

Earth



Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here

Earth



[UFOs](#) | [Paranormal](#) | [Area 51](#)
[People](#) | [Places](#) | [Random](#)
[Top 100](#) | [What's New](#)
[Catalog](#) | [New Books](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

[Log-In Here](#)

For Advanced Features

New Bookstore Additions (Random Selection)

[Leaving the Enchanted Forest: The Path from Relationship Addiction to Intimacy](#) (used trpb) Stephanie Covington & Liana Beckett - \$5.00

[Right Places Right Times: Forty Years in Journalism Not Counting the Paper Route](#) (used hc) Hedley Donovan - \$8.00

[The Zanucks of Hollywood: The Dark Legacy of an American Dynasty](#) (used hc) Marlys J. Harris - \$4.00

[Miracles of the Gods: A New Look at the Supernatural](#) (used hc) /v/vondaniken/ & Michael Heron (translator) - \$7.00

[Casino Gambling for the Winner](#) (used pb) Lyle Stuart - \$2.50

[Kama Sutra: The Hindu Ritual of Love](#) (used hc) Vatsyayana - \$3.00

[More New Items](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Main Catalog Page](#)

Thousands of new & used titles, including many you won't find anywhere else!

[Mothership](#) -> [Skunkworks](#) -> Here

[Our Focus](#)

Skunk Works Mailing List

Skunk Works Pioneer dies

From: "Allen Thomson"
Subject: Skunk Works Pioneer dies
Date: Fri, 17 Sep 1999 12:21:35 -0500

Skunk Works' Irven Culver Dies
Los Angeles Times
Friday, September 17, 1999
By Elaine Woo
[EXCERPT]

Aviation: Self-taught engineer was a key member of Lockheed team and helped design the nation's first fighter jet. He also worked with Albert Einstein.

Irven H. Culver, a self-trained aviation engineer who named Lockheed's legendary Skunk Works division and whose ingenuity earned him many of his field's highest honors, died Aug. 13 at a Bakersfield hospital. He was 88.

Culver was a member of the elite group of two dozen engineers chosen during World War II to design the XP-80, the nation's first operational fighter jet.

The top-secret design group initially was housed in circus tents next to a Burbank plastics factory that sent noxious fumes into the engineers' quarters. The stink made Culver think of the evil-smelling "Skonk Works" distillery for Kickapoo Joy Juice depicted in the then-popular "L'il Abner" comic strip by Al Capp.

One day during the war, Culver answered the division's telephone by saying, "Skunk Works, inside man Culver speaking." The call was from a Navy officer who "laughed and asked me to repeat it while he put on a loudspeaker in his Washington office so everyone else could hear it," Culver once said.

Division chief Kelly Johnson did not laugh, however, and fired Culver. But Culver, whose antics got him fired "at least twice a day," survived the incident, as did the Skunk Works name. A few years ago, in fact, the nickname was officially embraced by the Palmdale aerospace outfit, now known as Lockheed Martin Skunk Works.

Culver worked for nearly three decades at Lockheed, where he helped solve difficult design problems on a wide range of craft, including the Constellation transport craft, the supersonic F-104, the Polaris missile, the X-7 reentry test vehicle and helicopters, said Thomas Hanson, a former Lockheed engineer and president of the Los Angeles chapter of the American

Helicopter Society.

He also was valued as an accident investigator for Lockheed, and he was a guest lecturer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Royal Aeronautical Society despite his lack of a college degree.

Culver "was arguably the most brilliant of the behind-the-scenes engineers who produced the great Lockheed aircraft of the 1940s through the 1960s," Hanson said.

[Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [List Surrounding Messages](#)

This archive of mailing list messages is provided as a free public courtesy. It is maintained automatically. The webmaster has no control over content, does not review these messages and accepts no liability for the accuracy of information contained herein. Responsibility for this material rests solely with the author and mailing list moderator (if any).

Note: This is a temporary archive only; this message will be deleted eventually. See [main page](#) for more info.

[Mailing lists archived on this server](#)

*

This site is supported by the [Research Center Bookstore](#).
Please visit our catalog if you appreciate our free web services.

Created: Sat Sep 18 03:10:43 EDT 1999