



MAY 2026

Society of 1925 Remembers – Jane Workman

READ TIME: 2 MINUTES



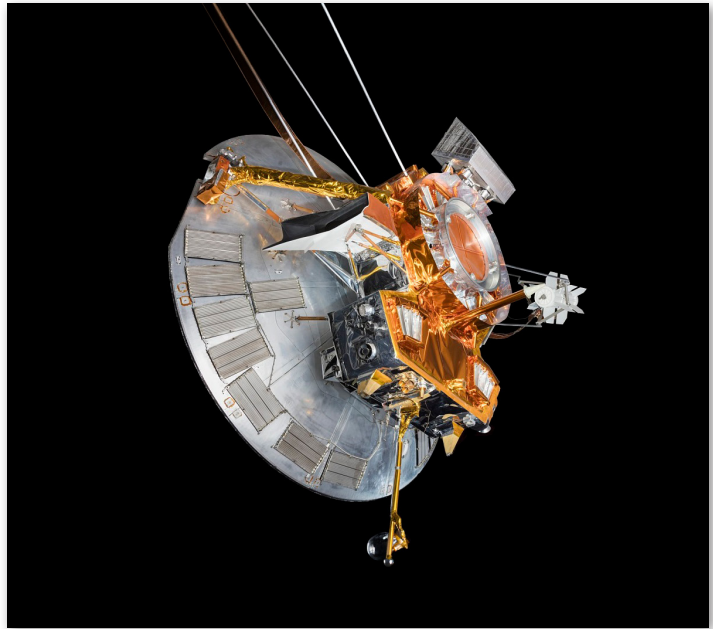
Martha Jane Workman, 1945

Trinidad State is grateful to honor the remarkable memory of Martha Jane Workman, '47. Jane created a gift in her will prior to her passing in 2008. Her legacy of support continues to this day.

Jane was born in 1927 into a hardworking railroad family in Omaha, NE. After living for a time in Greeley, her family would move to Trinidad where Jane graduated from high school in 1945. She would work briefly as a switchboard operator before attending the *State Normal School of Colorado* (today, the University of Northern Colorado).

Following graduation, Jane relocated to Redondo Beach, CA, to join the Thompson Ramo Wooldridge (TRW) company.

In 1950, founders Simon Ramo and Dean Wooldridge—while working for Hughes Aircraft—led the development of the Falcon radar-guided missile, in addition to other projects. They would separate from Hughes to form the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation in September 1953, with the financial support of Thompson Products.



Replica of the Pioneer 10 Spacecraft on display at the National Air and Space Museum

The detonation of a thermonuclear bomb in 1953 by the Soviet Union heightened Cold War tensions. In addition to its work on ballistic missiles and other defense-related projects, TRW would eventually produce scientific spacecraft such as the Pioneer 1 space probe. TRW was later contracted to work on the Apollo program.



Pioneer 10 lifts off from Cape Canaveral, Florida on March 2, 1972

Jane would come to play a critical role in quality control/inspection for many of satellite programs. She is reportedly one of few women to have her name on the moon.

“It’s one of the highlights of my life,” Jane once said, “to be at TRW and be associated with *Pioneer 10*. It’s a thrill, a feeling of accomplishment. It’s one of the best things that ever happened to me—being part of something that’s become part of eternity.”

In December 1973, Pioneer 10 became the first spacecraft to cross the asteroid belt and fly past Jupiter, later achieving escape velocity

from the solar system. For more than 30 years it transmitted valuable scientific data, until its final faint signal reached Earth on January 22, 2003—from more than 7.6 billion miles away.

In her personal life, Jane enjoyed many deep and enduring friendships. Her hobbies included real estate investing, RV travels, rock hounding, firearms, reading—and Jane especially enjoyed a good serving of ice cream. Her friends admired her strength, fortitude and humor.



Martha Jane Workman, 1985

Independent and thrifty, Jane also supported numerous non-profit organizations with donations. She was described as having built up an enviable sum—and generously sharing that sum with others.

Trinidad State remains grateful for the gift that Jane included in her will. Her legacy continues to inspire.

For more information about giving through your will, please visit us online or contact Toni DeAngelis at toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu or 719-846-5520.

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