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# **ALL ABOUT SPUTS**

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## DOUBT

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Now asinine gullibility — internationally — has reached a new apogee, and we are being asked to believe the most preposterous lie since the invention of virgin motherhood. Unstable theories, utterly incapable of proof, are being put forward as established facts by the heads of the world's great institutions of learning and the chiefs of States, who do not even bother to keep their faces straight for the cameras. Mathematical formulas that have never lifted themselves off the drawing boards where they were conceived are recited for us as statistical records of performance of tests impossible to check by any human or material means. The quality of the evidence being provided to substantiate the incredible is on a par with the dark-parlor tricks of a spirit medium floating a luminous trumpet, and it would be thrown out of any law court as insufficient, incompetent and insulting to the intelligence of reasonable men.

My subject, you will have guessed, is Sputniks I and II, and following here is the documentation for this writer's charge that the laymen of the world are the victims of a fraud and hoax perpetrated by politicians and scientists in international collaboration. The scientists have got their feet in the tax trough at last, backed by the might of the military and sponsored by that whore of the intellect known as the Press. We are being rolled, my friends, and this new sky has no limit.

In one sense the establishment of the new order, on what looks like a permanent basis, is a major defeat for Forteanism. The day that YS has been warning you about for the past 27 years is now here. Dr. Killian of MIT is the only God, and Willy Ley is his prophet. Since rational skepticism toward the new magi has failed to prevent its ascendancy to almost 100% domination of world mentality, you might think we would have sense enough to quit fighting, but in a larger, better sense, now is the time for all good Forteans to come to the aid of their Society. The world's need for our dissent has never before been so great. Whipple and Hagen and Khrushchev — the Big Three of ballistical buncombe — *haven't got anything on*, and it devolves upon us Forteans, as pure in heart as the Manneken Pis, to proclaim their nudity to the tax-eaters lest our posterity be born into bondage forever.

Whipple and Hagen and Khrushchev make a strange trio of back-slappers, don't they? After all the ink that has been spit to make us all hate Khrushy, he tells the biggest lie of his life and these two pillars of free enterprise swear to it. Three little maids from school are we, dancing together for the first time, and without a single rehearsal! Cross our hearts.

There are bigger names and more resounding titles than Whipple's and Hagen's in the USA setup for the International Geophysical Year, but their positions made them preeminently responsible for bolstering the public faith in what has been passing for evidence. No matter what you saw or thought you saw in the sky, no matter where, no matter when, it was not a Sputnik unless either Whipple in Cambridge, Mass., or Hagen in Washington, D.C., confirmed it. On the other hand, if nobody saw anything, and nobody heard anything, but either

Whipple or Hagen announced that a Sput was up there, let no man contradict them.

Leaving the question of integrity aside for the moment, I think we may assume that Whipple and Hagen and Khrushchev have at least two attributes in common. All are concerned for their personal welfare, and all are patriotic. Probably all would agree that their personal welfare and the welfare of their two-several native lands are interdependent. They would not be likely to collaborate on any project, real or fancied, true or false, factual or imaginary, if each was not convinced that success would benefit himself and his country. Conversely, if Whipple-Hagen, on the one hand, or Khrushchev on the other, should propose a course of action which the other deemed detrimental to his nation, the one on the short end of the stick would do everything in his power to thwart the other's aim, to prevent the catastrophe, or — in this case, at the very least — to demand incontrovertible proof of achievement, to deny the boast until the most stringent tests had been met and verified, to ask questions the most penetrating and to shred the answers fine.

Since none of these things was done, it follows that Whipple-Hagen felt that everybody would benefit if the masses could be convinced that the Russ had sent something up which would never come down. It is not very difficult to see what the Soviet had to gain by claiming a priority impossible to verify, but how did the United States benefit from swallowing a pill so gross and so bitter without gagging and without protest?

Well, the USA economy needed a shot in the arm. Military officers and civilians in military employ were being laid off. The protest against the size of the last budget had been violent, and a whopping increase was wanted for the next one. Political forces were organized and pushing to raise the statutory ceiling on the national debt. Many of our largest tax-payers with the loudest voices were crying for a tax cut, and the Pentagon had an unspent balance of some \$1,400,000,000 "unobligated" which — back in the days of our political naivete — could have been called a "surplus". As recently as 50 years ago the Press would have been demanding a "refund" or "carry-over" of that sum, in the public interest. Obviously the thing to do was spend the money before some old fogey editor made that suggestion and had to be clapped into an asylum.

Besides all that, the stock market was in a bad way, so the timing of the Russian announcement could hardly have been more propitious for the USA — as the fat boys reckon time. In a word, Peace was failing again, and only the sophistication of technology has saved us from another War. All hail to Thee, Omnipotent Killian and Thy Mechanical Brain!

Make no mistake about that. If Steel and Oil and Explosives still ruled the roost alone — as they did through World Frauds I and II — we should soon be mobilizing for a third return to barbarism. We have been saved from that, probably forever, by developments in electronics, cybernetics, radar and that ilk. They have shouldered their way into policy-making circles at the very top, forcing their fat friends to accept them as equals by the power of

this same magic that now holds the mentality of the world in thrall.

Some of you may question if the price of perpetual Peace does not come too high, since it must be paid for by mass imbecility and quaking awe, but each will have to resolve that for himself. After all, this is the same technique employed by organized religion through the centuries and we still tolerate that. Speaking for myself, I'm willing to pay the price as long as it's the other fellow's brain they wash and not my own.

For the sake of simplicity only two products of the great electronics advance will be mentioned here at this time, although the number of gadgets in that field, large and small, that governments around the world are buying and burning in wholesale lots must run into four figures. The two most publicised, the two largest and most costly, are the electronic brain and the so-called radio telescope.

The first brain of this type brought to our attention was announced by Harvard several years ago, but IBM was not far behind, and soon the supply of these million dollar machines far exceeded the demand at those prices. The machine could play chess, but so far no chess club has bought one, so far as I know. The machine could devise new names for Pullman cars, but so could the pretty nieces of Pullman's vice presidents, and for a mere fraction of the IBM or MIT price. In fact, the bursers of sovereign States had to be induced to buy these contraptions with the public money to prevent a glut. A few were sold to weather bureaus, but they did not improve the weather or the accuracy of the predictions. Then some genius conceived the sales argument that the electronic brain was the only infallible instrument for computing the orbit of an artificial satellite — and the International Geophysical Year was born. Children, you have to think big to get anywhere in the world today.

The first radio telescope we heard about was the one at Jodrell Bank, the Research Station of Manchester U, in England, and our file on this subject indicates British leadership in this particular boondoggle for several years. Now radarscopes are all over the place — but in those early days the best use that could be devised for them was taking the pulse of "dark" or invisible "stars". Actually, the effort was made to base a new science, called radio-astronomy, on the sounds this thing collected from hypothetical "stars" assumed to be in those black sky-holes where nothing whatever is to be seen. Having failed for centuries to measure "the velocity of light" — or even to prove that light moves — the Sacred Cardinals of Radar set out to measure the velocity of darkness.

As we progress with this inquiry, the recurrence of invisibility as a characteristic of the phenomena under examination becomes most remarkable. In other words, what this country needs is not better scientists but bigger liars. We suggest the grooming of Dr. S. Fred Singer, who is head of a project the government has dubbed "Operation Far Side". The objective of Operation Far Side is to knock a chip off the moon, not on the side so familiar to us, where any song writer could check the hits and misses, but on the far side which has never yet been seen by man in recorded time.

If Singer announces that he has done that, who is to contradict him? Surely Khrushchev will return the compliment that Whipple and Hagen have paid to him, and fill the Russian press with verification. The build-up to make the announcement credible when it comes has already begun, and will be pointed out in the data below.

It will not be necessary to trace in detail the long conditioning process that built up credence for the Sputniks, but some of the larger contributing factors should be kept in mind. Not all were coordinated by a central intelligence, but Your Secretary attests that purposeful guidance from above reached farther and was a great deal more general than persons usually well informed ever suspected, entering all fields of communication and all walks of life. It would be interesting to know which of the contributors to the general delusion were told what to do and which were inspired by private motives, such as publicity or profit, to get on the band wagon and do their bit, but YS is not going to try to separate the two groups at this time. One of these days the conscience of some key figure in Washington will force him to confess all, or Forrestal out a window, and then perhaps we shall know whether Walt Disney has been cooperating with Washington or merely making another million with his space-travel cartoons, whether MFS Kenneth Arnold was cooperating with Washington or merely liked to see his picture in the papers, whether MFS Carr and the *Saturday Evening Post* were cooperating with Washington or merely catering to a new public when Carr's lady from Venus landed in those sacred pages and made science fiction respectable at last, whether Major Kehoe had the blessing of his superiors or was valiantly daring them to jerk his braid, whether David Dietz and all his coterie of syndicated science writers were cooperating with Washington or merely filling their columns.

It will be interesting to read the answers to all those questions eventually, but we do not point the finger. The statement is merely that science fiction, the saucer data and the professional press-agents for Science have been the major conditioners, battering our brains out until even such a clear-headed writer as Walter Millis is taken in. His pamphlet — *Individual Freedom and the Common Defense*, written for The Fund for the Republic, Robert M. Hutchins, President — begins, "The Soviet success in placing artificial earth satellites in orbit gives an added pertinence to the following monograph."

One had expected better of such men as Millis and Hutchins, but apparently they too have their thinking done for them by the news services, or by a spirit-medium writing on a slate.

The role of science fiction was adequately covered by Anthony Boucher, writing in the *NY Times Magazine*, Dec 1, 1957. Under the title, *Science Fiction Still Leads Science Fact, The Space Age, far from making s-f passe, is spurring the writers to new prodigies of imagination — and perhaps to new targets for the scientists, Mr. Boucher sums up neatly, on p. 64 — "Science fiction is, first of all, imaginative entertainment, but if it has a more serious function it is less that of precisely pinpointed prophecy than that of creating in its readers*

a climate of acceptance of new wonders and a willingness to think at least one step ahead. Nineteen fifty-seven is, in all probability, a more significant date in the history of civilization than 1492. We have stepped into a new age — and it is the age in which the science fiction reader has been living all along."

For a good many years that "climate of acceptance" was limited to readers of pulp magazines, but as I suggested just a little way back, when the *Saturday Evening Post* printed Carr's tale of interplanetary travel, that marked the beginning of a drive, or scramble, by the slicks and by hitherto conservative book publishers to popularize this type of fantasy. Whereas only adolescent mentalities had been amused before, from that time on the "climate of acceptance" spread to classes of both sexes who — if no brighter in the head — were at least of voting age, the backbone of the country, the folk who elect our school boards, congresses and Presidents.

The role of the saucers, and their predecessors which we called "svenskarockets" in DOUBT, was at least two fold. As YS has pointed out many times, about 90% of all that was printed on the subject of UFOs was handed to the papers by the press officers of the Air Force or some other Pentagon bureau. Under cover of scoffing denials the possibility of space visitors was widely popularized, at the same time that data were being gathered from the grass-roots to inform the military of what the public saw in the sky or found on the ground as the various arms of our forces experimented to perfect the Sputnik effects.

It were tedious and fruitless to repeat here all the falls of shredded tinfoil, burning rocket-sockets and what-not reported to us, and the Fortean Society does not have the personnel or the funds to assemble and classify so much data, but the armed forces, with both hands in the public till, have the men, the women and the electronic brains to do the job and keep it Classified until doomsday. This circumstance adds the Dollar to that list of uncheckable invisibles we are dealing with. The dark stars pulse, the far side of the moon beckons, the Sputniks disappear and the money along with them, but nobody can check up on any of it. That were against the public interest and a menace to national security.

Thus I cannot prove that the "beeps" and the highly dubious "sightings" of Sputs and their companions were effects developed in the hey-day of saucers by radar and guided missile technicians, but neither can they disprove it. So I make that charge, and I make the same offer that Harry Houdini used to make whilst investigating spirit mediums. I offer to duplicate every phenomenon reported by "observers" — at no great height and from radio stations on terra firma — if any kindly government will foot the bill. I also guarantee to do it for less than one billion dollars or perform the rite of spring upon the persons of Khrushchev, Whipple and Hagen in Macy's window at high noon.

We have seen the logic of USA participation in the baking and eating of its own humble pie. Let's take a look at Russia's timing of its "news" release. Radio Moscow put it on the air for foreign absorp-

tion several hours before it told its own people in their native tongue. As a matter of fact, the Russians were all asleep. The first broadcast was at 3:20 in the morning, Moscow time, Saturday, October 5.

You may think that's a funny hour to be broadcasting, but let's see how that works out. It would be a great help if you were all familiar with the mechanics of putting a newspaper together, but probably not more than one in ten knows the course that copy follows from a typewriter in Moscow to a newsstand on a street corner in New York. We haven't the space to tell you here, but *YS* has been through that mill, and so due emphasis will be placed upon the *sources* of the various "news" stories.

The chief sources of foreign news in the offices of United States newspapers are the wires of the four big services, AP, UP, INS, and Reuters. The larger papers also have leased wires linking them with their own correspondents in foreign countries.

When a story the size of this one comes in over one of those wires, the telegraph editor not only sets the wheels in motion to print that copy, virtually as received, but he goes into a huddle with the news editor and the city editor, and they put rewrite men on the telephone and reporters in the street to interview local "authorities" and develop the story from numerous angles.

No matter how many men are assigned to it, that takes time. Celebrities are not sitting at home with prepared statements in their laps waiting for reporters to call, unless they have been warned that the "news" is going to break. Nonetheless, the *N.Y. Times*, 10-5-57, carried a total of 14 separate stories on this subject, many of them long and carefully developed in detail. This is a feat utterly impossible of accomplishment in the few hours between the Moscow broadcast and the printing of the *Times*. In other words, the *Times* knew the announcement was coming and were all ready to roll.

The less favored *Daily News* in its early edition had only 4 stories, plus directions to hams for listening in. The main story on p. 1, was from UP London, who had taken it off the air from Moscow. In that story we read one faint murmur of skepticism, which is a state of mind fairly typical of the working press on the lower levels. Reporters, rewrite men and even assistant editors — desk men with little authority — are generally an unbelieving lot. Unfortunately they are not their own bosses, and do not make the policies of their papers. At any rate, this much doubt survived to be printed in at least one early edition of the *News*: "The Russian announcement, if true, meant that the Soviet Union had first the United States to the launching of the first earth satellite."

That entire story was killed in later editions, and the *News* has not said "if true" at any time since.

Also in that early edition, a UP reporter in Washington must have had some doubt on his face when he asked Dr. Richard W. Porter about it. "I believe it," Dr. Porter replied. "What other comment is possible?"

Besides serving on the U.S. committee for the Inter-Geo-Year, Dr. Porter works for General Electric. Not only that, but he was a guest at the

Soviet embassy in Washington at the time, and he was surrounded by such collaborators as Dr. Joseph Kaplan, chairman of the same committee, Dr. Lloyd Berkner, president of the International Council of Scientific Unions, and the entire Soviet delegation to the International Conference on Rockets and Satellites, of whom A. A. Blagonravov is the one to remember.

The same UP story goes on: "There were indications that the Soviets had carefully planned the timing of their announcement. Some scientists attending the rocket meeting said previously that it had been requested by Russia."

That explains the radio broadcast at 3:20 a.m.

"At the very moment Radio Moscow announced the launching of the satellite, the Soviet embassy here was playing host to the rocket experts at a cocktail party."

A special to the *N.Y. Times* amplifies that feature: "Dr. Lloyd Berkner . . . beat on a glass at the reception for silence. 'I wish to make an announcement,' he said. 'I am informed by the New York Times that a satellite is in orbit at an elevation of 900 kilometers. I wish to congratulate our Soviet colleagues on their achievement.' Soviet scientists beamed . . ."

Neither Whipple nor Hagen is named as a guest at that party, but we learn later that both men were there, and Hagen was Johnny-on-the-spot next day, at the final session of the conference. Hear this:

"Dr. Lloyd Berkner said, 'One of the hopes and expectations of the I G Y has been achieved and we need no longer talk of the theoretical possibility of earth satellites.' . . . He reported that the satellite had passed over Philadelphia this morning and the delegates stood to applaud the Russian delegation . . . (A. A. Blagonravov) then asked if it would be possible to hear the satellite. Dr. John P. Hagen, director of the Naval Research Laboratory project to launch an American satellite was well prepared. He stepped to the rostrum, threw a switch, and a moment later the hall was resounding to the chirping beep of the satellite.

"Dr. Blagonravov beamed like a father seeing his new son. 'That is its voice,' he cried with delight. The sound came from a magnetic recording made as the satellite passed over Washington." *N.Y. Times*, 10-6-57.

The scene was quite worthy of Hollywood, and probably Ike's dramatic coach—Robert Montgomery—could have brought it off by himself. I am not saying that he did do it, but only that he has this wonderful mastery of dramatic timing. It is only fair to observe that Orson Welles was recently readmitted to the United States after a prolonged absence, and to recall that it was Welles' radio show about an invasion from Mars that tipped the politicians to the abject degree of public stupidity which they could prey upon.

Walter Sullivan of the *Times*, who describes that touching scene, might have asked Blagony how he recognized that voice, how he had become so familiar with a sound then being heard for the first time, but Sullivan was not so curious. Like Dr. Porter, he "believed", and he had just heard Dr. Berkner say that the satellite had passed over Philadelphia, and so Sullivan writes that it had also

passed over Washington. His only evidence is a tape-recording of some beeps made by Hagen.

Before we begin to question the beeps, let's see what other reasons the Soviet may have had for the timing of their announcement. Besides the cocktail party in Washington, the 8th Annual International Astronautical Congress was about to open in Barcelona, and coming right up, November 7, was the 40th anniversary of the Russian revolution.

Harry Schwartz, a financial man, writing some time later in the *N.Y. Times*, (11-17), asserts that the Russian economic picture is so bad that the current 5-year plan has been abandoned after less than two years operation, and points out that the Sputnik furore obscures that condition.

The World Series was in full swing, raising newspaper readership in the USA to its annual peak.

The Queen of England was on her way to visit the USA, strengthening relations, and taking the spotlight off Khrushchev internationally.

And there was Marshal Zhukov — who had to be fired. You have all read the reasons given for demoting Zhukov, and they may have been true and sufficient. In that case, the Sputnik allegations would serve to offset the bad publicity attending a rift, but it occurs to me as just possible that the rift was caused by Khrushchev's plans to hoax the world. Maybe Zhukov said, "You'll never get away with it. The public is not as stupid as you think. And even if you can pull it off — I won't go along with it."

If any member knows the Marshal's present address, they might send him a copy of this issue of DOUBT and ask if he has any comment.

### THE THEORY OF 18,000 MPH

Even before electronic brains had been built, mathematicians, working with nothing more expensive or tangible than pencil and paper, devised the theory that an object traveling at a speed of 18,000 mph would be virtually immune to the effect of "gravity", which is itself an unsolved mystery. As a matter of fact, "gravity" is simply a name invented to cover a certain group of phenomena that man has been unable to explain.

The mathematicians had a pretty safe bet there. How could the theory be tested? Speed that cannot be checked by time *cum* distance is not measurable but only subject to calculation, estimation, more mathematics ad infinitum. That's where the electronic brain comes in so handy. It can't tell you how fast an object is traveling, but it can figure how many gallons of kerosene will be needed — theoretically — to lift so many pounds at such a rate. You can't test that theory either, but you can watch kerosene sales zoom.

I remember a kerosene stove in my youth. The tank held about a quart. Just imagine trying to build Rockefeller City on that basis!

It would be possible to check back on actual measurable speed records that were current when the 18,000 mph theory was dreamed up, but the data are not all at hand, and in this atmosphere of rarified guesswork I'll take my turn too, and hazard that nothing had then been moved by man at a rate approaching even one thousand miles per hour. It was headline news when some military chap flew to South America recently at a speed that set a

new record, but the distance from his take-off to his landing site has never been measured, but only computed.

To the credit of William J. Jorden, of the *N.Y. Times* Moscow office, he phrased his story accurately on this point, 10-5-57.

"The Russians calculated the satellite orbit at a maximum of 560 miles above the earth and its speed at 18,000 miles an hour."

The important word is *calculated*. Lesser papers did not split such hairs but reduced the alleged numerical statistics to capsule form which readers were expected to swallow at a gulp, and not as *calculations* but as facts.

The *World-Telegram*, 10-5-57, puts it that way:

"Facts and figures of the Soviet satellite:

"SIZE: 22½ inches in diameter.

"WEIGHT: 184 pounds.

"SPEED: 18,000 mph.

"ESTIMATED LIFE: Not more than three weeks.

"ALTITUDE OF ORBIT: 560 miles.

"SIGNALS: Two radio transmitters sending 'beeps' at 20.005 and 40.002 megacycles, strong enough to be picked up by ham operators.

"VISIBILITY: Best at sunup and sunset.

"ROTATION: Circles earth once every 1 hour and 85 minutes.

"ORBIT: Ever changing.

"CONTENTS: Primarily two radio transmitters with allied equipment."

The word "transmitters" is a bit disarming in that context. When you examine it more closely you observe that what it actually means is "short-wave radio broadcasting stations powered by batteries". So the allegation is that TWO such stations, with automatic sending devices and timing devices set at different frequencies, both carrying their own power in storage batteries, have been compressed into a sphere only 22½ inches in diameter.

YS himself is not a "ham" — of that sort — but some of you members are, and he asks if any such miniature equipment is available for demonstration on the face of the earth. Do any of you have a sender, operated entirely by batteries, that can broadcast a beep 560 miles across lots? What are the dimensions and when can I see it operate?

No wonder members of the American Radio Relay League reported that they received the beeps "with unexpected strength" — *N.Y. Times*, 10-6-57, by Harold M. Schmek.

No wonder RCA at Riverhead, L. I., picked up signals on those same frequencies "apparently coming from a ground station in the Moscow area". *N.Y. Times*, 10-6-57, by Philip Benjamin.

The "altitude" of any high flying object, like the speed of its flight, is also solely a matter of estimate and calculation over which we have no conceivable check. Even at low altitudes, the measurement of heights beyond the reach of a yardstick are sheer theoretical mathematics. Mountains grow and shrink in the guide books from year to year, depending upon the method employed on the drawing board. Mountain climbers report that their altimeters go out of whack and cease to function at a few thousand feet. Planes being piloted by their

ever loving instruments are constantly crashing into mountain sides. Yet, the *World-Tele* asks us to accept the 560 mile altitude as a fact.

That "fact" and the estimated life of "not more than three weeks" are attributed to UP, Moscow, but the *Times* of 10-6 quotes A. A. Blagonravov as of different opinion. He "estimated" that the thing would stay in orbit for 30 years at a height of 500 to 1500 miles.

As to visibility, the *World-Tele* clearly implies that watchers will see something at sunup or sunset. The *Times* was understandably confused on that point. In one story we read, "visibility is still a relatively unknown quantity" sez Moscow, but Blagony in Washington had escaped Party discipline. He said, "The satellite surface is polished to a mirror-like finish to make it visible in the low sun even at a distance well over 600 miles. It would be comparable to a star of from four to nine magnitude."

Here, at last, is something we can check on. Will the ham who has the miniature short-wave station please hold up a 23 inch mirror at the same time that I listen for his beeps 560 miles away? One of us will have to be high enough to allow for the alleged curvature of the earth, which is accepted by the orthodox, but suitable terrain for the experiment should not be difficult to find. I don't think I shall be able to see your mirror even with the aid of the Palomar telescope.

This question of visibility brought out the first skeptics among native scientists. An unnamed hero at Yerkes Observatory said it "would be practically impossible" to see it, and Dr. Kaj Strand of North western's Dearborn Observatory said the chances were "one in a million" with his equipment. Neither astronomer expressed any doubt that Sput I was up there. They merely doubted their ability to see it. Indeed, the only doubts so far expressed in print by any of the brotherhood have been confined to such details.

Charles E. Bartley, called a physicist, participating in the U. S. Far Side Project — that is Singer's outfit mentioned above — "told University of Redlands, Calif. scientists that Russia's launching of Sputnik may have been a fake stunt." But when you read on, all that Bartley doubts is that Sput was launched from the ground by a so-called "inter-continental" ballistic missile. Bartley thinks it was launched from a balloon in midair. That is the way he and Singer intend to push off for the other side of the moon. *N.Y. Journal-American*, 10-25-57.

Sir Bryan Matthews, a prof at Cambridge (England), also called "a distinguished physiologist" wrote a letter to the *London Times* suggesting that the Sputs were hoaxes, but only in details. He found it conceivable that the Russ had exaggerated the weight of Sput I "four to six times, realizing that no Western check was possible," and when the world accepted the claim without question, they boosted the claim for Sput II to half a ton and put an imaginary dog aboard to provide "a living focus for the attention of millions who have accepted the whole story." *INS*, London, 11-11-57.

On that same date, the British Astronomer Royal, Dr. Richard van der Reit Woolley, left London to lecture in Moscow. Woolley has called space travel

"utter bilge" for a long time. See past issues of DOUBT.

Reporters at the airport asked Woolley if he still regarded space travel as "utter bilge", and he replied "with a thin smile . . . It depends what you mean by bilge. I think it is a frightful waste of public money."

He would not be pinned down any tighter than that, but one is left with the impression that he is keeping his real opinion to himself rather than call his colleagues frauds.

Another illustrious scoffer at space travel used to be Dr. Lee De Forest, called "the father of electronics". So far, no quote has reached us from him, since Oct 4, but as recently as Feb 24, '57, he was still calling a trip to the moon "a wild dream" impossible of accomplishment. We are soliciting his opinion of the Sputs now, but the chances are that he too will pull a Woolley and clam up.

On the level of Vox Pop, one fancies the papers received a good many letters they did not print, but one H. G. Schaefer of East Rutherford, N.J. succeeded in having this printed in the *N.Y. Daily News*, 10-13-57:

"Put me down as not believing any of these claims about having seen the Russian satellite with the naked eye. Many times at dawn I have watched jets in flight 7 or 10 miles up. I could see the vapor trails but not the plane and the jet is much larger than a 2 foot ball."

Whipple at Cambridge also threw out most of the reports of "sightings" but he used a different set of criteria. Let's see if we can follow the Whipple Party Line from the beginning.

Whipple's man Friday and astronomer in charge of Operation Moonwatch in Cambridge, Mass., commanding 150 teams "of visual observers" throughout the world, is Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Early editions of the *News*, 10-5-57, quoted Hynek: "All observers were expected to be on the job by daybreak, he said." Later editions (UP Cambridge) reported that Larry Ochs, Moonwatcher of Columbus, Ohio, saw a steady light cross his telescope at 11:28 p.m. "definitely not a meteor", and soon thereafter a second watcher, at Terre Haute, Ind. said he saw it too.

Ochs signed a piece for UP, claiming that Jane Gann, also of Columbus, had seen the same object "about an hour and 40 minutes later". *World-Tele*, 10-5-57

Special to the *N.Y. Times*, Cambridge, Mass., 10-5. Whipple discounted all reports that Sput had been sighted in the U S A. "After an all-night vigil" he said it was unlikely to be seen here for two or three weeks.

On the other hand, an unnamed spokesman for Hagen's outfit in Washington, the Naval Research Laboratory, told AP that "they have a good 'fix' . . . and can plot its path anywhere from 24 hours to a week . . . Navy scientists now know when they get the beeping signal . . . that their readings are precise to 100,000th of a second." Any challengers?

*N.Y. Times*, 10-6: "The Naval Research Laboratory had only incomplete reports today on the whereabouts of the satellite . . . The first signal picked up in this country was at 8:07 p.m. on

Friday (by RCA at Riverhead) . . . The laboratory itself picked up the signal at 8:30 p.m. Friday" — that is 23 minutes later, but the thing is supposed to be going around the entire earth in 96.2 minutes.

A ham in New Jersey placed it over his head at 9:30 a.m. but RCA put it over N Y C between 8:52 and 8:56, that is a difference of between 38 and 34 minutes.

Edward Perry of RCA told the *News* that the first signal was heard at 8:21 p.m. Friday (not 8:07 as in the *Times*), and "It came in strongest from an antenna roughly directed toward central Africa, but was also picked up by an antenna headed toward northern Europe."

Moscow gave AP an official time-table so there would be no more of this floundering around by amateurs.

INS London quotes Radio Moscow, that Sput's "carrier rocket" is also in orbit, 625 miles behind Sput. Nobody troubles to explain how the distance between two invisible objects is measured, and nobody claims that the rocket is broadcasting.

Capt. Kurt Carlson, sometime sea hero, aboard the Flying Enterprise II in the Pacific, got back into the papers by communicating with a Navy installation at Davisville, R.I. He said he heard the beep 400 miles off Portland, O. Whether his timing matches Moscow's chart of passages is not revealed.

Anon in New Jersey, talking to other hams, reports beep heard in Puerto Rico.

Another N. J. Anon, similar report from Antarctica.

But Whipple threw out 6 to 10 reports of visuals, even when they coincided with beeps — "the data were rejected by a digital computer, especially prepared for the purpose by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

Drop to your knees!

"Shortly afterward, Dr. Whipple and Dr. Hynek brushed aside all inquiries about additional reports. They shut the doors to all outsiders.

"Later, Dr. Whipple said that tracking radios in the United States set-up were not equipped with proper directional antennas to track the Soviet satellite."

Although he had left the cocktail party in Washington only a few hours before, flying to Cambridge for his "all-night vigil", Whipple's pronouncement was not identical with Hagen's.

Speaking for himself Hagen said that, "the better tracking facilities in the U. S. might enable America to announce the exact course of the sphere before the Soviets."

The Soviets' time-table had already been published, so — with or without the consent of Whipple or Hagen — "Australian astronomer Mark Bok reported that thousands of residents of Canberra saw the artificial satellite with the naked eye today."

Five persons in Sweden also saw something, but without the approval of Whipple or Hagen the squareheads, like the Aussies, could not tell a Sput from second-base.

"There was no sign U. S. intelligence agencies had any advance knowledge of the launching of the Soviet moon." By Donald J. Gonzales, UP Washington, *World-Tele*, 10-5-57.

In the *Times*, 10-6-57, anonymous digests two magazine articles published in Russia, March, 1951, and June, 1956. The latter, by Blagonravov. He names the red rocketeers who deserve the credit — K. A. Tsiolkovsky (died 1935), N. A. Rynin, S. N. Vernov, I. A. Merkulov, Peter Kapitsa.

The *Times* man also works in the names of a German, Herman Oberth, and the late Robert H. Goddard, U S A.

The article states that the Russ had sent dogs aloft 60 to 120 miles and brought them back alive.

On page one of that *Times*, Senators Symington and Jackson blame Ike's economy for U. S. defeat in the race into space, and in another place, Jack Raymond of the *Times* bureau in Washington gives the opinion of the Pentagon, that the U. S. lag was due to separation of the satellite program from military missile development.

When Robert Moses ducked out of an interview on TV, Willy Ley was substituted to talk about Sput. YS did not see the show.

*News of the World* telephoned the Royal Observatory 10-5-57 to interview Woolley about Sput. Whoever answered told the reporter nobody was available to answer questions and no observations were being made. "We work a five-day week," he said, "and close down every week-end. That's all I can say."

Oct 7 headline in *World-Tele*:

MISSILE STOCKS ROAR UP AS REST OF MARKET LAGS.

Oct 7. Daniel F. Gilmore of UP, London, covering that congress in Barcelona, cites U.S. representatives there who say that the Rus is ready to shoot something *around* the moon and return — "have completed computations" — but later in same story, computations are continuing in Russia "with an electronic brain". Does not state whether Reds buy from us or make their own.

Also at that convention, Andrew G. Haley, of Washington, is called a "space lawyer" and "authority on space law". No alma mater named.

Apparently Singer was in Barcelona too, at least he prepared a paper for presentation there, on the subject of hitting the moon with an H-bomb.

Oct 7, *World-Tele*, Sheldon Binn, writing questions and answers for the man in the street, asked, "How is the orbit determined?" — and answered himself, "Setting the orbit is the result of the application of abstract mathematical principles coupled with observable physical phenomenon."

From this date onward practically all papers were devoting their main editorial to Sput's military or financial implications, likewise their cartoons. Many columnists — even Bugs Baer — were getting copy out of it, and whole pages were devoted to the phoniest of "artists' conceptions" of life on the moon et cetera. This blanket disclaimer is all the space we can spare that part of the plot, but the great pity is that millions of newspaper readers do not know the difference between a drawing and a photograph and do not wish to learn.

The first casualty noted was one Harry Stine of Denver, fired from The Martin Co., for an interview he gave UP, criticising the government.

Martin stock had risen 3 points on the market that day.

A second casualty is to be expected in the person of our friend Dr. I. M. Levitt of Fels Planetarium, Phila. He is the chap we quoted in our last issue as saying space competition was better than War. This time he called the Pentagon switch from Jupiter C (Army) to Vanguard (Navy) "an astonishing piece of stupidity".

A third speaker out of turn is Dr. Robert Fleischer of Grafton Observatory, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. Without asking Whipple or Hagen, Fleischer announced that "according to accurate instruments, the satellite was circling earth every 100 minutes" — that is, slowing down to a mere 15,500 mph. The next day AP Washington said that report was "unofficial".

Hagen had not noticed the slowing down, but he had figured that Sput was coming to within 400 miles of earth at its closest. Project Vanguard also issued a time-table for beeps, and Whipple released an entirely different one, not necessarily contradictory but covering other portions of the earth.

Because a beep was "right on schedule" at Blossom Point, Md., Fleischer has not opened his mouth since.

"The first confirmed sighting" was reported from Alaska by Dr. Gordon Little and three associates. What they saw was "brighter than any star in the sky" and coincided with beeps. All four men are connected with the Geophysical Institute, U of Alaska.

In the same *Journal-American*, same date, Don Vandegrift, writing about Dr. Thomas D. Nicholson of Hayden Planetarium, says he is receiving many calls asserting visual sightings. — "This is impossible of course, because the satellite won't be able to be seen until it enters our twilight zone."

*Ibid*, do, that the San Francisco INS press wireless receiving station had been listening to beeps at 8:15 p.m. PST, when they heard in Morse code, "This is the man in the moon. You had better watch out or that big bad bear will get you."

The next day, Oct 8, the same joker got on the beam again, or some other ham joined in the fun. William Tucker, UP, Atlanta, tells the story but does not indicate how many hams heard it. The beeps had not been up to Whipple's standard that day, and after a long silence came the message, "Hear this, anyone. This is Sputnik. Please send ADX."

You will remember that ADX is stuff to make batteries last longer. *World-Tele*, 11-20-57.

Army listeners at Fort Monmouth, N.J. told AP they lost beep at 7:56 p.m. Monday.

Vanguard (Navy) lost it at 6:40 Monday night. Dr. Zahl is quoted, that sound had weakened on one "pass" Saturday, but came back strong when due again.

Dr. Wm. A. Pickering, California Institute of Technology, called director of the U.S. satellite trackers, is quoted, "I could speculate that they (Russ) might have a device on the ground and are asking it (Sput) questions once in a while — and are getting back answers."

RCA lost all sound twice, and in a second aberration got a 10-minute long buzz instead of beeps. At Stanford U, Calif., that buzz was calculated to be when Sput was over Moscow.

"Data was fed into the giant electronic computer"

— by Whipple — but "the machine did not come up with the expected material."

UP London quotes Radio Moscow, giving out a new itinerary and time-table.

Marshall McNeill in the *World-Tele* beats his chest for a "crash" program. 10-8-57.

Congress orders probe into "lag".

Oct 8. A meteor exploded twice over LA, about 7:05 p.m. Observers thought it was Sput.

Oct 9, something seen in sky for 2 minutes by unnamed U.S. Army men at Fort Churchill, Canada. Called Sput.

Hagen's outfit, Washington, began getting beeps again after 6 hours silence.

AP Moscow quotes Pravda, going to send live animals up, also, Sput now has two companions, new one called a "cone".

The night before, in the *Journal-American*, Edwin Diamond had boasted, "AF ABLE TO SEND MAN INTO SPACE"

Ike, at Press conference, promised a Sput in December.

Bob Considine in his column says Willy Ley had predicted Sput to him "a couple months ago".

Oct 9, *Journal-American* prints a photo from Melbourne, Australia, showing a squiggly line of light against a dark sky. The squiggles are attributed to movement of the camera operated by hand.

Prof. A. C. Lovell, head of the dark star radar-scope listeners at Jodrell Bank warns Sput to beware tail of Giacobini — Zinner comet through which earth passes every Oct 10.

In Tokyo the Japanese Astronautical Society raised the price of land on Mars from 55 cents to 52.75 per acre.

Oct 10. First "official" sighting announced after clearance by Whipple, seen by Moonwatch team using telescope in New Haven. Not visible to naked eye. What they saw was identified as the "nose" — which Moscow had announced only the day before.

Moscow Radio gave its home folks conflicting reports: (1) Sput gaining speed at rate of 3 seconds in 24 hours, (2) by Prof. Valerian Krasovskiy. Sput slowing up.

Whipple's outfit announced that Canada's Dominion Observatory at Ottawa had photographed something in the sky over Alberta.

Oct 10, shortly after 4 a.m. a "ball of fire" visible from South Dakota to Texas, called a big meteor. Apparently crashed near Nyton, Utah, causing "a number" of fires. Lt. Comdr. W. F. Norris, flying a navy transport said it almost hit his plane.

Hynek at Cambridge said it could not be Sput or any part of it because all three pieces "should" be "somewhere off South Africa".

La Paz of green balls fame sez it was a piece of Giacobini-Zinner.

An outfit in Nutley, N.J. put up a loudspeaker to amplify the beep for the man in the street.

The telephone company in Vienna has a recording of the beep you can hear by dialing, Vienna 1563.

Leslie Gould, Financial Editor, *Journal-American* writes:

"Banks here and around the country are being quietly checked to see if they can extend credit

needed by companies in the missile and aircraft field until the next fiscal year — July 1, 1958."

Oct 11, *Journal-American*: "U S COULD HAVE HAD MOON IN 1947"

*Jour-Amer*, Cambridge, Mass. Robert Brown reported 2nd sighting. Saw two bright objects "like faint stars".

Students Robert Wheeler and Robert Stefanik at Troy, N.Y. reported sighting with binoculars. "Report not disputed by Rensselaer official team".

Don Guy, AP staff, reported naked eye sighting from Cambridge, Mass. Miss Emilie Tavelle of the *Christian Science Monitor* staff was in the party. Said to be the first to see it. "Looked like a good gray star in a hurry".

It is not clear whether all three of the notes just above apply to the same phenomenon in point of time. If they do, we now have TWO "official" sightings bled by Whipple. If each item refers to a separate incident, we have *four* data to consider.

Read on:

*World-Tele*, Cambridge, Mass. UP "An International Business Machines mechanical brain working night long determined the orbit on the basis of photographs and visual observations of the rocket which trails the world-girdling satellite . . . Dr. Hynek said much credit goes to the machine itself."

"Dr. Gian Rossoni, Satellite coordinator for IBM directed a six man team doing the computation work."

Six men worked all night on four pieces of data — and the "orbit" came out of that?

The Cambridge Astronomy Field Station (England) reported just before midnight the satellite was only 150 miles above the earth. No basis for the guess is indicated, but the next day — Columbus Day — "the Mullard Astronomical Laboratory at Cambridge admitted that for two days its experts had been making faulty calculations on the sputnik — by assuming the world was flat. They forgot to allow for the curvature of the earth. The situation has been corrected." *Cr* Giles and Steinberg.

*Jour-Amer*. Letters to the Editor. From W. N. Byrne, N.Y. Says "May I ask how a man made moon 2 feet in diameter bulleting through space at 5 miles per second at an altitude of 500 miles can be seen by the naked eye?"

From Curt F. W. Liebe, Queens. "Let such scientific nonsense as aerial footballs be financed here by private screwballs not by wasting taxpayers' money . . . I might add I know a little about astronomy."

Oct 12, Minneapolis *Star* digests an article from *Boeing Magazine* relating to strange sounds picked up by radarscope since June 20, over Alaska, State of Washington and Australia. "70 miles up" over south island of New Zealand. Dr. Michael Gadsen, Imperial College in London, world authority, said, "it could either be a little man steering around up there or ionized particles rushing about. The fact is we don't know what is going on. It is something new." *Cr* Mealy.

Also from Australia — a Sydney housewife hears beeps in her mattress. Reuters, Kansas City *Star*, 10-13-57.

On WPIX-TV, Saturday night, Oct 12, a film purporting to show Sput in flight was telecast. YS

observed this and begs to report that it was on a par with Adamski's photo of a saucer.

On page one of the *Sunday Times*, 10-13, an AP photo was printed, alleged to be the "final stage rocket" taken by Prof. Donald H. Menzell, Director of Harvard Observatory. The caption apologizes, not without reason, explaining that the "image is blurred" because of long exposure, "camera swung by hand — the specks around the image are dust on the negative." It would have been gracious of the *Times* to let the unpublished photo gather dust in the Harvard archives.

Oct 13 *News*, quotes New Hampshire *Sunday Times* which quotes George M. Rideout, President of the Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, New Hampshire, who alleges that "a little over a year ago during an experiment" in Florida by the Army, a satellite was put aloft by accident. "The first two stages went off alright but the third stage did not function as expected and turned into a satellite 500 miles up. Because this was not what scientists wanted, a radio impulse was sent to the rocket to blow it up."

Rideout "stumbled on" the story amid a bundle of unclassified rocket documents in the files at the Research Center.

Oct 13 *Times*. National Geographic Society announces a kit for sale at \$2.00, consisting of a map and a transparent plastic card with calibrated lines called a "find-it-yourself device for satellite spotters".

Oct 13 *Times Review of the Week*. Practically the entire 12-page section devoted to Sputnik. Anonymous writer bolsters veracity of Moscow Radio — "Sputnik performing like a train on schedule" — and pray, why should it not? All radio broadcasts perform on schedule, and in this case, if anything occurs off-schedule either Whipple or Hagen declare it "unofficial". How can they lose? But see the *Chicago Tribune* below — Oct 16.

Oct 14 *World-Tele*. Group of the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York City, mostly teens, on top of the RCA Building at scheduled time saw nothing. Art Williams of the *World-Tele* staff asserts he and his wife saw on schedule from their backyard.

*Aviation Week* states that Lockheed, Aeronutronic Systems, Rand Corporation, in association with CBS and Eastman Kodak — has pushed work on man-carrying satellites for the last ten years "supported chiefly by Air Force funds".

Oct 14 *World-Tele*. Lawrence Fertig in Financial Section discusses missile economics.

Oct 16 *Jour-Amer*. Leslie Gould Financial Editor: "There is another side — a bullish side — to the satellite and missile development . . . it means that man — or rather Science — has cracked the barrier of outer space. From here on anything is possible."

Oct 16 *Jour-Amer*. INS Washington. Dr. Robert Jastrow of the Naval Research Laboratory, supported by Dr. Paul Herget in charge of orbit calculations at the Navy Satellite Computing Center, stated that radio tracking data indicated Sputnik only 147 miles high when passing over Washington Monday night.

Maybe these boys were figuring on a flat earth too.

Oct 16 UP Moscow. Says dogs have been sent up 142 miles sealed in globes with cameras to record their reaction and brought back to earth in good physical condition. "The old record altitude was 68 miles." The story does not state if the cameras take movies or stills, but both require light. How does that work, Krushy?

Oct 16. *Chicago Tribune*. This AP story out of Cambridge, Mass., was not printed by N.Y. Evening papers. "Moon Antics Baffle 'Brain' and Experts / Won't Stay on Time / Their orbits still baffled astronomers and confounded the electronic brains of giant computers . . . have been arriving consistently two or three minutes ahead of predictions in the last four days . . . Hynek said — seems to be maintaining a height of about 275 miles . . . director of Ohio State U. radio observatory reported that four radio observations (dark star technique?) place it at an average altitude of 355 miles . . . (other variations reported from Springfield, Va., and State College, Pa.) The orbit . . . continued to puzzle observers because . . . were not acting as predicted by the big electronic brains . . . daily shift . . . is actually slower by as much as 50 per cent than the rate the electronic brains predict."

Nevertheless —

Oct 18 *World-Tele*. By Alfred Russell "financial writer". p. 1. Contracts totaling \$183,000,000 were awarded in Washington to Western Electric, Aerojet-General Corporation, and Remington-Rand Univac.

Oct 18 *Jour-Amer*. AP Washington. Dr. Armand N. Spitz, Coordinator of Visual Observation for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory said there have been few visual sightings in the nearly two weeks Sputnik has been aloft . . . It is now sending out a continual signal instead of the original beep-beep.

City College of New York instituted a series of lectures on satellites and space travel free to the public daily.

Our old pal Shapley, formerly of Harvard, was scheduled to lecture on Sput at the New School, 10-24, but not for free.

Oct 20 N.Y. *Times*. Dr. Ralph H. Loveburg and Louis C. Burkhardt of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory give details for building a hear-it-yourself Sput detector. They mention Minitrac "an extremely accurate radio method of tracking satellites. It depends, however, on a string of complicated stations manned with highly trained technicians who send precise data into a central computer . . . Whenever the local calculations are compared with those released by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., they are in good agreement."

Does that mean 50 per cent slower than predicted?

Oct 18. Singapore UP. Brilliant object trailing sparks visible for 55 minutes, seen by hundreds, headed N.W. Pentagon said not their rocket.

Oct 20. N.Y. *Times*. Poor Vanguard had only \$110,000,000 to spend.

Oct 23. *World-Tele*. Cambridge announces on the basis of calculations only that the rocket "is about to come abreast again of its fellow space traveller". The implication being that the rocket

has gone around the earth one more time than Sputnik itself.

Oct 24. All papers say little about Sput, but counter propaganda in headlines about Air Force rocket going up 1000 miles.

Oct 25. Air Force alleges it sent rocket at least 4,000 miles up. (Previous record 625 miles)

Oct 27. N.Y. *Times*. Air Force can't read its own data. Does not know how high rocket went.

Oct 24. Hays, Kansas, AP. Fifteen persons out looking for Sput saw a light in the sky approaching from the south. It stopped, hovered for a moment, then made a rapid ascent and disappeared. El Dorado *Times*.

Whipple did not bless that one.

The next day strands called "cobweb" up to 50 feet long, festooned Portales, N.M. The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* makes the strands 500 feet long. "Experts" said it was dust held together by static electricity.

Oct 25. Reddish blue rain from a single dark cloud near Washington, Penna. *Observer*.

Oct 26. Blakeslee, The AP science man, did a piece on the phenomena noticed above in *Boeing Magazine*. It is a build up for radarscopes, which we shall have to consider later in a special issue. Blakeslee adds a pretty touch to the invisibles. He has the radarscope recording "a kind of silent radio wave thunder". This you'll have to hear.

Oct 27. *Times*. By Harold M. Schmeck, Jr. "Reports from both Moscow and Washington yesterday indicated that—it stopped sending radio signals back to earth." Minitrac in Washington heard for the last time at 5:50 p.m. Friday.

No longer heard at Cambridge (England) or at Ravensburg, W. Germany, Australia and South Africa. But RCA, N.Y. Riverhead, L.I. heard as recently as 8:41 a.m. October 26.

Oct 27. *News*. UP Moscow says silence because batteries used up.

Oct 28. *National Guardian* prints an alleged excerpt from the transcript of the President's news conference Oct 9, 1957, under the headline — WHATWASTHATAGAIN?

QUESTION by Charles W. Bailey, *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*: Sir, can you tell us, sir, whether you had any advance information that a Russian satellite launching was imminent?

THE PRESIDENT: Not imminent. For a number of months different scientists have told me, or different people — I don't know whether it was ever told to me officially — that they were working on it, they were doing something about it, but — but again no one ever suggested to me as authentic of a race, except of course, time more than once we would say, well, there is going to be a great psychological advantage in world politics to putting the thing up, but that didn't seem to be a reason, in view of the real scientific character of our development, there didn't seem to be a reason for just trying to grow hysterical about it.

Oct 28. *World-Tele*. AP quotes Radio Moscow announcing that a dog will be sent up. The dog's name is Kudryavka. The dogs are trained by Professor Alexei Pokrovsky.

Oct 29. *World-Tele*. Dr. Karl S. Henice, senior astronomer at Cambridge, asserts that rocket will

be visible "to nearly every one on earth between December 1 and December 3".

In Chattanooga, Tenn., Moonwatch team asserts saw rocket but Cambridge says couldn't be. Must have been meteor.

Oct 30. *World-Tele.* President tells news conference defense lid of \$38,000,000,000 will probably be raised.

Oct 29. A falling object exploded over Prague shortly after 3 p.m. Monday. Radio Prague said it was no part of a Sput.

Oct 30. *Village Voice*, 22 Greenwich Avenue, N.Y.C. which is a good paper and you should subscribe — \$3.00 a year — received this letter from Norman Mailer:

"Dear Sir: This joke I want to send out: The Sputnik, out there on its lonely trip, has been sending back an off-beat beep. It seems the explanations of this are not yet known. Which causes concern and conversation in high places.

"To relieve the strain we give the scope: The Sputnik has lost the beat because it's listening to the ether out there, and what the ether has to say is this: 'Sputnik, don't make waves!'"

Oct 31. *Jour-Amer.* INS London quotes London *Daily Worker* asserting Sput II will be sent up November 7 to celebrate Soviet 40th Anniversary.

Nov 1. *World-Tele.* By Sam Dawson. "Chances of balancing budget with room enough for a tax cut look slimmer because of Sput's nudge to spending."

Nov 3 *N.Y. Times.* By Edwin L. Dale, Jr. Estimates defense budget in '59 will be \$72,000,000,000.

By John D. Morris "Vice President Richard M. Nixon and other Republican spokesmen have apparently begun systematic build-up of administration defenses against a possible tax-relief drive by the Democratic Congress next year."

Nov 3. UP Washington. An unnamed spokesman for the Naval Research Laboratory says that experience with Sputnik will help us track our own — when launched.

"The consensus is that the satellite will stay in orbit until well into next month.

"Eventually, drag forces will pull it down in a spiraling path through denser and denser levels of the atmosphere. Then, like a meteor, it will be heated by air friction into incandescence and burn up without ever regaining the surface of the planet. The rocket is expected to precede it.

"The thing that tantalizes some United States scientists is that the satellite should have blazed out before now, according to their calculations."

Dear tantalized scientists, come sit on mother's knee. Even if it ever was up there, what makes you think it is still there? No beeps have been heard for more than 5 days, and Whipple hasn't blest a visual sighting since the confusion of Oct 16. Are you depending entirely on radarscopes now — or is there another kind of evidence never before mentioned?

The Levelland, Texas, phenomena began at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov 2, *Daily Oklahoman*, or at 11:05, *The Ropes Plainsman*, Ropeville, Hockley County, Texas, or at 10:50 acco other local papers. In addition to the fine coverage from the national

press by faithful members everywhere, the Society had the unique advantage of a member almost on the spot. That is MFS Laura Kittrell who owns a news clipping service in Dallas and heads a local UFO group. From her we received maps of the township and annotated diagrams of the events and interviews with eyewitnesses. In a more nearly normal issue this would make a feature story. Alas — we can only relate it to the Sputs — for they have taken over.

Sput II was launched, they say, that same Saturday night. No time of launching is given, but "it passed over Moscow for the first time at 11:20 p.m. EST." That would be about 8:20 in Levelland, Texas, so there may be a closer connection between the two events than at first appears.

Perhaps at exactly the same time that Sput II was touched off, a truck driver near Levelland saw something black across the road ahead. He stopped his truck and the object lighted up — greenly — resembling an egg 200 feet long. His motor died and his lights went out. The thing took off.

Sheriffs, cops and other motorists, up to 15 persons, gave further details of subsequent events, all reconcilable.

The next day, not dissimilar phenomena were observed at White Sands, N.M., by two sets of army police at an interval of 17 hours.

This or a similar phenom picked up by radar over Gulf of Mexico, 5:21 a.m. 11-5-57.

Whipple did not bless any of them.

Nov 3. *N.Y. Times* — 8 column headline — p. 1: Soviet Fires New Satellite Carrying Dog; half-ton sphere is reported 900 miles up. AP London quotes Moscow Radio — 937 miles — circles earth in 1 hour and 42 minutes, weighs 1110 lbs. Instruments indicate dog alive.

UP Cambridge, Mass. Leon Campbell received report from William S. Cooper of MIT heard first signal from new Sput at 2:02 a.m. Minimum altitude 140 miles (should be burning up).

Sput #1 now said circling in 1 hour 35 minutes.

Moscow Radio let the dog bark into the mike before launching. This bitch had been up before, now has instruments to record her breathing, blood pressure and heart beats during flight.

Signals also received by RCA engineers at Tangiers, Morocco, 2:49 a.m.

"Although at 2:00 a.m. the laboratory Washington did not have definite information about the satellite there was no inclination on the part of the scientists in the Defense Department to doubt the Soviet claim."

Whipple calls this "six times as great a scientific achievement as the launching of the first". He "ran to the observatory from his home".

Nov 3. *N.Y. Times.* The first report of Sput II came from George Chaplenko of 276 Goodwin Street, Perth Amboy, N.J. He is a chemist. Contends he heard the original Moscow broadcast at 12:45 a.m. and telephoned the *Times*.

Nov. 4. *Jour-Amer.* Puts editorial on p. 1 calling upon President to appoint "now a missiles czar to bring together the knowledge and brains of the armed services and rival groups of scientists in a single, purposeful concentration of effort in the

rockets and missiles program". A most unfortunate choice of words that "czar".

*Jour-Amer* has "Doctor" Willy Ley doing series on ride to the moon.

Fort Monmouth and Washington say Sput II signals clearer than Sput I but "will not be visible in these parts for several days".

AP photo of dog not said to be actual occupant. Could not be phonic.

Alton L. Blakeslee, translates dog's name into "Curley".

Dog lovers including ASPCA condemn use of dog as Soviet atrocity.

Nov 4. *Jour-Amer*. Cambridge, Mass., Whipple, Hynek, and Dr. John E. Reinhart agree dog can be brought back. The problems are three: 1) Slowing her down. 2) Carrying herself through the heating period of denser atmosphere. 3) Final descent to ground could be done by automatic device or radio impulse tricks already well known.

What we should like to see Whipple do is photograph a dog in the dark without a flash-bulb, or demonstrate the timing device that sets off bulbs in sequence inside a flying kennel.

Nov 4. *World-Tele* prints a UP photo from Moscow. Different dog, different equipment.

In a separate story, Whipple says "It is entirely possible that the Russians already have launched a rocket to the moon."

One of the wave bands is not beeping but hissing and this is alleged to be the sound of the dog's heart and brain. Dog lovers picketed United Nations in protest.

Nov 4. *World-Tele*. Financial Section headline: Most stock groups off; only Sputnik issues up.

The egg that stalled motors near Levelland, Texas, 11-2-57, was the first of a series of similar reports. Supplementing those already listed, James Stokes, an Air Force engineer (SIC), Almagordo, N. M. reported ten cars stalled in the desert by a similar phenomenon 11-4-57. Practically all local residents interviewed thought that the object sighted was an experimental mechanism launched by the U. S. Government.

YS agrees with them, and specifically suspects that most of the so-called "saucer" sightings of the period were last minute preparations, rehearsals by the U. S. military, to bolster the Soviet lie by giving the tax payers a view of floating lights in the sky at scheduled hours to be designated by bulletins from Moscow and confirmed by Whipple.

Emphasis was on Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, but other reports came from the suburbs of Chicago, downstate Illinois, St. Louis, Georgia and Alabama.

Here are a few more details, which you may compare with Whipple's "new timetable", which will follow the details immediately.

Near Willis, Oklahoma, reported by a member of the University of Oklahoma board of regents, Glenn Northcutt. His own photo accompanies the story in local papers. What he saw "would glow real bright and then fade away like a television set when it is turned off and on".

Over Santa Fe, N. M., "a light blob" seen shortly after midnight and again about 4:00 a.m. 11-6-57.

In Elmwood Park, Illinois, suburb of Chicago, three policemen followed a speeding skylight but did not catch it, early morning 11-4-57. "Not many hours after" that in Oak Park, Ill., suburb of Chicago, a physician and a Chicago health department quarantine officer found a clutch of that familiar strip-tinsel in a dooryard. It "seemed to burn" the hand of a lady who touched it. They gave some of the stuff to the police to test for radioactivity, and the lady was treated at Michael Reese hospital.

Urbana, Ill., INS. Two Illinois State troopers chased a speeding skylight at an unspecified hour night of 11-6-57. It changed color several times. They could not catch it.

Olivette, a suburb of St. Louis, Mo., a red light, much brighter than a plane's landing lights, stationary in the sky about 30 minutes. (Date imperfect, but can be checked in St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*.)

Augusta, Ga., near Atomic Energy plant called "Savannah River" — night of 11-5-57 — a "constant red light" also called a "ball", seen by several including a newsman who said, "It could have been a tiny red light a short distance away or a gigantic thing at a great distance."

"At about the same time, the Ground Observer Corps at Midland, Texas, said it saw a large red object and picked up unintelligible conversation on a sound detector."

In Huntsville, Ala., three miles from the Redstone Arsenal, site of the Army's secret guided-missile development center, a mysterious explosion demolished a brick house, killing three sisters and critically hurting a fourth. 11-2-57 (?).

"Authorities said there was no clue to the cause of the blast but discounted the chance that a runaway missile hit the home."

Over Baltimore, Md., 11:05 P.M. 11-4-57. "strange light — glowed like a star, but changed color — disappeared and came back" but not seen after 11:45.

Now to Whipple's new timetable, issued at Cambridge, Mass., 11-5-57. Although this object is supposed to be more than 900 miles up, there is no further question of visibility in this "official" announcement "based on a number of sightings reported today from various parts of the world". In fact, the *World-Tele* of 11-5-57 prints a UP radio photo from Kyoto, Japan News Agency which pretends to be Sputnik II.

Whipple's statement is that the "dog-carrying rocket satellite" will pass east of Boston at 5 A.M. (EST) 11-6-57.

"The second pass will take it on a line from Brownsville, Texas, going northeast near St. Louis and Chicago, passing the latter city about (sic) 6:43 A.M. (EST)" 11-6-57.

"The third morning pass will go from near San Diego, Calif., over Salt Lake City about 8:27 A.M. (EST)"

Next day — 11-7-57 — "up East Coast, going just east of New York and almost directly over Boston at 5:09 A.M. (EST)

"The second pass will come up over Texas, Oklahoma City, Kansas City and out to the northeast at 6:53 A.M. (EST).

"The final early morning pass over United States

will bring the rocket in north of San Francisco and over a point near Spokane, Wash, at 8:36 A.M. (EST)."

The coincidences of locale are remarkable, are they not? — and they continue.

A mysterious blast shook the town of Lone Star, Texas, early evening, 10-30-57. Nothing seen and Texas Rangers could find no damage. *Kansas City Times*, 10-31-57.

Dr. Lincoln (Green Balls) La Paz left Albuquerque, N.M., for White Sands "to check two objects seen over the area" 11-5-57.

An Indian missionary at Sapulpa, Okla, now comes forward to say that he saw something over his mission Thanksgiving Day 1956. "The object hovered in the air for an hour or two . . . As he watched . . . he saw something fall and hit the ground. A search uncovered a round piece of metal lighter than aluminum, but which he has not been able to bend." *Oklahoma Times*, 11-7-57.

In Dallas one J. G. Kirby dug into his memory and gave the *Morning News* a photo he had taken 8-2-56. AP picked it up and sent it everywhere. In the N.Y. *Journal-American* the caption says the picture is only now "released by the FBI and the Air Force". The picture is of squiggly lines against a dark sky, reminiscent of the one from Australia purporting to be the Sput I. Like the famous Nude Descending a Staircase, the picture defied editors to identify top from bottom and so it appeared in four-several positions in papers around the world.

Not to be outdone, UP picked up from Ralph Mayer, newsreel photographer for a Cleveland TV station, what he claims is a single frame from a movie he shot in 1952, "and submitted to the U.S. Air Force, which, he adds, has declined to comment on it." *Washington Daily News*, 11-6-57.

Reminiscence went back even farther in Dallas when Frank X. Talbert, columnist on the *News* found in the files the story of Joseph E. (Truthful) Scully who saw an "illuminated airship" with three men in it take off in Wood County, Texas, mid-April, 1897. No photos.

But one Marvin A. Krieger gave the *Dallas Times-Herald* a print he had shot at 5:05 a.m. 10-20-57, purporting to show the rocket portion of Sput I "turning end over end". Apparently this photo was not admired by the news services. Only MFS Bennett sent it to us.

The last of this series of photos was another UP Telephoto, snapped by Edwin H. Leadford about midnight 11-6-7-57 (?). It's a strange picture, no mistake, combining "a big white ball" with several "egg" and "cigar" shapes, as mentioned by numerous observers of recent Southwestern phenomena. It was taken near Anaheim, Calif.

Accto the *Dallas News*, 11-5-57, related phenom had been observed from Foster, Indiana, to the Fiji Islands. The Fiji report was from UP, Honolulu.

Numerousness notwithstanding, Dr. Menzel of Harvard, who is willing to believe that the smudge of milky nothing on *bis* negative is a Red Scientific Achievement, scoffs all the data pertaining to UFOs, even the item from the Gulf of Mexico, reported by the Sacred Coast Guard as seen on their sainted Radar. Poo-poo, says he, "it is probable the cutter's crewmen got a false image, quite likely from bubbles

of hot air in the atmosphere which would give a radar reflection."

Well, thank YOU, Dr. Menzel. YS has no great faith in the reliability of radar evidence either, but when a Scientist of your standing calls it "hot air", you warm a cockle in this old Fortean heart. We shall call you back as a witness against radar when we need you.

The Air Force Technical Intelligence Center, Dayton, Ohio, shared Dr. Menzel's dim view, and the North American Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo, chimed in. Capt. Andy Beasley, in the latter office said that he had 46 reports of UFOs in the night of 11-5-6-57, but only 3 were worth investigating.

One of those three was the case of Reinhold O. Schmidt who told his tale in Kearney, Neb. to police Chief Thurston Nelson, 11-5-57.

Probably there is no family relationship, but one remarks the coincidence that one "Buck" Nelson made a speech in Kansas City, 11-3-57, telling the Unidentified Objects Study Club that he had been taken for a ride in a "saucer", at midnight April 24, 1955. He had visited both sides of the moon. Mars and Venus, and had returned to Earth in three days. *Kansas City Times*, 11-4-57.

Schmidt did not say he left Earth, but he had been aboard a "space ship" and drew a pencil diagram of it, side view outside and floor plan inside. *Alameda Times-Star*, 11-8-57.

Schmidt, formerly of Kearney, was then a resident of either Brawley or Bakersfield, Calif. He said he spoke with the crew of four men and two women. They had "high" German accents.

Investigators found oil where he told them to look, and Schmidt had a can of the same kind of oil in his car. Most papers soon discovered that Schmidt had done time, and called him an "ex-convict". His crime is given variously as "embezzlement" and "a confidence game". The latter appears more likely.

A sheriff at nearby Gering, Neb, who had known Schmidt "for years" called him a "mixed-up boy".

By 11-8-57, a "mental illness complaint" had been filed after examination by two psychiatrists. Whether Schmidt was committed or not is not in our data, but MFS Gustine writes on his datum. "Well — that's that!"

Still, the men with the nets have not gone after Menzel or Whipple or Hagen, and when the Air Force released its findings in the Kearney matter — 11-17-57 — guess what! they said it was. St. Elmo's fire, so help me.

Texas got its name in the paper again, 11-9-57, when weatherman James Morrow of Abilene reported a "red-orange flash followed by a glow lasting 45 seconds, in line with the moon . . . unable to see whether the flash was on the moon because of some cloud cover." *LA Examiner*, 11-10-57.

On the beach at Playa del Ray, Calif, "a mysterious egg-shaped space ship" reported by Richard Kehoe of Long Beach. Another coincidence of names, or, keep this thing in the family. Richard appeared on local TV and was seen by MFS Gervin, who writes, "he seemed quite credible."

In Meridian, Miss, a truck driver named Malvin Stevens, from Dyersville, Tenn, told deputy sheriffs

he had been stopped by a "balloon-like" object on the road, and "three pasty-faced little men emerged". *Oklahoma City Times*, 11-8-57.

Obviously, Whipple could never bless that, so let us return to cold, scientific sanity.

St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, 11-5-57, headline: SPUTNIK II is BLOW TO VOICE OF AMERICA, and the story tells how the U.S. attempts to exploit the Zhukov ouster were overwhelmed by news of the "moon".

Nov. 5. International News supplies a third photograph of a dog. Different dog, different equipment. This dog's name is Laika which they translate as "Little Barker".

Dr. S. Fred Singer says the United States can explode an H-bomb rocket on the moon right now; and the *Four-Amer* editorial writer urges him to go ahead and do it.

L. A. *Mirror-News* spoke to the man on the street, asking if he would volunteer to travel to the moon in a spaceship. George Sherlock, called a "publicist" said, "Yes, but on an American satellite. I've always wanted since I was a kid to find out what's on the dark side of the moon."

Another — Jack Nims — responded, "I thing I'd go. They wouldn't ask anyone to make the trip if they weren't sure they'd be able to come back." How was that again, Jack?

The Manager of Radio Station KBLI, Blackfoot, Idaho, 11-4-57, said he had taken a tape recording of signals from Sput II which "picked up the barking of a dog . . . it barks once, and then there's a silence, and then it barks four times in a row . . . It's not a little yap-yap bark. It's a definite, heavy-type bark — like a full-grown dog barks."

UP Washington. Hams across the nation reported hearing "mysterious new signals from space . . . on 14.286 kilocycles . . . variously described as a series of dots, a low moan, and some kind of code group . . . spokesman of FCC pointed out the frequency is far removed from the frequency on which the Sputnik II radio operates."

Nov. 5, *Four-Amer* headline — 8 columns: US clamps order of secrecy on new mystery space beeps. The Federal Communications Commission has "classified" data concerning a signal being picked up by hams near the frequency of Sput. II. Incident similar to signals picked up at Phoenix, Ariz., early days of Sput I. Government would not discuss at that time "but said signals were not connected with Sputnik in any way."

Nov. 6, *N.Y. Post*. "Sunspot activity" was credited with bringing N.Y. hams "portions of British television programs" also radio programs from Moscow, Denmark, Stockholm and Jerusalem . . . police calls from New Mexico and "Construction crews in Central America . . . The erratic long-distance reception had been expected for some months because of cyclic variations in the ionosphere caused by changes in the sun's radiation."

Will you buy that?

There were differences of opinion. Down at Alamogordo, New Mexico, 11-6-57 Lt. Col. John McCurdy and Major David Symons were boasting that they had "broken the code" of the beeps from Sput II.

Nov. 7. The Cambridge, Mass, radio technician

Andrew B. Leadwith has been getting two sets of signals on the 20-megacycle band. Maybe that's the same thing the FCC classified.

By Dan Brigham, RCA Riverhead getting signals on 108 megacycles "unable to determine immediately whether the signal came from outer space or from a land transmitter." Been getting it for 2 weeks. Been received all over the world by hams. FCC says, "not related to either of the Sput missiles."

The dog lovers who had been decrying Red brutality in the case of Laika were given something to chew on when an animal farm in Catskill, N. Y., delivered four black bears to the Air Force in Holloman, N. M. 11-4-57.

Washington hastened to say the bears were not going up, but the Chief of the Aero-Medical Laboratory at Holloman, Col. John P. Stapp, declined comment. He admitted that chimpanzees and hogs — as well as he himself — had taken "sudden stop" or "sled" tests. He had been going 632 mph he said.

Other accounts added guinea pigs and mice to the zoo drafted for this purpose at Holloman.

Texas rounded out the animal picture by suggesting that several cows be sent up, so the Lone Star State could have the honor of firing "the first herd shot round the world". Dr. John F. Anderson Jr., in the *Dallas Morning News*, 11-9-57.

Nov. 5, Whipple admitted to AP that Dr. Leland E. Cunningham, University of California, radiation laboratory, Livermore, Calif, was helping him with computations. Cunningham predicted that Sput I would "make a flaming plunge to earth Dec. 11."

In the same story, Whipple places Sput II at an altitude of 100 miles when it goes over USA, instead of 900, as alleged by Moscow. He admits his data are "rough" and adds that the low altitude will complicate visual sighting.

Something of the kind, or even lower, was already complicating the life of Dr. R. H. Stoz, astronomer in Captown, South Africa. Over there Air Force searchlights had picked up a "mysterious cylindrical object" over Johannesburg, 11-5-57. Stoz said the object "might well have been the rocket" (of Sput I) but "he was unable to explain how it was low enough to be picked out by searchlights."

Nobody "saw" it fall, but at least three persons heard it, in the forecourt of a school at Sunbury, Middlesex. The headmistress, Marie Brown, a pupil, Julia Liddle, and her father, A. Liddle. It fell within four feet of them. It was "glowing red and smoking furiously" — buried itself in a hole a foot deep. Photo in *Evening News*, 11-6-57.

Miss Brown threw water on it and called authorities. "Authority" Peter Embrey, sent over by the Natural History Museum to collect the object found it split in two. He called it an uninteresting piece of granite, "definitely NOT extraterrestrial . . . had nothing to do with meteorites or satellites . . . it could NEVER have been red hot. It had NOT dropped far. It's crater did NOT look as if it had been made by the rock. When I picked up one piece four hours after it had fallen it was still warm, but it must have been heated up at least within the last half-hour."

Miss Brown was fighting mad and threatened suit

if the expert were accusing her of perpetrating a hoax. The nearest place it could have been thrown from is 300 feet away. *Cr Gee, Evans, Russell, Sharp.*

The Urbana story of the Illinois State troopers chasing a light, night of 11-6-57, appears in the *Baltimore News-Post* with this appendix: "In Washington, the Air Force debunked a claim that one of its major test bases 'broke' the coded signals of Sputnik II."

In Gulfport, Miss, the City Council "considered" an ordinance to make Martians check their weapons with police and forbidding them to land inside the city limits. 11-7-57.

In Detroit, Mich, the dog catcher obtained a warrant charging Laika with being "at large without a dog license within the city limits." 11-8-57.

Nov. 5. *World-Tele.* Moscow asserts new fuel can reach moon in ten hours.

John J. Raffone — of General Electric — comes out in favor of shooting at the moon at once. He does not say how long the trip will take. 11-6-57.

Nov. 6. Down at San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Hubertis Strughold, Chief of the Department of Space Medicine at Randolph Air Force Base was boasting that — although we had no Sput, if we ever did have one with a human in it and that human got sick, nobody would know better how to cure the man than the speaker.

Nov. 6. *World-Tele.* UP asserts hundreds of persons around the world saw Sput II today. New York City may see it tomorrow. Sighting in US near North Conway, N.H. Grand Island, Nebraska, Chicago, San Francisco, Kansas City, Green Bay, Wisc., Milwaukee, Springfield and Rockford, Ill.

Nov. 7. *Jour-Amer* headline:

#### ROCKET POWER SHARES ZOOM

Nov. 8. *World-Tele.* AP from London describes a movie cartoon in Moscow by title: Road into Instellar Space, showing men in space ships building cities on the moon and mining there.

A Disney cartoon movie in full color was current in first run New York houses at the same time.

That first of all Space Lawyers, Andrew G. Haley of Washington, had been elected president of the International Astronautical Federation, at that conclave in Barcelona. Now he was back with a fellow expert, a grandson of Kaiser Bill, the ogre of World Fraud I. The boy's name is Welf Heinrich, called Prince of Hannover Germany, and these buddies were barnstorming midwestern universities, Chicago and Minneapolis, at least, speaking about "space law".

Guess who joined them in Minneapolis. Fritz Zwicky, father of operation Moonship. He boasted to the gathering that he had "worked out" the fuel used to launch Sput II, as far back as 1940.

Remember Fritz in your prayers tonight. But for him the stock market might be even lower than it is.

Dave Knickerbocker names at least 4 persons in New York City who claim to have seen Sput II. Also says Dr. John S. Rinehart saw it in Boston. Leadwith the radio man said signals seemed to be coming from two separate objects. *World-Tele.*, 11-8-57.

Nov. 8. *World-Tele.* President appoints James R.

Killian, President of MIT, scientific "czar" to overtake Red lead in missiles etc. Headline: Billions More For Missiles Held Likely.

Nov. 8. *Jour-Amer* describes Moscow celebration "like New Year's Eve", but apparently forgets what it is the Russ is celebrating, because an adjacent column names Killian CZAR in large type. The connotation is not pleasant to those of us who are old enough to remember headlines under the Romanoffs.

Not every deserving character has got a seat on the bandwagon along with Killian, Willy Ley, Fritz Zwicky and the Prince of Hannover. Take John Yelliott, for instance, who is trying hard. Yelliott's racket is solar energy, and he told the Rotarians of L. A., 11-8-57, that "the Russians are probably using solar energy for powering their radio transmitter" in Sput II. "He said a bill for a solar energy commission and ten million dollars to finance it died in the last Congress."

John, you just don't know the right people. Get somebody to introduce you to Walter L. Reynolds, staff Director for the Senate Government Operations Committee, who submitted a report urging a Department of Science and Technology headed by a new Cabinet officer. *N.Y. Times*, 11-10-57.

Think big, John, and — good luck.

Nov. 9. *Nantucket Inquirer & Mirror.* Three persons report visual sightings. One of them is Jane Ashman who has been addressing the local Rotarians on the subject of flying saucers for the past year.

Nov. 9. *Jour-Amer.* The Pan-American 4 engine plane, "Romance of the Skies" disappeared about 1160 miles from Honolulu. 44 persons went down with it. No attempts made to relate the accident to Sput orbits.

Reuters quotes Tass that both Sputniks are being slowed down by Earth's atmosphere. Sput I originally 630 miles up now only a little more than 300. Tass says.

Mysterious bright object seen over Norway and Netherlands "could not have been Sput II which was not due for several hours".

Sput II reported silent by Navy, Washington.

Nov. 9. Jackson, Miss. Four "flying balls of fire" observed by many "zig-zagging through the air". No blessing from Whipple.

Defense Secretary Neil McElroy orders the Army to send up Jupiter C. The blushes of Hagen (Vanguard-Navy) are not recorded. Hayward (Calif) *Daily Review*, 11-9-57.

Over Hillsborough, near San Mateo, Calif, at 1:30 A.M. 11-9-57, what was called a "fireball" exploded within the view of householder Kenneth Patchett. It struck a nearby field and "smoked for three or four minutes". By daylight a "scar" was found, such as a six-inch shot-put might make, and scattered round about were "spotches" of molten metal which looked like lead".

A neighbor, called "a metals expert", said the phenom was definitely not a meteorite. The molten scraps were "identified as either aluminum or magnesium . . . Stanford Research Institute scientists were checking to determine if one of the two Russian satellites or their rockets might have passed over this area at 1:30 A.M." *San Mateo Times*, and *Burlingame Advance-Star*. *Cr. Bump.*

Nov. 10, (London) *Sunday Times*, says water pumps in New South Wales, made to obey radio impulses, are started by Sputs. Same story was told about garage doors in U.S.A. last Oct. And remember all the stalled motors in Texas?

Nov. 10. N.Y. *Times*. Moonwatch team Fort Worth, Texas, reports sighting Sput II by telescope. Hynek blesses.

Navy, Washington, issues time-table covering six places in and near United States where Sput II may be seen.

Soviet press asserts that they have 60,000 volunteers signed up willing to go aloft in a Sput.

AP from Ft. Bragg (sic), N.C. Ernest A. Duquet, Chief Engineer of the Bendix Air Traffic Control Department told the Armed Forces Communications and Electronic Association that "when the United States launches" its Sputnik it will transmit its signals only into the Western Hemisphere and Australia to conserve its batteries.

UP Chicago. The Illinois Bell Telephone Company has instituted a new service. When you dial for a weather report the location of Sputnik is added to the thermometer readings.

Nov. 10. N.Y. *Times* Reviews world reactions to Sputs — Britain, France, w. Germany, Egypt, India and Japan, and not one word of doubt is expressed anywhere.

N.Y. *Times* Magazine Section. Cover shows common people of Russia in the Moscow Planetarium viewing a model of Sput I — not quite as large as the globe in the Daily News lobby.

Nov. 11. *Jour-Amer*. Sput II radio now dead.

Hagen of Vanguard wants to send a man up.

*World-Tele*. Somebody asked Frank'in at Hayden if a meteor could have struck the missing plane. He said yes, but no mention of Sput or rockets.

Baltimore *Sun*. Two objects flying at great speed over Cyprus at noon yesterday. Reuters.

Hammond, Ind. *Times*. Police followed mysterious, lighted "air basket" from 7 P.M. last night. The object "beeped" without benefit of radio. It got away.

Reuters, Luebeck, Germany. An unidentified object exploded over Luebeck. "Part of the object — a metal tube with a number of small holes — fell in a suburban garden."

Nov. 12, San Francisco *Examiner* reveals why we had not previously heard from local radarscopes. Dr. Walter Orr Roberts had only finished building the big one at Boulder, Colorado, "ironically — a few days before the first Sputnik was hoisted." Still, the Doc asserts that his instrument "determined Sputnik's correct distance from the earth and other of its characteristics". He pulled it down from 100 miles to "no higher than perhaps 150 miles".

Dig that PERHAPS!

Aside from such temporary services the chief boast of this gadget it took the Air Force two years to build is that it is "capable of concentrating the dimmest of radio signals from outer space, will be able, for example, to study changes in faint radio stars (that is the invisible, dark ones, you know) caused by sun eruptions."

In Paris girls can buy sweaters with beep-beep-beep embroidered on them.

Nov. 12. *World-Tele*. David Dietz opens his column "Space travel is about to emerge from the realm of science-fiction and enter the area of science-fact."

Editorial same page "At a time when the public debt is pushing the ceiling and huge spending for new weapons is inescapable, it just does not make sense even to consider reducing taxes."

Nov. 12. *World-Tele*. Civil Service column "In the past few months the Defense Department has dismissed 60,000 employees and had planned further reduction of about 40,000. The firing has now stopped". Headline: Sputniks halt new defense civilian cuts.

Nov. 13. *Jour-Amer*. Signed article by Bob Conside quotes Russian authority — Never expected dog or Sput II to return to Earth.

Nov. 13. *World-Tele*. On Women's Page, columnist Mrs. Walter Ferguson displays very Fortean attitude. Decries battle for outer space and finished: "While we're reaching for the moon we may be stripped of all our possessions by our Internal Revenue agents and wouldn't it be something if we found out we had exchanged our butter for a dish of lunar green cheese?"

Nov. 13. *World-Tele*. p. 1 — 6 column wide photo of dog in "air-conditioned cabin" plus diagram of Sput II released by Moscow today.

AP Moscow quotes *Izvestia* that the first human space travellers would not be adventurers but the best people to be found in Soviet society.

*World-Tele*. Dietz says it would be easier to go around the moon and come back than land on it. How about that, brother Singer?

United States press make much of flight by General Curtis LeMay who flew a jet 6310 miles without refueling.

Nov. 14. *World-Tele*. Nine bodies and evidence of fire found in Pacific where plane crashed.

UP Washington states that two boys and a girl from Illinois have sent the government a check for \$3.00 and a request for deeds for 3 acres of the moon.

*World-Tele*. Dietz comes out for a space platform.

Nov. 14. *Jour-Amer*. INS reports that "such champion budget cutters as Byrd and Bridges have indicated they would vote for any reasonable request to overcome Soviet advance in scientific field". Budget ceiling of \$275,000,000,000 likely to be boosted.

From Cambridge, Mass., "officials said analysis of sightings reports indicate there may be 5 objects whirling around the globe." 1) Sput I, 2) Its carrier rocket, 3) Possibly the rockets con. 4) Sput II, 5) A second object related to Sput II.

Singer addressed a Washington, D.C. Rotary Club luncheon, proposing that U. S. get its Sput up as a sign of good will before Christmas . . . "questioned by newsmen (he) refused to say what kind of material would be used to make the satellite glow brightly at night but added that it was 'technically feasible.'" Singer's home base is U of Maryland.

A letter from Russell 11-15-57 gives us this capsule reaction of the Britishers:

"The official attitude is that we've got to feel scared and vote for bigger and better armaments. The man in the street is asking with only mild interest, 'Dear me, I wonder what they'll do next.'"

A "flying cigar" over East Borneo shot smoke through holes. Reuters 11-15-57.

Nov. 14. *Jour-Amer.* Editorial. "One of several benefits of Sputnik has been to arouse attention to deficiencies in our educational system. Here also we have been sleeping too long."

Nov. 15. *World-Tele.* Killian sworn in by President in Washington.

Nov. 15. *Jour-Amer.* New York City Board of Education announces that public schools will introduce studies in space travel.

Nov. 15. *Jour-Amer.* INS Tamaroa, Ill., "real bright light shaped like full moon higher than the trees seen by a woman, and the local power failed for 10 minutes. Investigation crews could find no apparent cause."

Nov. 15. *World-Tele.* Dietz gets even more fanciful in describing that space platform.

Nov. 17. N.Y. *Times* shows new Russian postage stamp. 40 kopeks commemorating Sput.

Senator Butler, on radio and in interview later, said "I would like to see our armed forces shoot down Sputnik II . . . Scientists know to the split second where the Sputnik is . . . I believe the day is coming — and soon — when we can down it." *Baltimore Sun*, 11-17-57.

The Vatican "forecast" that it would name, as patron saint for spacemen, St. Joseph of Cupertino, who was able to stand on air. *Sunday Dispatch*, 11-17-57. *Cr Sharp*.

AP Moscow "The second Soviet satellite is of such durable material that fragments of it may return to the earth, Prof Kirill P. Stanyukovich, a Soviet scientist said in a lecture reported in the Russian press today." That is the first time any scientist has suggested that possibility.

Nov. 17. *News.* Dr. Francis Reichelderfer, Chief of the United States Weather Bureau told reporters that the use of television on Sputs will make it possible to predict the weather from 3 months to a year.

Nov. 17. *News.* Vanguard has received 30 offers from Americans to be shot aloft. Young and old. Two girls in Akron, Ohio, a convict in Maine, and one man in Massachusetts who wants a million dollars, but most would go free.

Nov. 17. *Sunday.* Sput almost disappears from papers. Also very light on November 18 but Richard E Gray of the Nutley Research Center for International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation is quoted by *World-Tele* that long distance telephone calls of the future may be bounced off Sputs.

Nov. 19. N.Y. *Post.* The House Investigating Committee looking into Sputs discovered that on October 9, 5 days after Russia announced Sput I in Washington, Harold M. Helfman, deputy director of the Office of Information Service at Headquarters of the Air Research and Development Command in Baltimore, sent a memo to the Commander of the Air Force Ballistic Missile Development at Inglewood, Calif., reading: "President desires that Air Force personnel refrain from making public comment on the satellite program of the United States and other countries."

Nov. 20. *World-Tele.* Representative John E Moss, Democrat, Calif, speaking to the AP managing editors association in New Orleans alleged that

the Air Force got information of Russian satellite launching plans months ahead of time but that the President, guided by Robert Cutler, imposed "blue print of secrecy until Sput I sailed across the skies". He also blames Under-Secretary of State Christian A Herter, Head of the National Security Council. Incidentally, Whipple attended this AP pow-wow in New Orleans also.

Nov. 20. *Jour-Amer.* Dr. Ralph B. Bowersox, Chief of Instrument Development at the California Institute of Technology Jet Propulsion Laboratory says that Russia is only months rather than years ahead of United States in space exploration, and predicts that students now in college will make round trips to the moon.

While the weather bureau in Detroit was recording no gust of wind above 32 mph, a freakish gale tore into the east end of town killing one and injuring 20. Planes on the ground and autos were overturned, factory roofs torn off, trees uprooted, windows smashed, etc. It was over in 15 seconds and people three blocks away were not aware that anything had happened. Began 5:50 p.m. 11-20-57. Not a tornado, sez weather bureau.

A very similar freak wind, but not so violent, did damage in a small area of Melbourne, Australia, five days later, 11-25-57. One woman thought it was Sput falling. *Liverpool Echo*.

Nov. 22. *Jour-Amer.* Only mention of Sput comes from Tokyo Observatory suggesting that Sput I may have crashed into meteor or is flying far below its estimated orbit.

Meteor reported seen over Highland Park, N. J. Nov. 22. *World-Tele.* 8 column headline: "AF Meteors Go 3300 mph." Alleged that on October 16 the Air Force launched God knows how many aluminum pellets with a rocket 54 miles up, and these "may have gone into interplanetary space".

By Neil MacNeil, UP, alleged that Rand Corporation of Santa Monica, Calif., gave the Air Force on June 21 a 24-page report complete with sketches of a dog harnessed for space travel and revealing that Russia would begin launchings on September 17. Sput I pretended to go up 17 days later.

Nov. 23. *Jour-Amer.* Page 1 — 4 column diagram of artificial meteors under 8 column headline: US Speeds Meteor Blast at Moon.

Fritz Zwicky is given credit for this piece of garbage and writer James Bagley does his best to bury the date October 16 and make appear that the "blast" has just occurred. "At least two of the pellets were believed to have escaped the pull of gravity.", etc.

Nov. 25. *World-Tele.* By Al Salerno. Hynek asserts 14 Moonwatch stations saw the rocket of Sputnik I last night. Locations not stated but Canton, Ohio, reported what might have been Sput II. Same story predicts Sput I will reach its "explosive finale" before December 11.

In his spare time, when Whipple is not feeding data into an electronic brain, or attending cocktail parties at the Russian embassy in Washington, or AP Conventions in New Orleans, he saws cross-sections out of meteorites, attempting to learn their history as geologists study petrified trees. *News*, 11-

24-57.

The Army, at Fort Monmouth, announced its new system of weather forecasting and recording "by electronic brains" — called Radiosonde. *Times*, 11-24-57.

On the other hand, meteorologist Richard Hambridge, in charge of the weather at Blue Canyon, Calif., told a reporter, 10-3-57, that he couldn't tell if we would have a hard winter until he looked into some squirrel nests to see how many nuts they had put away. *Baltimore Sun*.

Nov. 25. *World-Tele*. Ballistic Robert Martin in Riverside Park near 152nd Street felt stings in his arm and thigh. Upon examination discovered he had been shot. Went to Italian Hospital. Not stated if bullet found.

Dietz: "It is imperative for the welfare and security of the nation that Congress greatly increase the funds available to the National Science Foundation," etc.

Nov. 25. *Jour-Amer*. Alleged sighting Sput I rocket over Empire State Building.

AP Washington. American scientists prepared today to feed new scientific data into an electronic brain in an effort to predict more carefully when Sput I rocket carrier will fall.

Haley the Lunar Lawyer told Harvard Law School that by planting the Soviet flag on the moon the Russians would be able to lay claim to it. There is no record of laughter in this account. *Liverpool Echo*, 11-26-57.

Nov. 27. *Jour-Amer*. Cambridge, Mass., predicts Sput I rocket visible in the North East about 4:50 p.m. "May make a fiery death plunge over the weekend, possibly Sunday."

Nov. 27. *World-Tele*. Goes so far in headline — Rocket in Final Trip Here Tonight.

Nov. 29. *World-Tele*. AP London "ball of fire" over Wales and West England. Thought to be end of rocket but Jodrell Bank Observatory said no. "We think the ball of fire was really Sput II circling its orbit." Moscow Radio agreed, saying Sput II visible to naked eye in some parts of the world.

The British Royal Observatory did not agree with either the Jodrell boys or Moscow. An official there said they attached no importance to the ball of fire. "We get two or three reports like that most nights." *London Times*, 11-30-57.

The (London) *Daily Express* flatly contradicts London AP as quoted just above in the *World-Tele*. An *Express* reporter asked Lovell of Jodrell if the ball of fire could have been a Sput. "It is most unlikely," Jodrell replied. "I think it was a large meteorite."

"We are extremely uncertain about the position of Rocket I. We cannot exclude the possibility that it has come in."

YS understands "come in" to mean either grounded or disintegrated. Lovell goes on, "At that time (2:35 A.M. 11-29-57) the first rocket and Satellite I were in the southern hemisphere and Satellite II was 1000 miles north of Jodrell Bank and 700 miles up."

Yet, London AP tells USA papers that Jodrell thinks it was Sput II and Moscow agrees. They should have asked Whipple.

Whatever it was, it stripped the paint off a

trawler in the Irish Sea near the Isle of Man, and just before that, when seen by police near Cowbridge, Giamorgan, it was estimated to be no more than 100 feet from the ground.

Sailors who had seen many shooting stars and meteors all said they never had seen anything like this.

Nov. 29. *Jour-Amer*. Whipple speaking: Rocket now 120 miles above Earth. In its last hours but impossible to predict when it might "make its flaming plunge toward Earth".

Vanguard launching set for next Wednesday. November 29 is Friday.

The French anarchist monthly, *Defense de l'Homme*, October issue, contains a long article, *L'Artifice du satellite*, by Pierre-Valentin Berthier, which is neither pro-Russ nor pro-US. French-reading members will appreciate this third point of view. The October issue will cost you 70 francs, but a full year is only 800 (\$2.00). Order direct from them, Louis Dorlet, domaine de la Bastille, Magagnosc (Alpes-Maritimes), France.

Dec. 1. *News*. Whipple believes rocket struck Pacific Ocean off South American coast after 7:11 p.m. originally weighed 7500 lbs. "Sput I and Sput II are still orbiting in outer space. The dog has since died."

We are not told how Mr. Whipple knows the dog is dead. No sound has been heard since Nov. 9, but in the midst of so many miracles, surely the Russ can suspend animation indefinitely.

Dec. 1. *N.Y. Times*. Professor A. C. B. Lovell, Director of Jodrell, has that radio telescope tuned on the track of the rocket and picked up what he calls revolutions #869,871 and 872 on November 30. Moscow Radio of even date stated modestly the rocket was approaching revolution #868.

Whipple bases new timetable on Jodrell statistics. Jodrell says descending rapidly.

Dec. 1. *Times*. By Harold M. Schmeck, Jr. Probably it will become white hot and therefore meteor-like in appearance. Whether it will be entirely consumed is a subject of considerable disagreement among scientists.

AP Washington now announces that "more than a year before" November 5, 1953, 2 monkeys and 2 mice had been shot 36 miles into the upper atmosphere. Called a record for living creatures at that time. One monkey still alive at Smithsonian's National Zoo.

Dec. 2. *Jour-Amer*. AP Washington. Both British and American scientists think rocket down. "There were several reports of flaming objects over the weekend. One from Fairbanks, Alaska coincided with predicted passage of the rocket over that city."

Green ball white flash over Northeast Montana. Exploding object over Portland, Maine, yellowish white. Red hot object plunged into swamp south of Hamburg, Germany.

INS Washington. Pentagon will not confirm Vanguard to go up Wednesday.

Dec. 2. *Jour-Amer*. "American tax-payers were cautioned today by a Congressional tax authority not to entertain rosy hopes of income tax reduction next year or possibly even for some years to come." You can say that again!

Dec. 2. *National Guardian* quotes Whipple at

New Orleans: "You have no way in which you can blame spies and saboteurs for their advance."

Dec. 2. *World-Tele.* Front page photos of Vanguard's Sput measuring 6.4 inches. Also launching device. AP from Cape Canaveral confirms Wednesday launching.

Rocket expert Krafft A. Ehrlicke displayed a model of a man-carrying interplanetary vehicle which he says can reach Mars in 252 days and give man a round-trip in 500 days, this to come within 15 years, that will be the year 43 F.S.

Dec. 3. *World-Tele.* UP from Cambridge introduces Dr. Charles A. Whitney who predicts next sighting of Sput II dawn Thursday.

AP. Cape Canaveral, "satellite crew ironing out last snags."

Radio Moscow no longer mentions either Sput I or its rocket.

Dec. 3. *Jour-Amer.* J. Richard Feeley, Amesbury, Mass, has insured his home with Lloyds of London against damage caused by a satellite or other objects from outer space.

Whipple's guess that it had dropped in Pacific would be on trip #879, but a broadcast from Moscow in the Finnish language December 2, stated rocket had completed 900 trips.

Dec. 3. *Jour-Amer* editorial complains that Defense Secretary McElroy has not yet named "a single manager for space projects" although he promised to do so a month ago.

Dec. 4. Wednesday. *Jour-Amer.* Front page story playing up suspense "11-hour count down at Cape Canaveral".

Sput II to be visible next Wednesday. Not seen today.

Dec. 4. *World-Tele.* Vanguard delayed by bugs. Two diagrams show where it is going.

London picked up radio Moscow assertion Sput I rocket still orbiting. No comment from Jodrell.

Dec. 4. *Jour-Amer.* By Berryle Stanley Rukeyser, Hearst Newspaper economic commentator: "At the present time there are 70 billions of carry-over unspent funds in the hands of administrative departments."

Dec. 5. Thursday. *Jour-Amer.* Maybe Vanguard will be launched tomorrow. Already called Sputernick by Japanese newspapers.

American Rocket Society now in annual session in New York City.

Dec. 5. *World-Tele.* Stine, fired above, interviewed by D. J. Knickerbocker, also photo of him, says if U.S. doesn't get busy Reds will rule the world in 5 years.

Dec. 6. *World-Tele.* Editorial. Highflying purple prose about the new frontier of outer space.

Vanguard exploded at launching site. Missile stocks dip but recover. Mysterious lights in the sky reported from Wilmington, Dela, New Brunswick, N. J., Philadelphia, and other places. Cambridge, Mass, says could not be Sputs.

Vanguards cost \$2,000,000 each.

Dec. 6. *Jour-Amer.* AP Moscow "Communist Party Secretary Nikita Krushchev charged tonight that part of Sput I carrier rocket fell on the United States last Sunday but the Americans did not want to give it back to us."

Dec. 7. AP Tokyo. "Children of Nakahama

Nursery (were caused to) pool(ed) their savings and (to) offer(ed) them to the government to start Japan building an earth satellite. The local paper counted up the contribution: 310 yen (86 cents)." Don't laugh. Those kids are now indoctrinated, and if the USA Department of Education hasn't already started the same thing in USA nurseries, they will.

Dec. 8. N.Y. *Times*, front page story with map showing where Krushy says pieces of rocket landed in Alaska and Canada, Dec. 1. The Army up there found nothing, but admitted a meteor at about that time.

"A similar end is expected for the first satellite itself at the end of the month."

The world got a belly laugh out of the Vanguard flop, but Whipple and Hagen and their superiors must have been prepared for that when they attended the cocktail party to hear about the alleged launching of Sput I. It is perfectly clear from this resume of the "evidence" that the USA could have laughed both Sputs out of the papers at any time the Scientists wished. The inescapable conclusion is that the present status was the aim.

It never was a satellite that either country hoped to launch. What they set out to launch is a fairy-tale era for all mankind in which practically everybody "believes".

December 6 is the new Easter. The Vanguard flop is the new Resurrection. When you saw those flames on TV you were watching the Stone being Rolled Away. From now on you live in the New Faith. Killian is God — and to hell with reason.

If the rest of the world were not so eager to laugh at the USA, it would see the sanctity of the Vanguard occasion and stifle its guffaws. Nothing of a truly comical character occurred. They are laughing because Uncle Shylock failed to "launch a satellite", but that is not the essence of the failure. To "launch a satellite", in the Russian sense, requires a network of friends around the earth to provide the evidence that it is up there. Hams to hear beeps, and perhaps to send them; Moonwatchers to see lights — and who knows how much shredded tinsel at air bases around the globe?

All that Uncle failed to do at Cape Canaveral was fire a rocket, something he has done a thousand times. There is nothing to prevent him from doing it tomorrow — and sending an elephant into oblivion. What Uncle lacks is that network of cooperative witnesses — especially in Siberia. One can only guess how long it will take to prepare our "proof of orbit on a railroad timetable basis" internationally, or how many Vanguards must be burned on their pads at \$2,000,000 each before we have our witnesses in the bag, but that is the real cause of the delay, and rest assured we'll overcome it.

12-9-57. The Russ admitted they were not sure that Americans had found any pieces.

Dec. 13. N.Y. *Times.* By Richard Witkin. Scientists urge United States Space Agency — 27 members of the National Academy of Sciences have sent Killian a recommendation that he set up "a new civilian agency to contact a vast program of space research and exploration". They want a billion dollars per year for ten years. Since they are not likely to disband at the end of ten years they will

then ask for additional billions.

Westinghouse in Baltimore has been paid by the Navy to carry the theory of measuring the invisible to new heights. A new unit has been developed which is attached to guns to check the accuracy of their firing at planes in the air. With this device, neither target nor ammunition is necessary. You aim the gun, mechanically of course, read the dials, and see the score of hits. None of that old-fashioned looking to see if the plane actually came down. The electronic brain tells you whether it came down or not, without a shot being fired. *N.Y. Times*, 12-14-57.

A bright object came over Turkey from the direction of the Soviet in the night 12-14-15-57, exploded in a forest near Musa. *N.Y. Times*, 12-16-57.

Near Langdon, N. D., about midnight, 12-13-14-57, greenish light seen falling. Investigation turned up burned area around haystack, "gray clinkers" found, called "mostly magnesium oxide . . . not meteoritic or of any ordinary fuel." Either a rocket or a hoax is suggested. *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, 12-16-57.

The radarscope at Boulder Colorado, is pictured on p. 1 of the *N.Y. Times*, 12-16-57, and the text says how valuable it was in recording beeps. Follows a series of mysteries criss-crossed with double talk that are still being studied. Nothing they recorded appears to have been what it "should" have been and the study is to explain the reality in terms of the Big Russ Lie.

Now it appears that the trawler in the Irish Sea did not lose its paint. The paint changed color — but 30 hours later it turned white again. *St. Paul Dispatch*, 12-17-57.

Dec. 17, INS. At Ohio State U they have a radarscope which is said to be tracking both Sputs still. No sound and no sightings, but Dr. John D. Krauss can tell by ionization that Sput II "is falling more rapidly than anticipated".

Dec. 18. Whipple sez Sput I "will plunge to its death the first week in January" — and AP boasts that he "foretold the death Nov. 30 of the final stage rocket that launched the satellite, pinpointing its final plunge almost a week in advance."

That was some pinpoint. So far as Whipple knows the thing is still up there — and he had put it down in the Pacific Ocean long before Moscow began crying to send it back.

Dec. 18. When the Soviet cited 922 of its citizens for outstanding achievements in the past year, nobody connected with either Sput was mentioned, nor even the alleged feat itself.

Whipple says Sput II will be visible "in southern part" of USA "in the next few days" — pinpointing as usual. *N.Y. Times*, 12-18-57.

Over Riverside, Calif, 12-18-57, a pilot saw about twelve blobs of foam-like substance floating in the air, the largest "a cubic yard or more". He flew around them and then through one. "It broke up like a mass of bubbles."

A half hour earlier a similar substance fell near Pedley. "Like soap foam" — did not disintegrate unless touched, then disappeared quickly leaving an odor "like Martha Washington geraniums when you crush them between your fingers". Harry Lawton, who wrote the story, mentions Charles Fort. River-

side *Daily Enterprise*, 12-19-57. Cr. M. Smith.

As if he had been working on it ever since, Theodore Harz of Canada's Defense Research Board, says the skylight of November 30 was not the Sput I carrier but a meteor. *Jour-Amer*. 12-19-57.

Dec. 23. Whipple's outfit reports that Sput II was seen by Moonwatch teams "across the country", and gives new timetable for viewing in Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Los Angeles, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. *World-Tele*. 12-23-57. That tired trail!

No confirmations of predictions appeared in Press. Next mention of Sput is Jan. 2, when Whipple said Sput I "may die quietly today unseen by human eyes . . . has been lost for the past month . . . doesn't think Russian scientists have any better knowledge of their missing moon." *Jour-Amer*. 1-2-58.

Brilliant fireball seen in Missouri and Illinois the night before. Local Moonwatcher said it might be Sput I but only if calculations were off by 20 to 25 degrees. Dr. Donald Lautman standing in for Whipple at Cambridge said he was "quite confident" not Sput. *World-Tele*. 1-2-58.

U of Michigan is getting a radarscope, second in size only to Jodrell, which measures 250 feet according to AP.

Jan. 3. AP. Lovell of Jodrell thinks Sput I is already down.

Jan. 5. *N.Y. Times*. Business section headline "Thousands Attend Computer School". The major manufacturers of electronic brains are —

Burroughs  
IBM  
Remington Rand  
Radio Corporation of America

and all teach their customers how to feed in the data for pinpoint accuracy.

The *News*, fresh out of Sput reports, set Frank Holeman to find out who dreamed up the Geophysical Year. Well, sir, that also was at a cocktail party, in Silver Springs, Md. April 5, 1950. James A. Van Allen was the host, and Lloyd V. Berkner the sparkplug. From then on, the big names in order of their conversion were Sydney Chapman (British), Joseph Kaplan, U of Calif, and the Defense Department, the Bureau of Standards (they are in charge at Boulder, Colo) and the Weather Bureau — and Lord, how the money rolled in and out.

Hagen gets his picture in the story but the text does not date his baptism or identify his former associations with "non-profit" organizations. Berkner, however, the man who announced Sput I to the Russ embassy by tapping on his cocktail glass eight years later — was already head of the "non-profit" outfit that runs Brookhaven for the Atomic Energy Commission. *N.Y. News*, 1-5-58.

Perhaps James A. Van Allen is a "dollar-a-year-man" in Washington. DOUBT is not "Confidential", and exposure of individuals is not our aim, but all these names fall into place if you care for the unsavory job of tracing them. Take Robert K. Plumb for instance. He signs pieces in the *N.Y. Times*. In fact, he was one of the experts who had his copy ready for the *Times*, Oct. 5.

On January 7, Mr. Plumb had the honor to break

out the plans for a radarscope that will turn Lovell of Jodrell back to studying stars he can see. This one is to be 600 feet wide, mounted on a railroad track, designed by Jacob Feld, and it will cost so much to build that nobody has dared mention the subject in Washington so far. But they will, of course, because this 600-footer is a conception of the non-profit Brookhaven boys, Lloyd V. Berkner High Priest.

Mr. Plumb puts the matter this way, in part—  
 "... construction must be put off because it still has under construction in Green Bank, W. Va., a steerable radio telescope with a reflector eighty-five feet in diameter. The University of Michigan will start to build a similar eighty-five foot radio telescope next June. And Associated Universities (non-profit) is seeking a contractor (SIC) to build a 140-foot instrument . . . in the future . . . The largest operating in the U.S. is the sixty-foot paraboloid at Harvard . . . In contrast . . . British have a 250-footer at Jodrell Bank, and Soviet scientists have available a 350-foot instrument."

Catch? Doesn't that make your red-white-and-blue blood boil? Plumb doesn't say how he knows the dimensions of the Red Monster, but perhaps Associated (non-profit) built it for them.

Plumb goes on: "The two eighty-five foot instruments . . . were financed by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. But no large-scale Federal support for radio telescope construction has been available here until recently, it was reported . . . Astronomy has long been regarded as a basic science whose applications could not be foreseen. (Beautiful?) However, this may not be true of recent studies by radio and optical astronomy of the sun and other stars." *Times*, 1-7-58.

On the other hand, "Rev. Robert Busa, professor of Philosophy at Alobianum College, Gallarate, Italy . . . docked at Pier 84 (1-8-58) . . . Father Busa was carrying cards on which he has transcribed . . . badly mutilated words on the (Dead Sea) scrolls. These cards later will be fed into a special 705 data-processing IBM machine, which will analyze the words and try to make sense out of them. The 705 is the latest development in a new field called language engineering, which is expected to speed up the literary analysis that has occupied scholars for centuries." *World-Tele*.

YS also hears that "lie-detectors" are to be sold to barbers to apply to customers who come in and say, "shave" when they obviously need hair cuts.

On Jan. 11, "listeners" (hams?) in Britain, Sweden, Norway, Finland, West Germany, Canada and the United States began hearing beep-beep, "like the voice of Sputniks" at about 20.025 megacycles. According to AP London, whose reliability has been demonstrated above, "many wondered whether a new satellite might have been fired" — but the Swedish government, of all people, came up with the explanation. "It was just the electronic groan of an idling Russian teleprinter (which we would call a teletype)." *N.Y. News*, 1-12-58.

Any reason why the previous beeps could not have come from the same source, Mr. Sweden?

In the same issue of the *Sunday News*, Willy Ley begins a comic-strip on space stations, along with Dick Tracy and the Teenie-Weenies. At last one

"natural law" is vindicated — water has found its own level.

Next day, headline in the *Times*: Killian's Duties Are Taking Shape, by John W. Finney. "Dr. James R. Killian Jr., as he completes his second month as scientific adviser to the President has one obvious accomplishment. He has set up one of the fastest-moving, expensive travel bureaus on the Washington scene." 1-13-58.

Overleaf, the *Times* announces from Sunnyvale, Calif., that still another MIT prof has stepped into the breach, as head of a new special committee on space technology. The expert is Dr. H. Guyford Stever and his appointment was announced by (how old-guard can you get?) Jimmy Doolittle, although Doolittle is "retired" from the military he remains Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. "Dr. Stever's new committee will have about fifteen members, each a leader in some aspect of the broad field of space flight, General Doolittle said."

In the same issue of the *Times*, Burroughs Corporation, makers of "Electronic Computers and Other Systems for Processing Data", takes advertising space of nearly a page to boast of its major part in launching an Atlas — "Its success depends especially on the absolute flawlessness of its giant electronic guidance system."

The Atlas is here called an "Intercontinental Ballistic Missile", and newscasters had been calling it that for months before it ever left the ground. How in the name of reason can an object that has never been off the ground be called "intercontinental"?

Jan. 14, Kraus of Ohio State announced, without mentioning Whipple, that Sput I came down in eight pieces, between January 7th and January 10. His own radarscope was aided in this discovery by the National Bureau of Standards and radio station W W V in Washington. *N.Y. Times*, 1-15-58.

Most of the certainty has been knocked out of Whipple by this time. Cambridge announced that Sput II, "about" 395 miles up, would be visible "in the northern part of the country . . . possibly tomorrow." *N.Y. Times*, 1-17-58.

YS concludes this analysis by pondering the Monthly Letter from an old, old, very respectable — but not very bright — brokerage house. The February letter is headed "Beneficiaries of Our Missile Economy", and it studies at length and depth who is going to make the dough out of rockets and fuels. This is supposed to guide its customers to the best buys in the current stock market. The letter does not contain one word about the makers of either electronic brains or radarscopes. Forgive them, Holy Killian, for they know not what they do.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Vast quantities of data on subjects of continuing interest to the membership have collected over the years, too abundant and too various for YS to treat adequately in DOUBT without your help. What we need is volunteers who will make themselves specialists in one or more of these fields, as Markham has specialized in ship and plane vanishments, and Scandrett in "Down the Drain", the

waste in "surpluses" of the armed forces and other governmental agencies.

A list of these topics appears below. Pick out one or more of special interest to you and apply to YS for the data now on hand. Under safeguards for the return of the data, the material will be sent to responsible applicants for sorting and digesting. Ideally, each specialist should submit a resume on his subject every quarter or two for publication in DOUBT.

Some work is involved in doing the job well. For instance, the category of Ballistics (the phenomena of "bullets" from nowhere) was assigned for a time to a member who attempted to follow up each by correspondence with the police and newspapers nearest the event. In the case of Ballistics the uppermost question is almost invariably whether or not a missile has been found, either probed from a wound or lying about in the vicinity. First accounts are seldom explicit on that all-important point. Newsmen frequently write of "shots" and "bullets" when no shot has been heard and no pellet recovered. So, it is necessary to pursue that point if the data are to be of ultimate value.

The member who had Ballistics in hand was a very busy man, as aren't we all, and he did not have much luck in getting responses to his inquiries. He finally gave it up and returned the data to us.

Members with more leisure and greater determination may get better results. These observations are made only to point out that it isn't easy, and you would be mistaken in undertaking the obligation without considerable natural equipment for seeing it through.

Here are some of the categories which we hope to keep up to date by this method. Let us hear from you.

1. Falls (assigned)
2. Colored Precipitation (assigned)
3. Cancer
4. Polio
5. Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies
6. Lie Detectors and Truth Drugs
7. Medical Bloopers (Such as leaving towels, instruments and rubber gloves inside patients, or injecting jaundiced blood plasma, or getting hold of the wrong bottle.)
8. Lethal Foods
  - A. Contamination, dirt, etc.
  - B. Insecticides on fruit etc.
9. Inoculations
10. Frontal Lobotomy (and related brain surgery)
11. Sea Serpents
12. Critters (unidentified land "monsters")
13. Pre-Columbian Discoveries of the so-called Western Hemisphere
14. Abdominable Snowman
15. Ballistics
16. Pyrotics (assigned—but are you still active?)
17. Wonets (unexplained fires where little girls live)
18. Bees (lethal, wasps, etc.)
19. Lightning
20. Tombstones
21. Displaced Animals (found out of their usual habitat)
22. Not so Extinct
23. Mass Mental Control (by mechanical, electrical or chemical means)
24. Ship and Plane Vanishments (assigned)
25. Red Tides (including all phenomena of many fish dead or dying)
26. Conscientious Objectors
27. Taxes (refusors, etc.)
28. Dowsing
29. Compass Variations (terrestrial magnetism)
30. Gravity
31. Space Travel
32. Face of the Moon
33. Sunspots
34. Abuse of (so-called) Civil Liberties
35. Monetary Theories (and reform, includes the Federal Reserve Board)
36. White Elephant of Palomar (and other observatories)
37. Life on "Other Planets"
38. Shape and Dimensions of Earth (assigned)
39. FBI
40. Police Brutality (including abuses in institutions such as asylums)
41. Human Vanishment (not merely "missing persons" but those similar to the Bathurst case)
42. Amerinds
43. Comets and "New" Stars
44. Animal Navigation (bird migrations, homing dogs and cats, lemming "suicides" etc.)
45. Drought Followed by Floods (sometimes after "prayer")
46. Meteorites (that means on the ground)
47. Radio-Astronomy (includes Radar)
48. Bangs (unaccountable sounds like explosions)
49. Stenches (includes smog)
50. Quakes and Volcanos
51. Wonder-drugs
52. Lunacy (aberrations attributed to moon-phases)
53. Quadrature of the Circle and Perpetual Motion
54. Hiccups and Sleepers
55. Drips and Seeps (includes gas and gasoline as well as water)
56. Natural History in Water Pipes (assigned)
57. Common Cold
58. Vivisection and Cruelty to Animals
59. Velocity of Light
60. It's Nice Work (if You Can Get It) (assigned)
61. Coincidences
62. Civil Defense (and related boondoggles)
63. Moving Mountains
64. Sinks (subsidences of land areas)
65. Astrology
66. Censorship
67. Stigmatics
68. Disposal of Atomic Waste (in peace as well)
69. UFOs, Saucers etc. (assigned)
70. Menace of Nuclear Tests
71. Semantics (assigned)

Other categories will be added as they come to our attention, but the above are crying for willing hearts and able hands right now.

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