

Missiles Common
Thing In Mexico;
Firing Welcomed

By SAM MARLER
United Press International
White Sands Missile Range,
N.M. — (UPI) — Missiles are no
more disturbing than road-
runners to some New Mexico
residents who calmly antici-
pate another historic first this
spring — firing of ballistic mis-
siles over their homes.
Residents of the Alamogor-
do area, known as the "birth-
place of the space age," heard
the world's first atomic bomb
blast in 1945. In May the
first tests of military surface-
to-surface ballistic missiles
fired over American homes
began.
The Army's solid-fuel Ser-
geant missiles will be launched
from south of Datil, N.M. —
about 100 miles west of tar-
gets on the vast White Sands
proving grounds.
A United Press International
survey of southern New Mex-
icans showed that citizens are
not alarmed, and some
are even eager for the tests
to start.
Missiles Common
Rancher John Prather, 87,
who lives on a ranch in the
middle of McGregor missile
range adjacent to White
Sands, said, "Missiles have
been flying over my head
for years. They're just as com-
mon as a roadrunner down
here."
(The determined rancher
claims he will shoot it out
with the Army rather than
move. He has turned thumbs
down on the \$100,000 the
Army has offered him for
the 15-acre ranch.)
"I'm gonna stay here till
I die," he proclaims. "They
(the missiles) don't bother me
a damn bit."
No Criticism
Alamogordo Mayor Richard
Stanley pointed out, "The
idea of firing long-range mis-
siles across the state has been
favored by the New Mexico
municipal league." Stanley
said he had heard no criticism
of the program.
At New Mexico Institute of
Technology and Mines at So-
corro, Magazine Editor Teri
Ray said, "Assuming the pro-
ject is conducted under con-
trolled conditions, damn the
torpedoes — go ahead!"
Robert Huxford, a depart-
ment store owner at Grants
said, "If necessary — fine!"
Officers at White Sands
said the tests are both neces-
sary and safe. A spokesman
said although the missiles
have been fired successfully
over water, they could not
be recovered. He said it was
necessary to test gyro systems
in the rockets by firing them
from angles and directions
that can be attained only on
land.
The spokesman said a series
of control instruments should
be installed along the routes
to direct the missiles. There
is virtually no chance, he said,
of a missile falling on civilian-
owned land.
July Test in Utah
In the first phase of the
tests, three Sergeant missile
shots will be made over a
period of several months. In
July, tests on the Army's
Pershing missile will start
from a launch site near
Blanding, Utah, in the Four
Corners area where Arizona,
Colorado, Utah and New
Mexico join borders.
An experimental Air Force
missile also will be tested
from time to time in the next
two years. It will be fired
from Green River, Utah, and
pass over southeastern Utah
and northwestern New Mex-
ico.
Eventually, space authori-
ties plan to fire polaris mis-
siles from submarines off the
West Coast — across Califor-
nia, Nevada, and Arizona — to
White Sands.
Officials began a briefing
citizens throughout New Mex-
ico this month on the tests.

**Fountain Pens
Fifty Years Old**
Fort Madison, Ia. — (UPI) — The
modern fountain pen is cele-
brating its fiftieth birthday
this year.
It was just a half-century
ago that W. A. Shaeffer in-
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