Stan White's Bio Info

Stan was born in Providence, RI, on September 25th, 1931. After his dad's job vanished during the Depression, his family moved to Chicago, and for four years (1935-1938) rotated between Chicago, IL, Three Lakes, WI, Chicago again, and Palm Beach FL (repeat for 4 cycles) while his dual-citizen (US/UK) civil-engineer dad worked as Civilian Supervisory Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers. When Hitler invaded Poland in Sept., 1939, his dad was transferred to the War Department as a special agent, the family moved for a month to Philadelphia, PA, and then to Collingswood, NJ. Following the war-related death of his father in June, 1942, he and his mother joined his widowed maternal grandmother in St. Petersburg, FL. He remained with his grandmother after his mother remarried in Dec. 1943 and left for Indianapolis, IN. Stan rejoined his mother in June, 1944, attended and graduated from the 8th grade (That was a significant achievement: he was first in his family to graduate from elementary school!) and (even more remarkably) graduated (although in the bottom third of his class) from Indianapolis' prestigious Shortridge HS in 1949. After living in 7 states and attending 10 schools, Stan joined the USAF to find stability for his life. Good move. The Air Force reprogramed and reinstalled his head.

After serving in the Strategic Air Command for over 70 months before, during and after the Korean War (over half of it was overseas on the Atlantic Missile Range) he gathered his citations and awards, accepted his honorable discharge in 1955, and enrolled as an engineering major at Purdue University, then the free-world's largest engineering school, and it soon to be the alma mater of 23 US astronauts. (There could have been no better time, place and background to become an aerospace engineer!) In 1956 he flew down to the Caribbean and married Edda María Castaño-Benítez (whom he'd met in 1954) on a 4-mile wide island 6 miles east of Puerto Rico. They moved to the Purdue main campus and by 1965 he'd acquired (by the numbers) one Professional Engineer license, two dogs, three degrees, including that doctorate, and four kids.

While at Purdue he worked for 4 years at Allison Div. of GM and as a teaching and laboratory assistant on campus to augment the GI Bill income, and then as a full time Electrical Engineering Instructor for 2 years. He completed his research as a North American Aviation (NAA) Science Engineering Fellow and dove headlong into the great aerospace adventure in the LA basin. He thrived at NAA and its successor companies and retired after 31 years to serve as CEO of SPACECorp. for the next 13 years. Every day and every project was trail-blazing research, doing what had never been done before in electronics, communications, guidance, navigation, control, propulsion … He concurrently taught state-of-the-art developments at UCLA and UCI.

After retiring from industry, the IEEE, National Engineering Consortium and Technology Transfer Society jointly supported him as Distinguished Visiting Professor at universities in the US and in 12 foreign countries where he lectured on emerging electronics and aerospace technologies. The experiences were great and the money was gravy! Then he retreaded into the volunteer world. Life is good.