

FULL SCALE QUOTES:

"This committee started its work in 1915. I regard this moment as probably the most important moment in the history of the committee, because it is to set in operation a piece of apparatus which promises to give in the shortest time the most important information desired in the development of aerodynamics; an instrument which is unique in the world..."

--Dr. Joseph S. Ames, then NACA Chairman, on pushing the button which which set the fans of the Full Scale in motion at its dedication, May 27, 1931.

"It is apparent that the most satisfactory method of obtaining aerodynamic characteristics of a complete airplane is to conduct a full-scale investigation."

--Smith J. DeFrance, designer of the Tunnel and first director of the Ames Research Center, in NACA Report No. 459, March 13, 1933.

"This apparatus looks as if it was built inside out, for the structural steel frame is outside the cement-asbestos sheets that form ~~xx~~ its walls. Of course, there has been no mistake. This bu~~x~~ilding, 434 feet long and 222 feet wide, was designed to withstand wind blasts of hurricane force rushing through the inside of it."

--Arthur Grahame, writing in Popular Science Monthly, April 1934.

"Keep in mind that the Full Scale has always had a very ingenious staff. Look at the people who came out of there--three center directors for one thing. The secret of the place is the people who've worked there."

--Donald D. Baals, author of the forthcoming "The Wind Tunnels of NASA"

"We used a hell of a lot of plasticene.!"

--Jack Reeder, former FST engineer, recalling how the tunnel crew would "smooth out" aircraft for the drag clean-up tests.

"We certainly intend to see what makes that thing tick."

--Joe Johnson, Assistant Head, Dynamic Stability Branch, on Burt Rutan's cambered, high aspect ratio~~x~~ canard.