

# **OSU/NASA Education Projects: Aerospace Education Services Program (AESP) Archive**

**Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma**

## **A Spacemobile Reflection by Muriel Thorne. Written 2001.**

A Spacemobile Reflection  
by Muriel Thorne

While I was visiting a Spacemobile program in Tennessee one spring, the school was having its science fair. Several 7th and 8th grade girls who had entered projects were chosen to have lunch with me. I remember one vividly. She was a nervous wreck because she was to write about what she wanted to be when she grew up and she didn't know. I tried mightily to explain how many doors would be open to her but no avail. Then I said, "When I was growing up, a woman's career choice was primarily teacher, nurse, librarian, or secretary. But even I worked at the National Gallery of Art before coming to NASA." Wow, she said, and relaxed.

Wow is right. From the beginning of my career with the Education Division in 1961, I was able to combine art and space. During the late 60's, we had a Spacemobile Conference at Headquarters and I was asked to provide an art workshop. I gathered a variety of papers and all the art media I could carry for a half hour of space-related art projects. I remember one comment: "I've always wanted to make a Spacemobile." I followed that with a half hour talk on the History of Space and the Arts, a condensed version of the presentation I was invited to give to many Spacemobile teacher workshops – always a joy.