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Questions

BACTERIOLOGY—How is nitric acid gas related to bacteria's sensitivity to x-rays? p. 372.

PUBLIC SAFETY—What animal organ was used as a source for a drug that may prevent radiation death? p. 371.

TECHNOLOGY—What metal has been proposed for the nose cone of ballistic missiles? p. 372.

Photographs: Cover and p. 375, U.S. Navy; p. 371, American Searchlight Corporation; p. 373, Ohio State University; p. 378, Fremont Davis; p. 384, Eastman Chemical Products, Inc.

GEOPHYSICS

Sputnik Rocket Falls to Earth

► THE FLAMING death of sputnik I's rocket occurred Saturday night, Nov. 30, in the South Pacific off the coast of South America.

It was last "sighted" whirling southward at 7:11 p.m. EST by the large radar antenna at Stanford University in California. Since then, there have been no confirmed sightings of it.

"From all indications the rocket fell to earth on the weekend of Nov. 30, probably Saturday night," said two top satellite scientists, Drs. Fred L. Whipple and J. Allen Hynek, director and associate director of the Smithsonian Institution's Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. They reported there is very little chance anyone saw it fall, and even less chance any fragments will be recovered.

The rash of sightings of flaming objects in the sky from various areas around the world, particularly Germany and Alaska, probably resulted from "fireballs." Although no meteor shower is occurring now, the man-made objects sent circling the earth by the Russians have made many persons more aware of events in the heavens.

Despite the many visual sightings of sputnik I's rocket, both by individuals and organized Moonwatch teams, very few photographs with sufficient precision for measuring the earth's shape were taken of it. One reason was the large field cameras especially designed for photographing earth satellites were not in position.

Science News Letter, December 14, 1957

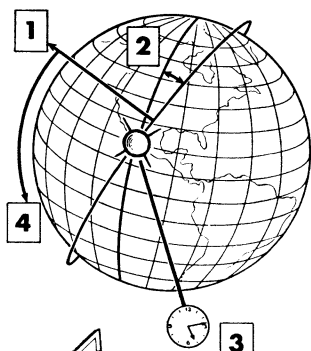
Do You Know?

Villagers in Bombay State, India, are being taught new and useful things through Radio Farm Forums organized in 150 villages.

Applied meteorology can help many different businesses, including gas or electricity distribution, department store sales, and even bakery schedules.

Ultra high temperature pasteurization differs from the old methods in that the temperature used ranges from about 190 to 280 degrees Fahrenheit.

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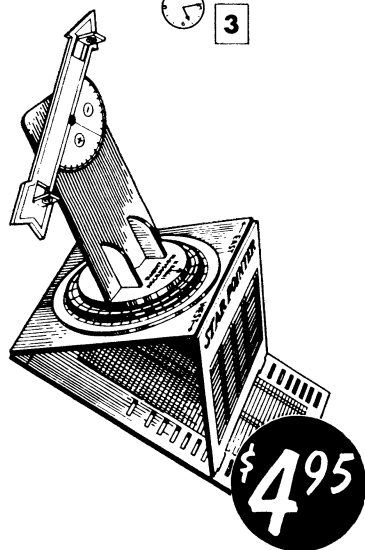
A special bulletin, just released by Starcraft, gives complete details on locating earth satellites by using the "Star Pointer".

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