

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Fred Thorn Pearce, Jr.

ORAL HISTORY: November 12, 2003

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 1949
Graduate of the Naval Electronics School

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

Fairchild Aircraft Corporation, Burlington, NC (1942-1943)

- Tool Designer

United States Marine Corps (1943-1946)

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY (1948)

- Summer Job

Bethlehem Steel Company, Sparrows Point, MD (1949-1950)

- Engineer

Western Electric Company, Greensboro, NC (1950-1956)

- Engineer

NACA, Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, Langley Field, VA (1956-1958)

- Aeronautical Engineer, Aerodynamics III

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Space Task Group, Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, Langley Field, VA (1958-1961)

- Aeronautical Engineer, Flight Systems Division (1959)
- Flight Controls Group, Flight Systems Division (1959)
- Flight Controls Section, Dynamics Branch, Flight Systems Division (1959-1961)

NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX (1961-1993)

- Control and Guidance Section, Flight Dynamics Branch, Flight Systems Division (1961-1962)
- Control and Guidance Section, Flight Dynamics Branch, Spacecraft Research Division (1962-1963)
- Acting Chief, Display and Control Technical Section, Flight Simulation Branch, Spacecraft Technology Division, Engineering and Development Directorate (1963)
- Acting Chief, Display and Control Technical Section, Flight Simulation Branch, Guidance and Control Division (1963-1964)
- Chief, Simulation Branch, Guidance and Control Division (1964-1965)
- Acting Chief, Simulator Development and Application Section, Simulation Branch, Guidance and Control Division (1964; dual appointment)

- Engineer, Experiments Program Office, Advanced Spacecraft Technology Division (1965-1966)
- Manager, Advanced Systems Office, Science and Applications Directorate (1967-1968)
- Technical Assistant to the Director, Science and Applications Directorate Office (1968)
- Chief, Photo Systems and Analysis Group, Earth Resources Division (1969)
- Chief, Photographic and Optical Systems Branch, Earth Observation Division (1970)
- Chief, Photo Sensor Section (1971-1972)
- Technical Assistant, Photographic Systems Development Branch, Experiment Systems Division, Engineering and Development Directorate (1973-1981)
- Spaceflight Sciences Support Branch, Earth Sciences and Applications Division, Space and Life Sciences Directorate (1984)
- Electro-Optics Section, Crew Equipment Branch, Man-Systems Division (1985)
- Optical Physics Section, Man-Systems Division (1985-1993)

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- MSC Superior Achievement Award, 1965
- MSC Superior Achievement Award, 1969
- JSC 25-year Length of Service Award, 1979

REFERENCES:

Fred T. Pearce, Jr. Service Record Card, Fred T. Pearce, Jr. Personnel File, Human Resources Office, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“For the Years They’ve Served,” Space News Roundup (NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center), 18 May 1979, 2.

“Invention Wins \$1000 Cash at Annual Awards Ceremony,” Space News Roundup (NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center), 26 November 1965, 2.

“MAE Department Alumni and Friends,” North Carolina State University Mechanical and Engineering Homepage, Online, <http://www.mae.ncsu.edu/alumni/directory/p.html> (Last Updated n.d.; Accessed 20 October 2003).

Manned Spacecraft Center Telephone Directories (1959-1991), Organization Files, Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

“Organization of the Flight Systems Division of the Space Task Group,” 10 March 1959, Mission Planning and Analysis Division Documents, Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, 3-5.

“Organization of the Space Task Group,” 26 January 1959, Mission Planning and Analysis Division Documents, Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, 3-5.

“Superior Achievement,” Space News Roundup (NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center), 31 October 1969, 3.

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