

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Charles W. Mathews

ORAL HISTORY: 1 May 1998
25 February 1999

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

BS in Aeronautical Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY (1942)

PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, Langley Field, VA (1943-1958)

- Aeronautical Engineer (1943-1947)
- Assistant Head, Stability and Control Section, Flight Research Division (1947-1958)

NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Space Task Group, Langley Field, VA (1958-1962)

- Aeronautical Research Scientist, Stability and Control (1958-1959)
- Chief, Operations Division (1959-1962)

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, TX

- Chief, Spacecraft Technology Division (1962-1963)
- Deputy Assistant Director, Engineering and Development (1963)
- Manager, Gemini Program Office (1963-1966)

NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC (1966-1976)

- Director, Apollo Applications Program, Office of Manned Space Flight (OMSF) (1966-1968)
- Deputy Associate Administrator, OMSF (1968-1971)
- Associate Administrator, Office of Applications (1971-1976)
- Retired (1976)

POST-NASA EXPERIENCE:

NASA Alumni League

- President

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Associate Member, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- NASA Exceptional Service Award, 1965
- Selected "Man-of-the Year," 1964-1965, of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Houston Chapter, 1965
- National Space Club Astronautics Engineer Award, 1966
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 1966

- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 1969

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PATENTS:

J. R. Thompson and C. W. Mathews. "Drag Measurements at Transonic Speeds on a Freely Falling Body." NACA Advisory Conference Report. L5E03. May 1945.

C. W. Mathews and J. R. Thompson. "Comparative Drag Measurements at Transonic Speeds of Straight and Sweptback NACA 65-009 Airfoils Mounted on a Freely Falling Body." NACA Memorandum Report L5G23a, July 1945. Released in 1949 as TR 988.

Charles W. Mathews. "The Space Shuttle and Its Uses." Aeronautical Journal 76 (January 1972): 19-25.

Charles W. Mathews. "American Space Station Activities." Aeronautical Journal 76 (February 1972): 83-96.

REFERENCES:

Charles W. Mathews NASA Biographical Data Sheet (October 1967), Charles W. Mathews Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Adam Bernstein, "Charles Mathews, 80; Held Top NASA Posts [obituary]," Washington Post, 28 September 2001, B07.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 1 OCTOBER 1997