

# Rocket Test Site Set For Plum Brook

## No Launchings; Hastens Work On Missile Research

Construction of facilities for National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics study of long-range ballistic missile and space flight rocket systems will begin soon at the 3,600 acre NACA Plum Brook site, south of Sandusky.

The new Rocket Research facilities are expected to be completed in about two years and cost \$5,480,000. A \$10,735,000 reactor for NACA Nuclear Propulsion research has been under construction at Plum Brook since 1956 and will be completed next year.

The first of the new Rocket Research units at Plum Brook, for the site facilities for operation of portable rigs for static firing, will be completed late this summer. The second facility will be a complete Rocket Systems Laboratory, consisting of rocket systems stands, rocket turbopump performance and control stands, pump and turbine test cells, propellant hydraulics and lubricants laboratories. No rockets will be launched at Plum Brook. All tests will be on ground static test stands.

### Hasten Solutions

In announcing the new construction at Plum Brook, Dr. Edward R. Sharp, director of the NACA Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory at Cleveland, which will operate the new research center, said, "The increasing application of rocket power plants for missile and space flight, and the use of new propellants has brought new and pressing problems. Use of the new facilities at Plum Brook will hasten their solution."

Dr. Sharp added that for the past 43 years, research activity of the NACA has been directed toward solution of the problems of flight. Until the end of World War 2, these programs were focused mainly on problems peculiar to airplanes.

### Erie-co In Vital Role

Since then, NACA work has been increased to provide information for the design of missiles. Today, some 50 percent of NACA effort is applicable to missiles, satellites and space flight.

Erie-co's role in this effort will be of increasing importance to our nation's technological development.

Both new research facilities will be located on land, formerly part of the Plum Brook Ordnance Works, acquired by the NACA from the Army on March 1. The site of the portable rigs will be off Taylor-rd 1200 feet south of Fox-rd. The Rocket Systems Laboratory will be erected near the intersection of Fox and Ransom-rds.

On completion, about 20 service personnel will be employed at the site. About an equal number of scientists and technicians from the Lewis Laboratory will operate the facilities.