

Vanguard: The Artificial Earth Satellite

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ONE day about a decade ago the American newspapers featured in journalistic fashion with headlines, pictures and captions an event of scientific import. Scientists had directed suitable radio waves at the moon and by a receiver several hundred miles away had picked up the echoes. Though most readers considered the event newsworthy, one down-to-earth gentleman was heard to remark: "Why all the excitement? What is so remarkable about that?" One wonders whether here and there among the many people who will come to be aware of it, similar regrettable reactions may be manifested in regard to the launching of the first artificial satellite. The news is sure to find print on the front page of Philippine and American newspapers. It will be headlined in almost all parts of the world.*

Pioneering always has a contagious fascination about it. The human mind is ever in quest of what lies beyond—beyond the range of mountains, beyond the oceans, beyond the clouds. To satisfy that longing, to seek answers to the why and the how of events on this earth many nations are working shoulder to shoulder to push back the frontiers of knowledge about our planet earth. This concerted partnership among more than

* This article was ready for publication in December 1956 but was withheld for lack of space. Since then articles on the satellite have appeared in popular magazines—though not always entirely accurate.

—Editor.