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THE APOGEE OF ROCKET SOCIETIES IN ARGENTINA (1950 TO 1970)

Abstract

While the launch of Sputnik 1 is conventionally portrayed as a pivotal moment for science and technology education in the United States, its impact extended globally.

A notable outcome of the heightened interest in science and technology education was the emergence of rocketry societies. Unrestricted by regulations concerning the use of explosives, Argentina stood out as one of the earliest Latin American nations to foster a robust amateur rocketry community, spurred by the launch of Sputnik 1.

Under the umbrella of the Argentine Interplanetary Society, led by Teofilo Tabanera, himself an advocate against amateur experimentation, various groups formed their own clubs and associations, endeavoring to replicate rocket societies from the United States and other nations.

Despite often pushing the boundaries of safety practices, these initiatives provided a platform for a cadre of young enthusiasts to gain their initial exposure to physics, chemistry, and engineering. This experience propelled many of them into professional careers in science and technology, eventually becoming instrumental in the advancement of defense and sounding rocket programs in Argentina.

This research will delve into the inception of the amateur rocketry movement in Argentina and offer insights into its most prominent associations.