

## GAIL BLAIR LEATHERWOOD BIOGRAPHY

Born May 12, 1934 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Moved to Colorado Springs, CO in 1945. Graduated from Cheyenne Mountain High School in 1952, during which time I frequently rode my bicycle past Robert Heinlein's house, not knowing that he was probably inside writing classics that would shape the world of science fiction, including mine.

Served in US Army on active duty 1952-1955, including two years in Germany. Taught in NCO Academies in US and Germany. After discharge, attended University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. Enlisted in Kansas National Guard as Corporal, promoted to Sergeant First Class, graduated from US Army Ranger School, Ft. Benning, GA in 1957. Graduated from Kansas National Guard Officer Candidate School in 1958. Moved to California, served in CA National Guard and US Army Reserve, resigned as Captain.

After graduation from University of Kansas with Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, moved to California, then eventually appointed to CA civil service as Personnel Analyst. Served for 30 years as Personnel Officer and Training Manager. Retired 1997.

History in space development started with weekly column in local newspaper in Elko, Nevada titled "The Next Frontier," a term I have tried to insert in space development writings ever since. Attended National Space Society International Space Development Conference to present "Gold Goes Into Space," describing the contribution of Nevada gold mining to space development. Met Bob Zubrin and got autographed copy of *Space Station Science* by Marianne Dyson, with whom I have maintained contact ever since.

Met Greg Allison, who appointed me as "NSS Chapter Projects Coordinator" to share NSS chapter projects with each other. Resulted in chapter projects listing in NSS "Ad Astra" quarterly magazine.

Began writing for "*Space Future Journal*," edited by Carol Pinchefskey, which led to co-editing "*Space Renaissance Manifesto*," the seminal work for Space Renaissance International (SRI.) Published over 90 articles on space tourism and space based solar power for *Space Future Journal*. Continued as Executive Board member of SRI and close friend of founder Adriano Autino.

Beginning with my earliest interest in science fiction I have continued to contribute in any way possible to influence and encourage the development of space, strongly affected by the work of SRI. I am honored and humbled by the work being done and proud of having been a part of SRI since its beginning. We are still "...children playing in the sandbox of space..." and taking our first tentative steps across the border of "The Next Frontier."

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