mathematician, Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (October 1947- January 1949)
Aeronautical Research Scientist, Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (January 1949- September 1956)
Head, Heat Transfer Section, Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (September 1956- March 1958)
Technical Assistant, Office of Special Assistant to the President, Executive Office of the President (Special Projects), Washington, D.C. (March 1958- February 1959)

NASA CAREER:

Aeronautical Research Engineer (Aerodynamics), Flight Systems Division, NASA Space Task Group, Langley, Virginia (February 1959- April 1959)
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center / Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas
Assistant Chief of the Flight Systems Division (April 1959- March 1962)
Manager of the early planning and study efforts that led to the Apollo spacecraft program (1960)
Deputy Project Manager of the Apollo Spacecraft Program (15 January 1962- 21 June 1965)
Deputy Project Manager for Lunar Excursion Module (Apollo Spacecraft), Apollo Spacecraft Program Office (January 1963 - December 1963)
Deputy Manager, Apollo Spacecraft Program Office (December 1963- October 1965)
Manager, Experiments Program Office (21 June 1965- April 1967)
Deputy Director, Science and Applications (April 1967- October 1967)
Technical Assistant to the Center Director (October 1967- March 1970)

Deputy Director, Science and Applications (March 1970- May 1971)
Director, Earth Resources Laboratory, Mississippi Test Facility (September 1970 -
1 July 1974)
Acting Assistant Director, Advanced Planning and Design, Engineering and
Development Directorate (1 July 1974-1975)
Assistant Director, Engineering and Development (for Program Development)
(September 1975- July 1980)
Acting Deputy Director, Engineering and Development (19 February 1980)
Acting Director, Space and Life Sciences (18 March 1980- date unknown)
Manager, Earth Resources Laboratory, National Space Technology Laboratories,
Mississippi Test Facility (1980-1981)
Director, Engineering and Development (October 1981- 1983)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Assistant Professor, College of Business and Public Administration, University of
Houston-Clear Lake, Houston, Texas, August 1983- May 1985
Lecturer, Overseas Division, University of Maryland, Heidelberg, Germany, August
1985- July 1986
Lecturer, Department of Management and Marketing, Sam Houston State University,
Huntsville, Texas, September 1987- May 1990
Lecturer, Fulbright Scholar, Department of Management, Higher School of Economics,
Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, February 1992- June 1992
Lecturer, School of Business and Public Administration, Our Lady of the Lake
University Weekend College, Houston, Texas, 1987, 1992, 1994
Lecturer, Department of Management and Marketing, Sam Houston State University,
Huntsville, Texas, September 1994- May 1996

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fulbright Scholar
- Fellow, American Astronautical Society

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Johnson Space Center Superior Achievement Award, 1966
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 1969
- Johnson Space Center Special Achievement Award, 1976 and 1978
- Golden Plate Award, 27 June 1964
- Institute of Aeronautical Sciences' Lawrence Sperry Award, 1962
- Nominated for America's Ten Outstanding Men of 1960
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, 25 October 1973

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Ertel, Ivan D., and Mary Louise Morse. The Apollo Spacecraft: A Chronology. Vol. I. *Through November 7, 1962*. The NASA Historical Series. With a foreword by Robert O. Piland. Washington, DC: NASA, 1969.

- Faget, Maxime A., and Robert O. Piland. "Mercury Capsule and its Flight Systems." For Presentation at the Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences Held in New York 25 January 1960. Houston, TX: Johnson Space Center, Scientific and Technical Information Center. History Collection.
- Piland, Robert O. "Missions, Propulsion and Flight Time." In Guidelines for Advanced Manned Space Vehicle Program. Langley Field, VA: NASA Space Task Group, June 1960.
- Piland, Robert O. "A Summary of Activities of the Earth Resources Laboratory at the Mississippi Test Facility During 1971." In Proceedings of NASA's 4th Annual Earth Resources Program Review. *Vol. I., 21 January 1972*. Microfiche.
- Piland, Robert O., C. B. Rumsey, and R. N. Hopko. "Aerodynamic-Heating Data Obtained from Free-Flight Tests Between Mach Numbers of 1 and 5." Langley, VA: NASA Langley Research Center, 01 January 1960. Microfiche.
- Piland, Robert O. "Reference System Characterization and Cost Overview." In The Final Proceedings of the Solar Power Satellite Program Review, 1 July 1980. Washington, DC: Government Publications Office, 1980.
- Piland, Robert O. "SPS Cost Methodology and Sensitivities." In The Final Proceedings of the Solar Power Satellite Program Review, 1 July 1980. Washington, DC: Government Publications Office, 1980.
- Piland, Robert O., Caldwell C. Johnson, Jr., and Owen E. Maynard. "Apollo Spacecraft Design." In Proceedings of the NASA-Independent Apollo Technical Conference, 20 July 1961. Washington, DC: Government Publications Office, 1961.
- Piland, Robert O., and P. R. Penrod. "Summary of the Gemini Program and its Effects on Manned Space Science." In Proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on Space Technology and Science, Tokyo, 15- 22 May 1967 by AGNE Publishing, Inc., 1 January 1968.
- Piland, Robert O. "Space Power Stations- Space Construction, Transportation, and Pre-Development, Space Project Requirements." In Proceedings of the International Astronautical Federation's 28th International Astronautical Congress, Praha, Czechoslovakia, 25 September- 1 October 1977 by the International Astronautical Federation. New York: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1977.
- Piland, Robert O. "The Role of the Experimenter in the Manned Space Program." In Proceedings of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Space Program Issues of the 70's Meeting, Seattle, Washington, 28- 30 August 1967 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc. New York: Technical Information Service, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc., 1967.

Piland, Robert O., and Clarke Covington. "Space Operations Center: The Next Goal for Manned Space Flight." Astronautics and Aeronautics 18 (September 1980): 30- 37.

Piland, Robert O. "Apollo Program Evolution and Background." In Proceedings of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Dallas, Texas, April 1963. Houston, TX: Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Scientific and Technical Information Center, History Collection, 1963.

Piland, Robert O. "Remote Sensing Techniques for Support of Coastal Zone Resource Management." In Proceedings of COSPAR, 16th Plenary Meeting, Konstanz, West Germany, 23 May- 5 June 1973 by American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc. New York: Technical Information Service, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc., 1973.

Piland, Robert O., and Christopher C. Kraft, Jr. "The Solar Power Satellite Concept- The Past Decade and the Next Decade." Space Solar Power Review 1 (1 January 1980): 39- 65.

Piland, Robert O. "The Solar Power Satellite Concept Evaluation Program." In Proceedings of the 3rd Radiation Energy Conversion in Space Conference, Moffett Field, CA, 26- 28 January 1978 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc. New York: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1978.

Piland, Robert O. "A System Study of the Solar Power Satellite Concept." Space Solar Power Review 4 (1983): 35- 47.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

NASA Biography for April 1972, Robert O. Piland Key Personnel File, Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Nomination Justification Statement for the Rank of Distinguished Executive, Robert O. Piland Key Personnel File, Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

"Curriculum Vitae" [Sam Houston State University Homepage], [Online]. (8 May 1995 - Last Updated). Available: http://coba.shsu.edu/shsucoba/vitae/mgmtmkt/sectionstar_2_3_3.html [5 June 1998 - Accessed].

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