

XIV.01  
by George Dill

The world's largest movable structure will literally move "out" of the space spotlight this month when, hopefully, the SA-5 Saturn missile roars skyward from Pad B on Cape Canaveral's Complex 37.

The man responsible for seeing that the 410 foot gantry operates properly is Brooks Watson, Pan Am's Saturn Complex Supervisor.

Looking down from the awesome height of the 330 foot level, a visitor's first instinct is to hold tight to the nearest solid object as Watson casually describes the workings of the sky-scraping framework which houses offices, work and storage areas, equipment, and of course, presently . . . the SA-5.

The structure weighs in excess of one million pounds and Watson explains the comparison of the missile against the giant structure like this: "If you neglect the weight of the missile, the 1.5 million pounds of thrust its booster produces could actually pick up the structure."

With design experience a major part of his broad engineering background, Watson enjoys posing hypothetical questions to visitors to illustrate design concepts used in the mammoth gantry. "Anybody can second guess," he

## BROOKS WATSON

and

### Saturn's Steel Mountain

explains, "but put yourself in the designer's place when he sat at his desk with a blank piece of paper, and an idea."

Watson graduated from Rice University in Texas in 1946 with an engineering degree in Naval Science under the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program. He went on active duty soon after graduation and an early assignment found him at "Operations Crossroads" — Bikini Atomic tests in the Pacific. Watson was aboard the USS BAYFIELD, an attack transport ship during the tests.

Previously with a major chemical firm and as a consultant engineer, Watson joined Pan Am in September of 1961 as a shift supervisor on the Atlas Complexes. He later was assigned as acting superintendent for the Atlas complexes and came to Complex 37 a year ago to his present post.

Watson's spare time activities include golf, chess, and a model train collection enjoyed by his wife and three children at their home at 1273 Rivermont Drive in Eau Gallie.

(Editor's note: Just prior to press time Brooks Watson was named Chief Engineer for Launch Complexes.)

The care and grooming of 410-foot high, lattice-like steel structure, are responsibilities of Brooks Watson, Pan American's Saturn Complex Supervisor.



Watson looks over entries in log book for daily work load with Ed Williams, one of five shift foremen assigned to the giant gantry. Complement of 60 Pan Am employees work at sprawling Saturn Complex 37.

9-3-69

Mr. Christensen:

Per our letter of 30 July, here is the material on Saturn as promised. Regret that we could not provide more information.

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