

# Life at Moulton Home Disrupted by Sputniks



This was life with Sputnik for Mrs. MariLe Moulton. She spent much time, answering the phone from early morning till late at night, also typed many reports (upper left). Upper right, Mrs. Moulton and daughter Pamelle with the short-wave radio set on which her husband, Clifford, picked up the Sputnik signals. In foreground are tapes on which signals were recorded. At lower left, Pamelle points to spot where Sputnik orbits passed over Portland. Globe is inflatable rubber ball which Pamelle considers a toy. Lower right,

Mrs. Moulton cleans mathematical symbols off organ keys. Her husband used organ in plotting orbit by matching "beep" tones to musical tones. Moulton is through making his Sputnik observations now, but still has a lengthy report to complete for the federal communications commission and Project Vanguard. So Mrs. Moulton is still typing. Moulton also has had numerous speaking engagements to fill. Mrs. Moulton accompanies him on speaking trips. (Oregonian staff photos by Dick Farris)

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Sputniks I and II have just about moved out of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Moulton at 1625 S. W. 87th avenue, but for more than a month the earth satellites played hob with the Moulton family routine.

In fact, the Sputniks just about outbid Pamelle, the Moultons' 16-month-old daughter, for attention. And Kingdom Come, the Siamese cat, felt downright neglected.

Moulton is the Tektronix Inc. engineer who filled his den with oscilloscopes and other complicated equipment and listened in on the Sputniks as they flew over Portland. He recorded their beeps on tape, then used the sound to plot their courses and speeds.

## Sputnik I Beginning

The Moultons' sometimes hectic encounter with the world's first man-made moon began October 4 after the launching of Sputnik I. Moulton is an amateur radio operator, and a fellow "ham" called to tell him the frequency on which the satellite was broadcasting.

"For the next day or so Cliff was at his radio listening about every hour and a half all day and all night," Mrs. Moulton recalled. "That didn't last long. He soon found that it was closest to Portland and could be heard best in the early morning and in the evening. So he just listened then."

Even through the 24-hours-a-day routine, Mrs. Moulton stuck with 'Sputnik, too. She plied her husband with tea and snacks, answered the telephone and served as sort of "secretary and hostess—as most wives do."

## Phone Rings Constant

As soon as the word got out that Moulton was watching Sputnik the telephone and door bell started to ring. Peak of the phone calls was reached November 4 when Mrs. Moulton logged more than 80.

"There weren't too many calls from people who were just idly curious," Mrs. Moulton said. "But there were a lot from reporters and scientists and groups that wanted to see the satellite. There were always a lot of people here, too."

At one point, things got so hectic Pamelle was packed off to her grandmother's for a few days so she could get some sleep.

# Sputniks Nix Fancy Menus

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The major upset in the Moultons' living was in their meals. Mrs. Moulton enjoys "gourmet" type cooking—the sort that take most of a day to prepare a dish. But since Sputnik she claims, "I've been a short order cook."

Once the Sputnik listening settled down to a twice a day routine, Moulton's major task became plotting the Doppler curves which told the satellite's orbit and speed. For this he used his electric organ and the kitchen clock, matching organ tone to tape tone, timing signal intervals and plotting the information on a graph.

Mrs. Moulton is still cleaning the mathematical symbols off the organ keys.

Moulton also spent a good deal of time on the lecture circuit describing Sputnik and its gyrations.

An ex-fashion model who also has done some work in fashion design, Mrs. Moulton said her scientific education was limited to a year of high school mathematics and a year of high school general science. Even so she has helped her husband with some of his computations and with writing some of the semi-technical reports he was made since Sputnik. She types all of his scientific reports.

Still to be completed is a massive report primarily for the federal communications commission and project Vanguard on Moulton's Sputnik observances. Moulton did not make his studies of the Sputniks for the government or for any organization.

## Linfield Takes Over

"There it was and we knew somebody should be making some observations," Mrs. Moulton said. "It was awfully exciting, especially at first, but it's a relief to have it over."

To little Pamelle, Sputnik meant—among other things—that the world is a toy. Moulton bought a rubber globe that looks and acts much like a beach ball. Pamelle became so entranced with it her daddy had to buy her a smaller ball so he could use his to plot Sputnik patterns.

Linfield Research Inc. at Linfield college has taken over Moulton's observation schedule. Part of the equipment has been moved out of the Moulton den and Moulton is back at Tektronix, where he is a design engineer.

But his wife knows the end of Sputnik doesn't mean the end of scientific projects at home. Moulton always has one on the fire.

For instance, their lawn is watered by an automatic pop-up sprinkler system that keeps the lawn green even when they are away on vacation—but won't operate if the lawn already has been watered by rain.

But whatever comes next on the scientific agenda, Mrs. Moulton is sure it can't match Sputnik in confusing the Moulton household.

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