



**5 Things You Didn't Know About
Astronaut Peggy Whitson**

1
00:00:08,150 --> 00:00:05,430
i was raised on a farm in rural iowa

2
00:00:10,629 --> 00:00:08,160
where my parents raised corn and

3
00:00:12,870 --> 00:00:10,639
soybeans and cattle and hogs

4
00:00:16,390 --> 00:00:12,880
so it was a huge culture shock for me to

5
00:00:17,430 --> 00:00:16,400
go to a big city of houston for graduate

6
00:00:19,830 --> 00:00:17,440
school

7
00:00:22,950 --> 00:00:19,840
and while i've adapted to living in a

8
00:00:25,509 --> 00:00:22,960
city i still maintain my country roots

9
00:00:26,950 --> 00:00:25,519
my husband and i own farmland in iowa

10
00:00:29,990 --> 00:00:26,960
that my brother

11
00:00:31,990 --> 00:00:30,000
owns farms along with his farm and my parents

12
00:00:33,910 --> 00:00:32,000
my father got his private pilot's

13
00:00:35,910 --> 00:00:33,920

license when i was 10 years old and it

14

00:00:38,310 --> 00:00:35,920

was the first flight i had ever had in

15

00:00:40,389 --> 00:00:38,320

an airplane and i loved it

16

00:00:42,470 --> 00:00:40,399

i raised a lot of chickens and sold them

17

00:00:45,190 --> 00:00:42,480

for two dollars a piece

18

00:00:47,190 --> 00:00:45,200

before i had enough money to pay for my

19

00:00:48,389 --> 00:00:47,200

private pilot's license with with my

20

00:00:50,389 --> 00:00:48,399

chicken money

21

00:00:53,590 --> 00:00:50,399

i shared my dream of wanting to become

22

00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:53,600

an astronaut with dr james van allen

23

00:00:57,590 --> 00:00:55,920

the discoverer of the van allen

24

00:00:59,189 --> 00:00:57,600

radiation belt

25

00:01:01,830 --> 00:00:59,199

and he told me he really didn't think

26

00:01:03,670 --> 00:01:01,840

being an astronaut was really all that

27

00:01:06,390 --> 00:01:03,680

important long term that it wasn't

28

00:01:08,070 --> 00:01:06,400

really necessarily a good profession

29

00:01:11,830 --> 00:01:08,080

a few years later when i finished

30

00:01:13,590 --> 00:01:11,840

graduate school i had a phenomenal offer

31

00:01:15,830 --> 00:01:13,600

from an investigator at the salk

32

00:01:18,070 --> 00:01:15,840

institute very prestigious uh

33

00:01:19,590 --> 00:01:18,080

investigator and at a very prestigious

34

00:01:21,270 --> 00:01:19,600

institute

35

00:01:23,830 --> 00:01:21,280

but i called him up to tell him i was

36

00:01:25,670 --> 00:01:23,840

turning him down to take a a

37

00:01:26,950 --> 00:01:25,680

post-doctoral fellowship at the johnson

38

00:01:28,469 --> 00:01:26,960

space center

39

00:01:30,230 --> 00:01:28,479

and he said i was making the biggest

40

00:01:31,749 --> 00:01:30,240

mistake of my life

41

00:01:33,590 --> 00:01:31,759

i'm thinking it worked out pretty good

42

00:01:36,550 --> 00:01:33,600

for me anyway

43

00:01:38,710 --> 00:01:36,560

i love landscaping and gardening so much

44

00:01:41,109 --> 00:01:38,720

so that some people consider it an

45

00:01:43,590 --> 00:01:41,119

obsession

46

00:01:45,350 --> 00:01:43,600

i am by nature an introvert

47

00:01:47,590 --> 00:01:45,360

but over the years i have actually found

48

00:01:50,149 --> 00:01:47,600

that it really is worth the effort to

49

00:01:51,270 --> 00:01:50,159

work outside of my comfort zone

50

00:01:53,590 --> 00:01:51,280

and

