



1  
00:00:24,529 --> 00:00:22,519  
here's Ricky with a song that's quickly

2  
00:00:34,090 --> 00:00:24,539  
taken over the number one spot he must

3  
00:00:38,660 --> 00:00:36,560  
or a joint session of Congress today

4  
00:00:41,540 --> 00:00:38,670  
President Kennedy gave this country a

5  
00:00:43,850 --> 00:00:41,550  
remarkable challenge I believe that this

6  
00:00:47,090 --> 00:00:43,860  
nation should commit itself to achieving

7  
00:00:50,029 --> 00:00:47,100  
the goal before this decade is out of

8  
00:00:51,410 --> 00:00:50,039  
landing a man on the moon and returning

9  
00:00:59,240 --> 00:00:51,420  
him safely to the earth

10  
00:01:02,930 --> 00:00:59,250  
did you hear that that message by

11  
00:01:05,810 --> 00:01:02,940  
President John F Kennedy May 25th 1961

12  
00:01:07,219 --> 00:01:05,820  
brings back many memories but it really

13  
00:01:09,200 --> 00:01:07,229

hit home for the people of South

14

00:01:11,630 --> 00:01:09,210

Mississippi when the government

15

00:01:14,240 --> 00:01:11,640

announced five months later to the day

16

00:01:16,190 --> 00:01:14,250

that it would build a pest facility

17

00:01:18,950 --> 00:01:16,200

along the banks of the East Pearl River

18

00:01:58,870 --> 00:01:18,960

to test those rockets that will go into

19

00:02:06,800 --> 00:02:02,900

the newspapers throughout the area

20

00:02:09,859 --> 00:02:06,810

carried the announcement of the location

21

00:02:14,030 --> 00:02:09,869

of the test site generally quite subtle

22

00:02:15,590 --> 00:02:14,040

community was a lovely place I was

23

00:02:18,200 --> 00:02:15,600

somewhat familiar with the fact that

24

00:02:21,280 --> 00:02:18,210

honey island swamp between the two pearl

25

00:02:24,110 --> 00:02:21,290

rivers was was sort of a no man's land

26  
00:02:29,540 --> 00:02:24,120  
also devil swamp over to the east of the

27  
00:02:32,630 --> 00:02:29,550  
site here was most justjust in low

28  
00:02:35,510 --> 00:02:32,640  
timberlands the original policy for

29  
00:02:38,570 --> 00:02:35,520  
acquisition of the test site was the the

30  
00:02:41,060 --> 00:02:38,580  
operational area where all of the

31  
00:02:42,890 --> 00:02:41,070  
facilities are constructed contained

32  
00:02:45,260 --> 00:02:42,900  
thirteen thousand five hundred acres

33  
00:02:47,870 --> 00:02:45,270  
that was bought outright including the

34  
00:02:50,120 --> 00:02:47,880  
mineral interest the buffer zone which

35  
00:02:53,540 --> 00:02:50,130  
was approximately another 120 plus

36  
00:02:56,570 --> 00:02:53,550  
thousand acres the original policy was

37  
00:02:59,330 --> 00:02:56,580  
to acquire only a perpetual restrictive

38  
00:03:00,770 --> 00:02:59,340

easement one of the reasons this area

39

00:03:02,690 --> 00:03:00,780

was selected of course it was a number

40

00:03:04,699 --> 00:03:02,700

of reasons a physical reason for one

41

00:03:08,330 --> 00:03:04,709

thing this marvelous River we had here

42

00:03:10,310 --> 00:03:08,340

and then low population where could you

43

00:03:12,770 --> 00:03:10,320

find that much acreage and move that

44

00:03:15,229 --> 00:03:12,780

smaller amount of people the project was

45

00:03:16,220 --> 00:03:15,239

under overall management of the Marshall

46

00:03:18,320 --> 00:03:16,230

Space Flight Center in Huntsville

47

00:03:20,120 --> 00:03:18,330

Alabama and the people up there we're

48

00:03:23,270 --> 00:03:20,130

really excited about the selection of

49

00:03:25,640 --> 00:03:23,280

this Pearl River area for the test site

50

00:03:27,110 --> 00:03:25,650

after all it's just a short distance

51  
00:03:28,790 --> 00:03:27,120  
down the Pearl River and across the

52  
00:03:31,520 --> 00:03:28,800  
Inland Waterways over to the me shoe

53  
00:03:32,990 --> 00:03:31,530  
assembly facility in New Orleans and out

54  
00:03:34,550 --> 00:03:33,000  
out the mouth of the Pearl and around

55  
00:03:36,620 --> 00:03:34,560  
the tip of Florida to Cape Canaveral

56  
00:03:38,390 --> 00:03:36,630  
where you would launch the Rockets and

57  
00:03:42,620 --> 00:03:38,400  
even though the area was sparsely

58  
00:03:44,360 --> 00:03:42,630  
populated NASA did have to move five

59  
00:03:47,330 --> 00:03:44,370  
communities to make way for the

60  
00:03:51,410 --> 00:03:47,340  
construction of the facility West onea

61  
00:04:15,969 --> 00:03:51,420  
Santa Rosa Napoleon Gainesville and log

62  
00:04:21,860 --> 00:04:18,920  
the Janesville community was a unique

63  
00:04:25,520 --> 00:04:21,870

community the loveless grocery store

64

00:04:27,950 --> 00:04:25,530

mrs. Louise Lovelace who operated the

65

00:04:30,080 --> 00:04:27,960

store with her husband was sort of a

66

00:04:31,909 --> 00:04:30,090

focal point in the community around the

67

00:04:33,710 --> 00:04:31,919

corner from the grocery store

68

00:04:35,840 --> 00:04:33,720

there was a lady and I don't remember

69

00:04:38,150 --> 00:04:35,850

her first name but she was referred to

70

00:04:42,860 --> 00:04:38,160

as ain't blue her name was aunt blue

71

00:04:45,620 --> 00:04:42,870

Davis when we acquired her home as a lot

72

00:04:48,170 --> 00:04:45,630

of the others did she didn't have it

73

00:04:52,580 --> 00:04:48,180

demolished but she reserved the right to

74

00:04:54,610 --> 00:04:52,590

remove it and she had a house mover as I

75

00:04:57,830 --> 00:04:54,620

recall his name was day lead row net

76

00:05:00,320 --> 00:04:57,840

from the Gulfport area who loaded that

77

00:05:03,230 --> 00:05:00,330

house and took it up around the

78

00:05:05,330 --> 00:05:03,240

Nicholson area and blue Davis never left

79

00:05:07,430 --> 00:05:05,340

it she said on the back porch in a

80

00:05:10,520 --> 00:05:07,440

rocking chair and went down the highway

81

00:05:12,439 --> 00:05:10,530

with that house and I can still see that

82

00:05:15,200 --> 00:05:12,449

lady today and I think she had maybe a

83

00:05:17,779 --> 00:05:15,210

nice I believe a mrs. Freeman Davis that

84

00:05:20,510 --> 00:05:17,789

rode with her as that house went down

85

00:05:22,470 --> 00:05:20,520

the highway up over 43 to the Nicholson

86

00:05:26,880 --> 00:05:22,480

area

87

00:05:29,460 --> 00:05:26,890

a lot of us look on senator Stennis was

88

00:05:31,500 --> 00:05:29,470

more of a statesman than a politician he

89

00:05:32,490 --> 00:05:31,510

told us that if any of you have any

90

00:05:34,050 --> 00:05:32,500

trouble dealing with the Corps of

91

00:05:36,630 --> 00:05:34,060

Engineers on doing the eminent domain

92

00:05:39,930 --> 00:05:36,640

you call me and I'll see what I could do

93

00:05:42,030 --> 00:05:39,940

and he did help people who called him it

94

00:05:43,980 --> 00:05:42,040

was a daytime meeting and the way they

95

00:05:46,070 --> 00:05:43,990

handled the questions and answers they

96

00:05:48,240 --> 00:05:46,080

had couriers and I was one of them with

97

00:05:49,740 --> 00:05:48,250

people if they had a question they

98

00:05:52,050 --> 00:05:49,750

wanted to ask the head to write out the

99

00:05:54,330 --> 00:05:52,060

question and then we would take it up to

100

00:05:56,970 --> 00:05:54,340

the podium I don't know who the lady was

101  
00:05:59,660 --> 00:05:56,980  
I took her question up and her question

102  
00:06:01,740 --> 00:05:59,670  
was why do we have to go to the moon

103  
00:06:03,270 --> 00:06:01,750  
still at the Stennis answered that

104  
00:06:05,430 --> 00:06:03,280  
question in this way he said we have to

105  
00:06:09,090 --> 00:06:05,440  
go to the moon but for international

106  
00:06:11,160 --> 00:06:09,100  
prestige senator Stennis had another

107  
00:06:13,650 --> 00:06:11,170  
quote that day that became rather famous

108  
00:06:16,410 --> 00:06:13,660  
he said there's always the thorn before

109  
00:06:19,290 --> 00:06:16,420  
the rose the thorn being eminent domain

110  
00:06:22,080 --> 00:06:19,300  
the rose being the opportunity that

111  
00:06:25,250 --> 00:06:22,090  
those people had to play a major role in

112  
00:06:28,620 --> 00:06:25,260  
America's prestigious space program I

113  
00:06:33,030 --> 00:06:28,630

was the highly elated very proud of

114

00:06:35,460 --> 00:06:33,040

America I felt that night I'll tell you

115

00:06:37,770 --> 00:06:35,470

why I felt that way I felt that we were

116

00:06:39,180 --> 00:06:37,780

part of it since we had given up our

117

00:07:14,189 --> 00:06:39,190

land and move and everything that we

118

00:07:22,270 --> 00:07:17,770

we had the challenge of building a very

119

00:07:24,219 --> 00:07:22,280

large rocket test facility it was a

120

00:07:26,170 --> 00:07:24,229

swamp here there wasn't anything here

121

00:07:30,400 --> 00:07:26,180

except the rushan house which is behind

122

00:07:32,589 --> 00:07:30,410

us the challenge was significant in

123

00:07:36,879 --> 00:07:32,599

today's dollars that would amount to a

124

00:07:38,710 --> 00:07:36,889

billion dollar facility we have to build

125

00:07:41,110 --> 00:07:38,720

it from scratch and when it was

126  
00:07:44,050 --> 00:07:41,120  
completed it was going to test the

127  
00:07:45,370 --> 00:07:44,060  
awesome Saturn 5 rockets that were going

128  
00:07:48,490 --> 00:07:45,380  
to take men to the moon

129  
00:07:51,100 --> 00:07:48,500  
Jerry been associated with Stennis Space

130  
00:07:54,909 --> 00:07:51,110  
Center for almost his entire existence

131  
00:07:56,200 --> 00:07:54,919  
in the Apollo days we used to see Jerry

132  
00:07:58,240 --> 00:07:56,210  
once a week as he flew down from

133  
00:08:00,790 --> 00:07:58,250  
Washington where he was responsible for

134  
00:08:02,499 --> 00:08:00,800  
overseeing the construction of the

135  
00:08:05,559 --> 00:08:02,509  
Mississippi test facility in those days

136  
00:08:07,960 --> 00:08:05,569  
there were scheduled problems the s2

137  
00:08:09,249 --> 00:08:07,970  
stand was a critical facility was

138  
00:08:13,510 --> 00:08:09,259

determined to be the most critical

139

00:08:15,399 --> 00:08:13,520

facility in achieving the Apollo mission

140

00:08:17,830 --> 00:08:15,409

and therefore there were lots of

141

00:08:18,550 --> 00:08:17,840

pressure to complete the construction on

142

00:08:21,580 --> 00:08:18,560

schedule

143

00:08:23,140 --> 00:08:21,590

we did not know at the time what all it

144

00:08:26,589 --> 00:08:23,150

took and yet all that was going to take

145

00:08:28,920 --> 00:08:26,599

to really construct and to put together

146

00:08:31,749 --> 00:08:28,930

the type of facility that's required to

147

00:08:34,209 --> 00:08:31,759

support the space program but as time

148

00:08:37,420 --> 00:08:34,219

passed and as we continue to work and

149

00:08:40,750 --> 00:08:37,430

continue to lay out the boundaries and

150

00:08:43,779 --> 00:08:40,760

the foundations for construction the

151  
00:08:47,800 --> 00:08:43,789  
roads began to appear power lines begin

152  
00:08:50,440 --> 00:08:47,810  
to appear buildings begin to appear then

153  
00:08:52,449 --> 00:08:50,450  
then it stopped coming together we had

154  
00:08:54,220 --> 00:08:52,459  
to clear an awful lot of land we had to

155  
00:08:55,720 --> 00:08:54,230  
put in an awful lot of facilities many

156  
00:08:58,900 --> 00:08:55,730  
of which were very highly technical

157  
00:09:01,600 --> 00:08:58,910  
facility very high pressure systems and

158  
00:09:03,010 --> 00:09:01,610  
and liquid oxygen and hydrogen that was

159  
00:09:05,050 --> 00:09:03,020  
going to be required and then test

160  
00:09:07,389 --> 00:09:05,060  
stands over to a little further the east

161  
00:09:11,199 --> 00:09:07,399  
of it our responsibilities for us in the

162  
00:09:13,660 --> 00:09:11,209  
early days was to construct the

163  
00:09:15,010 --> 00:09:13,670

facilities get it to a point to where it

164

00:09:17,230 --> 00:09:15,020

could be operable

165

00:09:18,910 --> 00:09:17,240

and all during those days it took about

166

00:09:20,920 --> 00:09:18,920

three years for us to finish and

167

00:09:22,470 --> 00:09:20,930

finalize all the facilities is now known

168

00:09:24,820 --> 00:09:22,480

as a Stennis Space Center the

169

00:09:27,490 --> 00:09:24,830

construction activation phase brought

170

00:09:30,910 --> 00:09:27,500

out the very best of everyone it was

171

00:09:33,130 --> 00:09:30,920

characterized by superb leadership dr.

172

00:09:35,530 --> 00:09:33,140

Wernher von Braun director of the

173

00:09:38,760 --> 00:09:35,540

Marshall Center appointed a navy captain

174

00:09:41,860 --> 00:09:38,770

bill fortune as first project manager

175

00:09:44,710 --> 00:09:41,870

captain fortune was highly respected by

176  
00:09:47,620 --> 00:09:44,720  
his employees and especially popular in

177  
00:09:50,380 --> 00:09:47,630  
the communities the first American flag

178  
00:09:54,040 --> 00:09:50,390  
to fly over this site symbolizing NASA's

179  
00:09:58,000 --> 00:09:54,050  
presence here was raised by Captain

180  
00:10:01,480 --> 00:09:58,010  
fortune and dr. von Braun that event

181  
00:10:04,720 --> 00:10:01,490  
brought home a reminder of dr. von Braun

182  
00:10:07,900 --> 00:10:04,730  
early involvement with this facility he

183  
00:10:11,800 --> 00:10:07,910  
was not merely an overseer or a visitor

184  
00:10:13,780 --> 00:10:11,810  
he was a participant in fact he often

185  
00:10:15,220 --> 00:10:13,790  
referred to this South Mississippi site

186  
00:10:17,650 --> 00:10:15,230  
as his baby

187  
00:10:19,780 --> 00:10:17,660  
you know he was a fine gentleman and a

188  
00:10:23,170 --> 00:10:19,790

true professional and really knew how to

189

00:10:25,900 --> 00:10:23,180

get everybody a consensus to his ideas

190

00:10:28,630 --> 00:10:25,910

and how to move them forward and Carl

191

00:10:31,480 --> 00:10:28,640

Heinberg and Bernie Tessman his deputy

192

00:10:33,910 --> 00:10:31,490

were in charge of his test laboratory up

193

00:10:35,590 --> 00:10:33,920

there in Huntsville and we worked very

194

00:10:38,769 --> 00:10:35,600

closely with them developing the

195

00:10:42,519 --> 00:10:38,779

requirements for this facility Carl was

196

00:10:45,579 --> 00:10:42,529

a hard driver but a very very tough and

197

00:10:46,449 --> 00:10:45,589

fair man very focused on where he wanted

198

00:10:49,960 --> 00:10:46,459

things to go

199

00:10:52,540 --> 00:10:49,970

Tessman was a had a good personality at

200

00:10:54,430 --> 00:10:52,550

a good sense of humor and he filled in

201  
00:10:56,470 --> 00:10:54,440  
some of the people gaps but both of them

202  
00:10:58,690 --> 00:10:56,480  
were fun to work with and of course we

203  
00:11:01,389 --> 00:10:58,700  
had Henry order and gentleman named

204  
00:11:05,019 --> 00:11:01,399  
garden art Lee was significant and

205  
00:11:07,030 --> 00:11:05,029  
bringing together the focus to get this

206  
00:11:11,380 --> 00:11:07,040  
place activated with three or four

207  
00:11:13,300 --> 00:11:11,390  
thousand new employees coming on plus

208  
00:11:16,690 --> 00:11:13,310  
three thousand contractors and get

209  
00:11:18,130 --> 00:11:16,700  
things done Ken Riggs was outstanding

210  
00:11:19,960 --> 00:11:18,140  
and bringing together the test

211  
00:11:22,120 --> 00:11:19,970  
experience and requirement to our

212  
00:11:24,130 --> 00:11:22,130  
planning team some people think I'm

213  
00:11:26,199 --> 00:11:24,140

kidding when I tell them that during the

214

00:11:26,660 --> 00:11:26,209

month of July we had to wear a jacket a

215

00:11:28,910 --> 00:11:26,670

denim

216

00:11:30,920 --> 00:11:28,920

jacket or some other form of jacket that

217

00:11:32,900 --> 00:11:30,930

was thick enough to prevent the

218

00:11:35,990 --> 00:11:32,910

mosquitoes from penetrating you your

219

00:11:39,410 --> 00:11:36,000

clothing rainy season there was a lot of

220

00:11:41,930 --> 00:11:39,420

mud and so that slowed things down when

221

00:11:45,560 --> 00:11:41,940

we excavated for the foundations that

222

00:11:47,240 --> 00:11:45,570

will hold 40 feet deep and so you got

223

00:11:49,040 --> 00:11:47,250

down to where water wanted to just

224

00:11:52,100 --> 00:11:49,050

bubble in the bottom and we had to put

225

00:11:54,970 --> 00:11:52,110

in more deeper and deeper wells so that

226

00:11:57,500 --> 00:11:54,980

we could pool the water table down

227

00:12:01,280 --> 00:11:57,510

congestion I mean there was work going

228

00:12:03,560 --> 00:12:01,290

on everywhere here and just lots of

229

00:12:06,770 --> 00:12:03,570

activities happening simultaneously we

230

00:12:09,020 --> 00:12:06,780

had that snow about a 10 inch snow down

231

00:12:11,330 --> 00:12:09,030

here in Mississippi we did have some

232

00:12:13,850 --> 00:12:11,340

unusual problems during construction and

233

00:12:16,340 --> 00:12:13,860

sometimes resorted to resource the

234

00:12:20,600 --> 00:12:16,350

methods to solve them even to the point

235

00:12:23,210 --> 00:12:20,610

of using news to do what modern machines

236

00:12:25,100 --> 00:12:23,220

couldn't accomplish one of the

237

00:12:28,370 --> 00:12:25,110

photographs taken of that activity

238

00:12:32,020 --> 00:12:28,380

became world-famous that picture was

239

00:12:36,200 --> 00:12:32,030

real family that picture went around

240

00:12:39,980 --> 00:12:36,210

from coast to coast they told me my boss

241

00:12:43,940 --> 00:12:39,990

asked me say do you know how to fly our

242

00:12:48,380 --> 00:12:43,950

muse I told him yes I do it was kind of

243

00:12:55,600 --> 00:12:48,390

wet soggy you was kind of barking but we

244

00:13:02,990 --> 00:13:00,530

in the spring of 1965 Jackson bolts was

245

00:13:05,090 --> 00:13:03,000

appointed manager of what was soon to be

246

00:13:08,300 --> 00:13:05,100

officially named the Mississippi test

247

00:13:10,939 --> 00:13:08,310

facility and with him he brought other

248

00:13:13,730 --> 00:13:10,949

leadership from Huntsville to fulfill

249

00:13:15,920 --> 00:13:13,740

the mission Jack Balch asked me if I

250

00:13:19,819 --> 00:13:15,930

would come down and be the project

251  
00:13:21,550 --> 00:13:19,829  
manager on the s2 program it just looked

252  
00:13:24,710 --> 00:13:21,560  
like an opportunity I couldn't turn down

253  
00:13:29,560 --> 00:13:24,720  
working for Jack was a real learning

254  
00:13:32,600 --> 00:13:29,570  
experience to Jack box was a unique

255  
00:13:36,319 --> 00:13:32,610  
character a lovable man in many ways a

256  
00:13:38,420 --> 00:13:36,329  
tough taskmaster in many ways he

257  
00:13:40,069 --> 00:13:38,430  
certainly would it would certainly would

258  
00:13:41,629 --> 00:13:40,079  
be an understatement on my part to say

259  
00:13:43,819 --> 00:13:41,639  
that he left an indelible mark here

260  
00:13:46,519 --> 00:13:43,829  
again he was a hard-nosed individual but

261  
00:13:47,810 --> 00:13:46,529  
you like Jack automatically if you like

262  
00:13:52,009 --> 00:13:47,820  
competence because he was a very

263  
00:13:54,560 --> 00:13:52,019

competent individual it was just the

264

00:13:56,960 --> 00:13:54,570

people more than anything people tend to

265

00:13:58,720 --> 00:13:56,970

remember the hardware but it's really

266

00:14:01,340 --> 00:13:58,730

the people that made the hardware work

267

00:14:03,259 --> 00:14:01,350

there was considerable excitement in the

268

00:14:05,480 --> 00:14:03,269

air in those days with the anticipation

269

00:14:06,920 --> 00:14:05,490

of building and testing the vehicles

270

00:14:09,259 --> 00:14:06,930

that would get us to the moon people

271

00:14:11,960 --> 00:14:09,269

were being trained we were learning how

272

00:14:15,019 --> 00:14:11,970

to handle large volumes of hydrogen it

273

00:14:16,670 --> 00:14:15,029

was an exciting time for sure everything

274

00:14:17,870 --> 00:14:16,680

was out of the ground facility while we

275

00:14:23,090 --> 00:14:17,880

were putting in cables terminating

276

00:14:25,040 --> 00:14:23,100

cables s2 was getting ready to finish

277

00:14:29,840 --> 00:14:25,050

out at Seal Beach and be shipped in here

278

00:14:31,850 --> 00:14:29,850

and it was just a real beehive of

279

00:14:35,629 --> 00:14:31,860

activity getting ready for the first

280

00:14:38,350 --> 00:14:35,639

test and you remember the s2 was

281

00:14:42,470 --> 00:14:38,360

probably the most controversial of the

282

00:14:44,769 --> 00:14:42,480

Saturn 5 stages and that it was liquid

283

00:14:48,740 --> 00:14:44,779

hydrogen had a common bulkhead and

284

00:14:51,740 --> 00:14:48,750

expected expected a lot of problems it

285

00:14:53,900 --> 00:14:51,750

was pretty pretty difficult because we

286

00:14:57,800 --> 00:14:53,910

were running round the clock

287

00:15:00,010 --> 00:14:57,810

no days off no it wasn't anything like a

288

00:15:02,750 --> 00:15:00,020

weekend you just kept right on going

289

00:15:05,090 --> 00:15:02,760

coming up to the test everybody was

290

00:15:07,160 --> 00:15:05,100

pretty tired but I can remember the

291

00:15:09,440 --> 00:15:07,170

feeling that that they certainly wanted

292

00:15:10,700 --> 00:15:09,450

to get it off and it wasn't any question

293

00:15:13,010 --> 00:15:10,710

about we were going to do it

294

00:15:14,840 --> 00:15:13,020

it took some twenty five hours after the

295

00:15:17,930 --> 00:15:14,850

blockhouse was sealed to get that test

296

00:15:19,670 --> 00:15:17,940

off lots of bugs in the system things

297

00:15:21,710 --> 00:15:19,680

that had to be worked out but ultimately

298

00:15:23,440 --> 00:15:21,720

we weren't successful in the test was a

299

00:15:27,230 --> 00:15:23,450

major accomplishment a major milestone

300

00:15:30,380 --> 00:15:27,240

and at that time they had the countdown

301

00:15:32,960 --> 00:15:30,390

of the test firings on the operational

302

00:15:35,060 --> 00:15:32,970

intercom site-wide and everybody would

303

00:15:37,880 --> 00:15:35,070

listen to the countdown and as it got to

304

00:15:40,400 --> 00:15:37,890

the last few seconds you would if you

305

00:15:54,040 --> 00:15:40,410

could go outside so that you can see the

306

00:16:00,430 --> 00:15:58,040

the rocket testing started in 1966 and

307

00:16:02,660 --> 00:16:00,440

every rocket that was tested here

308

00:16:05,450 --> 00:16:02,670

performed its mission flawlessly in

309

00:16:07,990 --> 00:16:05,460

flight in freaking out meant to the moon

310

00:16:11,030 --> 00:16:08,000

like all Americans I remember it well

311

00:16:12,710 --> 00:16:11,040

being at home with my family keeping my

312

00:16:14,840 --> 00:16:12,720

kids up for all night so that they could

313

00:16:16,700 --> 00:16:14,850

see this historical moment and then

314

00:16:18,830 --> 00:16:16,710

finally to see Neil Armstrong step on

315

00:16:20,330 --> 00:16:18,840

the moon and having a sense of pride

316

00:16:24,020 --> 00:16:20,340

that I had some little small part of

317

00:16:25,670 --> 00:16:24,030

that although all the people here at Mt

318

00:16:27,500 --> 00:16:25,680

F in those days as we call it the

319

00:16:28,940 --> 00:16:27,510

Mississippi test facility felt an

320

00:16:42,370 --> 00:16:28,950

enormous amount of pride in the fact

321

00:16:48,560 --> 00:16:46,100

the people at MTA and their neighbors

322

00:16:52,250 --> 00:16:48,570

didn't have long to enjoy the laurels of

323

00:16:54,080 --> 00:16:52,260

that fantastic mission even as a nation

324

00:16:56,780 --> 00:16:54,090

was celebrating that first lunar landing

325

00:16:59,300 --> 00:16:56,790

an ill wind was brewing in the Gulf of

326

00:17:01,550 --> 00:16:59,310

Mexico that would change the destinies

327

00:17:03,140 --> 00:17:01,560

of thousands of people and the

328

00:17:08,830 --> 00:17:03,150

directions of the Mississippi test

329

00:17:16,220 --> 00:17:13,300

the meal came along devastated the coast

330

00:17:19,550 --> 00:17:16,230

killed several of our employees damaged

331

00:17:21,470 --> 00:17:19,560

our facilities and it was a time when

332

00:17:23,720 --> 00:17:21,480

our people came together Hurricane

333

00:17:27,320 --> 00:17:23,730

Camille focused the attention of the

334

00:17:29,240 --> 00:17:27,330

country on this area and NASA Bogut's

335

00:17:32,170 --> 00:17:29,250

back and said we want to help in this

336

00:17:35,420 --> 00:17:32,180

area and NASA provided substantial help

337

00:17:37,490 --> 00:17:35,430

to the area not only by continuing the

338

00:17:39,890 --> 00:17:37,500

operations here but in many other ways

339

00:17:42,140 --> 00:17:39,900

in the local community the MTF

340

00:17:45,380 --> 00:17:42,150

management team under the leadership of

341

00:17:48,470 --> 00:17:45,390

Jackson Volks was engaged in a diligent

342

00:17:50,750 --> 00:17:48,480

search for new roads and missions even

343

00:17:53,480 --> 00:17:50,760

before the tragedy of Camille when we

344

00:17:56,750 --> 00:17:53,490

started hearing about the Mississippi

345

00:17:59,780 --> 00:17:56,760

test facility and the fact that the

346

00:18:02,540 --> 00:17:59,790

rocket testing was phasing down here and

347

00:18:04,940 --> 00:18:02,550

we were asked to think of things that

348

00:18:08,780 --> 00:18:04,950

could be done here assistant center

349

00:18:12,850 --> 00:18:08,790

director at Johnson Space Center Bob

350

00:18:17,690 --> 00:18:12,860

Pollin was asked to define an activity

351  
00:18:20,570 --> 00:18:17,700  
to be implemented here and he defined

352  
00:18:23,630 --> 00:18:20,580  
this laboratory NASA established the

353  
00:18:25,610 --> 00:18:23,640  
earth resources laboratory at MTF and a

354  
00:18:28,490 --> 00:18:25,620  
number of federal and state agencies

355  
00:18:32,120 --> 00:18:28,500  
were also invited to utilize the

356  
00:18:34,580 --> 00:18:32,130  
facilities plan was set out to convert

357  
00:18:37,900 --> 00:18:34,590  
the Mississippi test facility from a

358  
00:18:40,690 --> 00:18:37,910  
single agency NASA single mission

359  
00:18:45,050 --> 00:18:40,700  
propulsion testing to a multi-agency

360  
00:18:48,890 --> 00:18:45,060  
multi mission federal laboratory a great

361  
00:18:52,450 --> 00:18:48,900  
shot in the arm however was in the 1970

362  
00:18:56,030 --> 00:18:52,460  
time frame the committee met in early 71

363  
00:19:37,840 --> 00:18:56,040

NASA decided to put the testing for the

364

00:19:43,930 --> 00:19:40,600

during his first term as administrator

365

00:19:46,810 --> 00:19:43,940

of NASA dr. Jim Fletcher decided that

366

00:19:52,020 --> 00:19:46,820

the installation should be renamed and

367

00:19:55,440 --> 00:19:52,030

it's reporting changed in June of 1974

368

00:20:00,039 --> 00:19:55,450

MTF became the National Space Technology

369

00:20:03,130 --> 00:20:00,049

laboratories that was in recognition of

370

00:20:05,890 --> 00:20:03,140

some of the application and technology

371

00:20:09,430 --> 00:20:05,900

type projects that this facility became

372

00:20:11,799 --> 00:20:09,440

involved in after the Apollo era I was

373

00:20:14,610 --> 00:20:11,809

asked if I was interested in coming down

374

00:20:19,299 --> 00:20:14,620

there was a vacancy Jack Walsh has

375

00:20:23,289 --> 00:20:19,309

retired and Henry order his deputy was

376

00:20:26,080 --> 00:20:23,299

acting in his capacity and NASA asked me

377

00:20:29,919 --> 00:20:26,090

if I'd come down and lead this facility

378

00:20:32,409 --> 00:20:29,929

and I I said yes and he served a

379

00:20:35,440 --> 00:20:32,419

distinguished period of time twelve

380

00:20:39,039 --> 00:20:35,450

years and really his major contribution

381

00:20:40,690 --> 00:20:39,049

in my view was it he took this

382

00:20:42,580 --> 00:20:40,700

installation from the fringes of

383

00:20:45,960 --> 00:20:42,590

involvement with NASA programs to the

384

00:20:48,310 --> 00:20:45,970

centerline and during Jays tenure we had

385

00:20:51,190 --> 00:20:48,320

major improvements in our involvement

386

00:20:52,960 --> 00:20:51,200

with NASA relationships with other

387

00:20:55,180 --> 00:20:52,970

centers our involvement in the program's

388

00:20:58,210 --> 00:20:55,190

new programs were assigned to Standish

389

00:21:00,640 --> 00:20:58,220

new facilities were built Gerry's

390

00:21:03,370 --> 00:21:00,650

knowledge of NASA his leadership ability

391

00:21:06,370 --> 00:21:03,380

and his knowledge of how NASA

392

00:21:08,110 --> 00:21:06,380

headquarters in the Congress work sure

393

00:21:21,560 --> 00:21:08,120

did pay off for all of us here at

394

00:21:28,320 --> 00:21:24,030

that was a great day it was a

395

00:21:31,110 --> 00:21:28,330

recognition by NASA that this

396

00:21:34,380 --> 00:21:31,120

installation is part of the family part

397

00:21:37,710 --> 00:21:34,390

of the family of NASA it was a day that

398

00:21:40,650 --> 00:21:37,720

we honored a great Mississippian and a

399

00:21:42,240 --> 00:21:40,660

great American he had a great deal to do

400

00:21:44,160 --> 00:21:42,250

with this place he was like the father

401  
00:21:46,680 --> 00:21:44,170  
of this installation he worried and

402  
00:21:49,140 --> 00:21:46,690  
worked for its advancement in his

403  
00:21:51,120 --> 00:21:49,150  
progress ever since it was established

404  
00:21:54,120 --> 00:21:51,130  
and he

405  
00:21:56,070 --> 00:21:54,130  
in addition had not only supported the

406  
00:21:59,550 --> 00:21:56,080  
programs that were here in Mississippi

407  
00:22:01,530 --> 00:21:59,560  
but he supported the entire national

408  
00:22:03,990 --> 00:22:01,540  
space program he felt it is the right

409  
00:22:07,410 --> 00:22:04,000  
program for the agency he supported

410  
00:22:10,110 --> 00:22:07,420  
Kennedy when he announced his intention

411  
00:22:14,070 --> 00:22:10,120  
to go to the moon and therefore it was a

412  
00:22:17,360 --> 00:22:14,080  
great good feeling not only for me but

413  
00:22:20,490 --> 00:22:17,370

all the employees of this installation

414

00:22:25,020 --> 00:22:20,500

we feel that Senator John Stennis got

415

00:22:29,550 --> 00:22:25,030

the test site for us and I think we owe

416

00:22:33,680 --> 00:22:29,560

him a great debt of gratitude farther

417

00:22:38,010 --> 00:22:33,690

his effort than that John C Stennis I

418

00:22:40,920 --> 00:22:38,020

call Uncle John because this was his

419

00:22:44,490 --> 00:22:40,930

second home he just loved to be out here

420

00:22:48,780 --> 00:22:44,500

I felt like that when they changed it to

421

00:22:50,460 --> 00:22:48,790

Stennis Space Center it was a long time

422

00:22:53,790 --> 00:22:50,470

coming for John Stennis because he

423

00:23:00,060 --> 00:22:53,800

deserved everything every recognition

424

00:23:02,760 --> 00:23:00,070

has been given him through the efforts

425

00:23:07,480 --> 00:23:02,770

of Technology and through everybody

426

00:23:14,549 --> 00:23:11,080

you know has has grown even more and the

427

00:23:18,730 --> 00:23:14,559

shuttle program seems to be moving

428

00:23:21,669 --> 00:23:18,740

moving forward off moving ahead with

429

00:23:25,090 --> 00:23:21,679

tremendous strides the whole thing comes

430

00:23:27,250 --> 00:23:25,100

to roya ever since I met Roy Estes he

431

00:23:32,350 --> 00:23:27,260

has always been the guy who could exude

432

00:23:35,140 --> 00:23:32,360

confidence and and everything's gonna be

433

00:23:37,060 --> 00:23:35,150

alright hang in there well the people

434

00:23:40,240 --> 00:23:37,070

the team but Stennis Space Center have

435

00:23:44,919 --> 00:23:40,250

have made substantial successes in the

436

00:23:47,110 --> 00:23:44,929

last few years and largely I think

437

00:23:51,040 --> 00:23:47,120

because of the foundations that were

438

00:23:52,750 --> 00:23:51,050

laid by those who came before us and we

439

00:23:54,850 --> 00:23:52,760

have been successful in carrying through

440

00:23:56,860 --> 00:23:54,860

those with tremendous amount of support

441

00:24:01,240 --> 00:23:56,870

from NASA headquarters

442

00:24:04,450 --> 00:24:01,250

starting with Admiral truly JR Thompson

443

00:24:06,940 --> 00:24:04,460

dr. Lenoir all have been very strong

444

00:24:07,660 --> 00:24:06,950

supporters of the emerging extended

445

00:24:10,390 --> 00:24:07,670

Space Center

446

00:24:12,690 --> 00:24:10,400

everybody from the people who gave up

447

00:24:15,910 --> 00:24:12,700

their land to the technicians engineers

448

00:24:19,630 --> 00:24:15,920

businesspeople everybody who's had a

449

00:24:21,810 --> 00:24:19,640

part of this it has made in my view a

450

00:24:25,630 --> 00:24:21,820

major contribution to the country's

451

00:24:28,870 --> 00:24:25,640

success in space and the people of South

452

00:24:31,840 --> 00:24:28,880

Mississippi of South Louisiana that work