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FINDING AID TO THE PAUL J. WEITZ PAPERS, 1976-1994

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Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Weitz, Paul J. 1932-
Title	Paul J. Weitz papers
Collection Identifier	MSP 172
Date Span	1976-1994
Abstract	Personal notebooks of Paul J. Weitz during his career at NASA. These notebooks document Weitz's day-to-day activities and accomplishments. Also included are notes from various meetings he attended.
Extent	0.5 cubic feet. 1 mss box
Finding Aid Author	Max Campbell, 2014
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	Donated by Paul J. Weitz, November 8, 2014
Accession Number:	20131108
Preferred Citation:	Paul J. Weitz papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Paul J. Weitz

Organizations

NASA

John F. Kennedy Space Center

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

Topics

Space Shuttle Program (U.S.)

Skylab Program

STS-51-L (Challenger Disaster)

Form and Genre Types

Notebooks

Occupations

U.S. Astronaut 1966-1987

Deputy Center Director of Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center 1987-1993

Acting Center Director of Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center 1993-1994

Acting Associate Center Director of Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center 1994

Biography of Paul J. Weitz

Paul J. Weitz was born July 25, 1932 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Weitz graduated from Harborcreek High School in Harborcreek, Pennsylvania. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree on a Navy ROTC scholarship in aeronautical engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1954. Weitz earned his Master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, in 1964.

Weitz was called to duty during the Vietnam War in 1965. He was deployed to the western Pacific and flew A-3s on combat missions. In May of 1966 Weitz was chosen as part of NASA's fifth group of astronauts. One of Weitz first assignments was the support crew for Apollo 12.

From 1966 to 1973 Weitz did not have a flight assignment. His first flight assignment was for Sky Lab 2. This was the first manned mission to Sky Lab after its initial launch on 14 May 1973. Sky Lab 2 launched on 25 May 1973 with astronauts Pete Conrad, Paul Weitz, and Joseph Kerwin. Their main task was to fix problems with a failed heat shield that did not deploy properly making the inside of the space station too warm.

After Skylab 2, Weitz was selected by NASA to be space craft commander on the Space Shuttle Program's 6th flight, "Space Transportation System – 6" (STS-6). Launched on 4 April, 1983, STS-6 was the shuttle *Challenger's* maiden flight. STS-6 spent 120 hours in Space conducting various experiences including, EVAs, recording lighting activities, and carried three experiments designed by university students called "Getaway Specials." These experiments were small, compact canisters that allowed for groups or individuals to conduct experiments in micro-gravity on board the Shuttles.

Weitz held the position of Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office from 1981 to 1987, he was the Deputy Director of the Johnson Space Center from 1987 until 1993, the Acting Center Director of the Johnson Space Center from 1993 until 1994, and Weitz held the position of Acting Associate Center Director of the Johnson Space Center when he retired from NASA in 1994.

Sources:

"Astronaut Bio: Paul J. Weitz" NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, July 1994. Web. <<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/weitz-pj.html>>

“Oral History Project Participants – complete list.” NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, March 5, 2002. Web.

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/history/oral_histories/WeitzPJ/PJW_3-26-00.pdf>

“NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET.” NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, January 9, 2002. Web.

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/history/oral_histories/WeitzPJ/PJW_Bio.pdf>

Collection Description

Scope

The Paul J. Weitz papers (1976-1994; .5 cubic feet) document the time Weitz spent as a U.S. astronaut and as Deputy Director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The collection contains 11 notebooks that were used by Weitz to record day-to-day meeting notes and tasks. The first entry is April of 1976 and the last entry is January of 1994. The notebooks contain information about *The Challenger* accident and Weitz's response to the incident from the day it happened and document what the administration did for the families and general public in the wake of the accident. The Paul J. Weitz papers are organized into 1 series: 11 notebooks contained in one 0.5 cubic feet Mss box.

Arrangement

1. Notebooks, 1976-1994 (0.5 cubic feet). This series contains the 11 notebooks documenting Weitz's time at NASA as an astronaut and as the Deputy Flight Director for Johnson Space Center. Within the notebooks, Weitz mentions the Sky Lab 2 mission, the *Challenger* accident, and other astronauts including David C. Leestma. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically.

Descriptive Rules [Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard]

Processing Information

The notebooks have been placed in a manuscript box with plastic bubble-wrap for padding. They have also been placed in chronological order. All paperclips have been removed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Notebooks, 1976-1994

(0.5 cubic feet)

1 **Box** 11 *notebooks* 1976-1994

Notebook

- 1 Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz CB 4/76 – 5/78." This notebook contains information relating to Spacelab and the Shuttle.
2. Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC CB/2411 5/78 – 10/80."
3. Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz CB/ NASA JSC 2411 10/80 – ."
4. Steno Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC 483-2411 6/83 – 6/84."
5. Steno Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC 483-3895 6/84 – 8/86."
(Note: This notebook contains information regarding the day of the Challenger accident. It also details the days after.)
6. Steno Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC (713) 483-3895 8/86 – 8/87." Contains information on daily meetings and notes about STS and other various proposed NASA missions.
7. Steno Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC (713) 483-5309 8/87 – 10/88." Notes on meetings and day-to-day activities.
8. Steno Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC (713) 483-5309 10/88 – 6/90." Notes ranging from daily meetings and the Shuttle.
9. Steno Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC (713) 483-5309 6/90 – 4/92." Notes on meetings and his daily NASA activities.
10. Steno Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz NASA JSC (713) 483-5309 4/92 – 1/94." Notes on daily meetings.
11. Notebook, titled "P.J. Weitz" This notebook contains detailed information on the events after the Challenger accident. Meetings about procedures and policies on memorials and what personal effects/remains are to be given back to the families. (Note: This notebook contains a wide range of dates starting from 1986 and ending with 1992 so it was placed at the end of the list.)