

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

Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma

## The Hats of a "Spacemobiler" by Fred Kubesch. Written 2001

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by Fred Kubesch

This was my second career change in my life. Serving as a football coach and science teacher, I invited the A.E.S.P. to our school where Tom Hill gave us his program. Little did I know that six months later I was selected after I inquired as to what a person would have to do to be a Spacemobiler.

My experience as a Spacemobiler was from August of 1976 through August of 1979, and Cal. State at Chico, California had the NASA education contract. "Here today and gone tomorrow" pretty much wrapped up the life of a Spacemobiler. I always felt that experience is one of the best teachers in life; and we really had many days and activities providing me with well-rounded experiences.

George Johnson said that a Spacemobiler was an educator, a truck driver, and a freight shipper; for we did all of the above and still had time to answer questions that kids of the public would have. I really felt that we were also salesmen selling the public on the many great space benefits provided for with less than one cent of the federal tax budget then. It really took a well-rounded person to meet the daily challenges of lecturing in new environments from Williston, North Dakota to Edinburg, Texas.

Tom Hill initially trained me, and I can remember a day in an East Texas gym when Jim Poindexter said after evaluating my program, "Why are you giving a Tom Hill presentation?" Tom said if you say exactly what I say, that would be terrific. After that, I started reading more and more about all aspects of NASA. From Enid and Hooker, Oklahoma to Poteau and Tahlequah, Oklahoma to the vast state of Texas from Muleshoe to White Oak, we lectured, entertained, and mostly educated our audiences. From a class of ten in a parochial school to 3,000 public school students in Edinburg, Texas, we made an impact on the young and old minds throughout the United States. Remember the community involvement programs in cities like Pueblo, Colorado where George Johnson introduced me to "Tomato Juice and Beer" and snow skiing on a weekend in Crested Butte, Colorado. I found out it takes a LONG time to Bar-B-Q in Colorado. Remember the community involvement in Texarkana, Texas and the one in Lincoln, Nebraska. We also completed a community involvement program in Stockton, California.

I really remember the experiences of my co-educators: Tom Hill, George Johnson, and John Donaldson. John passed away a couple of years ago. His wife, Vi, now lives in Port Aransas, Texas. John introduced me to Usher's Scotch and a few other things. He always said he was a Biology Teacher, and he knew the world of Biology. But he truly loved being an educator. "God Bless You," John!

I could never figure out why Tom Hill loved East Texas til I spent one night on his East Texas farm where I Barbequed for a weekend meal. But then I guess "Home is where you find it."

I remember first meeting Maureen Johnson, who was a teacher in the Kansas city area, where we spent one weekend Barbecuing for supper on a Saturday evening. Something got in my eye, and George always said I got more attention than he did. George, who could forget the community involvement program in Denver, Colorado where we stayed at a military base.

Yes, there is a lot to remember, and I remember other Spacemobilers like Jack Bannister, Harry Herzer, and Bill Horvath. They were three very colorful and entertaining people.

After my son, Wesley, was born on 7-8-78, I decided I needed to be at home and not on the road. Before I left, one of the last programs I remember was a Teacher Workshop at Stillwater, Oklahoma where I met Dr. Nelson Ehrlich, and Dr. Ken Wiggins. I also remember barbecuing on a Saturday evening with Nelson and his family. Both were tremendous professionals in the world of Space Science Education.

Yes, we Spacemobilers wore many hats, from a truck driver to a freight hauler; however, the bottom line is that we educated many as to what was taking place in the Space Program and I will forever remember my three years of being a Spacemobiler.