



GODDARD NEWS

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

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The National Aeronautics and Space Administration



MAR. 31, 1961

DEDICATION OF GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER MARCH 16, 1961



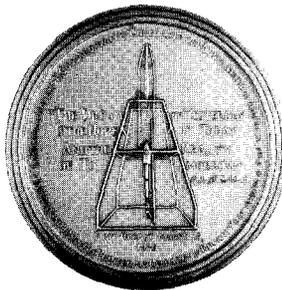
The Goddard Space Flight Center was officially dedicated in a ceremony on March 16, 1961 honoring the great pioneer Dr. Robert H. Goddard.

Director, Dr. Harry J. Goett in his address acknowledged the contributions which many in the audience have made toward the creation of the Center. In closing Dr. Goett said, "I must acknowledge the contribution of our own tireless hard-working people at Goddard. To you I extend a very special word of salute and a gratitude for your support."

In recognition of Dr. Goddard's achievements, Representative Overton Brooks, presented the Congressional Medal to Mrs. Robert H. Goddard and said, "From the Congress of which I am the Chairman of the House Committee on Space and Astronautics, we present this medal, but truly it comes not from the Congress of the United States but from the heart . . . of the American people as a whole."

Senator Robert S. Kerr, Chairman of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences was unable to attend the ceremony. Representative Brooks read the following message sent to Mrs. Goddard from Senator Kerr:

"Mrs. Goddard, I am more than honored to have this opportunity of joining with my good friend Overton Brooks in presenting to you this Congressional



The Robert H. Goddard Medal
Authorized by the 86th Congress,
September 16, 1959

Medal in recognition of the creative achievements of your late husband. It was just 35 years ago today that he launched the world's first successful liquid fuel rocket and it is most appropriate that we make this presentation on this auspicious anniversary. It is only through the genius of a man like Dr. Goddard who was not afraid to work

for what he believed in that we shall maintain the spirit and the vitality that has made our country great. This Medal, authorized by Congress on behalf of all the people, is but a small token from a grateful nation."

Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, President of the National Academy of Sciences gave the dedication address. In honor of Dr. Goddard and the dedication of the Center, Dr. Bronk said:

"There are two quotations I would like to repeat. The one appropriate to the mission of this institution, the other with regard to the man we honor. The first is from Louis Pasteur, speaking at a time when his beloved country was not doing well, 'Oh my Country,' said he, 'you who so long held the sceptre of thought, why did you neglect your noblest creations? Take interest I beseech you in those sacred institutions which we designate under the expressive name of Laboratories. Demand that they be multiplied and adorned for they are the temples of wealth and of the future. There it is that humanity grows, becomes stronger and better . . . it learns to read in the work of nature symbols of progress with universal harmony;' and from Pliney the Younger, 'It is a noble employment to save from oblivion those who deserve to be remembered!'"

MARCH 16th . . . THE PHOTOS TELL THE STORY



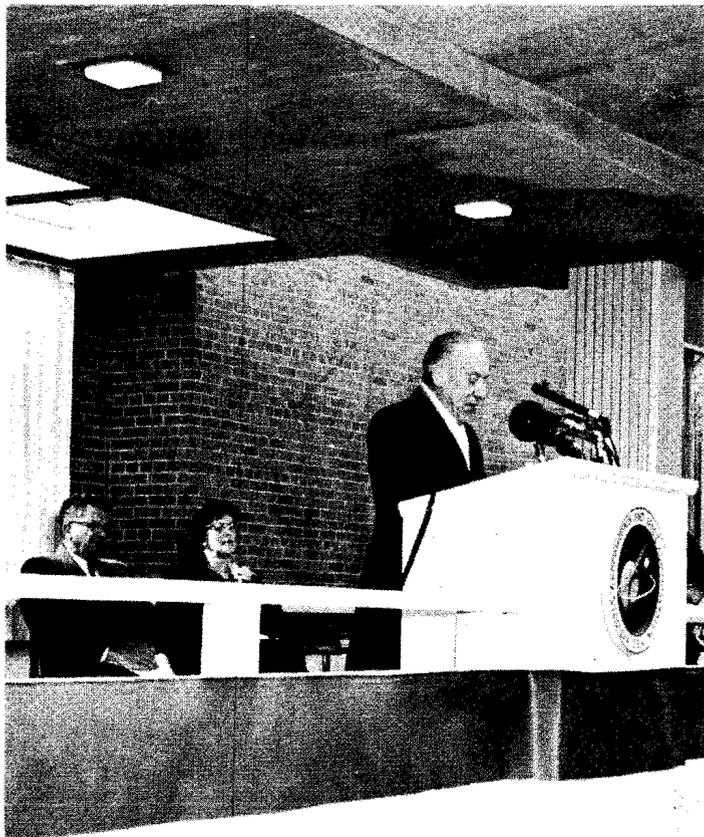
Director Dr. Harry J. Goett opened the dedication ceremony by welcoming several hundred invited guests.



U. S. Representative Overton Brooks, presented Mrs. Goddard a Congressional Gold Metal, authorized by the 86th Congress.



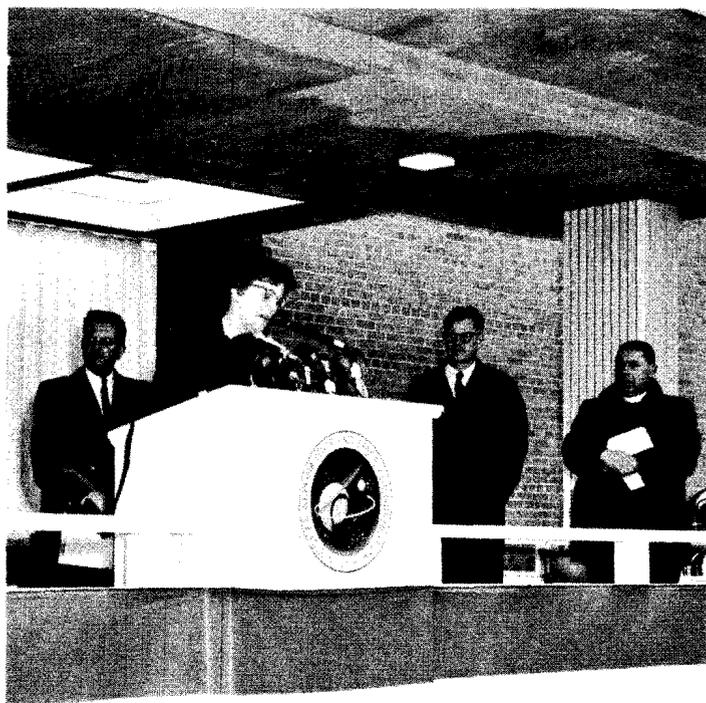
Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration introduced Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, who gave the Dedication Address. Seated (l. to r.) Representative Overton Brooks, U. S. House of Representatives; NASA Administrator, James E. Webb; GSFC Director, Dr. Harry J. Goett; honored guest Mrs. Robert H. Goddard; President of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Detlev W. Bronk and NASA Associate Administrator Dr. Robert Seamans.



The principal address at the dedication was given by Dr. Detlev Wulf Bronk, President of the National Academy of Science and Rockefeller Institute.



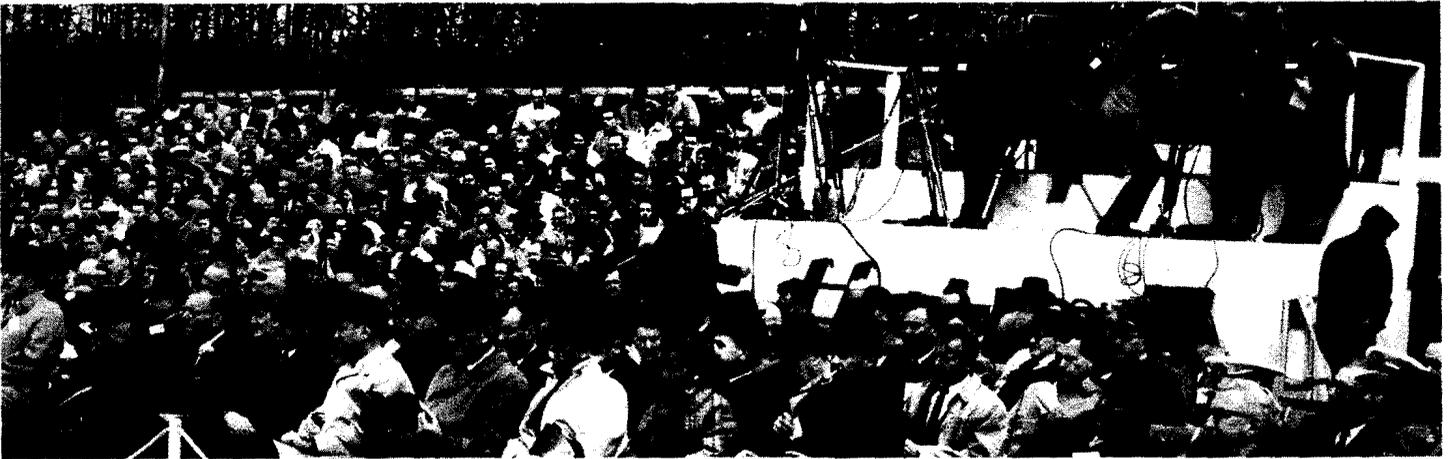
Dr. Abe Silverstein, Director of Space Flight Programs, NASA and Mrs. Robert H. Goddard after unveiling the bust of Dr. Robert H. Goddard.



In accepting the Congressional Medal, Mrs. Goddard said, "I hope that this bust and the man it represents will serve as an inspiration not only to the brilliant and dedicated people who are now at work at this tremendous Space Flight Center but to all those who may work here in the years to come. My husband would be deeply proud and happy for this very great tribute."



After the dedication ceremonies, Mrs. Robert H. Goddard and NASA Administrator James E. Webb admired the bust of Dr. Goddard. The bust will be permanently displayed in the lobby of the Central Range and Flight Operations Building.



The audience listens intently during the address given by Dr. Detlev W. Bronk



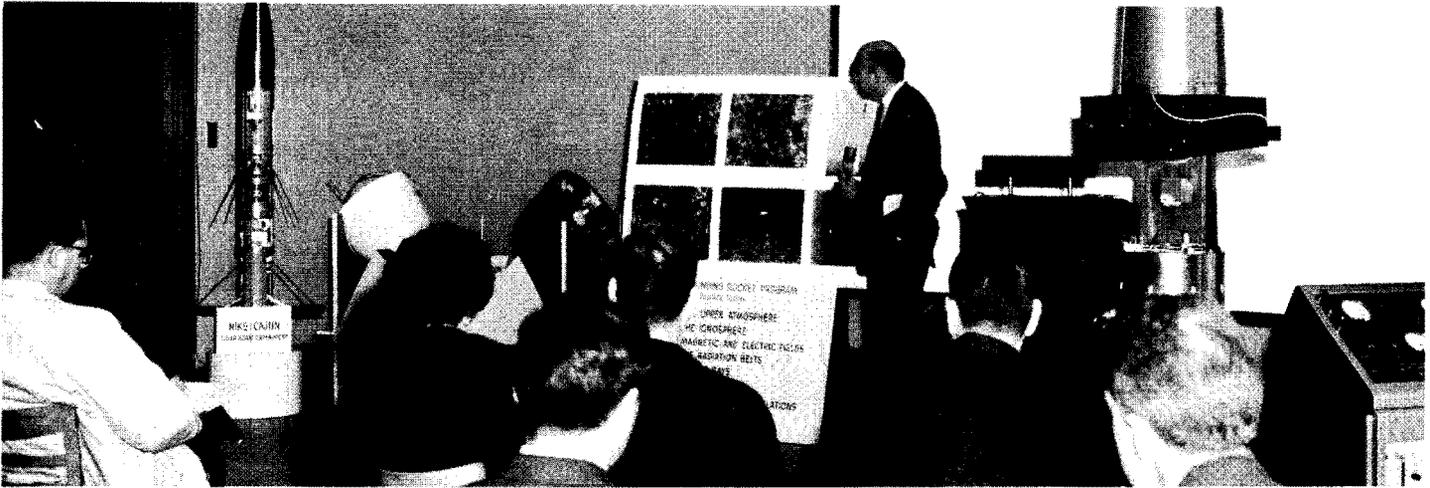
Attending the dedication ceremonies and honoring Dr. Robert H. Goddard, for whom the Center has been named, were Members of Congress.



John T. Mengel, GSFC Assistant Director for Tracking and Data Systems briefs General Curtis E. LeMay, Vice Chief of Staff, USAF about the Center.



The University of Maryland Band, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Henderson supplied the stirring music for the occasion.



Press Tour . . . Dr. Frank B. McDonald, head of the Fields and Particles Branch discusses part of Goddard's program for studying the particle populations of space.



J. C. New, Chief of the Test & Evaluation Division explains it is possible by means of the facilities at Goddard to detect and correct defects and thereby transfer a million dollar payload from the "failure" to the "success" side of the ledger. Seated in the front row (l. to r.) are Dr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Dryden and Rev. Victor J. Dowgiallo who delivered the ceremony Benediction.



During the dedication "Open House" French representatives toured Goddard. Here John W. Townsend, Jr., Assistant Director, Space Science & Satellite Application explains the assembly process of the S-3 Energetic Particle Satellite. (l. to r.) Pierre Mortel, Scientific Attache, French Embassy; Jacques Piganiol, Delegate-General for Scientific Research, Office of the French Prime Minister; John W. Townsend, Jr.; Professor Pierre Auger, Chairman, French Space Research Committee; and Jacques Pierrot, Secretary-General, French Space Research Committee.



Goddard Employee's Day . . . William Frank of Ball Brothers explains the SPC-300 pointing control of the Aerobee Hi Sounding Rocket to Leo "Smitty" Smith, Technical Information Division, Mrs. Smith and his family.



GSFC employees huddle together during a typical cold and windy March day during the dedication ceremonies.



Nationally renowned sculptor, Joseph Anthony Atchison and Mrs. Robert H. Goddard discuss the bust of Dr. Goddard during its preparation. Mr. Atchison is noted for his creative work in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the World Flight Memorial for the Smithsonian Institution, and the Second Inaugural Medal of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dedication of the Goddard Space Flight Center on March 16, 1961 marked the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of Dr. Robert H. Goddard's first successful firing of a liquid propelled rocket.

Goddard is the first completely new scientific center created since the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established in October 1, 1958. It is the nation's newest

facility devoted exclusively to the investigation and exploration of space.

In a real sense the Goddard Space Flight Center is the fulfillment of a boy's dream. GSFC is dedicated to the pursuit of Dr. Robert H. Goddard's goal of exploring man's newest frontier of human knowledge—celestial space.

“It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow.”—DR. ROBERT H. GODDARD

Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard was the first outstanding American rocketeer, the “Father of Rocketry.” He was a physicist of great vision with a genius for inventions and the first modern scientist who perceived both the possibilities of rockets and space flight. Goddard undertook the enormous work of bringing them to practical realization.

He began his pioneer experiments long before scientists in the U. S. or Europe had envisioned the full value and potential of the rocket. He continued until his death in 1945, at which time he was engaged in developing jet-assisted take-off and variable thrust liquid propelled rocket motors for the U. S. Navy.

Goddard began his interest in rockets in 1899 at the age of seventeen. Typically, young Goddard first emerged to public notices in 1907 from a cloud of smoke emanating from a powder rocket fired in the basement of the physics building at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. School officials took an immediate but not admiring interest in this work of student Goddard. In 1912 he worked out the detailed mathematical theory of rocket propulsion, and showing that the rocket, because it needed no air to push against, could be sent to the moon or into space, provided an efficient motor could be developed.

By 1919 Goddard was convinced that powder rockets had basic limitations and



Rocket pioneer Dr. Robert H. Goddard (1935) at work in his laboratory in Roswell, New Mexico.

turned his attention to liquid-propellant rockets. All went along quietly, and on March 16, 1926, he made the world's first test flight of a liquid rocket.

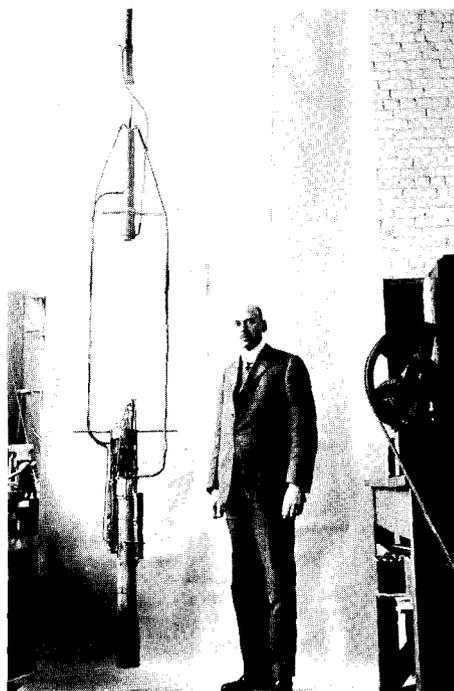
The small, primitive gadget traveled 184 feet, but Goddard's proof of the efficiency of liquid rocket propulsion went almost unnoticed. Some took considerable pains to establish the impossibility of what he was doing, and concluded that he was a crank. However, they overlooked the basic fact that Goddard's rocket flew.

His last rocket flight at Auburn, Massachusetts was on July 17, 1929, when he launched one that rose 102 feet. Its sound carried through Auburn, persuading a local housewife that an airplane had crashed. By the time the police and ambulances reached the farm, the wire services were already flashing the news that Dr. Goddard's rocket, headed for the moon, had exploded violently.

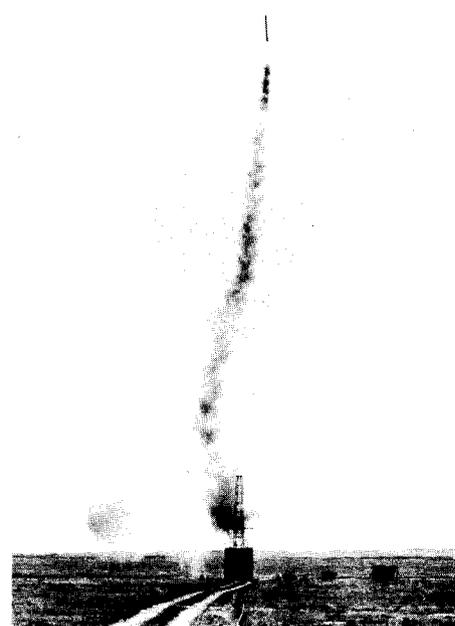
Goddard explained that there was no “explosion,” that rockets are “normally noisy.” The Smithsonian Institution hurriedly announced: “No such wild project as going to the moon is contemplated. We wish to create a method to gather meteorological and atmospheric data.” But reporters misquoted Goddard around the world. Townspeople declared “Moony” Goddard a menace to public safety. Goddard was summoned before the Massa-

chusetts State Fire Marshal who, after a brief hearing, forbade him to continue his tests anywhere in the State. “They're not doing right by our Nell,” one of Goddard's assistants observed. Thereafter, he called his rockets “Nell” the girl “who ain't been done right by.” Significant to note, this highly publicized flight carried an instrumental payload, an aneroid barometer, thermometer, and a camera triggered to operate when the parachute opened. They were successfully recovered. In spite of the unwarranted publicity given this flight, it was thus that Goddard's work attracted the attention of Charles A. Lindbergh. Lindbergh personally visited Goddard and, recognizing the scientific significance of his work, enlisted the support of Harry F. Guggenheim and his father, Daniel Guggenheim.

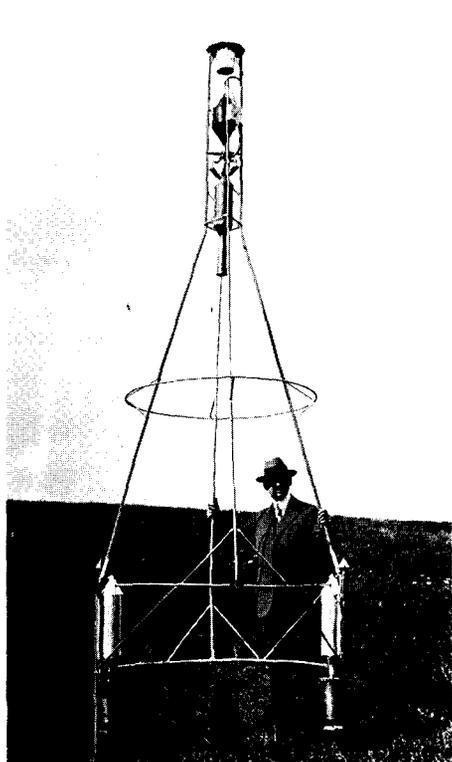
By this time the Smithsonian Institution had supported Goddard with \$11,000. Between 1929 and 1941, Daniel Guggenheim and later the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim foundation provided Goddard with over \$150,000. This money supported his development of large gyro-controlled pump-operated, liquid-fuel rocket experiments in New Mexico. This modest financial aid supported the pioneering efforts of Goddard which ultimately created a multibillion dollar industry and brought forth the enormous potentialities of long-range missiles, earth satellites, and space flight.



Goddard's complete rocket with double-acting engine. (November 1925)



A Goddard rocket climbs aloft. (August 26, 1937)

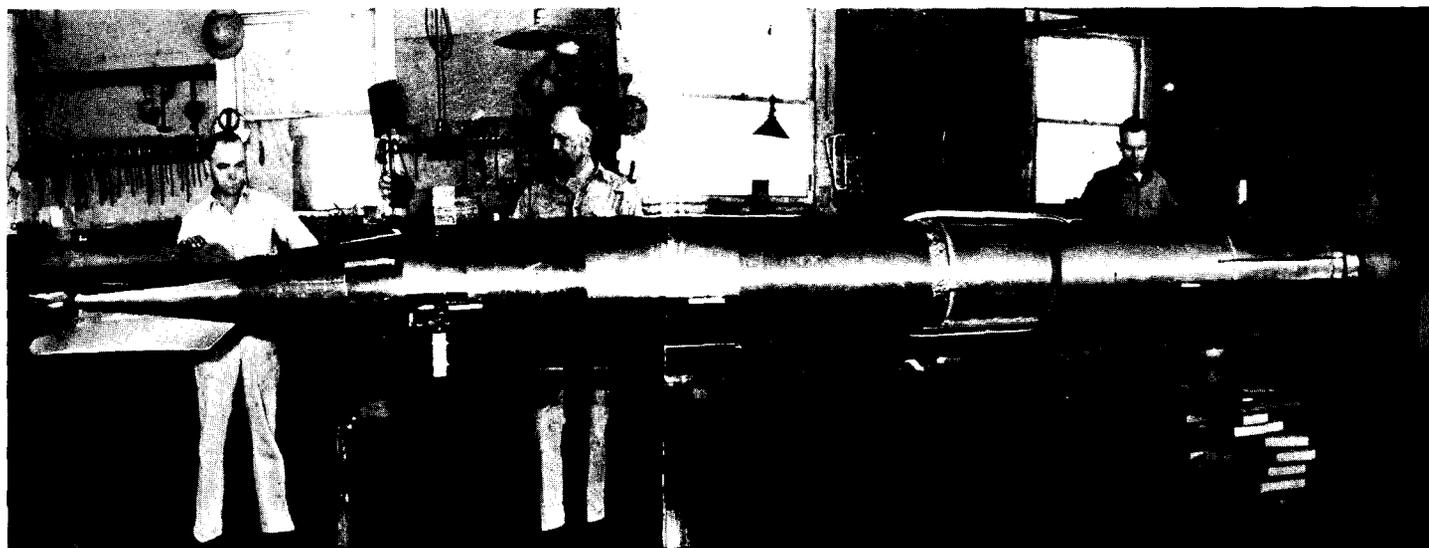


Dr. Goddard's combustion chamber and nozzle. Rocket was tested September 29, 1928.



At the Clark Laboratories at Clark University, Goddard works with a sun-motor apparatus. (1934)

Photographs of Dr. Robert H. Goddard Courtesy of Mrs. Robert H. Goddard



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In these days of rapid rocket and guided missile development, it is easy to overlook the great deal of pioneering that went into the development of the rocket art, and particularly the degree to which rocket development had been carried in this country before the second World War.

The above photograph of one of Dr. Robert H. Goddard's pioneering liquid-fuel rockets was made in the spring of 1941, and shows the degree to which development had been carried by him at that time. The picture was presented to Harry F. Guggenheim by Dr. God-

dard on December 28, 1944, a few months after the V-2 rockets began falling on London. Dr. Goddard inscribed on its back these words:

"Rocket produced in New Mexico in the spring of 1941, under the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation. It is practically identical with the German V-2 rocket."

Dr. Goddard's gyro-controlled rockets weighed from 58 to 85 pounds at starting, and were 10 to 15 feet in length. A large number of successful shots were made with them, some reaching altitudes of more than 7,500 feet.