

UFO POTPOURRI

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER, P.O. BOX 58485, HOUSTON, TX 77258-8485

FAX (713) 488-3121

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THE 1897 AIRSHIPS PART II

The following articles are from the *ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH*:

WHAT LIGHT DO WE SEE?

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 11: Times are too hard at present to permit the suspicion that all of the men who say they have seen the airship in the night were under the influence of the cup which both cheers and inebriates. Besides, Iowa and Kansas, two prohibition states, are included in the wide field of observation covered by these reports.

No, clearly there is something unusual in the air. And it has not only substance but form. Richard Butler, an Iowan farmer, who appears to have kept his head better than any of the other witnesses, tells us that the object, at which he looked at without fear or trembling, appeared to him to be about 35 or 40 feet in length and six or eight feet breadth. It had several windows on the side exposed to his view and, through these windows, lights could be plainly seen. Above the structure was a cigar-shaped body apparently inflated. Mr. Butler might have given us a more perfect description of the aerial wonder had not his team, catching sight of the strange object, dumped him in the ditch.

Scientists are conceding that there is something out of doors these nights which is well worth looking after. Astronomers are training their telescopes in every direction. These may be visitors from Mars, fearful, at the last, of invading the planet they have been seeking.....This is a problem which must be solved unless we are willing to leave a large number of good and reputable and sober men under suspicion as to their temperance and veracity.

AERIAL WONDER SEEN IN ST. LOUIS Skeptics Forced to Believe the Evidence of Their Own Senses and Admit it was Not a Star

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 12: The mysterious aerial wonder which has been exciting comment all over the middle west for the past week was seen by a number of St. Louisans Saturday night.....

Mr. William Mulhall watched the light until he felt certain that he was looking at something out of the ordinary. He went to R.H. Pardee's drug store at 4966 Easton Avenue, and called attention to George A. Miles, the clerk, to the strange light. The

two stood on the pavement looking at the heavenly mystery, and were joined a few minutes later by Druggist Pardee. The light had been seen by scores of people, and soon there was a crowd on the corner. The northward motion of the light, its peculiar color, unlike anything known to astronomy, and its unswerving flight along the horizon caused a great deal of excited comment.....

Fifteen workmen at the Lindell Railway car shops, also saw the mysterious light Saturday night. Conductors on the Citizens' line say the light was plainly visible from the western end of the line Saturday night, though it did not make its appearance Sunday night.

Prof. H.P. Pritchett, astronomer of Washington University, was at his telescope Saturday night, but did not see the airship. When told it had been seen in the west end, he said: "Of course I can't question the veracity of the people who say they saw a mysterious light Saturday night. I have seen nothing brighter than Venus. I will keep a sharp lookout, however. It would be possible for such a light to float along close to the horizon without being seen by our telescope, as our observatory is very low and the smoky atmosphere prevents of from making observations below an elevation of 30 degrees." There is no doubt from the testimony of all of the witnesses that the mysterious light was below the 30 degree elevation. The country in that part of the city from which the views were obtained is open and favorable for such observations.

PASSED OVER CHILLICOTHE

CHILLICOTHE, MO., April 12: Many Chillicothe people last night saw what is supposed to have been a mysterious airship. A bright white light, apparently about the size of a headlight passed over the north part of the city and went west. The hull of the ship was not visible.

PHOTOGRAPHED IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILL., April 13: Walter McCann of Rogers Park, near Chicago, says he photographed the airship Sunday morning and has three witnesses who say they saw him do it. Experts say the photograph he shows is genuine....

McCann says: "I saw a strange looking object in the sky coming from the south. It looked like a big cigar. It came nearer, and I saw at a glance it could not be a balloon. I realized it was the much talked about airship. My boy's camera was in the store. I ran and got it as the thing approached. The sky was clear. He took two photographs.

SALISBURY SEES IT.

SALISBURY, MO., April 13: Until 8 o'clock last night people in this vicinity were skeptical in regard to the much talked about air ship, but at that hour it was seen by a number of citizens. It appeared to be a few miles northwest of town, and apparently after striving to go against the wind for a few minutes, it turned abruptly and shot into space in a northeastern direction. There was a large light below and a small one above the front end and a black band was plainly visible around the central part.

GIRARD VIEWS THE AIRSHIP

Several Men Claim It Alighted Near That Place

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 14: "The airship was distinctly seen here (Girard, Ill.) last night by P.F. McCraner, William Street, Frank Metcalf, and Ed Steeples. McCraner is night operator at this place and when he came on duty at 6 o'clock the operator at Carlinville called him up, said the airship had passed over Carlinville in the direction of Girard and advised him to be on the lookout.

"McCraner stepped outside and fifteen minutes later saw what he believed was the airship passing over this town in the direction of Nilwood. It was rapidly approaching the ground. McCraner asked the day operator to hold the wire for him and call to Street, Metcalf and Steeples, who were standing near, he started on the run down the railroad track, they following. As they went they saw the strange craft drop to the ground behind a clump of trees about a quarter of a mile distant. Before they could reach the spot the ship was seen to rise, ascend to a great height and disappear to the north. They were so near where it rose they could see persons in the boat and could also distinguish a large letter "M" on the side...

"They continued on, to the spot where it had alighted, and saw distinctly the imprint of a man's feet. Their footsteps did not lead anywhere and it was evident they were made by someone who had humped out of the ship to repair some of the machinery on the outside. McCraner says he is willing to make affidavit to the above statements. When he returned to the wire he told operators up and down the line what he had seen.

A reporter for the *Post Dispatch* called at the Western Union Telegraph Office in St. Louis Wednesday morning and asked Day Chief Spencer about McCraner. "He is our night operator at Girard," Mr. Spencer replied, "and is thoroughly reliable. He has worked for us for some time. Yes, we have heard what he saw yesterday evening and

it is the talk of the office. The matter is beyond my comprehension.

A dispatch from Carlinville says the airship passed over that place Tuesday evening and was seen by hundreds. It was also seen at Sherman and Williamsville.....

HAD PEOPLE ON IT

PERRY, O., April 14: The airship which has created so much excitement and concern in Nebraska has made its appearance in Oklahoma. Hundreds of people declare they have seen it in the past few days. It has been seen here by 50 people in the last two nights and is creating no little excitement. Five days ago it was seen by a dozen men at Guthrie, and two days before at South McAlester.

Col. Yates, a newspaper editor of this city, says he saw it, and it seemed to be nearly a hundred feet long and about one-fourth as wide. He said it went through the air toward the north, and the light, which would shine and then disappear, resembled a flashlight or a lightning bug. He also says he saw persons inside the machine. Four others were with Editor Yates at the time.

AIRSHIP LANDED

Rumor That the Aerial Navigator

Came to Earth at Springfield, Ill, Thursday

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 15: The rumor has just started here that the famous airship has landed near here. It is said it came down safely in sight of several persons. Three men were aboard and were uninjured by the descent. They talked freely with those who saw them.

AIRSHIP VIEWED BY TELESCOPE

Dr. Leo Chaplan Watched the

Aerial Visitor

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 16: The airship visited St. Louis again Thursday night. This time the bright searchlight was not only seen by thousands, but the object was observed through a telescope and outlines of the craft were seen.....

Dr. Chaplan said: "The airship - for I am now convinced was such - moved over considerable space in five minutes, and I followed it all the time. It took a northwesterly course, then veered west, and then to the north....

"I looked at Venus, at Sirius and other bright stars several times, then back at the mysterious object. Besides, through my glass the object behind the light was distinctly visible.