

aeronautical engr -- BS in '47 from Auburn  
was at NACA at Langley before NASA, doing wind-tunnel aerodynamic testing.

came to Hsv & RSA in 1951 w/ Army, working w/ group under v.Braun & team, running wind-tunnel facility...

incident happened in early 1960s, after joined NASA/MSFC.

"I was in chrg of th wind tunnel, working w/ the group ~~Army~~ under Dr. von Braun. He loved to show visiting dignitaries things that were going on at th center. He loved to do that; that was 1 of his better talents. So he brought a bunch of visiting dignitaries by the wind tunnel 1 day in the early '60s and asked me if I would give them an explanation explaining what we were doing. Which I did. It took abt 5 or 10 minutes, maybe, to do that.

He went away, and a few mos. later he brought another group of visiting dignitaries down to th wind tunnel. He introduced me, and then he proceeded w/ th briefing. He remem so vividly what I had said & what I had shown, that he gave the briefing himself."

"He had heard that briefing once from me. I always ~~have~~ remem<sup>ed</sup> that, bec it told me a lot abt th man, abt his abil to listen & to keep things in terms that lay people can understand, and then explain it to them. He really could (communicate). He was 1 of th best.

usually  
"Usually we had a bunch of politicians, always visiting the center. And he loved to show them around & make them feel at home. And he was a master at taking very complex, technical subjects & putting them down to the layman's level so that those people could understand what he was talking abt. He was good at that.

(May was then chief of "wind tunnel branch or section." "That was my domain. Was 3 yrs at NACA at Langley before came to Hsv. Summer '51 joined v.B team. Used fairly small, but adequate local capability, wind tunnel at RSA for aerodynamic design of ~~the~~ Redstone missile, Jupiter & a lot of the Saturn work we did in th wind tun here in Hsv. Geo. McCanless worked for him at tunnel when Geo. first came to RSA. Orig. wind tun tht came to RSA was from Naval Ordnance Labs at Silver Sprngs, MD; was a piece of junk; 1 of German engrs tried to make it work but couldnt. So gave job to May, he was assigned another German mechanical designer, & they threw old 1 out & Started fr scratch & designed new 1. They built new 1. Had only 7-inch test section, but later on built 1 that had 14-in. section. We did a lot of testing here. But lot of their major work was done at AF wind tunnels at AEDC in Tullahoma, & some at Langley & some at Lewis Res Ctr., plus some wind tun testing all over country. One here was small but gave local engrs capability of doing lot of prelim. testing. Later took bigger models off to more sophisticated tunnels. It was a tool tht we needed, & we were able to do it.

is it?

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"Communicate"