

# Report On U.S. Reaction To Red Sputniks Related

Editor's Note — How does the average American feel about having a couple of Russian moons in space? Worried? Confident that we will do as well, or better? Top AP reporters took samplings in two average cities in widely separated parts of the country. Here's what they found.

By SAUL PETT  
SHEBOYGAN, Wis., Nov. 14 (AP)—The people in this industrial community of 45,000—"The worst city in the world," as sausage fans know it—read about, talk about, wonder about Soviet satellite, but there is little sign of deep concern.

Attention Sputnik in Sheboygan and the first reaction is a broad grin and frequently a joke. Among many people, there is a refusal to admit that the United States is really behind the Russians in outer space or, if it is, that it will stay behind long.

"I think we're catching up with them but we're just not letting it out," said Mrs. August Miller, pretty brunette waitress at the Hotel Foeste.

"After all, this is the United States. We haven't been licked yet. Sure, the Russians are smart. But what it took them five years to make, we'll probably make in a year."

While concerned, John was certain America would catch up. "Russia puts out a lot more engineers and scientists than we do but we got the smarter ones. That's what our science teacher says."

"I don't think we've really been told how far we've progressed in missiles," said W. F. Schlundt, vice president of the Security National Bank.

"Is there a special female reaction?" "I just haven't thought about it much," said Joyce Menice, saleswoman at Rudnick's jewelry store.

"Other women I know don't talk about it, I think it's more a man's subject."

Said Mrs. Arthur Schildbach, a housewife, while buying ribbons in a gift shop: "Oh, yes, I read about it—and how they're naming hamburgers and drinks and other things after Sputnik. But I don't think or worry about it. After all, you vote your government in. Let them take care of it. They get paid for it, after all."

There have been no letters written to the editor of the Sheboygan Press about Sputnik. Only a few phone calls, said Harold R. Maier, managing editor. One caller said he hadn't seen Sputnik but did hear some dogs barking.

"I'm not too disturbed," said the Rev. T. Parry Jones of the First Methodist Church. "One thing it's done, it's turned some people's eyes up to the sky for the first time since their courting days."

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP)—A full moon hung in the sky like a big silver ball over the Great Smoky Mountains the other night. The driver switched off the lights of the bus for a moment and drove easily in the white brilliance.

"Biggest moon I ever saw," he said. "You suppose it's ours?" The passengers in the bus laughed. A man said: "I'll bet ours will be twice that big when we get it going." The conversation ended there.

When the average man in the South speaks about the Russian satellites at all today—and you don't hear much talk of them—he is more likely to joke than to express anxiety or outright fear.

Sputnik has stirred curiosity certainly, some awe over the thought of man-made objects whirling in space but no great alarm.

For one thing, the military implications apparently are by no means widely understood. At a cigar counter in Gainesville, Ga., a few days ago, a man was saying: "They've got a gadget whizzing around out there somewhere. So what? Are they going to bomb us tomorrow? I don't see the connection."

In Chattanooga, Tenn., a farmer said: "I just don't believe in that

stuff. Sounds to me like more Russian propaganda."

A local situation frequently colors the attitude of the people. For instance, in the whole region around the national laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tenn., one of the centers of atomic research, the man on the street plainly reflects the attitude of scientists and technicians working nearby.

"I'm glad the Russians did it," said a man from Kingsport, Tenn. He went on to say that, in his opinion, American scientists have not been given the unhindered opportunity to develop research projects.

In a curious way, the fact the Russians put a dog inside Sputnik II seems to have impressed people in this region more than the fact that they succeeded in get-

ting the bigger satellite into its orbit.

"Think of that poor dog," said a Gatlinburg housewife. "That's a cruel thing to do."

Sputnik may have contributed to a decline in President Eisenhower's popularity in the South today.

"But it isn't only Sputnik and Little Rock," says Horace Wells, weekly newspaper publisher in Clinton, Tenn. "It's a lot of other things as well."

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WASHINGTON (UP)—The White House announced Wednesday it has directed the Departments of State and Commerce to conduct a study of barriers to international travel. Clarence B. Randall, special assistant to the President, will conduct the study.

This same idea—that America is close to or even ahead of the Soviets in guided missile development but won't say so for security reasons—was expressed, also, by a lawyer, electrician and banker.

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Wesley Drazil, aviation electronics technician airman, U.S. Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Drazil, Star Route, Malin, graduated from Aviation Electronic Tech School at Memphis, Tennessee, it was reported today by John T. Howard, chief pipefitter, U.S. Navy of the Navy Recruiting office.

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