The Washington Post.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1897—TWELVE PAGES.

THAT MYSTERIOUS AIRSHIP.

"The task is not an easy one, but surely it is not hopeless."—G. CLEVELAND.

Spokane Wa

The Spokesman-Review - Apr 16, 1897

SAW AN AIR SHIP

PECULIAR AERIAL VISITOR SEEN IN SPOKANE LAST NIGHT.

FLASHED WHITE AND GREEN LIGHTS

Resembles Closely the Description of the Air Ship Seen at Minneapolis Last Saturday.

Has Spokane been visited by a sure-enough air-ship, or have the eyes and the imaginations of some residents of the city deceived them?

That is the problem that every one must work out to a solution of his own. Reliable and reputable citizens say that an air-ship passed over Spokane between the hours of 8 and 8:30 o'clock last night. They will not swear that it was a ship, but they are certain that it was a machine for navigating the air, the work of humans, and bearing evidence of containing people who were directing its progress.

The son of James L. Ford was the first to see the aerial visitor. It was about 8 o'clock last evening when he saw its light in the heavens. Said Mr. Ford last evening:

"My boy spoke of the peculiar light while he was working in the garden. I paid no attention to it at first, but he repeated his remark, and we went to see it. The light was, to my mind, about two miles high. Nothing but the illumination was to be seen, for no outline of the object itself could be made out. This light was large and intense. It was far larger than a star, and its motion was more rapid. It surely was something moving by artificial means. When first seen it was in the sky at an angle of about 45 degrees above us. Suddenly it took a drop, as if the operators wanted to bring it nearer the earth, and then it continued on its course. The direction was west by northwest, and the motion, while deliberate for a moving body, was much faster than any heavenly body is ever seen to travel. We secured powerful opera glasses, and with them tried to make out the outlines of the strange visitor, but without avail. While we were watching the light it moved away and gradually sank out of sight behind the hills to the westward. The entire family distinctly saw the light, and we are all positive that is was no star or naturally moving body."

Miss T. Kiesling, trained nurse, who lives also in Whiting's addition, near the residence of Mr. Ford, had her attention attracted to the light by members of his family. She watched it until it disappeared, half an hour after it made its first appearance. Miss Kiesling describes the light in the same manner that Mr. Ford does, and feels positive that it was something propelled by human agency.

"While I watched it," said Miss Kiesling, "the light changed from a dazzling whiteness to a bright green. It was like nothing I ever before saw in the sky." All the members of the Kiesling family also saw the light.

The news of the aerial visitor was telephoned to The Spokesman-Review, and reporters tried to catch a glimpse of it from the tower, but without avail. Later Louis Titus, engineer, and A. J. Charon, pressman of The Spokesman-Review, while watching in the tower, saw the light over the mountains to the westward between 9:30 and 9:45 o'clock. They describe its appearance as did Mr. Ford. It seemed to have changed its direction, and was proceeding on a southwesterly course.

"We first saw the light low over the mountains," said Mr. Charon. "While we watched it we saw it move distinctly, and its motion indicated that it was traveling rapidly. Its direction was west, inclining a trifle to the south. It grew smaller and finally disappeared altogether."

This would seem to indicate that the light, after going northwesterly from this city, had turned toward the south and west. Both Mr. Titus and Mr. Charon are positive of what they saw.

Here is what the Minneapolis Tribune of April 11 says of the air-ship over Minneapolis, April 10, the description, it will be noted, tallying with that of the light seen here last night:

As Seen in Minneapolis.

A square shaped reddish light that looked half as large as the moon was seen by a number of persons from the Guaranty Loan restaurant windows at 9:25 o'clock last night. It was first seen in the direction of Hopkins, the crowd in the restaurant being congregated by J. J. Barrett, the St. Louis dispatch agent on the 11th floor, whose attention was called to it by the operator at Hopkins, who saw it moving west. Jasper Gibbs proprietor of the restaurant, saw the light first; it was then blazing red, but it gradually lost its redness, and suddenly again brightened like a flash light. It was moving in a diagonal line away from Minneapolis, and slowly commenced to sink over the horizon until 9:35, when it became invisible.

"A half hour later, however, it was again seen to be rising in the place in which it was last seen and moving in an opposite direction. Its lights were more varying this time than at the first sight and from a pale red and a flash red, it now changed to a greenish color, and with each change of color there was a perceptible alteration of its course.

"The air ship was probably at least nine miles distant from the city, and looked as though it might be a quarter of a mile in the air. Its movement was rapid and the change of lights sudden.

"This strange air transient is supposed to have started from California and its destination was for a time thought to be Dwight, but its strange manoeuvres last night do not point towards any definite destination or object. It seemed to be taking a far distant prospectus of Minneapolis by making a slightly circular route about it.

"It was thought by some that it might be a balloon sent up by some person in accordance with the predicted lights, but the movement of the lights are not consistent with any such theory, since their motion was in a horizontal direction and seemed to be directed by an electrical power, and further, no balloon has ever been invented with a speed attained by this air ship."

A dispatch from Cedar Rapids, Ia., published in the same number of the Tribune, describes the object seen there at 7 p. m., April 10, as follows: "About 30 feet long, with a large searchlight in front and a red light in the rear, with green and white lights on either side."

Spokane Wa

The Spokesman-Review - May 7, 1897

SAW AN AIRSHIP IN DAYLIGHT.

Citizen of Marble, Wash., Says He Has Others to Prove It.

Marble, Wash., May 5.—The town of Marble was greatly excited today over the appearance of an airship. Some men working at the mill discovered it as it appeared over the mountains at the southern part of town, and watched it disappear in a northeasterly direction. It was in full view, and the fans could easily be recognized. It had an apparatus in front resembling a rotary snowplow as much as anything, and seemed to be revolving rapidly. Bright objects appeared on the side, shining like glass or some white metal, where the sun's rays reflected upon it. The whole thing moved very rapidly, and was only a few minutes passing from view. It was seen by nearly all the mill crew and myself passing away in a northerly direction. The citizens were quite worked up over its appearance, having read of the existence of such a machine as an airship. If any person doubts the authenticity of this, every man in town can vouch for it.

C. E. HORTON.

Marble Siding is about seven miles from Northport, opposite the mouth of Flat creek, on the Spokane Falls & Northern.

Real Airship at Nashville.

Nashville, May 6.—Today at the Tennessee centennial exposition grounds Professor Arthur Barnard, physical instructor of the Young Men's Christian Association of Nashville, began a journey in an air ship constructed by himself. The people attending the exposition witnessed the ascent of the aerial voyager. The ship moved off in perfect order and passed out of sight in a few minutes. Professor Barnard promised to sail against the wind after arising into the air, and he did so.

Mr. Barnard, who returned with his air ship tonight, says that he has a machine which will fly under ordinary conditions.

Wa

The Ellensburgh Localizer -

A Washington Airship.

Spokane, Wash., May 10.—Citizens of Barble, Wash., a small town on the Spokane Falls & Northern railroad, near Northport, stoutly assert that yesterday they saw a flying machine, in broad daylight cross over the valley and disappear to the north. They state they could distinguish the fans or propellers, and that the whole machine was clearly outlined against the horizon.

Oshkosh Wi
Daily Northwestern
April 13 1897

A practical joker at Green Bay sent up a hot air balloon with two Japanese lanterns attached and several scores of people who saw the lights were greatly excited by the belief that they were watching the famous airship.

Oshkosh Wi
Daily Northwestern
April 17 1897

AMONG THE NEWSPAPERS.

* * *

The pastor at Sanborn, Minn., saw the airship. This comes dangerously near heresy.—Minneapolis Journal.

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Oshkosh Wi
Daily Northwestern
April 26 1897

The airship mystery has been solved in a way by the mysterious actions of three men who had a mysterious ranch near Brule in this state, far from the haunts of industry. It is believed that these men have been secretely building an airship and that they have been sailing through the air in making their experiments. But airships are not built in the lonely woods far from machine shops and mechanical appliances. If there are any other mysteriously acting individuals anywhere they may come in for a degree of suspicion.

Oshkosh Wi
Daily Northwestern
April 15 1897

Somebody suggests that the airship must settle down in some quiet and isolated place during the day time. Perhaps that is how it came to be observed in Fond du Lac.

AMONG THE NEWSPAPERS.

The medical practice law is not a bad thing to have on the statutes in a state where surgeons cut a man open to operate for abscess of the liver and then find that organ in perfect condition and discover that the trouble was with the kidneys. This happened down in the state a few days ago, and the career of a popular and efficient railroad man was terminated through such a diagnosis.—Superior Telegram.

* * *

Speaking of airships, they had them in Bible times. Elijah and several other old worthies navigated them; unless the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott has relegated those stories, too, to the realm of Christian mythology, as he did the whale story. And if these modern airship crews are as sensitive you had better be careful how you make fun of them. When some children said to Elijah, "Go up, old bald head," the Lord sent bears out of the woods and killed them.—Superior Leader.

* * *

Appleton is working the airship stories for all there is in it. The latest is a story that several letters have been found in that vicinity attached to iron arrows and purporting to have been dropped by the captain of the airship "Pegasus." One letter says the ship was constructed in Kentucky and is making experimental trips regularly between that point and Yankton, S. D.

Some of the larger eastern journals appear to be even more gullible than the unsophisticated denizens of this woolly west. For instance The New York Mail and Express prints a long editorial, dilating upon the reports from the west in regard to the mysterious airship, and after dwelling upon the certainty of an ultimate solution of the problem of aerial navigation, and saying that the era of great strides in that direction is now upon us, remarks: "It is by no means impossible that the strange contrivance seen so frequently of late floating above Omaha and other western cities is an approach to the perfected airship, if not indeed the actual consummation. Some persistent inventor, overly sensitive to the public ridicule which always descends upon attempts in aerial navigation, may be conducting his experiments in secret, eager to conquer the problem before revealing his creation to the world. It would be the most natural thing in the world for such an inventor to test his contrivance after nightfall, and on that supposition it would be easy to account for the mysterious craft which so many reputable persons claim to have seen afloat in the western skies."

Oshkosh Wi
Daily Northwestern
April 10 1897

AIRSHIP OVER CHICAGO.

Hundreds of People See Its Lights and Agree on Details.

Chicago, Ill., April 10.—Hundreds of persons in Evanston, Niles Center, Schermerville, South Chicago, and in the city of Chicago proper last evening saw gilding through the heavens an object the like of which they had never beheld before, and which all agreed in declaring must have been the storied airship of Kansas and none other. Various descriptions were given of the strange object that set nearly 800 people agape in Davis street, Evanston, but the descriptions agreed on point of major interest. The object described sweeping through the heavens bore vari-colored lights, according to all accounts. All declare the brightest light was white, and seemed to be backed by a reflector that could be turned, swinging its searching rays from side to side through the night air. Behind this some discerned a small red light, which others failed to observe; but again all agreed that still farther behind the big white headlight could be seen a smaller white light and a green light, side by side. The latest glimpse of the traversers of darkness was caught by South Chicagoans at about 9:30 o'clock, when numerous persons state they saw an object like that already described approach the land from out over the lake, and, after reaching a point some distance inland, turn slowly to the northwest and fade away into the night and darkness.

Wausau, Wis., April 10.—The airship made its appearance in Wausau last night about 10 o'clock and was viewed by at least one hundred citizens. It came from the southeast, passing over the city going northwest. Lights could be seen attached to the ship. A dim outline of it could be seen, which appeared to be shaped like an egg.

Fond du Lac, Wis., April 10.—Capt. Lee of the cyclometer works who resides at Luco, and Mr. Nast, the toll gate keeper at that point, report having seen a mysterious light, of large dimensions, floating over Lake Winnebago, the past few nights. The light was also seen by east shore residents, floating in the air toward the northwest, and has caused much comment.

Oshkosh Wi
Daily Northwestern
April 14 1897

AMONG THE NEWSPAPERS.

It cannot be said that the airship liar is neglecting his opportunities.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

* * *

At all events there appears to be something unusual "in the air." It may be a succession of meteors; it may be an optical illusion; it may be a wandering balloon that has broken from its moorings. But numerous people who have seen it aver that it is like none of these things. Curiosity to know what it is will go on increasing in intensity until the mystery is solved.—Minneapolis Tribune.

* * *

Spopedugang, Minn., April 12, 1898.—Jonas Jackson's airship fell yesterday. Mr. Jackson had his shoulder badly sprained.—Seeding is going on rapidly from airships, which scatter the grain in quarter the time.—Mrs. Bushy Jones, an old settler, died yesterday. Her remains will be airshipped to Iowa for interment.—Frank Frost has his crop in and has left by the atmospheric route for a run over Alaska before harvest.—Minneapolis Journal.

* * *

The airship has arrived at La Crosse, and evidently likes this vicinity, as it has lingered lovingly about the heavens adjacent to the city now for two nights, and we have every reason to believe that it will appear again tonight. It may be remarked that we are on very intimate terms with the airship. We said the aerial visitor would appear Saturday night, and, sure enough, it did, and now let everybody be prepared to give the etherial wanderer a warm welcome, for it will surely be seen tonight in the western sky about 8:30, providing the weather is favorable, as the occupants of the craft have not yet become brave enough to breast a storm or to take any chances on the weather.—La Crosse Press.

Laramie Wy.
Boomerang
April 1 1897

MYSTERIOUS AIR SHIP.

Residents of Nebraska and Kansas Are Wrought Up by the Strange Aerial Visitor.

Kansas City, Mo., March 31.—People at a number of towns in Northern Kansas and Southern Nebraska are considerably wrought up by a mysterious air ship which has been seen on numerous occasions during the past week.

At least fifty citizens of Belleville, Kan., saw the machine last Thursday night about 10 o'clock, and a dozen or more saw it Friday night and Saturday night. The air ship has also been seen by several people at Lincoln, Beatrice and other Nebraska points, and at Marysville, Washington and Haddam, Kan.

The air ship seems to be under perfect control of the navigator, who is apparently experimenting with it.

Laramie Wy
Republican
April 15 1897

Now we've struck it! That mysterious aerial visitor is a special airship fitted out by the Marsian government and sent down to look us over and see if we are worth striking up an acquaintance with, with the view of future diplomatic relations.

Laramie Wy
Republican
April 9 1897

IN MICHIGAN NOW.

Niles, Mich., April 8.—In many towns in southwestern Michigan citizens aver that last Thursday night they saw an airship hovering in the heavens. At Galesburg, about 10 o'clock that night, the citizens were startled by a sharp crackling sound, accompanied by a brilliant white light, evidently coming from above. The phenomenon lasted nearly a minute, and amid the confusion several of the spectators are positive they saw a huge black object, tipped with flame, at a great distance above the earth and moving northward. Some declare they heard human voices coming from the object. They are sure it was an airship.

Wheatland Wy
World
April 16 1897

Saw an Airship.

Neb., April 10. An airship seen hovering over the city occasions of late, being seen number of reputable citi only appears at night, at being attracted by a strong it carries, but a vague idea sions and character can be it readily makes headway wind and appears to be control.

from points west of here Kansas indicate that the p has been seen there.

Lusk Wy
Herald
April 29 1897

Tuesday night was a busy one for the airship. It exploded in Kalamazoo, Mich., ran aground in Carlinville, Ill., and made its debut in Washington, D. C. It now seems to be a three-ringed circus affair.—Chicago Tribune.

Reports of a monster flying machine or sea serpent near one of our seaports will not necessarily mean that the aerial mystery has taken a new form. It may be one of our battleships trying to cross a corn field.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Lusk Wy
Herald
April 22 1897

TALK WITH AIRSHIP CREW.

Illinois Farm Hands Make Affidavit to a Strong Story.

Adolph Winkle and John Hulle, farm hands, have made affidavit that an airship landed two miles north of Springfield, Ill., Thursday. They visited the ship and conversed with the inmates, two men and one woman. They were repairing the electric apparatus and searchlight of the machinery. They said they came from Quincy in thirty minutes. They will make a report to the government when Cuba is declared free. The ship and occupants left for the south at 1 p. m. The farmers' description is similar to descriptions heretofore given.

Cheyenne Wy
Daily Sun Leader
April 23 1897

Someone predicts that the flying machine flurry in Chicago is likely to lead all the aldermen to commit suicide—they simply cannot stand the thought of the sky being filled with airships with no possibility of the city being asked for a charter.

Laramie Wy
Daily Boomerang
April 1 1897

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The air ship seems to be under perfect control of the navigator, who is apparently experimenting with it.

Brandon Man.
Sun
April 29, 1897

THAT MYSTERIOUS AIR SHIP.

A Description of the Wonderful Visitant Which is Causing Excitement Over the Western States.

The Sun has already made reference to the wonderful air ship which has caused such excitement in the Western States. Previous despatches have, however, told only of the appearance of the machine in the air. This week we have particulars of the landing of the ship and a description of the craft as seen at a distance resting quietly in a field. The paper from which we learn all this is the New York Sun, a journal which is not given to sensationalism. Our New York namesake says the first landing of the strange visitant from the clouds took place at Waterloo, Ia., on the 16th. The stranger in charge says he landed to make repairs. He kept people at a distance of several hundred yards from the machine, and many therefore did not credit his story, but thought it a fake designed to create a sensation. Just what object the man had to gain was a mystery, as he did not ask for money from the hundreds who visited the field to take a look at the thing. The structure is about forty feet long, constructed like a giant cigar, with wing-like attachments on the sides and a steering apparatus in the rear. The whole is surmounted by a cupola or lookout chair on the roof. The queer craft appears to be built of canvas and to be heavily varnished. A pipe leading from the cone constantly emits vapor as if the motor power was steam. The man in charge carried a rifle to keep the people from too closely examining the machine. He said he was on a voyage around the world.

SEEN BY THOUSANDS AT ST. LOUIS.

A dispatch from St Louis says the airship visited that city on the night of the 16th. The bright searchlight was not only seen by thousands, but the object was observed through a telescope and the outlines of the craft were seen. The person who caught this excellent view of the strange visitor and brought it near to the earth by means of a strong lens is Dr Leo Caplan, of 3,104 Washington avenue. Dr Caplan is one of the leading men in his profession. He is respected by all who know him and his word is to be relied on implicitly.

WAS SEEN NEAR CHICAGO

A dispatch from Chicago to the New York Herald, another paper which is not of a sensational class, under date of the 17th inst, says that five residents of the suburb of Montclare, which is part of the town of Jefferson, and inside the city limits, saw what they believed was an airship. The observers, each of whom it is declared, are willing to make affidavit that it was an aerial vessel of some kind, were Ward Smyers, Will Helmuth, Mrs Helmuth, Richard Baskerville, and Paul Volk.

"I did not believe this air ship story," said Mr Smyers today, "but I must confess that I am puzzled to account for the appearance of the object we saw on any other ground than that it is a flying machine. It did not act like a balloon and it could not be a meteor."

Mr Smyers made a drawing of the supposed air ship which showed the thing to be shaped like a cigar and to have a headlight at each end.

"When we first saw it," Mr Smyers continued, "it was coming from the northeast and appeared to be about two miles away. It stopped when we were looking and began to descend rapidly, until it was, I should say, about 1,000 feet from the earth, though still a long way from us on a horizontal plane.

"Trees along the Desplaines river obscured it at this time but it soon came back into the field of vision. We then saw it distinctly veer around and turn east as a train turns a curve. Indeed, the light of the object, with the exception that it constantly changed color, was more like the headlight of a locomotive than anything else, having a steady glare and the appearance of a great fiery eye.

"While we were looking at it it turned sharply and began to go rapidly south, at the same time going upward at a sharp angle. The ship proceeded steadily toward Dunning, with an even motion, very much unlike that of a balloon, and was soon lost to view.

"I may add that there was no breeze on the surface where we stood, and I do not think there was an upper current for the reason that the clouds were not drifting to any extent appreciable to the eye."

Winnipeg Man
Free Press
April 12 1897

Omaha, Neb., April 11.—The air ship seen Monday night, which created such a sensation in Omaha, was a balloon, and the guilty men who sent it up were Roy Arnold and Jack Rofers. They are practical jokers.

Edmonton Alta
Bulletin
Apr 26 1897

AERIAL NAVIGATION.

A mysterious air ship was hovering around Minneapolis and St. Paul for several days last week. At night it was illuminated with red lights. The ships sailed away to the westward at 9:35 Saturday night. Word came to Spokane at 11:45 Sunday night that it had just passed over Helena. At that rate of speed then, upon an altitude of nine to ten miles, the vessel should have reached Spokane at about 1:40 on the morning of Easter Monday, but though hundreds were watching the mysterious navigator of the air was not sighted.

The airship lights were followed from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Waseca, Minneapolis, Thursday night of last week. Rev. Charles E. Brown watched them for over an hour. Half the population of many towns in Iowa saw the vacillating lights swiftly speeding to the west, the Minneapolis Tribune says.

The ship is supposed to have been constructed at San Francisco, and is out on an experimental voyage. If the report is true the inventor has at last discovered the secret of successful aerial navigation.

Victoria BC
Colonist
April 9 1897

EITHER there is an epidemic of lying among the papers in the Western States, which is not wholly outside the bounds of probability, or there is an unsolved mystery floating around in the nature of an airship, which moves only at night. It floated first around Oakland, Cal.; then it put in an appearance near Denver, and when last heard from was at Topeka, Kansas. It is said to be cigar-shaped and carries a brilliant head-light. No one has seen it by day, that is no one who will tell anything about it. The people who testify to having seen it at night are numbered by hundreds, including Governor Leedy of Kansas. It is rather unsatisfactory to stop a story at this point; but practically this is all there is to tell.