

Bulletin

Central College, McPherson, Kansas

Fall 1987

Meet The 1987

Bulletin "All-Stars." This first-annual selection features five alumni who have done or are doing something well known, out-of-the-ordinary, or famous. So, get ready to meet . . . a Space Program "pioneer" . . . a free-lance author . . . a World War II fighter pilot . . . a former "Mrs. Colorado" . . . and Central's first professional-sports draftee.

Simpkins Is U.S. Space Program "Pioneer"

LONGMONT, COLORADO—HUBERT SIMPKINS CC'37 THOUGHT his career would be fairly uneventful when he became an engineer in 1941.

He soon found out, however, that his work would be used to develop the U.S. Space Program. Over the years, Simpkins has been involved with Gemini, Apollo, the Space Shuttle, and future space stations.

The Colorado resident prepared for his life's work through study at Central and Greenville, correspondence courses, and night school.

"From 1941 to 1956, I worked at various phases of aircraft design," he said. "Then I was offered a position as a lead engineer for Beech Aircraft which was starting a new facility for space applications."

Simpkins put his prior training to good use at Beech. "Our chief contribution was in the field of cryogenic engineering," he said. "Cryogenic is defined as a science of the super cold."

The Central grad often served as the head engineer of a project. "For all of the programs, I've been involved in the preparation of numerous papers, design studies, and proposals."

Simpkins has worked closely with NASA and a few of the astronauts. He especially enjoyed his work with the Space Shuttle.

"We provided the ground-support systems for the transfer of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen from ground level to the spacecraft tanks," he said. "We also provided the on-board systems for the breathing environment and for the supply of cryogenic fluid to the fuel cells for electrical power."

He and his wife, Leona, have two children: Myrna Duneman cc'71 and Curt cc'73.

"Man has accomplished many great things as a result of the Space Program," said Simpkins. "I believe we are in the early stages of even more that God may allow us to accomplish if we depend on Him."



NASA Honors Simpkins
NASA honored Simpkins with an achievement award in 1969 for his contributions to the Apollo program.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration
presents the
Apollo Achievement Award
to

H.E. Simpkins

In appreciation of dedicated service to the nation as a member of the team which has advanced the nation's capabilities in aeronautics and space and demonstrated them in many outstanding accomplishments culminating in Apollo 11's successful achievement of man's first landing on the moon, July 20, 1969.



Signed at Washington, D.C.

John H. Johnson
ADMINISTRATOR, NASA



Bjorkman Establishes Scholarship

Bjorkman established a Central College scholarship this year in honor of her late husband, Albert Guyer.

Bjorkman Is Caring Author

OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS—ADALINE BJORKMAN WS'37 HAS used her free-lance writing career to help people who are dealing with grief.

Bjorkman's own journey through the grief process led to her book *While It Was Still Dark*. Since it was published in 1978, some 5,000 people have purchased the prose-poetry work.

"I started writing it the day my husband, Arthur, died," she said. "It's based on John 21 when Mary goes to the tomb but hasn't heard about the Resurrection."

Bjorkman continues to write articles for religious publications. She especially enjoys poetry and non-fiction. "I also do seminars about grief," she said.

The author is well known in the Evangelical Covenant denomination. She was the first woman to serve on the denomination's board of trustees.

The former kindergarten teacher is active in such groups as the Paul Carlson Medical Board, Faith At Work, helping the newly widowed, and Bjorkman Foundation.

Bjorkman is a graduate of Wessington Springs College. "Attending Wessington was a real milestone for me," she said. "It provided an opportunity for me and many others to get a college education."

Bjorkman received her bachelor's degree at the National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois. She has three children and three grandchildren.

Bjorkman recently established the Al Guyer Scholarship at Central College. The scholarship is in honor of her first husband who was killed in 1945.

Central honored her and Al's brothers at a dinner in June. The event brought back many memories. "No matter how many years, the tears never really go away," she added.

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