

PLUM BROOK TODAY - A PROGRESS REPORT

THE PILOT PLANT AND THE BARRICADE AREA

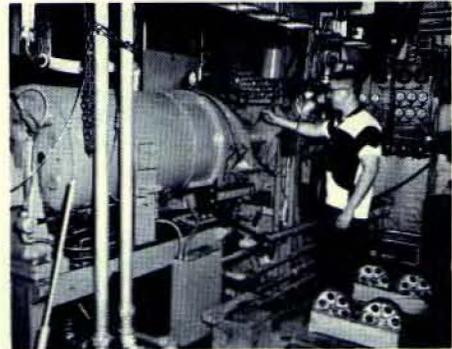
Continuing in the series on Plum Brook facilities, ORBIT takes you to the Rocket Components area. In construction here are five main rocket components test facilities and the central control building. In operation are the Pilot Plant and the Barricade Area.

THE PILOT PLANT consists of two test buildings and a combination control and instrumentation tank. The word "tank" is used in its most literal sense, for two ammonia storage tanks, 39 feet long and 9 feet in diameter have been combined and adapted as control and instrumentation housing. These tanks are earthed-over for protection. One of the problems of this earth covering has been in ridding it of burrowing groundhogs!

Periscopes are installed in the control tank for viewing during operations in either of the two test buildings. These test rigs are located 350 feet from the control building. In building #1 a gaseous hydrogen turbine is in operation. Within a few days, operations will begin on a liquid hydrogen pump in building #2.



Looking past Pilot Plant control tank (right) to test rigs.



Dick Jarvis inspects cold flow turbine rig.



Barricade Area with Pilot Plant in distant background.



Ron Williams & Dick Jarvis in control tank.

THE BARRICADE AREA is located approximately 2500 feet from the Pilot Plant. This area has been designed to house three particular test rigs. In operation is the gas generator rig. Soon to be in operation will be the 20,000 pound vertical rocket trailer, and the ground handling system. Controls and instrumentation for the Barricade Area are housed in movable trailers which were secured from Army surplus and adapted to their present usage.

A compliment of 25 research and service personnel is required to set up, maintain, and operate both the Pilot Plant and Barricade Area. Most of the staff have already transferred to Plum Brook.

The Fluid Systems Division is conducting research in both the Pilot Plant and the Barricade Area. In the very near future, the Propulsion Systems Division will begin research in the Barricade Area.