

Why Here In Warren?

In 1970, while stationed with the army at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, I noticed a number of Redstones lying in a field. I found that they were now obsolete and were surplus. The Redstone that is now in Warren, had been stripped of its engine, guidance control package, etc., and had been used for display purposes. I thought of the children who were far removed from America's space program, except for television, and that seeing the real thing might interest some child in science or the space program, and the fact the Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. was originally from New Hampshire - why not take one to New Hampshire?

Checking with US. Army at Redstone Arsenal, I was informed that they would release the Redstone for display purposes to a town. The Army stipulated that it would bear no costs in preparing or transporting the system. I then decided that if the Town of Warren did accept the Redstone, that I would bear the costs of getting it to Warren.

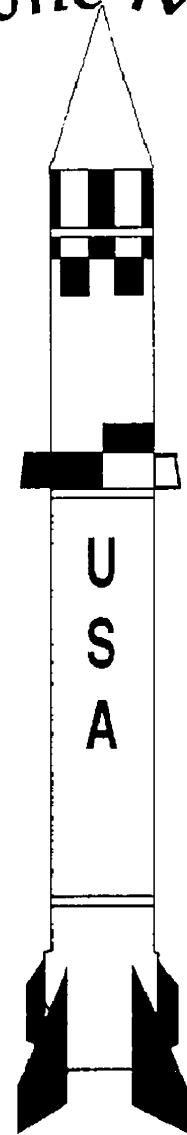
In 1971, the Town of Warren voted in the affirmative. After many starts & stops, Irving MacDonald of Dorchester, NH, as driver, and I began the trek south with a semi-tractor and a 60 foot trailer loaned to us by Lew Brown of Wentworth & Holderness, NH. Arriving at Redstone Arsenal, the Post Engineers, after receiving a cashiers check, loaded the Redstone onto our trailer, with my past fellow employees just shaking their heads.

We immediately began the 1300 mile trip north. After a stiff fine in Ohio for not having a permit; sucking it up while passing through other states for which we had no permit; taking the wrong route into New Hampshire and missing our escort; breaking down on Main Street in Concord, the Capital; and having to be towed to the New Hampshire State House, the Redstone finally arrived in Warren, April of 1971. It should be noted that the welcoming committee in Warren had a false start. When informed that the Redstone was approaching Wentworth, they jumped into vehicles, and racing south they soon discovered that the Redstone sighting was a local septic tank pumper from Wentworth! I knew at that point, that I had indeed been correct in bringing America's space program a little closer to Warren!

With the efforts of many, many volunteers & local organizations giving their time and funds, the Redstone was finally erected and dedicated by then Governor. Walter Peterson in July of 1971.

Ted Asselin

The
Redstone Missile



Warren, NH

Dr. Werner von Braun

In the closing months of WWII, German rocket scientist, Dr. Werner von Braun led the majority of Peenemuende rocket specialists out of East Germany and established contact with the western allies. He and some 100 colleagues came to the United States in September of 1945, under contract to the U.S. Army, where he directed high altitude firings of the German V2 Rocket at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico.

In 1950, the group was transferred to Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. From April 1950 until February 1956, his team developed the Redstone, the first large guided ballistic missile system to be introduced in the inventory of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. von Braun remained at Marshall Space Flight Center at Redstone Arsenal through the Apollo 11 moon landing. He transferred to Washington, D.C. as Assistant Administrator for NASA in February 1970.

He died on June 16, 1977 at age 65.

Ref. U.S. Space & Rocket Center
1 Tranquility Base
Huntsville, Alabama 35807

Nasa Information Summaries
PMS 001-A (KSC)
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Jupiter-C

On 20 September 1956, a modified "Redstone" missile named Jupiter-C was launched from Cape Canaveral. The vehicle attains a range of 3,300 miles, and a speed of 16,000 miles per hour. Direct military orders assure that the fourth stage is a dummy. A live, fully-powered fourth stage would have caused the United States to have the worlds first satellite in orbit. Political and philosophical considerations influenced this decision, one of them being that President Eisenhower did not want a military missile to be the carrier of the first United States Satellite.

On August 8, 1957, a Jupiter-C attains an altitude of 600 miles, and a range of more than 1300 miles. Recovery of a scaled-down nose cone marks the first such action related to a man-made object having flown in outer space.

On January 31, 1958, Explorer 1 is placed into space by a modified Jupiter-C, and becomes the first U.S. satellite.

Its payload discovers the "Van Allen" radiation belt.

Project Mercury/Redstone

Project Mercury became an official program of NASA on October 7, 1958. Seven astronauts were chosen in April, 1959 after a nationwide call for jet pilot volunteers. Alan B. Shepard Jr., originally from Derry, New Hampshire was one of the seven astronauts chosen.

The one-man Mercury space craft was designed and built with a maximum orbiting mass of 3200 pounds.

The Army Redstone with 78,000 pounds thrust was chosen for sub-orbital flights. Because of its reliability, the Redstone was nicknamed "Old Reliable" by the Army.

On 5 May, 1961, Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. was launched from Complex 5 at Cape Canaveral by a Redstone Booster on the first U.S. manned space flight. His sub-orbital mission of 15 minutes took his Freedom 7 spacecraft 186.7 kilometers (116 miles) high into space.

On July 21, 1961, a Redstone Booster hurled Astronaut Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom through the second and last sub-orbital flight, in the Liberty Bell 7.