

OSU/NASA Education Projects: Aerospace Education Services Program (AESP) Archive

Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Oklahoma

A Memorable Experience by Eva Farley. Written 2001.

A Memorable Experience
By Eva Farley

During my short tenure (compared to others) as Spacemobiler, I probably had a few of the same experiences as others, such as: 1) Locking my keys in the back section of the van, being able to see them, try to retrieve them with a coat hanger, get them so close only to drop them, then having to go inside the school, let them know what a dumb person they had for the presentation by confessing I needed a locksmith to unlock my van. 2) Tooling along down I-75 in Georgia, listening to the radio, when all of a sudden the engine sputtered and quit running. I managed to get over off the highway and looked down at the gauges. Low and behold the gas gauge registered empty. (Now how did that happen?) I did have a telephone and a AAA card that my husband insisted I carry at all times. I called, a tow truck came out, and towed me to the next exit where I filled up with gas. And I could go on and on about some of the same experiences we all have had at one time or another.

However, one of my most memorable experiences came when I least expected it. I was assigned to give assembly type presentations and classroom visits in a High School in Jacksonville, FL. The area I found myself in really looked depressed and I was feeling just a little anxious about being there, but continued. I arrived at the school to find it enclosed with fence and three strands of barbed wire at the top of the fence. A uniformed guard stood at the entrance of the school. Needless to say I was apprehensive. One of the assistant principals took me for a tour of the school, explained how the principal had managed to turn the entire school around from 60% or more absences to students voluntarily staying after school to get extra help and study on their own. Even though each teacher carried a walkie-talkie with them there wasn't any indication of problems. During each assembly presentation the students were polite, well behaved, and asked many excellent questions about the space program. The class visits continued in the same manner. Needless to say I was very impressed.

The culminating event the day made it an even more memorable occasion. After I had reloaded my equipment, I was invited to stay for a special event. A guest was to give a presentation just before school was to be dismissed for the day. The guest was a slight lady that gained a standing ovation from the entire student body and the faculty, as well as myself. The lady was none other than Rosa Parks. She stood as long as she could and talked to the student body. When she finally became too exhausted to continue standing, she sat down, but continued to answer questions from the students. This was indeed a day to remember in my tenure as a "Spacemobiler."

So many wonderful memories, so much "job" satisfaction, great people to work with and the opportunity to view many special events. Thanks to everyone and God Bless.