

## NASA HISTORY NEWSLETTER

July 1965

No. 1

NASA HISTORICAL PROGRAM received two major boosts recently. First was the issuance at long last of Management Instruction 2700.2. It establishes official recognition for existing SOP's and provides a blueprint for future mission accomplishment. Secondly, the stimulating meeting of the NASA Historical Advisory Committee, May 20-21, seemed a vital discussion of problems and definitions. Minutes and Report will shortly be issued. Needless to add, NASA Historians bid Dr. George Simpson, new Chancellor of the University of Georgia System, "best wishes" with our regrets for his departure. His support in Headquarters of the historical function during the past three years has been a firm bridge over uncertain waters.

AIAA History Committee will provide three focal points for industry and academic interest on the history of American aerospace science and technology in late July. At the Civic Center in San Francisco during the AIAA annual convention, the following meetings should be brought to the attention of your colleagues:

- . History of Rocket Research Airplanes--  
July 28, 9-12 a.m. Rm. 103
- . AIAA History Committee meeting (members only)
- . AIAA History Committee meeting with historical monitors of 35 other Technical Committees of AIAA.  
July 29, 2-5 p.m., Rm. 315  
(kibitzer's welcome)

HISTORIAN, OFFICE OF MANNED SPACE FLIGHT, William Putnam, reports to APPH on July 6. Formerly Historian of the USAF Space Systems Division of AFSC, Wright Field before that, Bill brings an excellent background and energy to focus on one of our most important areas.

ASTRONAUTICS AND AERONAUTICS--1964 (SP-4005) will be distributed in July. Local academic scholars and library circulation should be provided copies by field persons. It is sometimes discouraging that input to monthly edition by field historians is such that authoritative NASA sources and unpublicized events of historical importance are not greater. House organs and releases help but improvement of quality, content, and sources is a constant need. Comments and additions on monthly editions have been, frankly, inadequate.

**HISTORY OF PROJECT MERCURY:** Circulation of Comment Edition will shortly be undertaken, a major milestone in the NASA Historical Program as well as the devoted professional labors of Grimwood, Swenson, and Alexander.

**OPERATION CLEANUP:** Beyond our memoranda, successful records retention and retirement for historical purposes does demand close attention. In limiting procurement of filing cabinets, the President was not intending to cripple future history. Please do not hesitate to coordinate locally or with us. NASA Historian lectured Washington meeting of Operation Cleanup on subject of "retention" and "retrieval" on June 24.

**GODDARD HISTORICAL ESSAY Competition for 1965,** sponsored by the National Space Club, closes on November 1, 1965. This is open to all U.S. citizens including NASA historians. Please post notice or otherwise encourage local authors.

**BRIEF MENTIONS:**

- Summer Interns: Headquarters Seminar includes graduate students Jay Casper (Pol. Science, Yale), Michael Chriss (History of Science, U. of Calif., Berkeley), Richard Smoke (Government, Harvard), and Joanne Drake (History, Kansas); at Goddard Space Flight Center, Richard Holcomb (History of Science, Oklahoma). Peter Seaborg (Harvard) and Mary Hermann (Ohio Wesleyan) are also working in Headquarters.
- Critical but favorable review of History of Rocket Technology appeared in Times Literary Supplement (London), April 15, 1965. It was also cited in so-called historical section of House Committee on Government Operations Report, Government Operations in Space (Analysis of Civil-Military Roles and Relationships), June 4, 1965, pp. 21-30.
- Have you seen Charles Alexander's book The Ku Klux Klan in the Southwest (Univ. of Ky. Press, 1965) and Loyd Swenson's review of Van Dyke's Pride and Power in Technology and Culture (Spring 1965)? Please bring other professional noncommercial writings of our NASA historians to our attention.

- Note also Professor John B. Rae's "Financial Problems of the American Aircraft Industry, 1906-1940," Business History Review (Spring 1965), pp. 99-114; also Howard Simons' review of Professor Hunter Dupree's lecture at USAF OAR (Cloudcraft Conference) on the space implications of the relationship of Captain Cook's exploration to Charles Darwin. (Washington Post, 6/16/65)

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NOTE: This NEWSLETTER was conceived to bring relevant professional information informally to all associated with the NASA historical program. Comments, suggestions, and criticism would be appreciated. E.M.E.