

Re: wandering around Washington

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"MattWriter" <mattwriter@aol.com> wrote in message
news:20041117211740.06040.00000416@mb-m19.aol.com...
> << many of the labels and signs are poorly done. >>

>
> I've sent in a couple of complaints that the Explorer 1 on display not not
> match the colors of either the flight article (bare steel with white
> striping)
> or the model used at the von Braun press conference, where the upper
> section
> was copper-colored. That raises the interesting question of what the
> history
> of that particular article is. Walt Downhower, the payload engineer, told
> me
> they had several models with different colors to check out the
> reflectivity,
> internal temperature, etc., and there no doubt was at least one black and
> white
> one, but the NASM should change their plaque to explain that this is not
> what
> the satellite looked like.
>
> Matt Bille
> (MattWriter@AOL.com)
> **OPINIONS IN ALL POSTS ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE AUTHOR**

Interesting, the Van Allen hall exhibit at The University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA) had one of the Explorer 1 models (don't know which one). Much of the machining and hand wiring for parts of the follow-on Explorers (plus Injun 1 and Hawkeye 1) was done in the basement of Van Allen Hall. I have a photo of Jim Van Allen at the NASM with one of the models, circa 1989.

gb