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Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma

Personal History of Spacemobile by Jack Bannister. Written 2001.

PERSONAL HISTORY OF SPACEMOBILE

By Jack Bannister

It was January 1963. I was to report for an interview as a lecturer for the NASA Spacemobile Program to Mr. Herman Weinstein, Educational Services, 1730 Eye St., NW, Washington, DC. I took a taxi from Union Station to that address. Upon arriving I kept looking at the building and the address I had written, This did not look like NASA...however, I entered the building, climbed the stairs and met with Mr. Weinstein. I was told to take a cab to NASA Headquarters for an interview. I was interview by Stu Tinsman and Ev Collin. They apologized that the starting salary was only \$9000. My teaching salary at that time was \$5600.

I accepted.

I reported for work on February 11. 1963, and left the program in April 1989.

In 1963 all Spacemobilers were scheduled out of Washington by Lloyd Aronson. There were two lecturers per Spacemobile and we visited two schools per day.

Per Diem was \$15.00 per day which you lived on quite easily and NEVER spent your salary.

One anecdote I heard was: A Spacemobiler pulled up to a tool booth a little too close and cracked his left side mirror on the toll booth. Upon backing up he hit the car behind him. This unnerved him so that in falling forward he hit the car in front of him. Upon reporting the accident to Mr. Weinstein, he said, "I have had three accidents in three minutes!"

There are many things that evoke memories of my time with Spacemobile — the name of a town I visited, a restaurant I ate in, a newspaper article or TV program about NASA — each memory elicits a smile.