

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: George Merritt Preston

ORAL HISTORY: 1 February 2000

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

Attended Ohio University, Athens, Ohio (1935-1937)
B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, 1939

PRE-NASA CAREER:

NACA Langley Research Center, Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia
Research Engineer (1939-1942)
NACA Lewis Flight Propulsion Center, Cleveland, Ohio
Research Engineer (1942-1945)
Chief, Flight Research Branch (1945-1959)

NASA CAREER:

NASA Space Task Group, Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia
Assistant Chief, Operations Division, Project Mercury (1959-61)
NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia
Chief, Preflight Operations Division (1961-1964)
NASA Kennedy Space Center, Cocoa Beach, Florida
Manager, Manned Spacecraft Center, Florida Operations (1964)
Deputy Director, Launch Operations Directorate (1965)
Director, Launch Operations Directorate (1965-1967)
Director, Design Engineering Directorate (1967-1969)
Director, Center Planning and Future Programs Office (1969-1972)
Manager, Space Shuttle Projects Office (1972-1973)

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Associate Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Lifetime Achievement Award, National Space Club, 1997
- Spirit of St. Louis Award, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1969
- NASA Leadership and Achievement Award, 1965
- Presidential Medal for Outstanding Leadership, 1963
- NASA Leadership and Achievement Award, 1963
- NASA Leadership and Achievement Award, 1962
- Laura Tabor Barbour Award, 1956

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Preston, G. Merritt, and Calvin C. Blackman. "Effects of ice formations on airplane performance in level cruising flight." NACA TN 1598. Cleveland: Flight Propulsion Research Laboratory, May 1948.

Preston, G. Merritt, I. Irving Pinkel, Solomon Weiss, and Gerard J. Pesman. "Origin and prevention of crash fires in turbojet aircraft." NACA TN 3973. Langley: NASA Langley Research Center, May 1957.

Preston, G. Merritt, I. Irving Pinkel, Solomon Weiss, and Gerard J. Pesman. "Origin and prevention of crash fires in turbojet aircraft." NACA Report 1363. Langley: NASA Langley Research Center, 1958.

Preston, G. Merritt, and Gerard J. Pesman. "Accelerations in transport-airplane crashes." NACA TN 4158. Langley: NASA Langley Research Center, February 1958.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Preston, G. Merritt Key Personnel File (Inactive). Awards Office. Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

American Men and Women of Science. 12th Edition. New York, New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1971-1973.

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