

HARREL TOFTOY

31 August 1971
Huntsville

I know he got down on his hands and knees to beg for Redstone Arsenal. When General Ridgeway, Chief of Staff at that time, was there, he tried to influence the executive crowd that was there but he couldn't seem to get to first base so he suggested to put the map on the floor. So he got on his hands and knees and showed where Huntsville, Alabama was, saying "That's the place we need, Gen. Ridgeway." Everyone else was against it - irrevocably no - But Ridgeway saw Toftoy down there and said, "OK, that is where it'll be."

He would do everything possible for funds. When the Germans first came, as aliens, everyone wanted to send them back because industry had its own scientists.

He was a salesman for missiles.

He was like a father to them. He got them together and brought them over. In that way he was the father of the group. Then he kept them going and put them to work.

I don't know how he did so many things - and then have time to spend with the family also. He turned his missiles off - but not the telephone. Sometimes I went in and took the receiver off the hook. He became so mad when he found out - and then I'd catch hell. U

He was a very tactful person. He could have made a big noise about a lot of things and then we would have nothing.

He didn't want the Air Force to have the missile because it was his baby. He felt like he had started with them - even though later the Air Force had a part of it.

He almost resigned from the Army because he didn't feel that he was getting the support - from Congress - the money. "Toftoy's Polly" - the ~~xxxxxx~~ the missile fired from the little test stand at Redstone. But everyone thought it was huge - we would never need one so big.

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During one of the V-2 firings at White Sands Proving Ground, one of the reporters heard the roar and covered himself with sand and never did get to see the actual firing.

Yes, he was convinced of going to the moon. Of course, everyone thought he was a lunatic (OUTRAGEOUS DOUBLE*ENTENDRE). Hazel- your husband has had it @ he's finally cracked! So I said, "Well, if he's cracked so is Wernher von Braun." "Oh that's different," came the reply. "he's a scientist, they're all cracked. An Army man should stick to his Army guns."

He was really hurt when Medaris was promoted over him - this was the breaking point in his life.