

The Woman's Collection

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

International Society of Women Airline Pilots Oral History Program Pre-Interview Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in the International Society of Women Airline Pilots Oral History Project. Below are some questions to help prepare for the interview and possibly jog your memory of past recollections you would like to share about your life and career in aviation.

Recording your life and career oral history:

Choose which questions you want to share concerning your personal experiences/history. You do not have to answer all these questions. You may have additional stories you wish to record and share, and that is fine too! The interview and recording may vary one to two hours.

Additionally, you may want to consider writing your own history book or journal. Remember, this collection serves researchers, scholars, historians, filmmakers, and documentarians internationally. It will become public, so answer only what you want! You can also add pertinent information.

If you are in the middle of your career, you may always contact TWU to augment information to your recorded history.

It will take all of us working together to establish our wonderful ISA+21 legacy. So please consider taking the time to record your remarkable achievements.

After your recording, a transcription will be prepared and mailed to you.

For more information, please contact Sandy Anderson at archives@isa21.org

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Biographical:

1. Full name including middle, maiden, married, and nickname
2. Birth date
3. Birth place
4. Death date if family member is being interviewed

Childhood:

1. Parents' names
2. Tell me about your parents
3. What did they do for a living?
4. How many brothers and sisters do you have? What are their names
5. Where did you grow up?
6. What was it like growing up in _____?
7. What do you remember about growing up?
8. Did you work? What did you do?
9. Do you have special memories of your parents/family that you like to share?

Education:

1. Where did you attend high school? When did you graduate?
2. Did you attend college? or other educational institutions? Flight schools? Where?
3. What did you major in? What did you enjoy?
4. Did you pursue advanced degrees or further your education?

Learning to fly:

1. How did your interest in aviation/pilot begin?
2. As a child, were you fascinated with aviation/pilot?
3. Did you get your love for the aviation from your parents or extended family (aunts, uncles, or friends etc.)?
4. Why and when did you first realize that you wanted to be a pilot?
5. How old were you when you started taking flying lessons? Where?
6. What memorable experiences do you have from your days of learning how to fly?
7. Who were your aviation role models?
8. Did your family have any issues with you learning to fly?

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Building Time:

1. How did you pay for your training?
2. How did you build your flight time?
3. What jobs did you do before becoming an airline pilot?
4. How long did it take you to acquire an airline job?
5. What year were you hired and by which airline?
6. What was the hardest part about being a woman pilot? Were there any men/incidences that were especially hard? Harassment? Discrimination
7. What was the most fun about being a woman pilot?

Airline Job:

1. How many women pilots were at the airline when you were hired?
2. How many women were in your class? How many pilots total?
3. How many in your class finished?
4. What was the training facility like?
5. Besides studying, where they any recreational times?
6. Tell us about your instructors. Did they communicate and articulate well?
7. Where there any women instructors?
8. What kind of training did you receive? (classroom, simulator, ramp walk arounds aircraft, actual flight instruction?)
9. How long did you train before your first flight as a second or first officer?
10. What do you remember as the most difficult part of training?
11. What were your strengths and weaknesses you dealt with during training?
12. Did you ever have an accident?
13. Where did you fly? Was domestic or international flying more difficult? Which is your favorite, domestic or international?
14. What planes did you fly? What was your favorite plane to fly, and why?
15. Was there anything especially challenging about airline flying compared to the jobs you held before airline flying?
16. What were your strengths / weaknesses you dealt with as an airline pilot?
17. What was the worst moment for you during your career?
18. What was your best moment while you were a pilot?
19. What other stories do you remember while you were a pilot?
20. Certifications, designations, and specializations
21. Any Awards & Honors, Memberships

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During your career:

1. During your career, did you share your expertise and encourage young girls and ladies to consider an aviation career? Participate in school career days? Are you a mentor?
2. Have you kept a journal or thought about writing a book about your experiences?
3. How were you treated by the male pilots?
4. Were you discriminated against? How?
5. Did you ever have any problems in training/upgrades/recurrent because you were a woman?
6. Did you ever report problems to your superior? How were they handled?
7. Would you choose this career again?
8. Do you feel you made any sacrifices to be an airline pilot?
9. Did you get married?
10. Do you have a significant other?
11. How many children did you have?
12. How did your family handle you being gone on overnights/long periods of time?

Retirement:

1. When did you retire or when is your retirement date? Did you have any medical issues or reasons to retire early?
2. Have you made plans for retirement?
3. What's on your "bucket list" for retirement?

Other:

1. If you could pass along one message to youth (especially young women) of today concerning your life as an airline pilot, what would it be?
2. Tell us any additional stories that you would like about your career as a pilot or about your life.
3. Please feel free to include any humorous heart tales, heart breaking stories, meaningful anecdotes you can think of.
4. If you could improve the airline job for women, what would you change?

ISA+21, International Society of Women Airline Pilots:

1. When did you join ISA+21?
2. Why did you join ISA+21?
3. Have you been an officer in the ISA+21 and in what capacity?
4. What is your favorite aspect of being a member of ISA+21?