

Different topic:

During WWII the Germans were using rockets to deliver bombs, particularly to England. As the war was winding down, the United States had people trying to gather up German scientists, as did Russia.

Dad was involved in rocket propulsion after the war, not through the government directly, but through students he had taught at Purdue. To my minuscule knowledge, he was invited by former students to assist with solid fuel rockets [was not aware if he worked on liquid fueled rockets]. Have no clue what he did; however, his contribution was significant enough that he and Mom were invited to rocket launch facilities in both Utah and Alabama...at least somewhere outside of Battle Ground. Recall that they got to ignite a rocket that was strapped down and at a mile distant they said it shook the ground. That about sums up the report received from them. They did feel honored by this. Never got the feeling that this was hush hush. One aspect he mentioned [in very simple terms] was that he contributed a method to get these rockets to burn faster....up to the point just before they explode. The faster this solid fuel burned, the more thrust it produced. Some of this information was picked up by eavesdropping, but being clueless and not caring most of it went over or through my head.

Final memory this year. While at Purdue, Dad was official timer for the men's basketball games. He timed the 30 years that Lambert was the Basketball gymnasium. Prior to that he was the time keeper at the Memorial Gym where b-ball practice and games were held. He also timed the first year at Mackey arena. Basketball factoids follow:

- early on I believe he was both timer and operated the score board, maybe..
- official time was kept on stop watches and during this time frame he had a revolver loaded with "blanks that he fired [under the scorer's table] at the end of the half and end of the game so that the referees knew the time had expired, so the refs could hear over crowd noise. NO replays to check the time, or timer.
- actually I believed he used 2 stopwatches as it was more difficult to "jigger" 2 watches. However, one of the watches may have been a spare in case of a malfunction. The stop watches were hand wound
- I don't know when 'official' time switched from the stopwatches to the scoreboard clock.
- he went to the locker rooms at half time to inform the coaches when to come back to the floor.
- during the bleacher collapse in Lambert, he had gone to the locker room. Our seats were in the balcony and we witnessed the collapse
- saw Johnny Wooden and UCLA defeat [just] the Boilers in the first game at Mackey and remember seeing Mr Wooden sit with his legs crossed with no screaming and yelling. Picture a gentleman.
- it was probably the late 1940's or early 1950's before I sometimes went to the games with Dad.
- believe his pay was 2 season tickets??