

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Robert Edwin Smylie

ORAL HISTORY: 17 April 1999

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS in Mechanical Engineering, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi, 1952

MS in Mechanical Engineering, Mississippi State University, 1956

MS in Management, Sloan Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1967

graduate course work, University of California - Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

PRE-NASA CAREER:

Industrial Engineer, Ethyl Corporation, Pasadena, Texas (1952-1954)

Douglas Aircraft Company, Santa Monica, California

Engineer, DC-8 program (1956-1960)

Head, research group on air conditioning supersonic transports

Lead Engineer, Skybolt missile thermal conditioning systems (1960-1962)

NASA CAREER:

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

Head, Life Systems Section, Environmental Control Systems Branch, Life Systems Division (1962)

Head, Environmental Control Systems Branch, Crew Systems Division (1962-1964)

Assistant Chief for Apollo Support, Crew Systems Division (1964-1968)

Acting Chief, Crew Systems Division, Engineering and Development Directorate (1969-1970)

Chief, Crew Systems Division (1970-1973)

NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC

Deputy Associate Administrator for Aeronautics and Space Technology (1973-1976)

Acting Associate Administrator for Aeronautics and Space Technology (1976)

Associate Administrator for Space Tracking and Data Systems (1980-1983)

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland

Deputy Director (1976-1979)

Acting Director (1979-1980)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Executive positions with: RCA, General Electric, and the Mitre Corporation

Space Station Integration Division, Grumman Aerospace Corporation
Vice President of Technical Operations, Space Station Support Division, Grumman
Aerospace Corp., Reston, Virginia

CURRENT OCCUPATION: President, Smylie Associates - aerospace consultant for NASA and
industry

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Astronautical Society
- Honorary Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- AIAA Victor Prather Award
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Boyntin, J. H., R. G. Arbic, Charles A. Berry, R. E. Day, P. C. Donnelly, W. R. Kelly, J. P. Mayer, Alan B. Shepard, and Robert E. Smylie. Postlaunch memorandum report for Mercury-Atlas no. 9 (MA-9). Part 1: Mission Analysis. NASA TM-X-61634. Cape Canaveral, FL: NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, 1963.

Faget, Maxime A. and Robert E. Smylie. "Apollo life-support and protective systems." Presented to the International Astronautical Federation 20th Congress, Mar del Plata, Argentina, October 5-10, 1969.

Hays, E. L. and Robert E. Smylie. "Development of nonmetallic materials for space applications." In Survival and Flight Equipment Association: Proceedings of the 8th Annual Symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, September 28 - October 1, 1970, by the Survival and Flight Equipment Association, 171-197. N.p.: Survival and Flight Equipment Association, 1970.

Smylie, Robert E. and Maurice R. Reumont, "Life-support systems." In Manned Spacecraft: Engineering Design and Operation, ed. Paul E. Purser, Maxime A. Faget, and Norman F. Smith, 137-160. New York: Fairchild Publications, 1964.

Smylie, Robert E. "NASA activities and plans." In Space Tracking and Data Systems, Proceedings of the Symposium, Arlington, Virginia, 16-18 June, 1981, by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 65-74. Arlington, VA: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1981.

Smylie, Robert E. "NASA development of firefighter protective equipment." NASA TM-X-70347 (CASI 74N75846). Houston: NASA Johnson Space Center, 1972.

Smylie, Robert E. "Space Station technology planning." In Lewis Research Center Spacecraft Environmental Interactions Technology, NASA, 13-18. Washington DC: NASA, 1985.

Smylie, Robert E. "Update to the TRDS-A mission operation report." NASA TM-85283 (CASI 83N20987). Washington: NASA, 1983.

Smylie, Robert E. and R. O. Aller. "The NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite Systems and its impact on spacecraft support in the space transportation system era." In International Astronautical Federation, International Astronautical Congress, 32nd, Rome, Italy, 6-12 September 1981, by the International Astronautical Federation.

Smylie, Robert E. and R R. Stephens. "The NASA data systems standardization program - rationale and scope." In Proceedings of the International Telemetry Conference, San Diego, California, 24-27 October 1983, by the Instrument Society of America, 820-827. Research Triangle Park, NC: Instrument Society of America, 1983.

PATENTS:

Samonski, F. H., Jr. And Robert E. Smylie. "Liquid-gas separator for zero gravity environment patent." 1967.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

"NASA Key Personnel Change - 2 April 1980," Robert E. Smylie Biographical File, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

"Nomination for the 1971 Victor A. Prather Award - American Astronautical Society," American Astronautical Society Awards folder, Awards by Organization file, Awards Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Robert E. Smylie, "The Application of Decision CPM to Incentive Contracts" (Master's Thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1967).

Robert E. Smylie. Short Resume, 22 January 1999.

"Robert E. Smylie Service Record Card," Personnel Files, Human Resources Office, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Who's Who in Aviation and Aerospace, U.S. Edition, Compiled with the assistance of Jane's Publishing Company, Ltd. Boston and New York: National Aeronautical Institute, 1983. s.v. Smylie, Robert E.