

Metal Chunk Blasts Hole in City Street

Object Spotted Imbedded in Road by Police Patrol

MANITOWOC — A 20½ pound piece of metal, possibly part of Russia's four-ton Sputnik IV, zoomed this city into national prominence Thursday after it was found imbedded in N. Eighth Street 53 feet north of the intersection of Park Street.

Sputnik IV, launched 28 months ago on May 15, 1960, reportedly reentered the earth's atmosphere early Wednesday, breaking into flaming bits that streaked across the Wisconsin skies.

The metal was first spotted at 5:45 a. m. Wednesday by police officers Marvin Bauch and Ronald Rusboldt, as they patrolled in a squad car. At that time they mistook it for some crumpled cardboard in the roadway. On another patrol at 6:45 a. m. they noted that the object was metal and stopped to move it. It was too hot to touch or handle so they shoved it with their feet to the curbing. At the time they thought it was slag from some local foundry which had fallen off a truck taking it to some dumping ground. Passing the point again at 8 a. m. they stopped to look at the metal and found it still warm.

Pick Up Fragment

At noon the officers learned that observers were asking for reports of the finding of any chunks of the disintegrated satellite and they returned to the spot, loaded the fragment into the car and brought it to police headquarters.

Police Inspector Frances Lalsack contacted the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Inc., firm and asked for the name of some metals expert. Kenneth J. Gevers, a representative of Hy-Ten steels Chi-

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Space Agency disclosed today that the main part of Sputnik IV has reentered the atmosphere, and that a piece of metal found in Wisconsin is being studied as a possible remnant of the Soviet satellite.

cago steel firm, was in the shipyard office at the time and he offered to take a look at the item.

"The steel appears to be high temperature resistance steel with a less stable steel behind it which could have been designed to draw heat from the other segment. It very likely is a main portion of the nose cone of a rocket or missile," he said. Examination of the piece, he said, definitely shows traces of flow lines where the melting steel was streamed back into star-like points on the rim of the fragment as it struck air resistance and the air flowed around the edges, forcing the molten metal toward the rear where some must have burned up. Fragments showered at the point of impact were blackened and porous like pieces of charcoal yet had the strength of metal.

No Radioactivity

A check at the fire department with a Geiger counter failed to reveal any radio activity. Gevers took the piece of metal to Milwaukee and conferred with Edward Hallback, director of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society, who had issued the call for reports on falling bits of the Sputnik. After an examination and some consultation with other experts, it was decided to send the piece of burned metal to the Smithsonian Institute for further tests by government agencies and space authorities.

The metal struck the street 53 feet north of the intersection, practically in front of the Rahr

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