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NEWS FROM U. S. A.

A strange mishap in Times Square, the Picaresque Circus of New York - fire billowing from a gas-main which exploded during a snowstorm. Firemen fighting the blaze have a problem - if they put it out too suddenly, escaping gas may bring added danger before the leak can be turned off. So for ninety minutes they keep the blaze carefully under control. How did it happen? Workmen were repairing a corroded gas-main. And someone threw away a cigarette!

At Cape Canaveral, Florida, a Vanguard rocket is ready to launch America's first Sputnik into Space. But rockets are unpredictable things - and our slow-motion camera records how an undetected fault in the first stage of the rocket turned the launching into calamity - not fatal, but disappointing.

Thanks to the strict safety precautions, no one is hurt - and fortunately, the little Sputnik itself is undamaged in the middle of that huge explosion. At first, the American public are dismayed at the accident - but they soon realize that the setback is only temporary; and after all, who knows how many failures the Russians had before their Sputniks were launched?