

THE

AIRSHIP

CHRONICLE

by

ROBERT G. NEELEY, JR.

DEDICATION

This book is gratefully dedicated to my wife, Bonnie, and my children, Dawn, Heather, and Bobby, who reluctantly, though unselfishly, sacrificed our valuable time together on vacations, days off, and evenings so that I could spend the necessary long hours in libraries.

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And to all the librarians and library aides who tolerated my requests for microfilm and bound volumes of newspapers and special appreciation to the staff of Decatur Public Library and Rolling Praries Library System for their invaluable assistance and bending of rules.

The existence of the airship wave is nothing new. Of course, the newspapers and magazines of 1896/1897 carried thousands of articles about it. For some reason, it faded into complete oblivion until the 1930's. A WPA project in Nebraska was the first compilation of airship reports. This compilation was from the major daily and a few weekly Nebraska newspapers. Numerous articles have been based on this compilation. The first of these appeared in the Prairie Schooner, Winter 1938, Vol. XII, # 4. It again faded into oblivion, only to resurface in 1947. On June 24, 1947, Kenneth Arnold saw 9 disc like objects, while flying near Mt. Rainier, Washington. This marked the beginning of the modern UFO era. UFO reports began appearing in newspapers across the country. Many of the early articles made references back to the airship reports of 1897. It is now very seldom that a UFO book does not devote several pages, in most cases a chapter, to the airship reports. In the flurry of newsstand UFO magazines and paranormal magazines of the 1970's, many articles were published concerning the airship.

Since the mid-1960's, several researchers have accomplished local and limited studies of the newspapers of the airship era. A few researchers did extensive, but not complete studies of their home state. George Eberhardt published his study of most Ohio papers in the Winter, 1977, issue of Pursuit. In 1974 Loren Gross published his study of California papers in a booklet titled "The UFO Wave of 1896."

This brings us to my study. Shortly after reading Loren Gross' booklet, I became interested in doing the same with the Illinois papers. My findings were published in Vol. 1, No. 1 issue of The Journal of UFO Studies. While doing this research, I noted the many references to reports from adjoining states. I began a study of newspapers from these states. Before I knew it, I was obsessed with the airship and was viewing newspapers from all over the country. This was being done through interlibrary loan of newspaper microfilms. This process is very time consuming and, at times, frustrating. I realized that for me to see all available copies of newspapers from the airship era, it would take more years than I have to devote to it. I received a grant from the Fund for UFO Research which enabled me to make trips to the libraries that held large collections of 1896/1897 newspapers. By the end of this 3 year study, 4,935 different newspapers were viewed. Rather than list all of the newspapers viewed, a listing of the number of papers seen per state is below:

ALABAMA	57	ARIZONA	18
ARKANSAS	50	CALIFORNIA	68
COLORADO	91	CONNECTICUT	27
DELAWARE	8	D.C.	6
FLORIDA	10	GEORGIA	65
IDAHO	36	ILLINOIS	280
INDIANA	201	IOWA	279
KANSAS	368	KENTUCKY	62
MAINE	31	MARYLAND	24
MASSACHUSETTS	121	MICHIGAN	173
MINNESOTA	339	MISSISSIPPI	40
MISSOURI	195	MONTANA	30
NEBRASKA	480	NEVADA	26
NEW HAMPSHIRE	43	NEW JERSEY	66
NEW MEXICO	14	NEW YORK	172

NORTH CAROLINA	88
OHIO	235
OREGON	70
RHODE ISLAND	28
TENNESSEE	55
UTAH	30
VIRGINIA	50
WEST VIRGINIA	55
WYOMING	14

NORTH DAKOTA	44
OKLAHOMA	65
PENNSYLVANIA	178
SOUTH CAROLINA	33
TEXAS	63
VERMONT	38
WASHINGTON	52
WISCONSIN	319
CANADA	12

I would like to say that I had seen all of the above papers. However, I did view at least 4,400 of them. The rest were viewed by those researchers mentioned in the acknowledgements and copies of their findings were sent to me. It would be virtually impossible to see all of the newspapers published during the airship era. The greatest problem is locating the papers. Most states have a central depository where the papers are located. This is evident from the above listing where large numbers of papers were seen from one state. Several states, such as New York and Texas, do not have a central depository and the papers are literally scattered all over the state in various libraries. It would be very time consuming and expensive to make a trip to each of these libraries. There has been a sudden interest in creating even larger central depositories in many states. For instance, I first completed my study of Illinois papers in 1978, having seen all that were at the Illinois State Historical Society. In 1985, I had learned that they had located an additional 35 newspapers and had microfilmed them. It is entirely probable that states that were completed early in my research have added new titles to their collection. However, I can safely say that between 90% and 95% of the papers have been viewed. And the amount of data astounded me. I had amassed 27 large 3 ring binders full of clippings.

We are now ready for a journey backwards through the files of the newspapers. Unfortunately, you are going to miss the long hours on the road and those spent viewing microfilm. You will miss the musty odor of original copies of the bound volumes of newspapers that have set undisturbed for many years. And most of all, the overwhelming frustration of arranging the vast material into a usable form.

August 1896-Tamalpais Mountains, California-William Jordan came upon 6 men in a machineshop working on an airship. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 23, 1896)

Fall 1896-Orchard, Iowa-At 2000, a man saw a bright light to the north. It was not very high up and moving slowly south. (Osage [Ia] News, April 22, 1897)

Fall 1896-Hastings, Nebraska-An airship was seen to hover for 30 minutes at a 500 foot altitude, then it began to circle about. It went north for 2 miles, returned to its starting point, and disappeared. (Juniata [Nb] Herald, February 10, 1897)

October 22, 1896-Nevada, California-At 1810, 3 balls of fire in a row were seen to the north for 30 seconds. They were like a train of cars with a long, fiery tail. (San Francisco [Ca] Examiner, October 23, 1896)

October 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 1815, a strange light was seen from Cliff house and appeared to be 10 miles out to sea. It was a vivid bright object moving at great rapidity at 500 feet up. It was seen a few minutes as it moved in a straight, horizontal path. (San Francisco Examiner, October 23, 1896)

October 25, 1896-Bowman, California-C. T. Musse saw 3 bright lights moving east. They moved horizontally at 100 mph. (Gross)

October 25, 1896-Bowman, California-A. H. Thompson saw 3 bright lights and a larger light moving horizontally east. They were 8 feet apart and the forward one was largest and brightest. (Gross)

October 31, 1896-Bolinas Ridge, San Francisco, California-A man saw a large dark mass at dawn. It was 100 yards away and just above trees. (San Francisco Call, November 19, 1896)

October 1896-Oakland, California-A woman saw a strange looking object that carried a powerful headlight. It was gradually descending to the west. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 22, 1896)

October 1896-San Francisco, California-At dusk a woman named Hagstrom saw a glowing light in the sky. (San Francisco Call, November 22, 1896)

November 14, 1896-Mount Tamalpais, California-A strange light was seen but it was identified as a signal light from a new hotel. (San Rafael [Ca] Tocsin, November 21, 1896)

November 15, 1896-San Andreas, California-During the evening Hannah Harney and Ella Porter saw a bright light to the north. It was the size of a saucer and was seen for 10 minutes before it faded away to the east. (San Andreas Calaveras Prospect, November 21, 1896)

November 15, 1896-Suisun, California-Residents saw the airship or similar phenomenon at 2100. (Gross)

(H)

November 16, 1896-Sacramento, California-At 0100, several saw a cigar shaped object and heard voices coming from it. (Menzel)

November 16, 1896-Alameda, California-George Plummer and his wife saw a brilliant white light at 2100. (San Francisco [Ca] Examiner, November 24, 1896)

(H)

November 16, 1896-Winnemucca, Nevada-About midnight, a man saw a ball of fire and heard a voice say, "Lower the ship." A hand protruded from it and took the Chinese Masonic flag from a mast. The object flapped its wings and left west. It was seen by others as a light in the sky. (Winnemucca Silver State, November 23, 1896)

November 16, 1896-Oak Park, California-Something was seen circling high and leaving a smoke trail. (Gross)

November 17, 1896-Eureka, California-At 1800, a man saw a small white light going south-southeast. It wavered, paled, shone brighter, grew larger, and disappeared. (Eureka Humboldt Times, November 28, 1896)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-At 1850. G. C. Snyder saw a white light moving southwest. It rose and fell and swayed side to side as it moved against the wind. (Sacramento Bee, November 18, 1896)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-Many saw a huge and powerful searchlight at 1830. It was followed by a cigar shaped craft with 4 large wings. It seemed to be made of aluminum and hovered for 30 minutes. It rose quickly and left toward San Francisco. (Lore/Deneault)

(H)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-Between 1800 and 1900, many saw what appeared to be an electric arc lamp propelled by some mysterious force. It came from the east and sailed unevenly to the southwest. Some heard voices and laughter coming from it. When it came dangerously near the roof-tops, a voice said, "Lift her up quick! You are making directly for that steeple!" and it ascended to a considerable height. (Sacramento Bee, November 18, 1896)

(H)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-R. L. Lowrey said he saw 4 men pushing the airship along like riding a bicycle. A man standing near Lowrey said he shouted to the occupants asking their destination. A voice replied that they wanted to be in San Francisco by midnight. J. H. Vogel was in the same area and said he heard voices and that the object was egg shaped. (Lore/Deneault) Lowrey was standing near the brewery and heard a voice call out, "Throw her up higher; she'll hit the steeple." Then he saw a light and 2 men seated as if on a bicycle frame beneath the light. They were working with a bicycle movement. He heard one of them say, "We will get to San Francisco about half-past 12." Above these 2 men was a mezzanine box capable of holding 2 or more people. Above this was a cigar shaped body with wheels like a Fulton steamship on the side. (Gross) The Sacramento Bee of November 18, 1896, reported that Lowrey saw an object directly overhead. It had a wheel that was going around and was moving southwest against a heavy wind. There was no mention of the conversation as indicated in the previous 2 references.

The San Francisco Call of November 19, 1896, reported that the above conversation was not verified.

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-J. H. Vogel saw a light and above it a dimly outlined egg shaped body with the small end forward. He heard the muffled buzzing of machinery. (Gross) The San Francisco Call of November 19, 1896, reported that he heard voices and that after 30 minutes it left southwest. (H)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-F. Wenzel corroborated the story of Lowery and Vogel by saying he heard a "merry chorus" coming from the object. Another witness reported he heard a discussion on whether the craft should rise. It rose on a slant. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 19, 1896) (H)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-David Carl saw the airship and heard voice say, "We are too low down here. Send her up higher." This was followed by a discussion on feasibility of taking her higher. (Lore/Deneault) The Sacramento Bee of November 18, 1896, reported that his name was David Curl and that he heard voices. There was no mention of the above. (H)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-Charles Lusk saw a bright light moving west at night. It was 1,000 feet up and appeared to have a faint shape behind the light. (Gross) The Sacramento Bee of November 18, 1896, reported that he found some carmen who saw it and heard music and voices. One voice said, "Well, we ought to get to San Francisco by tomorrow noon." (H)

November 17, 1896-San Francisco, California-Deputy Sheriff Walter Mallory saw a strong white light moving slowly. A dark body was seen above the light. (San Francisco Call, November 23, 1896)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-Michael Shelley saw a cigar shaped object with a dark wall above it. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 19, 1896)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-George Scott and 3 others saw a light in the sky. From the Capitol building dome, they saw a dim outline of a dark body with 3 lights on it. (Gross)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-Frank Ross saw a light moving southwest in an undulating manner. It moved diagonally across the direction of the wind. (San Francisco [Ca] Chronicle, November 19, 1896)

November 17, 1896-near Sacramento, California-Two men heard singing and saw a bright light high in the sky. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 23, 1896) (H)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-F. E. Briggs saw the airship and heard voices and singing from it. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 19, 1896) (H)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-T. P. Long saw a brilliant light moving against the wind. He could not distinguish a shape, but did hear singing from it. It was several hundred feet up. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 19, 1896)

November 17, 1896-Sacramento, California-Mayor Hubbards daughter saw a bright white light at great elevation. It moved east to southwest in a slow and uneven motion. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 19, 1896)

November 18, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 2350, Max Roberts saw the airship. (Sacramento [Ca] Bee, November 23, 1896)

November 18, 1896-Petaluma, California-The airship was seen but it was a known balloon hoax. (Petaluma Courier, November 20, 1896)

→ November 18, 1896-Stockton, California-The airship was reported to have been seen. The next morning, a letter was found which said that the authors were up in a balloon on September 17th and were caught by a meteor. They were now hurtling around the earth. The names of the men were "Mete O. Roid and Al. Lafake." (Stockton Evening Mail, November 19, 1896)

November 19, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 0200, over 50 people, including night clerk McGovern, saw 2 white lights moving slowly to west. It was like 2 stars joined together and at intervals a red light appeared between them. In the 30 minutes it was seen, it crossed 1/10 of the sky. (San Francisco Examiner, November 23, 1896) The San Francisco Chronicle of November 22, 1896, reported that it was seen for 3 hours and was going south.

November 19, 1896-Eureka, California-At 1830, a light was seen high up and descending slowly. It settled slowly to near the water, ascended, settled again, and went behind a fog bank. It seemed under control as it moved up and down and sideways. It was very bright and powerful and was seen for 35 minutes. (Eureka Western Watchman, November 21, 1896)

November 19, 1896-Oakland, California-During the night, Justice Morris saw a light like a huge star low in the sky. (Alameda [Ca] Daily Argus, November 24, 1896)

November 19, 1896-Tacoma, Washington-A bright and wobbling light was seen at night. (Tacoma Daily News, November 26, 1896)

November 20, 1896-Tagus, California-At 1400, S. H. Rison and another saw something like a canvas sheet spread out. It floated to the northeast at 2,000 feet. (Gross) The Visalia [Ca] Tulare County Times of November 26, 1896, said it was seen at 1300. According to the San Francisco [Ca] Call of November 22, 1896, it moved against the wind and went northwest.

November 20, 1896-Oakland, California-The crew and passengers of a trolley saw the airship near St. Mary's College at 1730. Shelby Yost, the motor man, said it was seen 5 minutes and was a moving object with a very bright light. It seemed to lower as it passed over the city and was going toward San Francisco. C. H. Ellis was a passenger and said he

could make out the movement of wings or propellers and that it came from the north. (San Francisco [Ca] Chronicle, November 22, 1896) The San Francisco Call of November 22, 1896, reported that Ellis said it came from the east and was 1,000 feet up. It was a dark object with a bright light and wings before and after the light. As it passed over St. Mary's College, it descended gradually toward San Francisco. This report now becomes a little confusing. It was dated was November 22, 1896, seen by Ellis, Miss Wilson, and others, it moved in an undulating fashion, and emitted a stream of light from the forward part. (Gross) The Oakland Tribune of November 23, 1896, indicted that at 1900, on the 22nd, Miss Wilson and Miss Hunter were waiting for the streetcar and saw a bird-like body and the light. It followed the same course as described by the passengers on the Alameda car. It also referred to a report by the passengers of the Alameda car and the data was a combination of all of the above.

November 20, 1896-Oakland, California-A little after 1700, a crowded car going to Piedmont saw a peculiar contrivance high in the air. It had a powerful headlight and another light on the bottom. It came from the east and passed over Piedmont. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 22, 1896)

November 20, 1896-San Francisco, California-Shortly after the Oakland sighting, Mr. Tyler, his sister, and Mrs. Philbrook saw the airship. (Sacramento [Ca] Bee, November 23, 1896)

November 20, 1896-San Francisco, California-Many people of the Mission saw a light near Twin Peaks at dusk. A Valencia street car stopped so that passengers could see it. It was like an immense arc light surrounded by a long, dark body with a bright edge. It was very bright and after moving slowly over Twin Peaks, it disappeared. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 22, 1896)

November 20, 1896-Oakland, California-During the early evening, 2 men saw a brilliant light in the sky. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 22, 1896)

November 20, 1896-Oakland, California-Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Rodda saw a bright light. As it passed over, it angled down. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 22, 1896) The San Francisco Chronicle of November 22, 1896, said it was to the north and larger and longer than a balloon.

November 20, 1896-Sacramento, California-A strange light was seen at great height to the north and going northeast. Once it moved directly into the wind. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 21, 1896)

November 21, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 1600, many at the Mission saw a huge bird like machine high to the south. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 22, 1896)

November 21, 1896-Nevada City, California-Several saw a strong light to the east and it was going south. (Grass Valley [Ca] Morning Union, November 24, 1896)

November 21, 1896-Santa Rosa, California-Just before midnight, several saw a light moving southwest. When first seen, it was 2 miles southeast of the city. It moved swiftly and was seen by Charles Winters, Wm. Rober, and others. It was identified as a balloon hoax. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Oakland, California-During the afternoon, C. B. Morgan and others saw an object going west for 20 minutes. It rose higher and left west. They felt that it was a balloon. (San Francisco [Cal] Examiner, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-Hundreds saw a light moving southwest at 1730. It was at 40 degree elevation and moved with a wavering motion. During the hour it was seen, it would disappear then flash out again. (Sacramento Bee, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Folsom, California-At about 1800, several saw the airship moving south, then southwest. (Gross)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Bus Riechers and passengers on his trolley saw a light for 30 minutes, at about 1800. (San Francisco Examiner, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Shortly after 1800, John Bagley saw a peculiar light almost overhead. It was moving west in a slow, steady manner. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 1830, Dr. J. H. O'Brien saw a light attached to a dark object. It was going south, but when it changed course, he saw 3 lights. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 1830, H. J. Pyle saw a light more powerful than an ordinary street light. It left to the southwest. It was also seen by Policemen De Guire, M. Drury, D. Ryan, John Frillalove, and others. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-Between 1800 and 1900, Edward Carragher of the Saddle Rock Restaurant saw a large dark body with a pair of field glasses. It seemed to be carrying an arc light. He pointed it out to Dr. Amiel Morris, who saw a ball of fire 600 feet up and to the southeast of Washington. It was seen over an hour. (Sacramento Bee, November 23, 1896, and Woodland [Cal] Democrat, November 23, 1896) The San Francisco Examiner of November 24, 1896, indicated that Dr. Morris was in Woodland, and saw the object at 1900. It was a pale ball of fire, 4-500 feet up, and southwest of Broderick.

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Policeman Neil Rearden saw a bright red and white light moving rapidly at 1845. It was also seen by Sgt. Monahan, Cpl. Heggerty, Ptl. Montanya, and Ptl. Folsom. The white light was the largest and the smaller red one was beneath. It moved at a lively rate to the southwest. (San Francisco Examiner, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Ocean View, California-At 1850, Phil Murrey, Frank Page, and passengers on a trolley saw lights in the sky. (San Francisco [Ca] Examiner, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Before 1900, Ptl. Morarity saw the airship float by. (San Francisco Examiner, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Dr. James F. Kearney saw a light at 1900. It would dim and then regain brilliance. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 1905, N. H. Cohen saw an object that was 3-400 feet up. It emitted periodic flashes of light as it headed for the Golden Gate. He saw it again at 1951. (San Francisco Call, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Col. W. H. Menton saw 3 very bright lights close together at 2020. Two of the rays were horizontal and one perpendicular. They were 2-300 feet up, moved slowly to the south, and was seen by 200 others. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896) The San Francisco Call of November 24, 1896, reported that it was 1940 and it was seen going west for 15 minutes.

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 2000, A. T. Cooper saw the airship through a telescope as it was going west. It was shaped like a cartridge with a light at the rear. The end was flat and it had 2 propellers at the back and 2 on the bottom. He saw 2 men walking about in it. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896) 

November 22, 1896-Capay, California-Several saw the airship to the southeast, moving slowly south, at 2100. (Woodland [Ca] Democrat, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Redwood City, California-At 2200, Henry Smith and F. Becker saw a brilliant light high up. It was a large headlight that threw out rays of light. Above the light was a cigar shaped object with ponderous wings. It was moving south at a terrific rate and was seen for 10 minutes. (Redwood City Times Gazette, November 28, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Jose, California-Frank Everett, H. Erich, and a crowd of others saw a bright light at 2300. It passed in the direction of Mount Hamilton. Several said they saw paddles being used at propellers. (San Jose Mercury, November 23, 1896) It was at Santa Clara, California, and the light was moving southeast. (Gross)

November 22, 1896-Haywards, California-At 2300, B. Taffelmine, George Silva, and Wm. Umhoff saw a long, narrow object shaped like an outrigger racing boat. It had a headlight and side lights. It was going toward Sunol. (San Francisco [Ca] Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Oroville, California-In the evening, a moving light was seen and identified as a balloon. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Haywards, California-During the night Ed Davis, Tim O'Neill, and R. B. Hartnell saw the lights of the airship 400 feet up. They chased it as it was moving at 4 mph. After 5 minutes, O'Neill saw a head peer out over the side and it left at 20 mph. (San Francisco [Cal] Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Assst. Police Surgeon Thompson saw a light through field glasses. It moved in a waving motion and at times would dim. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-Mr. Haines and Mr. Fleetwood saw a dark and misty object pass over and leave northwest. (Gross)

November 22, 1896-Fruitvale, California-Several on the Alameda line saw the airship. It had a powerful headlight and several smaller lights. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Oakland, California-Brother Walter and others at St. Mary's College saw the light of the airship. (Gross)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-A group of lawyers and state officials saw the airship and were amazed by its quickness. (Gross)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-A weatherman saw a clear white light that would often dim to a hazy glow then resumed its definition and brightness. It moved in a rising and falling path. (Flammonde)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-Nick White, city editor of the Record Union, saw the airship. It had more than one light on it. (San Francisco [Cal] Chronicle, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-Isaac Gough and others saw the airship. (Gross)

November 22, 1896-Sacramento, California-Jacob Zemansky saw a light through a telescope. It was like a very intense arc light and rose and fell as it moved. It was only a mass of a mist-like substance to which a light seemed to be attached. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Sebastopol, California-J. B. Loser saw a brilliant light that left east. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Knights Ferry, California-Rev. H. Copland and Rev. John Kirby saw a ball of fire rise slowly and fly low for 100 yards. It began a shallow climb in their direction. It made a semi-circle maneuver. When at 200 yards, they saw a couple of intense white lights on the nose at right angles to the body and a red light on the rear. It soon sped out of sight. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, December 5, 1896)

November 22, 1896-Mount Hamilton, California-The airship was seen. (Oakland [Cal] Times, November 24, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Leandro, California-A brilliant shaft of light was seen. (Gross)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-At an early hour, E. A. Lankin saw the airship going towards Sacramento. (Sacramento [Ca] Bee, November 23, 1896)

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Mayor Adolph Sutro and household saw a strange object shortly after dark. It was a brilliant light that came from the direction of the sea and was 500 feet up. It moved swiftly with a slight undulating motion. It had 2 lights, 1 below a misty mass and one behind it. It threw out a 500 foot long stream of light. (Lore/Deneault) It was the first week of November of 1896, just over Seal Rock, had a row of lights down the side, and left west. (Gross) It was November 19, 1896, was Mayor Suro, it came from Oakland, and the squeals of the seals was heard. (Beyond) The San Francisco Chronicle of November 24, 1896, reported that it was in early November and the San Francisco Call of November 24, 1896, gave no indication of date, but that it left north.

November 22, 1896-San Francisco, California-Moments after the sighting at Mayor Sutro's house, it was seen over Cliff House. It projected a beam on Seal Rock that caused the seals to dive into the water. (Lore/Deneault)

November 23, 1896-Chico, California-At 1900, many saw a bright, sparkling light to the west, going rapidly to the northwest. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 23, 1896-San Francisco, California-Attorney James A. Hill saw a light at 1900. It seemed to be attached to a dark object and hovered over the area of Cliff House before leaving east. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 23, 1896-Santa Rosa, California-At 1930, a light was seen moving east. It occasionally disappeared with a dull red glow. (Gross)

November 23, 1896-Antioch, California-Col. Byrnes saw the airship pass over at 2113, during a heavy rain. It hovered over the residence of John Chase for a few minutes and threw out signals for Frank Wills. Pat McGuire said that when it halted, a terrible gust of wind descended upon the town. Henry Dahnken said it stopped and supplied wind where it was most needed. Chase and Wills both declared that they did not see it. (Antioch Ledger, November 28, 1896)

November 23, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 2115, C. H. Murphy and hundreds of others saw an electric light that was 4,000 feet up and moving at a mile a minute. It was one light with a vibration. (San Francisco Call, November 24, 1896)

November 23, 1896-San Francisco, California-Samuel Foltz saw a light moving toward Berkeley for 4 minutes at 2115. It was like an ordinary lamp, 300 feet up, and moving with tremendous velocity. (San Francisco Call, November 24, 1896)

Novmeber 23, 1896-San Francisco, California-Between 2100 and 2130, many saw a large, round, steadily burning light of reddish hue. It was first seen in the direction of Potrero and passed over the city at several hundred feet altitude. At 2125, it was seen at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Mrs. A. M. Gardner saw it rise slowly and steadily in the rainy sky. It had a definite wavering motion. It was also seen by Dr. J. A. Black, J. S. McDonnell, Charles Barbee, James Kennedy, and James McDonald. (San Francisco Examiner, November 24, 1896)

November 23, 1896-Stockton, California-Several reported a bright, swift moving light in the rain at 2200. (Gross) According to the Stockton Record of November 24, 1896, this was an electric wire short.

November 23, 1896-Oakland, California-At 2230, a teacher and another saw the airship and its powerful searchlight. (Lore/Deneault) The San Francisco [Ca] Examiner of November 24, 1896, reported that this was a kite with red lanterns attached to the tail.

November 23, 1896-San Francisco, California-Dan Daugherty and others saw a strange light near Cliff House. It hovered for 10 to 15 minutes, then left east. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 23, 1896-San Francisco, California-Policeman Clarence Coogan saw an unusually brilliant light moving toward Oakland. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 23, 1896-Lathrop, California-Mr. Saquinette saw a light which grew brighter as it approached from the north. (Gross)

November 23, 1896-Lathrop, California-A nightwatchman saw a cigar shaped silhouette with smoke coming from both ends. It dipped low near a building near the Lathrop State Insane Asylum. (Gross)

November 23, 1896-Berkeley, California-At night, a fire balloon was thought to have been the airship. (Oakland [Ca] Times, November 24, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Fresno, California-At 1800, several saw a bright light going northwest. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 26, 1896) The San Francisco Examiner of November 26, 1896, reported that it was identified as Venus.

November 24, 1896-East Oakland, California-Several saw a light at 1815. Then it was an egg shaped body moving quickly across the sky. Charles White said it raced a ferry across the Bay. When the ferry had docked, it was hovering over Alameda. (Fate) The Oakland Tribune of November 25, 1896, made no mention of the egg shaped body.

November 24, 1896-Placerville, California-A bright aerial light was seen moving north to south at 1830. It was seen for 5 minutes and moved against the wind with a rocking motion. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Oakland, California-When a train from San Francisco arrived at 1830, several passengers said they had seen a strange light moving about over the Bay. It was then seen in Oakland. It was seen by thousands including Col. Garrity, George Hatton, Melvin Holmes, Fred Gattee, and Jesse Halsted. The light crossed the Bay, hovered over San Francisco, and then returned. Witnesses at Gabindo Hotel saw smaller lights and a dark body. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Haywards, California-At 1830, C. S. Long, C. W. Everett, and H. Liedel saw a bright light moving rapidly in the direction of the Bay. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 29, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Red Bluff, California-Many saw a light to the west at 1845. It was moving rapidly to the southwest. It was seen for 20 minutes. (San Francisco [Cal] Chronicle, November 26, 1896) The Los Angeles Times of November 25, 1896, reported that it was egg shaped and moved with a rocking motion. Gross recorded that after the light had passed from view, W. H. Hughes climbed to the top of City Hall. He saw the light make several turns over the mountains, return to Red Bluff, and pass over.

November 24, 1896-Chico, California-At about 1900, many saw a light to the south. It moved north with an irregular pattern. It was ball sized and threw out rays of light from 4-5 different directions. (Los Angeles [Cal] Times, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Visalia, California-Mrs. E. M. Jefferds and the E. O. Larkin family saw a mysterious light to the west at 1900. It moved northwest in straight line but up and down and side to side at the speed of a train. It passed out of sight toward San Francisco. It would sometimes disappear and then reappear as bright as ever. (Visalia Weekly Delta, November 26, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Oakland, California-At 1900, many saw a light moving gracefully with a westerly wind. It was 1,000 feet up and left toward the foothills. (Oakland Times, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 1900, the airship was seen and some saw a stoker shoveling in coal. It was identified as Mars. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 25, 1896) (H)

November 24, 1896-South of Oakland, California-Mr. Hooson and 2 others saw a powerful light moving toward the Bay at 1900. The light flickered from red to blue. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 29, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Santa Rosa, California-At 1930, hundreds saw a bright light going east. It would often go out and then come back on. It had huge wings. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Stockton, California-Nightwatchman Moxey saw a flash to the northeast at 2000. He pointed it out to Coroner Fred Clark, Supervisor Lorenz, Mr. Turner and Mr. Anderson. It left southeast on a horizontal path. (Stockton Record, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Hayward, California-At 2130, Mr. Webb and his family saw a light moving to the east. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 29, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Oakland, California-Mrs. E. H. Crawford and Kate Basett saw a light to the south for 15 minutes at 2230. They saw it again at 2315 and it was going east slowly. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-San Jose, California-At 2300, W. E. Watts saw the airship. It was a few hundred feet up and they saw the reflection of light on some large, wing shaped object. (San Jose Mercury, November 26, 1896)

November 24, 1896-San Jose, California-At 2245, Eugene Barre recieved a call from San Francisco that the airship was coming toward San Jose. He, Dan Manning, and Jerre Sullivan saw it at 2300. It was 50 feet above the electric tower and was moving slowly to the south. It was carrot shaped and the bottom of the car was very bright metal. It was seen for 15 minutes. (San Jose Mercury, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 2330, the airship was seen but it was a balloon with a light at the base that went up 300 feet and headed for Alameda. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Tacoma, Washington-About midnight, Mrs. George St. John saw a strange light, high and to the east of Mt. Tacoma. It was seen moving southeast for over an hour. It had red, green, blue, and white lights that shot in all directions. It sometimes moved with a waving and a swaying motion. (Tacoma Daily Ledger, November 27, 1896)

November 24, 1896-San Jose, California-Residents saw a light moving northeast about midnight. (Gross)

November 24, 1896-Lathrop, California-A steamboat captain and a cook saw a cigar shaped object about midnight. It was moving rapidly and was surrounded by a shifting light and made dull thuds. (Gross)

November 24, 1896-Alameda, California-The airship was seen to perform aerial gymnastics and move toward Piedmont. (Lore/Deneault)

November 24, 1896-San Francisco, California-The airship was seen and it was identified as Venus. (San Francisco Chronicle, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Vacaville, California-The airship was seen to come from the direction of Red Bluff. It made a few turns and left in the direction it came from. (Los Angeles [Cal] Times, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Hanford, California-On the cloudy night, Will Matthewson and Mont Hornbeck saw a great light at a 45 degree elevation. It was surrounded by a halo of dazzling light. The true form was obscured, but its flapping wings were seen. (Fresno [Cal] Semi-Weekly Expositor, November 30, 1896)

(H)

November 24, 1896-San Leandro, California-Many saw a light in the sky. (Lore/Deneault)

November 24, 1896-Leesville, California-A light was seen over the city. Some said it was an egg shaped object. (Reno [Nv] Gazette, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-Berkeley, California-Many saw a big light moving from the direction of San Pablo. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 25, 1896)

November 24, 1896-McMinnville, Oregon-Several saw the Sacramento airship pass over the city. At least they saw lights in the sky. (McMinnville Telephone Register, November 26, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Sacramento, California-At 0200, several saw an object rushing to the northwest. (Gross)

November 25, 1896-Sacramento, California-Two men saw the airship going northeast before 1600. It was a dark, misty object at enormous height. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 26, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Grass Valley, California-At 1800, several saw a strange light to the west. It was very bright, oblong, and rose and fell occasionally. It was seen by Justice Holbrooke, Sheriff Getchell, Deputy Neagle, and others. (Grass Valley Morning Union, November 26, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Auburn, California-Several saw a brilliant barrel shaped object pass over. It moved with a rapid and sinuous motion. (Auburn Placer Herald, November 28, 1896) The San Francisco Call of November 26, 1896, reported that it was round and yellowish. It was seen at 1600 by John Walsh, Dave Chamberlain, and Henry Hart.

(H)

November 25, 1896-near Lodi, California-Col. H. G. Shaw and another were riding when the horses suddenly stopped and snorted. They saw 3 human like beings that were 7 feet tall and slender. Shaw attempted to speak to them but they did not understand. They spoke among themselves in a monotonous, guttural chant. The beings were very interested in observing them and the horse and buggy. The beings had very delicate, small hands and the fingers had no nails. Their feet were twice the size of a normal mans feet and the toes were long and slender. He was able to raise one from the ground by gently pressing upward on his elbow, the being barely weighed an ounce. He attempted to grab the ground with his toes. They wore no clothing, but were covered with a soft, silky growth. Their face and heads were hairless, ears very small, a nose like ivory, and large, lustrous eyes. Their mouths were very small and toothless. Each carried, under the left arm, a bag with a nozzle attached. Every now and then, they would put the nozzle in their mouths and he heard the sound of escaping gas. Each carried an object the size of an egg in one hand. When they slightly opened this hand, the object emitted a very intense and penetrating light. The beings tried to lift him and the other man but they could not. They then flashed their lights toward a bridge over the Woodbridge canal and they saw the airship. It was hovering 20 feet up, 150 feet long, and 20 feet wide. It was pointed at both ends and had



a rudder. They moved toward it touching the earth at 15 foot intervals. They sprang to the airship, opened a door, and went inside. He threw a rock at it and it made no sound. It rose and moved rapidly with an expanding and contracting motion. (Stockton [Ca] Mail, November 27, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Fresno, California-At 1830, a light was seen high in the west and going northwest. It was seen for 2-7 minutes and seemed to be several miles away. It rose and fell as it moved. It seemed to have a light in the front and one on the rear. (Gross) The San Francisco [Ca] Examiner of November 26, 1896, said it was Venus.

November 25, 1896-Petaluma, California-Many saw a brilliant light moving horizontally to the south at 1930. A telescope revealed a dark, cigar shaped body. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 27, 1896) The Petaluma Courier of November 27th said it was Venus and that balloons were sent up in the evening.

November 25, 1896-East Oakland, California-At 2000, Dr. Paulin and Judge Horburgh saw a group of 4-5 lights. Above them, was something which had the form of a whale. It moved toward the city, changed course toward Sausalito, and then swerved toward the city. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 26, 1896)

November 25, 1896-San Francisco, California-At 2130, fire balloons were mistaken for the airship. (San Francisco Call, November 26, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Sacramento, California-During the evening, many saw a floating light. It was 3 times as large as Venus, which was also seen. It first appeared to the northeast and was going southwest. When it was near the south part of the city, it turned west and after passing the city went south. It was seen for 20 minutes by E. D. McCabe, Att. Frank Ryan, George McCalvy, J. A. Danlon, Prof. Dodge, Judge Henry, and others. Later in the evening, it was seen to approach from the west and leave northeast. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 26, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Pasadena, California-At night, George Smith, Walt Parker, and Bob Kern saw the airship. (Los Angeles [Ca] Record, November 26, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Robinson's Ferry, California-P. F. Perryman and 5 others saw 2 lights at night. One light was ahead of the other and the kept the same distance apart. One would die out and the other seemed to be more orange. Both of them oscillated up and down. They were seen for just a few minutes. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, December 2, 1896)

November 25, 1896-Riverside, California-An aerial object was seen. (Lore/Deneault)

November 25, 1896-Oakland, California-An aerial object was seen at the same time as one seen in Riverside. (Lore/Deneault)

November 25, 1896-Los Angeles, California-Three men saw 3 lights moving in a zigzag fashion toward Riverside. (Lore/Deneault)

November 25, 1896-Liedel Place, California-Fred Hoyt chased a light on foot to San Lorenzo. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 29, 1896)

November 25, 1896-San Fernando Valley, California-Frank Smith saw strange lights moving in parallel lines. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 27, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Stockton, California-A package was found in one of the scales of a statue of the goddess of justice. The package contained a letter addressed to the Mail. It stated that neither of the men mentioned in the letter found on November 19, 1896, (see report for Stockton, California, of November 18, 1896) had been on the airship. In order to prove this, the author said to have a reporter on top of the Imperial Hotel about midnight on November 26 and they would take him for a ride. He should bring 2-3 overcoats as it is very chilly up in the air and he should bring a clothespin as the rarified air causes nosebleeds. It was signed, "A. Flyman, Esq., and Partner." (Stockton Evening Mail, November 26, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Oakland, California-During the afternoon, a 77 inch box kite was mistaken for the airship. (San Francisco [Ca] Chronicle, November 27, 1896)

November 26, 1896-East San Jose, California-Prof. H. Worcester saw a bright light approaching from Santa Clara at 1900. Prof. M. Cross and others came out after it had changed course from east to southwest, then west, then south, then southeast. There were 2 lights, 1 behind the other and they were the size of engine headlights. They were moving at 60-100 mph and their motion suggested flapping wings. (Lore/Deneault) The San Jose Mercury of November 29, 1896, added that they were 1,500 feet up, seen 2-3 minutes, and were a ball of light, 6 inches in diameter.

November 26, 1896-San Jose, California-At the same time as the previous sighting, John Bawl saw the airship approach from the northwest. It veered from side to side and he saw a pair of wings flapping forward and downward. A red light hung several feet below the object and there was a cone like projection in front. (Lore/Deneault) The San Jose Mercury of November 28, 1896, added that it was 150 yards away, 20 feet long, and going west.

November 26, 1896-San Jose, California-Also, at 1900, Robert Shields, S. S. Farley, George Brasted, and others saw the airship. It was 900 feet up and described as a bright light moving rapidly west. After it sank to the west, they saw a light rise and go south. Now it was 1 light behind another light. (San Jose Mercury, November 27, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Haywards, California-Carl Mohr saw the airship rise from a canyon at 1900 and go toward San Francisco. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 29, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Bakersfield, California-At 2000, Mr. Goade and others saw the airship over Tejon. It was a very large red light and some said

that something encased the light. (Bakersfield Daily Californian, November 27, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Oakland, California-In a clear sky, Case Gilson and several others saw the airship 2000. It was moving rapidly southeast to north, inspite of a strong northwest wind. No light was seen, merely a peculiar body silhouetted against the sky. It was 1,200 to 1,500 feet up and looked like a great black cigar that was 100 feet long. It had a triangular tail with 1 apex attached to the body. Its surface was like tarnished aluminum. As it neared Lorin, it turned quickly and left toward San Francisco at tremendous speed. It was seen again at 2030 following the same course. (Oakland Tribune, December 1, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Modesto, California-At 2230, J. Ward, W. B. Bell, C. P. Schafer, W. A. Downer, and L. J. Maddux saw the airship at a high altitude to the northwest. It moved steadily and evenly. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, November 28, 1896)

(H) November 26, 1896-Arno, California-During the evening, Edward McGuirk saw the airship and heard voices coming from it. (Sacramento [Cal] Bee, November 27, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Monterey, California-Several saw the airship in the evening. (Monterey Cypress, November 28, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Ferndale, California-During the evening, a bright light was seen to the northeast and going slowly west. It changed to the southeast and left in an undulating path. (Ferndale Enterprise, December 1, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Petaluma, California-A star was mistaken for the airship. (Petaluma Courier, November 27, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Oak Park, California-During the evening, N. A. Bruce and his family saw the airship. It was 3 miles away and 100 feet up. It had a red and a white light and they saw flapping wings. (Sacramento [Cal] Bee, November 27 and 28, 1896)

(H) November 26, 1896-Tacoma, Washington-In the night, several saw a bright wobbling light. There was a cigar shaped superstructure above the light and voices came from it. (Tacoma News, November 28, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Hanford, California-Will Mathewson and Mort Hornbeck saw a light at 45 degree elevation. It was reddish and seemed to be surrounded by a halo. It came from Bald Mountain and went northeast toward King and Fresno counties. (Fresno [Cal] Semi-Weekly Expositor, November 30, 1896)

November 26, 1896-Tulare, California-Hundreds saw the airship going toward Hanford. It rose and fell as it moved and seemed to be under perfect control. It had red, green, and blue lights on it. (Visalia [Cal] Times Delta, October 11, 1974)

November 26, 1896-San Francisco, California-John Horen said he met the airship inventor and was taken to the ship. It was made of thin aluminum plates, 163 feet long and 56 feet wide. He took a trip on it to Honolulu, Hawaii, and back at the speed of 138 mph. (San Jose [Ca] Mercury, December 1, 1896) The San Francisco (Ca) Call of December 2, 1896, printed the story and the statement by his wife, that Horen was at home asleep at the time he said it happened. (H)

November 26, 1896-Stockton, California-W. Bruce Harrison saw lights over the northwest part of the city. (Gross) The Stockton Mail of November 27th said it was a fire balloon.

November 26, 1896-between Poso and Bakersfield, California-Mrs. Webster saw the airship with blue and white lights going south. A telescope revealed that it was like a balloon. (Gross)

November 27, 1896-Los Angeles, California-At about 1800, many saw a bright light near the south horizon. At 1830, Capt. Frank Taylor saw a light at 20 to 25 degrees elevation and moving southwest. A pair of field glasses revealed that it was about 15-20 miles away and pear shaped with the apex tilted a little to the left. About 1/5 of its surface was dark and the rest was very bright and spotted at regular intervals with even brighter spots. It was seen for 10 to 15 minutes. (Los Angeles Times, December 1, 1896)

November 27, 1896-Antioch, California-At 1850, C. F. Merrill, Nat Cleaves, T. Uren, C. Sweeny, and others saw a bright light to the south and moving west. It slowly ascended and disappeared behind Mount Diablo in the direction of Oakland. (San Francisco [Ca] Chronicle, November 28, 1896)

November 27, 1896-Bakersfield, California-W. Sanford and Robert Blodge saw a light low in the southwest at 1930. It was very large and moved with undulating movements. (Gross)

November 27, 1896-Winnemucca, Nevada-At 2100, several saw a luminous object to the south. (Winnemucca Silver State, November 28, 1896)

November 27, 1896-Woodland, California-Residents saw bright lights going southwest at 2200. They were 500-600 feet up, moving at 25 mph, and seen 1 hour. (Woodland Democrat, November 28, 1896)

November 27, 1896-Bakersfield, California-In the early evening, A. Hughes saw a great white light moving slowly south. (Gross)

November 27, 1896-Visalia, California-Dave and Jim Carter, and Charley Bahwell saw a light at night. It jumped about and gradually disappeared to the northwest. (Visalia Times Delta, October 11, 1974)

November 27, 1896-National City, California-A meteor was seen and thought to have been the airship. (National City News, December 3, 1896)

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November 27, 1896-Visalia, California-M. J. Byrnes and many others saw a wavering light to the southwest. (Visalia Times Delta, October 11, 1974)

November 28, 1896-Potter Valley, California-At 1930, R. G. Case and Wm. Held saw a cigar shaped airship that was evidently suspended from a balloon. It passed so close to them, that their horses panicked. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 29, 1896)

November 28, 1896-Anderson, California-Residents saw a peculiar light to the west at 2020. It was large, brilliant, and moved in a steady course to the south. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 30, 1896)

November 28, 1896-Salinas, California-During the evening, Fred Howe and others saw an airship for 20 minutes as it moved toward Monterey. (Salinas Democrat, December 5, 1896)

November 28, 1896-Eureka, California-At night, the airship was seen for 20 minutes. (Eureka Standard, November 30, 1896)

November 28, 1896-Oakland, California-Percy Drew saw the airship with a red light. It was 100 feet long and moved with usual quickness. (Oakland Tribune, December 1, 1896) The same source of November 30, 1896, said it was Mars.

November 28, 1896-Alameda, California-A family saw a big white light suddenly appear to the south. It flared out in a second, rose and went south. It stopped, turned south and left. It was the size of a man's head and was seen for 20 minutes. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, November 30, 1896)

November 29, 1896-Tulare, California-At 1500, hundreds including Mr. and Mrs. Schoernman, Mrs. Castle, Nellie Wilson, and Frank Gable, saw the airship going southwest. At 2030, it came back, descended, ascended, then shot away toward Hanford. (Visalia [Ca] Tulare County Times, December 3, 1896)

November 29, 1896-Watertown, California-At 2045, R. McQuarrie, C. Hurlbut, and others saw the light of the airship to the south. It passed over the city, 400 feet up. It was intensely brilliant and the shape and propelling apparatus seen. It was moving at 15 mph and human forms were seen. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, December 3, 1896)

November 29, 1896-Swanger, California-At night, the airship was seen. (Ferndale [Ca] Enterprise, December 14, 1896)

November 29, 1896-Pennington, California-A bright light was seen at night and it moved in a wave like manner. (Yuba City [Ca] Farmer, December 4, 1896)

November 29, 1896-Fresno, California-A man saw the airship hovering to the west. (Fresno Semi-Weekly Expositor, November 30, 1896)

November 29, 1896-Waukens, California-A man saw the airship. (Visalia [Ca] Weekly Delta, December 3, 1896)

(H)

November 29, 1896-Delano, California-Residents saw a mysterious object floating in the sky. (Gross)

November 30, 1896-Merced, California-At 2015, T. Edmunds, J. Olase and others saw a bright red light to the west. It grew larger, came from the west, circled to the north over the city, and paused over the center of the city. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, December 2, 1896)

November 30, 1896-Redlands, California-Residents saw a bright light in the sky. (Gross)

November 30, 1896-Stanford, California-Fire balloons were thought to have been the airship. (San Francisco [Ca] Examiner, December 4, 1896)

November 30, 1896-Los Angeles, California-Residents saw 2 fixed lights pass over at a high speed and altitude. A searchlight was seen as they moved northwest to southeast. Two hours later, they returned moving southeast to northwest. (Gross) The Los Angeles Times of December 1, 1896, indicated that they were possibly Venus and Mars and known balloons were sent up.

November 1896-Stockton, California-Many saw an object with double lights that moved parallel with the earth. (Stockton Record, November 27, 1896)

November 1896-Arcata, California-At 0630, several students saw a large, bright light to the northwest. (Eureka [Ca] Daily Humboldt Times, November 29, 1896)

November 1896-San Mateo County, California-A former resident now working for one of the San Francisco papers wrote that he met the inventor of the airship in San Mateo county ten days ago. He reported that he even flew in it. "The airship in which I made my ascent is 22 feet long, 7 feet of beam, as we would term it in nautical parlance, and 7 1/2 feet high from the ground. It is merely a rough model for experimental purposes, devoid of all the elegant and comfortable interior fittings later airships planned after this model will contain." He claimed they flew over Los Angeles at an altitude of five miles. (Portland [Or] Telegram, December 2, 1896)

(H)

November 1896-Oroville, California-Several reports of strange moving lights. (San Francisco [Ca] Chronicle, November 24, 1896)

November 1896-Ferndale, California-The airship was seen but it proved to be a fire balloon. (Contra Costa [Ca] Gazette, November 28, 1896)

November 1896-Pescadero, California-A fire balloon was mistaken for the airship. (Redwood City [Ca] Gazette, December 5, 1896)

November 1896-Blue Lake, California-The airship was seen but it was a fire balloon. (Ferndale [Ca] Enterprise, December 4, 1896)

November 1896-Woodland, California-Between 2000 and 2100, L. Charmah and another saw a moving light, or lights, to the southwest and going northeast. When it slowed down, they saw 3 distinct lights which kept a

uniform distance apart. They were followed by a white train. (Woodland Daily Democrat, November 24, 1896)

December 1, 1896-San Bernardino, California-At 1900, a cigar shaped object with a 30 foot wide membrane, triangular wings, and a searchlight was seen. (Riverside [Cal] Press, December 2, 1896)

December 1, 1896-Merced, California-At 2030, several saw a very bright red light come from the west. It grew larger, brighter, and became 3 lights. When it was over the city, it described a large circle, then left north. (Merced Star, December 3, 1896)

December 2, 1896-Sutter City, California-E. T. Schellenger saw a ball of red light moving slowly at 1800. He thought he could see wheels moving on it. The light was continually changing from red to blue and it had several other lights. It left in the direction of Knights Landing. (Marysville, [Cal] Daily Appeal, December 4, 1896)

December 2, 1896-Reno, Nevada-Several saw a strange light to the west at 1900. Prof. Wilson said it was as large as an electric arc light. It was over Mackay and Fair Mountain to the southwest. It seemed to be moving toward the city. It was also seen by his wife, Harry Martin, and Mr. Brown. (Reno Gazette, December 3, 1896)

December 2, 1896-Salinas, California-Many saw a large spherical body with scintillating lights at 1900. It was very high and seen for 15 minutes. (Salinas Index, December 3, 1896)

December 2, 1896-Marysville, California-At 2200, several saw moving lights. (Marysville Appeal, December 4, 1896)

December 2, 1896-Bakersfield, California-The airship was seen by 200 people at night. (Bakersfield Daily Californian, December 3, 1896)

(H) December 2, 1896-Eureka, California-At night, the airship was seen and some thought they saw men in it. It proved to be a red lantern suspended from a flagpole. (Eureka Humboldt Times, December 5, 1896)

December 2, 1896-Visalia, California-A light was seen to the west and going north at night. (Visalia Tulare County Times, December 3, 1896)

December 2, 1896-Rio Bonita, California-Several saw a bright light that seemed to pass over Butte mountains to the southwest. (Marysville [Cal] Appeal, December 4, 1896)

(H) December 2, 1896-15 miles south of Pacific Grove, California-Two fishermen saw the airship land on the water and move at a moderate speed until it reached the beach. Three men got out and carried it into the woods. One of the men came back and took the fishermen to the airship. It was 60 feet long, cigar shaped, and the steering apparatus was being repaired. It was made of aluminum and the wings folded close to the body. (San Francisco [Cal] Call, December 3, 1896) The San Francisco Examiner of December 4th reported that no woods existed there and no one knew or heard of the 2 fishermen.

(H)

December 3, 1896-Fresno, California-George Jennings said that an old friend arrived at his hotel about noon. The friend was one of the airship inventors and they had been flying around Contra Costa County when a current of wind caught the airship. The wind was so strong that they could not control the airship until it arrived at Fresno. It was made of aluminum, used an improved system of aeroplanes for lift, and electricity as a motive power. Its only problem was that at times they could not control it. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, December 5, 1896)

December 3, 1896-Selma, California-At 2100, I. M. Steward saw a strange light moving rapidly to the southeast. It was 150 feet up and resembled a train headlight. It was seen by several other people. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, December 5, 1896)

December 3, 1896-Indio, California-At 2100, William Gordon was approached by a stranger looking for someone to splice a rope. Gordon went with him to a cigar shaped object that was 80 feet long and 25 feet wide. It stood on projections and beneath the body was 2 15 foot across, 5 bladed propellers. A tiller rope on its rudder had parted, which he spliced. The craft was metallic, had 2 doors, a number of windows, and the interior was divided into compartments. The captain said that it was operated by compressed air. Gordon took a ride on it and even took the controls. After 2 hours, they passed over Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara. It returned about 8 miles southeast of San Luis Obispo at 0300. The stranger was of swarthy appearance and spoke Spanish to his single companion, a woman. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, December 5, 1896)

(H)

December 3, 1896-Phoenix, Arizona-At 2130, George Bullard, Sen. W. A. Freeze, Maurice Fleishman, and George Fifield saw the airship. It carried 2 searchlights and a car that contained several passengers. (Phoenix Arizona Gazette, December 4 and 6, 1896)

(H)

December 3, 1896-Healdsburg, California-A man saw an object pass over rapidly and 300 feet up. It had a brilliant light that came from a deep cut aperture in the rear. (Santa Rosa [Ca] Press Democrat, May 28, 1978)

December 3, 1896-San Francisco, California-The people of Minion Hills saw the airship sail over Twin Peaks then crash into a gulch. Two men were inside it, and they were badly bruised, while the airship was badly wrecked. It was made of galvanized sheet steel, and 40 feet long. A hole in its side permitted the escape of a sickening gas. One of the men was J. D. DeGear of San Francisco and he related that he and the inventor was on a trial trip when it crashed. (San Francisco Call, December 4, 1896) The San Francisco Chronicle of December 4 reported that the alleged inventor admitted that it never flew and that it was hauled to the spot by a wagon and dragged into place. The paint on it had not even dried and the propellor could be bent with a touch. It was a definite fake.

(H)

December 4, 1896-Davisville, California-Shortly after 1800, George Little and his wife saw something like that seen by the train crew. (Marysville [Ca] Appeal, December 9, 1896)

December 4, 1896-Lodi, California-Between 1800 and 1900, several saw the airship going south. Some of them saw a body above and below the light. It left to the northwest. (San Francisco [Ca] Chronicle, December 5, 1896)

December 4, 1896-Reno, Nevada-At 1830, a reporter saw a very bright light over Mackey and Fair Mountain. He felt that it was Venus. (Reno Gazette, December 5, 1896)

December 4, 1896-between Dixon and Elmira, California-Conductor Corbell, Mr. Ryans, and others on a train saw 2 bright lights between 1830 and 1900. They were 1,000 feet up and moving parallel with the train. Their speed was greater than the train and they left southwest. (Marysville [Ca] Appeal, December 9, 1896)

December 4, 1896-Browns Valley, California-At 1930, the airship was seen to the west and going towards San Francisco. It was 5 miles up, the size of a lantern, and like a bright electric light. (Marysville [Ca] Appeal, December 5, 1896)

December 4, 1896-Woodville, California-C. D. Smith saw a strange light toward the mountains. It was seen by others several minutes later. (Visalia [Ca] Tulare County Times, December 10, 1896)

December 4, 1896-North Bloomfield, California-Four people saw the airship at night. (Grass Valley [Ca] Morning Union, December 6, 1896)

December 5, 1896-Carson City, Nevada-Several people including Lyman Frisbie, Mike Digeney, Jake Muller, Jr., and Ed Billennourt saw a flickering light moving east to west in an easy course. It was seen several minutes. (Carson City Weekly, December 7, 1896) The Carson City Morning Appeal of December 8, 1896, said that it was a fire balloon.

December 6, 1896-Milwaukee, Wisconsin-At 1600, a kite was sent up and described as a flying machine moving against the wind and a man was seen working the wings. (Chicago [Ill] Tribune, December 7, 1896)

December 6, 1896-Monterey, California-Several saw the airship about midnight. (Monterey Cypress, December 12, 1896)

December 6, 1896-Glendale, California-The airship was seen in the evening. (Ferndale [Ca] Enterprise, December 4, 1896)

(H) December 7, 1896-Camptenville, California-At 2100, several saw the airship to the northwest, going north. It descended and landed on Ramm's Hill, 2 miles away. It was found with one occupant who could not speak or hear. They communicated by writing back and forth. He came from the Montezuma mountains in his airship, having left his family in care of the postmaster. He rose and left at 1600 on December 8, 1896. (Marysville [Ca] Appeal, December 9, 1896)

December 7, 1896-Empire, Nevada-Jack Garrity saw a flying machine during the evening. (Carson City [Nv] Morning Appeal, December 11, 1896)

December 7, 1896-Graniteville, California-A fire balloon was mistaken for the airship. (Grass Valley [Ca] Morning Union, December 9, 1896)

December 7, 1896-Visalia, California-The airship was seen to pass over at great speed. It moved north to south and moved in an undulating fashion. It seemed to veer from east to west. It was seen by Charles Abbott, Herbert Riley, Officer Hayes, and others. (Visalia Weekly Delta, December 10, 1896)

December 8, 1896-Carson City, Nevada-The airship was seen to the west and it caught fire and exploded. It was actually a fire balloon that did just that. (Carson City Morning Appeal, December 9, 1896) }

December 10, 1896-Riverside, California-At noon, the airship was seen moving rapidly. Some saw smoke coming from a funnel and some saw wings and a propeller. It was a 6 feet wide hot air paper balloon. (Riverside Press, December 10, 1896)

December 11, 1896-Bronson, Kansas-At 1700, several saw an object come from the west at a swift and steady motion. It stopped directly over the city for 5 minutes, then left east. (Bronson Record, December 17, 1896)

December 14, 1896-Yankee Jims, California-Ten people saw the airship in the evening. (Colfax [Ca] Sentinel, December 25, 1896)

December 14, 1896-Live Oak, California-The airship passed over a family in a cart. The horse became frightened and upset the cart. (Yuba City [Ca] Farmer, December 18, 1896)

December 17, 1896-Biggs, California-At 1830, 50 people saw lights 1 mile to the southwest. It moved in a waving motion and left toward Colusa. (San Francisco [Ca] Call, December 18, 1896)

December 1896-Long Valley, Nevada-Local Indians claimed to have seen the airship. (Reno [Nv] Gazette, December 17, 1896)

December 1896-San Jose, California-At 2300, residents saw a bright light moving rapidly in the sky. (Antioch [Ca] Ledger, December 12, 1896)

December 1896-Knox's Butte, Albany, Oregon-A strange light was seen hovering. (Albany State Rights Democrat, December 11, 1896)

December 1896-Blalock, Oregon-At night, the crew of a train saw a large and very bright light falling from the sky. When it was apparently 1 mile up, it seemed to stand suspended for a moment, then leave north. It was like an immense ball of fire and was seen for 5 minutes. (Montesano [Wa] Vidette, December 18, 1896)

December 1896-20 miles north of Reno, Nevada-Scott Hart saw an object passing over at 500 feet up. Then 2 lights flashed out and he heard a voice say, "We are 4 degrees too far north, change the course." (Carson City [Nv] Morning Appeal, December 6, 1896) (H)

December 1896-Elko, Nevada-Fifty people saw a strange light rise above the northern horizon and rise far into the air. It left to the west in 2 hours. (Elko Independent, December 13, 1896)

December 1896-Battle Mountain, Nevada-During the evening, a strange light was seen to the north, going west. It rose straight up from the earth. (Battle Mountain Central Nevada, December 10, 1896)

December 1896-Nicolaus, California-The airship was seen but it was actually a light of some kind and not a flying machine. (Yuba City [Ca] Framer, December 4, 1896)

January 25, 1897-Florence, Arizona-Between 2030 and 2300, several saw a star to the south that moved east in a zigzag manner. It moved thousands of miles in less than 2 minutes. It retraced its path, moving west, then up and east, and sideways. It changed its brilliance from a 4th magnitude to a 2nd magnitude star. It was said to have been Algol or Canopus. (Phoenix [Az] Herald, February 4, 1897)

January 31, 1897-Hastings, Nebraska-At 2130, a large glaring light was seen at an altitude of 800 feet. It circled around for a few minutes then went north for 3 miles. It hovered for 5 minutes, ascended 200 feet straight up, and hovered for 8 minutes. Then it descended 200 feet in a spiraling fashion. It then went west at a remarkable speed for 2 miles, slowed down, and circled for 15 minutes. It then lowered and disappeared. (Omaha [Nb] Bee, February 2, 1897) According to the Juniata (Nb) Herald of February 10, 1897, this sighting was dated February 8, 1897.

January 1897-Montreal, Canada-For about a week, people saw a strange light between 1700 and 1900. It was claimed that it came from a balloon sent up 8 miles above Syracuse for military purposes. (Chicago [Ill] Chronicle, February 2, 1897)

January 1897-Acampo, California-During the day several saw an airship as big as a small house. It seemed to be made of canvas and was under perfect control. It left to the southeast. (Reno [Nv] Gazette, January 22, 1897)

January 1897-Delaware-A mysterious light had been seen by farmers. (St. Louis [Mo] Star, April 13, 1897)

February 2, 1897-Ellinwood, Kansas-At night, many saw the airship going south at 40 mph. It was 50 feet long, 20 feet wide, and had 2 immense wings or propellers on each side. It had some sort of contrivance attached to the rear, was seen 10 minutes, and was a blaze of light from stem to stern. (Great Bend [Ks] Evening News, February 5, 1897) The Ellinwood Leader of February 11, 1897, stated that no one could be found who saw the airship. It was claimed that the story was made up in Great Bend. (It should be pointed out that by reading papers from both cities it was evident that there existed a form of inter-city bitterness between Great Bend and Ellinwood. The papers from Ellinwood contained several degrading comments about Great Bend and vice versa.)

February 3, 1897-Bloomfield, Nebraska-An airship was seen and it was built of a material like aluminum. It could be propelled in any direction by means of electricity. The occupants were like human beings and their language could not be understood. They were able to converse by signs and gestures and found that they were more advanced in the arts and sciences and it took 1 year to get to the earth. They left after 2 days and took 2 of Bloomfield's most prominent citizens with them. (Bloomfield Monitor, February 17, 1897) (H)

February 5, 1897-Inavale, Nebraska-A very bright light had been seen by 10-12 people. It was like a big headlight with several smaller lights at regular intervals. It was at a considerable height and left. Ten minutes later it returned and was lower. It was conical shaped, 30-40 feet long, had 3 lights on each side, 2 sets of wings, and a large fan shaped rudder. They heard voices and laughter from it. (Omaha [Nb] Bee, February 8, 1897) (H)

February 5, 1897-Niobrara, Nebraska-At 2230, Mayor Bayha and Clerk Harris saw a strange light. It changed colors and circled to the west for a couple of hours. (Niobrara Pioneer, February 12, 1897)

February 7, 1897-York, Nebraska-George Cook, his daughter, and George Jerome saw a bright light to the west at 2100. It was 2 miles away, very high, and very intense. It would suddenly disappear and then reappear. It soon left to the northwest. Jerome saw it dropped suddenly, moved south, and then north. (York Times, February 8, 1897)

February 7, 1897-Hastings, Nebraska-The airship was seen hovering 800 feet up. It was powerfully illuminated by an artificial light. (Juniata [Nb] Herald, February 10, 1897)

February 13, 1897-Orangeville, Illinois-A strange object was seen in the sky. It was like a large mansion with lights in many windows. At times the lights were gone. It left with a rocking motion. (Orangeville Courier, April 19, 1897)

February 15, 1897-Beatrice, Nebraska-Will Miller, Walt Scott, Charley Dempster, Frank Talbot, and Dick Grant saw the airship. Grant said it had a tail, Scott saw 2 eyes, and Dempster saw only 1 eye. It was bright and moved slowly west. (Beatrice Express, February 16, 1897) The Beatrice Times of February 16, 1897, reported that Talbot said it was going south and was the size of a small balloon.

February 16, 1897-South Omaha, Nebraska-At 2130, Thomas Hazel and many children saw a long dark object moving rapidly north. It had a headlight that flashed in all directions. It was 400-500 feet up and was seen by others. (Omaha Bee, February 18, 1897)

February 16, 1897-North Platte, Nebraska-Hy Smith, Chas. Sreternitz, and Harry Reese saw the airship. It was a light the size of a barrel. It would rise straight up 200 feet and then descend very rapidly. When descending, sparks were sent out. This action was repeated. (Kearney [Nb] Hub, February 18, 1897)

February 17, 1897-Kearney, Nebraska-Between 2100 and 2200, Charley Prescott and the Peter O'Brien family saw a light in the west. It was a great distance away and the size of a wooden water bucket. (Kearney Hub, February 19 and 20, 1897)

February 19, 1897-Kearney, Nebraska-Frank Schmidt and others saw a large, bright light to the west. It would dim and brighten and moved with an undulating and uncertain motion. (Kearney Hub, February 20, 1897)

February 19, 1897-Beatrice, Nebraska-Between 2000 and 2200, several saw a bright light near the western horizon. It was vibrating and appeared like a greatly magnified star. It had luminous rays shooting out unevenly from it. The suggestion was made that it was Venus. (Beatrice Express, February 25, 1897)

February 23, 1897-Bowling Green, Ohio-A bright light was seen swaying side to side to the northwest at 2300. At midnight, a spark shot from it to the west. (Bowling Green Sentinel, February 24, 1897)

February 23, 1897-Omaha, Nebraska-Ex-councilman Corly and his wife, and others, saw moving colored lights at night. It seemed to be attached to an oblong object. It moved gracefully with a little dipping and swaying. (Omaha World Herald, February 25, 1897)

February 23, 1897-Lexington, Nebraska-Al Abel saw the airship with a brilliant headlight. Just before it sank to the west, its headlight swung back and forth several times. (Lexington Dawson County Pioneer, February 27, 1897)

February 24, 1897-Pawnee, Nebraska-At 2100, several saw the airship. During the 1 1/2 hours it was seen, it would dart about. (South Auburn [Nb] Nemaha County Herald, March 12, 1897)

February 24, 1897-Wymore, Nebraska-Millard Merkle saw the airship. (Wymore Arbor State, March 5, 1897)

February 25, 1897-Wymore, Nebraska-During the evening, Joe Litty and a hundred others saw the airship. The light was so brilliant that it dazzled the eyes and was in constant motion. It went north for 20 degrees at a terrific rate, turned west, then south, and made a circuit of the city. It came down to 1/2 mile up, rose back to 1 mile up, and left at 2135. (Wymore Arbor State, March 5, 1897)

February 25, 1897-Beatrice, Nebraska-At 2240, a strange light was seen 1/2 mile up. It was kite shaped and the color of a lantern. It would recede then appear again more plainly at some other point. It eventually left north. (Lincoln [Nb] Nebraska State Journal, February 26, 1897)

February 25, 1897-Hastings, Nebraska-Bert Armitage and others saw the airship at 2335. It was moving east in an oscillating motion. It was visible for 5 hours. (Hastings Tribune, March 5, 1897)

February 25, 1897-Grand Island, Nebraska-Several saw the airship for over an hour. The light plainly moved up and down and would approach and recede. (Grand Island Independent, February 26, 1897)

February 26, 1897-Falls City, Nebraska-At 0200, Emmett Sallerwiter saw an immense ball of fire floating to the west. It was white and changed to a dull red. (Falls City Journal, March 5, 1897) The Falls City News of March 5, 1897, reported that it was 2 miles up, to the southwest, and left west.

February 26, 1897-Tecumseh, Nebraska-Between 2100 and 2200, many saw the airship approach from the northwest. It changed colors from red to white to red. It left to the northwest. (Crab Orchard [Nb] Herald, March 5, 1897)

February 26, 1897-Falls City, Nebraska-The Missouri Pacific operator saw a red light going northwest at 2200. (Atchison [Ks] Globe, March 30, 1897) The Stella (Nb) Press of March 5, 1897, stated that it was moving west at 60 mph. It was like a big searchlight and a red light was in the area.

February 26, 1897-Blue Hill, Nebraska-A strange looking object was seen to the west. (Omaha [Nb] Bee, February 28, 1897)

February 26, 1897-Stella, Nebraska-The operator saw a bright light to the southwest. (Stella Press, March 5, 1897)

February 1897-Marcellus, Michigan-A woman said she heard a dog making a disturbance. She saw a bright red light that made a hissing sound. It was seen for 1/2 hour. (Kalamazoo [Mi] Telegraph, April 15, 1897)

February 1897-Kearney, Nebraska-During the evening, superintendent Weston and Lawrence Ketchen saw 2 strange lights which kept a relative position to the north and south. They seemed to have a positive movement and their colors changed from dark yellow to white. (Kearney Hub, March 1, 1897)

February/March 1897-Farnum, Nebraska-W. A. Gorden, Dave Hanna, and E. B. Dunham saw a bright light moving northwest to southwest. (Lexington Dawson County Pioneer, March 6, 1897)

February 1897-Sterling, Kansas-The airship was seen. (Turon [Ks] Weekly Press, February 11, 1897)

February 1897-Hatings, Nebraska-A kite with a lantern tied to the tail was seen as the airship. (Kennard [Nb] Enterprise, February 20, 1897)

February 1897-Elwood, Kansas-Several saw the airship pass over. (Fall City [Nb] Journal, February 12, 1897)

February 1897-Englewood, Kansas-Several saw the airship. (Alma [Ks] Signal, February 27, 1897)

February 1897-Kearney, Nebraska-For 3 or 4 days, a mysterious light was seen to the west between 1900 and 2200. Its intensity varied and on 2 occasions it remained stationary for over an hour. It then would take an undulating motion and disappear to the north. (Omaha [Nb] Bee, February 23, 1897)

February/March 1897-Litchfield, Nebraska-On 3 or 4 occasions during a 2 week period, a strange light was seen between 2100 and 2200. It was to the west and moved about slowly. (Litchfield Monitor, March 4, 1897)

February 1897-The Kearney (NB) Daily Hub of March 1, 1897, reprinted an article which appeared in the Woman's Gazette of Beatrice, Nb. It was in the form of a letter written by Anton Pallardy, an alleged scientist from the Black Hills. He stated that the airship was built in a country known as "Mauvais Terres" which was northwest of Nebraska. He and three companions were flying the ship in order that the people beneath its path would become familiar with it. The ship was described as "something like a very large umbrella with a transparent covering. This large umbrella is immediately above the car, which also contains the little motor for operating the large wings immediately above the umbrella. These wings are expanded and contracted at the pleasure of the engineer. Suspended above and attached to these wings are two very thin, aluminum balloons containing the new gas, helium. Immediately between the wings is another smaller umbrella-like affair that can be made to revolve very rapidly, for a purpose I dare not disclose to you."

March 3, 1897-Wood River, Nebraska-At 0117, the airship was seen to pass over. It was 1 mile or so up and the outline was plainly visible. (Wood River Interest, March 5, 1897)

March 3, 1897-Pawnee City, Nebraska-Between 2200 and 2300, Mr. Marion Potter and Rolla Huntley saw the airship to the west. It moved and circled as if guided by human hands. (Steinauer [Nb] Star, March 5, 1897)

March 4, 1897-Kearney, Nebraska-C. W. Hodges saw a very large and bright light pass over at 0607. It was about a mile up, moved rapidly to the northwest, was very bright white, and 12 to 16 feet long. (Kearney Hub, March 11, 1897)

March 4, 1897-Litchfield, Nebraska-At 2230, the airship was seen. (Broken Bow [Nb] Custer County Beacon, March 11, 1897)

March 4, 1897-Ansley, Nebraska-Mr. Clark and others saw an object at 2230. It was like a huge 36 foot long fish. It was about a mile up and going so fast that it left a streak of light 300 yards long. It made a noise like a thousand prairie chickens taking flight. There were 3 persons seen in it. (Broken Bow [Nb] Custer County Chief, March 5, 1897)

March 5, 1897-Wymore, Nebraska-At 2000, hundreds saw the airship pass over going south to northwest against a strong wind. (Wymore Arbor State, March 12, 1897) The Diller (Nb) Jefferson County Record of March 12, 1897, reported that it was 1945, moving up and down at 15 mph, 2,000

feet up, and seen 10 minutes. This was said to be taken from the Wymore Wymorean.

March 7, 1897-South Omaha, Nebraska-The light of the airship was seen at 2145. (Kearney [Nb] Hub, March 15, 1897)

March 7, 1897-Chalco, Nebraska-At 2225, the operator saw a light moving southeast to northwest. (Kearney [Nb] Hub, March 15, 1897)

March 9, 1897-Kearney, Nebraska-C. J. Stroud and family saw a light come from the southwest at 2115. It was very brilliant, very high, and left northwest at 2200 at great speed. (Kearney Hub, March 10, 1897)

March 9, 1897-Missouri-A strange light was seen going northwest. (Skylook)

March 12, 1897-Downs, Kansas-At 2200, several saw the airship pass over. It was 8 feet long, had a light at each end, and left toward Osborne. (Alton [Ks] Empire, March 18, 1897)

March 13, 1897-Portal, Nebraska-Clara O'Canion and Lola Hassett saw a huge black oblong mass to the east at 2100. It had a graceful rocking motion and lights that swung from either end. (Papillion [Nb] Times, March 18, 1897)

March 13, 1897-North Loup, Nebraska-Many saw a brilliant ball of fire to the west. Its intensity varied and its course was irregular and erratic. It frequently threw out dazzling sheets of light and streaks of sparks. (Lincoln [Nb] Nebraska State Journal, March 16, 1897)

March 14, 1897-South Omaha, Nebraska-At 2130, the airship was seen to approach from the southeast. It was like an engine headlight and floated to the west and north. During the 30 minutes it was seen, it went out of view behind buildings. It was 1 foot in diameter and some saw a dark body below the light. (Omaha Bee, March 16, 1897)

March 14, 1897-Fremont, Nebraska-The airship was seen going north. (Fremont Herald, March 16, 1897)

March 15, 1897-Omaha, Nebraska-A large light was seen to pass over in a manner that indicated control by human agency. (Stevensville [Mt] Ravalli Republican, March 31, 1897)

March 18, 1897-Wilsey, Kansas-At 2200, several saw a light going northwest in the heavily overcast sky. It was as large as a quart dipper and bobbed up and down. (Council Grove [Ks] Guard, April 2, 1897)

March 22, 1897-Byron, Wisconsin-A large and brilliant light was seen. (Fond du Lac [Wi] Commonwealth, March 25, 1897)

March 23, 1897-Bruning, Nebraska-At 2200, many saw the airship going northwest. It was 300-400 feet up and was a dark body the size of the depot. It carried 1 large yellow light, a smaller one, and was seen for 10 minutes. (Hebron [Nb] Republican, March 26, 1897)

March 26, 1897-Sioux City, Iowa-The airship was seen, but soon identified as Veuns. (Sioux City Journal, March 24, 1897)

March 24, 1897-Sedgewick, Kansas-Several saw a straight bar of light going east at 2000 on a cloudless night. It was narrow at the top and gradually widened as it extended toward the earth. It left east, but was seen to reappear an hour or so later going southeast to southwest. (Sedgewick Pantagraph, April 1, 1897)

March 24, 1897-Fairbury, Kansas-At 2030, the airship was seen high in the northwest. It was like a bright star with rays of light extending up and down from it. It would remain stationary for some time then move northwest, swaying side to side. It would often fade in and out. By 2130, it had left to the northwest. It reappeared and again disappeared at 2200. (Phillipsburg [Ks] Herald, April 1, 1897, taken from the Fairbury Gazette of March 27)

March 24, 1897-Elsie, Nebraska-Mr. and Mrs. Fagenstecker saw a light as large as the moon going west and north. (Elsie Leader, April 15, 1897)

March 24, 1897-Belleville, Kansas-Thirteen people saw a light for 30 minutes as it moved north against the wind. (Omaha [Nb] Bee, March 29, 1897)

March 24, 1897-Jefferson, Michigan-In the morning, several saw a beautiful ball of fire in the clouds. It was very bright for a short time then appeared to go down. (Hudson [Mi] Post, April 2, 1897)

March 25, 1897-Marquette, Kansas-During the evening, many saw a bright light going south to northwest. It came from Wichita and left toward Colby. (Lindsborg [Ks] Record, April 2, 1897) The Marquette Tribune of April 2, 1897, reported that it was a hoax.

March 26, 1897-Belleville, Kansas-Telegraph operator, J. A. Rea, saw a light hovering over the city for 3/4 hour. It had a bluish tint and was 1/2 size of train headlight. It left rapidly. (Chicago [Ill] Tribune, March 29, 1897)

March 26, 1897-Kansas City, Kansas-At 2130, Mrs. B. R. Hogan saw a light to the northwest. It would disappear and reappear at 10-20 minute intervals and each time it seemed to be in a different direction. (Kansas City Star, March 28, 1897)

March 27, 1897-Portage, Wisconsin-In the daylight, Mr. Ridgeway and Mr. Pilcher saw the airship over City Hall. It was white, the size of a bushel basket, and 3 miles up. Every once in awhile, it would wobble and a cloud of smoke would belch from 1 end. It was revealed that a balloon had been sent up about the same time. (Portage Register, April 12, 1897)

March 27, 1897-Osage City, Kansas-At 2000, a light was seen to the northwest and 8-10 miles away. It rapidly grew brighter until it was as large as a train headlight, reddish, and oval. After 15 minutes, it began to grow narrower and became a narrow streak of light that soon

disappeared. The outline of an object was seen behind the light. (Osage City Free Press, April 1, 1897)

March 27, 1897-Diller, Nebraska-D. R. Calley saw the airship to the northwest at 2100. During the 1/2 hour it was seen, it was at first stationary and then moved in various directions. It was possibly Venus. (Diller Jefferson County Record, April 2, 1897)

March 27, 1897-Topeka, Kansas-At 2100, a dispatch was recieved stating that the airship would arrive at 2130. It was seen, at 2130, by thousands to the west. It was too red and too large to be a star and would disappear and reappear at times. (Topeka Capital, March 28, 1897) The Topeka State Journal of March 29, 1897, said it was Venus.

March 27, 1897-Belleville, Kansas-At 2200, hundreds of people saw a light that was so strong that it reflected brightly through windows. At times it would disappear and then flare out suddenly. It had an erratic course and after 30 minutes it darted off to the north. Several saw it with strong glasses and said they saw the outlines of an airship. (Chicago [Ill] Tribune, March 29, 1897)

March 27, 1897-Hiawatha, Kansas-Several saw a light to the west. It was a brilliant light with a circle of light around it and would repeatedly beam bright then disappear. (Hiawatha Kansas Democrat, April 1, 1897)

March 27, 1897-Valley Falls, Kansas-An airship as big as the moon was seen by several people. (Oskaloosa [Ia] Times, April 2, 1897)

March 27, 1897-Stockton, Kansas-Alex Low saw a moving light in the sky. (Stockton Rooks County Record, April 2, 1897)

March 28, 1897-Belleville, Kansas-The airship was seen at 0200 going south. (Mt. Morris [Ill] News, April 7, 1897)

March 28, 1897-Belleville, Kansas-At 0500, the airship was seen going north. (Mt. Morris [Ill] News, April 7, 1897)

March 28, 1897-Omaha, Nebraska-Many saw the airship for 30 minutes. It came from the southeast and left slowly to the northwest. It was a big bright light that glowed steadily and was too big for a balloon. (Omaha Bee, March 30, 1897)

March 28, 1897-Junction City, Kansas-Mr. and Mrs. Jim Durbin and Mr. H. Pickering saw the skylight. (Junction City Union, April 2, 1897)

March 28, 1897-Stockton, Kansas-Frank McNulty saw a moving light. (Stockton Rooks County Record, April 2, 1897)

March 29, 1897-Stockton, Kansas-At 2230, many saw a large light. It was too large to be a star and it moved in a manner which indicated it was not a star. (Stockton Western News, April 1, 1897)

March 29, 1897-Chanute, Kansas-A bright light saw seen moving slowly northeast to southwest. It was 1,000 feet up and seen 10-15 minutes. (Chanute Tribune, April 1, 1897)

March 29, 1897-Glen Elder, Kansas-Grandpa Gansell saw a bright red light to the east. It was a long distance away and going west. It passed directly over the city and was seen by Mayor Proctor and others. (Osborne [Ks] Osborne County Farmer, April 8, 1897)

March 29, 1897-Loyal, Wisconsin-John Jones saw the airship moving west to east. It was high and carried 3 lights. (Wausau [Wisc] Semi-Weekly Record, April 6, 1897)

March 29, 1897-Wichita, Kansas-Police Judge Hatton, Signal Service Officer Johnson, and 20 others saw a 4 inch diameter light to the northeast. It was moving rapidly to the north. (Topeka [Ks] State Journal, March 30, 1897)

March 29, 1897-Belleplaine, Kansas-George Howard and Barney Doyle saw a mysterious light. (Belleplaine News, April 1, 1897)

March 30, 1897-Chanute, Kansas-At 2200, a man saw an extremely bright light overhead. It was going at a good rate southwest to northeast. The lower part was like a big boat and the upper part was shaped like a balloon. There was a white light on one side and he saw a man in the boat who looked like John Becker. (Chanute Tribune, April 3, 1897)

March 30, 1897-Dodge City, Kansas-The airship was seen at night. (Larned [Ks] Eagle Optic, April 2, 1897)

March 30, 1897-Denver, Colorado-The airship was seen. (Menzel)

March 31, 1897-Zanesville, Ohio-At 0130, Dennis Carl and Ed Neff saw a strange light moving rapidly across the sky, disappearing to the west. They went back to bed, but could not sleep. After about an hour, they heard a sound like a foghorn. They again saw the light approaching from the northwest, but lower. It was a huge cigar shaped object under which was suspended a caboose like affair from which shone an electric light. They saw 3 men in the cab of the airship (Dennis was ready to swear he saw 300). The pilot asked the firemen for a supply of water. Neff passed a section of hose to Carl who climbed the steeple of the hose house. The aeronauts "were given a plentiful supply of the best that Muskingum affords, and then went on their way rejoicing." (Zanesville Sunday Times Reporter, April 5, 1897)

March 31, 1897-Lindsborg, Kansas-At 2030, many saw a large light to the west. It sent down some bright rays upon some buildings. It disappeared into a hovering, dark cloud and when it emerged, it left west. (Lindsborg Record, April 2, 1897)

March 31, 1897-St. Mary's, Kansas-An extremely bright light was seen at 2100 on the western horizon. It moved about rapidly and was seen for 2 hours. (St. Mary's Star, April 1, 1897)

March 31, 1897-Galesburg, Michigan-At 2200, many saw a brilliant white light suddenly appear accompanied by a sharp, crackling sound. One person saw a huge black object tipped with flame. Another said she heard human voices. (Detroit [Mi] Evening News, April 1, 1897) (H)

March 31, 1897-Penn Township, Kansas-A man saw a red light northwest of Osborne that disappeared below the horizon. It seemed to be under the control of a human agency. (Osborne [Ks] Osborne County Farmer, April 8, 1897)

March 31, 1897-Albia, Iowa-The airship was seen to pass over. (Ottumwa [Ia] Courier, April 3, 1897)

March 1897-Nanticoke, New York-A strange red light was seen, but was found to be a kite with a lantern attached. (Atlanta [Ga] Constitution, April 5, 1897)

March 1897-Harlan, Iowa-At 2000, many saw a bright light for 30 minutes. (Harlan Tribune, April 14, 1897)

March 1897-Clarks, Nebraska-At 2100, Miss Viola Daniels saw a light coming from the north. It was very swift, very large, and like a giant ball of fire. When it was almost opposite her, it went partly to pieces. Two large pieces went downwards, brightly illuminating the earth, and the main body went south. (Pierce [Nb] County Call, March 19, 1897)

March 1897-Jewell City, Kansas-A kite with a lantern on the tail was thought to be the airship. (Jewell City Jewell County Republican, April 2, 1897)

March 1897-Oxford, Nebraska-Between 2100 and 2200, many saw a light come from the southwest and pass to the west of town. It was like a bright star and was 2-3 miles to 1/2 mile away. (Arapahoe [Nb] Public Mirror, April 8, 1897)

March 1897-Kearney, Nebraska-Charlie Bessie saw a moving light. (Kearney Hub, March 15, 1897)

March 1897-Holland, Michigan-For 1 hour, residents saw a ball of fire in the clouds. One moment it was brilliant, then it dimmed as if covered by a veil. (Grand Traverse [Mi] Herald, April 1, 1897)

March 1897-Junction City, Kansas-The airship was seen but it was "too high for any of the passengers to be recognized, but it is thought that Chester I. Long was among them looking for a soft spot to fall when his premature gubernatorial boom burst." (Junction City Weekly Tribune, April 1, 1897)

March 1897-Edgar, Nebraska-The airship was seen but was only a kite with a lantern attached to the tail. (Edgar Post, April 2, 1897)

March 1897-Hillsdale, Michigan-Mrs. John Wilson saw her room suddenly fill with light, then disappear. (Hillsdale Standard, April 6, 1897)

March 1897-Bloomington, Nebraska-Several saw the airship. (Bloomington Echo, March 12, 1897)

March 1897-Silver Creek, Nebraska-The airship was seen. (Doniphan Index, March 13, 1897)

March 1897-Sioux City, Iowa-The airship was seen by some trainmen. (Port Huron [Mi] Daily Times, April 7, 1897)

March 1897-Oasis, Iowa-Fred Cutler saw the airship for 1 1/2 hours. It was a very bright light, a little smaller than a train headlight. (Clinton [Ia] Morning Age, April 11, 1897)

March 1897-Stanton, Nebraska-For several days, an unusually bright star was seen to the west. It usually sank at 2200. (Stanton Weekly Picket, March 18, 1897)

(H) March 1897-Newton, Kansas-The airship was seen hovering low at 0300. The engineer of the craft was seen to stoop over, examine the buds of a peach tree, turn a lever, and the craft left. (Wichita [Ks] Eagle, April 2, 1897)

March 1897-Caseville, Michigan-Strange moving lights or fires were seen on Saginaw Bay during a week. Some believed them to be the ghosts of those lost on the steamer Oconto which was wrecked on Big Charitz Island a few years ago. (Benton Harbor [Mi] Evening News, April 1, 1897)

March 1897-McCook, Nebraska-For the past week, a strange light was seen to the west. It was 1/4 mile up, the size of a train headlight, and going northwest. (McCook Courier, March 11, 1897)

March/April 1897-Merrill, Wisconsin-A strange light was seen to the northwest on several nights. It was surrounded by a halo and once it was seen in spite of an overcast. (Wausau [Wi] Semi Weekly Record, April 6, 1897)

April 1, 1897-St. Joseph, Missouri-At 0107, S. F. McEwen, a train dispatcher, saw the airship. A rocket went up and he could see that it had white sides (covered with milk since it went through the Milky Way). It was 80 feet long, very slender, and stood in the sky under perfect control. It had bat wings that could be drawn in and extended. It circled about, descended, ascended, darted 20-30 miles, and returned. Dynamite guns could be seen on the quarter deck. After 1/2 hour, it dropped a red ball of fire and left north with the faint whirr of a revolving wheel. The ball of fire descended and was found to be a small asbestos pouch with a burned rocket attached. Inside was a note that said: "Jules Verne, April 1." (St. Joseph Daily News, April 1, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Newton, Kansas-T. C. Fite saw the airship at 0100. It was spherical or torpedo shaped and carried a light like a big ball of fire. It was going southwest and circled the city a few times, veering down at times. (Newton Kansan, April 1, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Muscatine, Iowa-The airship had been seen by two men at the bridge at 0330. They saw a strange light in the southwest that changed course as it approached. It changed its colors to red, purple, blue, and back to white. As it got closer, they saw a large, dark, conical shaped craft which moved in an undulating fashion. It came up the Illinois side of the river, at times dipping down in the trees with a crash and they saw sails above it. It passed the bridge about 100 feet above the earth, and with a thunderous roar, it crashed into the trees and disappeared. They heard a faint cry for help, and then another, still fainter, and they went to the place where the light was still seen. They found a pointed boat with sails badly wrecked, with a man beneath it, groaning in great pain. He was carried to the cabin boat near by, inhabited by Henry Atwald, from Fairport, and made as comfortable as possible, he suffering such agony as to have it deemed unadvisable to remove him to town. A physician was brought to the site and he was able to ascertain that the man was Prof. De Barre, of Tucson, Arizona, and that the strange craft was his own invention, he being on his way to Chicago and that his accident was due to a failure in the steering apparatus. (Muscatine Daily News Tribune, April 1, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Carrollton, Missouri-At 2030, Nell Heitz and family saw a peculiar light to the northwest. It would disappear and reappear at times and moved in a zigzag and undulatory fashion. (Carrollton Democrat, April 2, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Kansas City, Missouri-A bright light was seen low in the west at 2015. It moved north to south, would ascend and descend, and varied from white to red. It was the size of a big electric street light and shot out beams like a searchlight. It would fade out and then return as bright as ever. It was generally going northwest, but would reverse and go southeast for a distance. A. A. Phillips saw it for over an hour and said that it would move in all directions despite the wind. It was also seen by J. H. C. Rudd, Fred Pinkston, C. A. Kelser, and Charley Purvis. Purvis said that it was cross shaped, blue in center, red around this, and would flare up as all white. He felt that it was a star. (Kansas City Times, April 2, 1897) This report was very widely circulated and appeared in an extremely large number of newspapers all over the country. As would be expected, some papers added details not mentioned in the initial article. The Juniata (Nb) Herald of April 7, 1897, said it was 30 feet long, a combination of a boat and balloons with fans or wings on either side. The Wilmington (NC) Messenger of April 6, 1897, reported that it would dim when it rose and brighten when descending, hovering, or moving horizontally. The St. Louis (Mo) Globe Dispatch of April 2, 1897, said it was seen by 10,000 people and was a red light with a black object behind it. The Kansas City Journal of April 2, 1897, revealed that it was a balloon hoax!

April 1, 1897-Girard, Kansas-At 2100, a great red light was seen to the northwest and it came from the southeast. It was moving at a good speed and when a mile or so from the city it stopped, hovered, descended considerably, moved side to side, and hovered. At 2145, it began to recede at a terrific speed and left northwest. (Girard Press, April 8, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Ottawa, Kansas-John Bollwood pointed out a bright light to many other people at 2100. It was low in the west and moved at a considerable speed to the south. It then reversed course, went north, and sank below the trees. It was in view for 1/2 hour. (Ottawa Daily Republican, April 2, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Everest, Kansas-At 2106, a brilliant light was seen to the southeast. It moved about and even changed course. It was seen plainly and the car was 25-30 feet long and canoe shaped. It had 4 wings that extended from the sides and these ended in a triangular attachment. A large, dark hull was seen above the car and the light was a greenish blue. It came from the southwest, going northeast and was 200-300 yards up. It hovered for 10 minutes and left west. It then returned and left north. It was in view for 1 hour and 20 minutes. It could not have been Venus, as she was seen at the same time. (Kansas City [Mo] Times, April 2, 1897) Since this report appeared in the same article as the report of the April 1st sighting at Kansas City at 2015, it too was very widely circulated. It also had some variations. Lore/Deneault reported that the light dimmed when it moved, glowed brightly when stationary, and some witnesses heard a hissing sound. The St. Louis (Mo) Globe Democrat of April 2, 1897, reported that it was at 2100 and seen only 30 minutes. The Harper (Ks) Sentinel of April 16, 1897, revealed that it was a balloon hoax and this was said to have been disclosed in an Everest newspaper. Unfortunately, none of the Everest newspapers could be located in the research, thus the claim could not be confirmed. The hoax statement did appear in other Kansas newspapers for April of 1897.

April 1, 1897-Kansas City, Kansas-At 2130, many saw a bright light which moved slowly and steadily. It would ~~fade~~, brighten, and change colors. S. A. Shaw said it was at 40 degree elevation to the northwest and it left west. (Kansas City Times, April 2, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Kansas City, Missouri-Prof. Greenwood saw the airship in the evening and identified it as Venus. (Kansas City Journal, April 3, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Cottonwood Falls, Kansas-A man informed Col. Whitley that the airship had been seen to the southwest. The next day, it was discovered wrecked in the top of a large sycamore tree. Two men were found lying on the ground, one was dead and the other unconscious. He came to, and told of his thrilling experience on board the ship and when it was wrecked. It was found that he was from Topeka. (Chanute [Ks] Tribune, April 3, 1897) "Everybody, of course, knows by this time of Col. Whitley's ruse about the airship." (Emporia [KS] Republican, April 2, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Larned, Kansas-A kite with lighted chemicals on the tail was seen as the airship that was seen to hover for 5 minutes then leave north. (Larned Eagle Optic, April 9, 1897)

April 1, 1897-McLouth, Kansas-George Briner claimed to have seen the airship, but he was lying. (McLouth Times, April 9, 1897)

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April 1, 1897-New Orleans, Louisiana-A man saw a bright light in the sky. (New Orleans Times Picayune, April 21, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Stockton, Kansas-The airship was seen, but proved to be a balloon. (Stockton Rooks County Record, April 9, 1897)

April 1, 1897-Sioux City, Iowa-Two boys said they had seen the airship when they had not. (Sioux City Journal, April 2, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Everest, Kansas-At 0226, several saw a brilliant and powerful light to the north. It came at a steady rate and was 400 yards up. It stopped over the city, rose, maneuvered, descended to 200-300 yards up and left northwest at 0255. (Kansas City [Mo] Times, April 3, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Atchison, Kansas-Several saw a red light oscillating to the west at 0300. It would disappear and then reappear. (Atchison Daily Champion, April 2, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Zanesville, Ohio-During the daylight, Superintendent J. B. Rhodes of the B.C. & C. and several shopmen saw the airship. It was several hundred feet up and moving rapidly to the southwest. (Zanesville Sunday Times Reporter, April 5, 1897) The Zanesville Daily Courier of April 27, 1897, reported that the airship had not been seen and it was a joke played upon Rhodes.

April 2, 1897-Ottawa, Kansas-At 2000, John Davenport saw a light to the west just above the trees. It oscillated slowly from side to side. When it was going north it was descending and when going south it was ascending. It was like an arc light surrounded by an aureola of green. On one side was an effulgent protuberance like lights cast by a headlight and on the exact opposite side was a tail like a stream of light. Occasionally, lances of light would shoot out and sometimes there were red dots. It was also seen by Walter Swift, John Halloren, John Grimsley, and J. W. Harrison. The latter 2 men saw a cluster of 3 lights a little west of north. These were receding and left north. (Ottawa Daily Republican, April 3, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Independence, Kansas-Dr. N. A. Thrall and his daughter saw the headlight of the airship at 2030 to the northwest. It seemed to tack like a ship sailing against the wind and left northwest after 15 minutes. (Independence Reporter, April 4, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Leavenworth, Kansas-At 2040, E. W. Snyder saw the airship at 30 degrees elevation to the northwest. Several others saw a light surrounded by a circular halo of hazy, smoky appearance. (Leavenworth Times, April 3, 1897) The Leavenworth Standard of April 3rd said it was Venus.

April 2, 1897-Liberty, Missouri-Billie George and family saw a light moving northwest at 2100. (Liberty Tribune, April 9, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Ellsworth, Kansas-The sky was starless at 2130 when a couple saw a large searchlight up the sky. (Ellsworth Messenger, April 8, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Leavenworth, Kansas-At 2300, Dr. Orchard saw 2 blazing lights. When they were closer, he saw the outlines of a globular shaped mass of machinery with 2 propellers that rotated rapidly. It passed 50 feet away with a faint hum as it went east at 130 mph. When it was near the city, its lights went out. (Leavenworth Times, April 3, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Olivet, Kansas-A brilliant light was seen for 1 hour before it left northwest. It was the size of a loaf of chaff and seen 30 minutes. (Osage City [Ks] Free Press, April 8, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Disco, Illinois-A kite with a lantern flying at 500-600 feet was seen as the airship. (Monticello [Ill] Piatt County Republican, April 8, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Tipton, Missouri-The airship was seen at night. (California [Mo] Dispatch, April 8, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Muscatine, Iowa-The airship was seen, but identified as a kite with a red light attached to it. (Muscatine Daily News Tribune, April 3, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Oneida, Kansas-The airship was seen 3 miles to the southwest. It was like the headlight of a train with the dim outlines of a vast object belching flame and smoke. It was a few hundred feet up and as it darted about the light grew brighter. (Seneca [Ks] Tribune, April 8, 1897)

April 2, 1897-Wesley, Iowa-Residents saw the airship going northwest. It was cone shaped with windows in the sides through which bright lights shone. It was not as fast as a meteor. Some thought they heard a noise, some thought voices, and some thought sound of machinery. (Algona [Ia] Republican, April 7, 1897) The Marshalltown [Ia] Times Republican of April 13, 1897, added that it was at 2000, 20-30 feet long, red light came from windows and it was going northeast.

April 3, 1897-Falls City, Nebraska-At 0100, Jennie Ewalt saw the airship moving slowly north. It was an oblong ball of fire the size of 2 full moons. It was white with a bluish tint, lit up the area, and went out like a lamp. (Falls City Journal, April 9, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Rochelle, Illinois-Hundreds saw a bright object coming from the southwest at 1930. It was a few hundred feet up and left east. (Sycamore City [Ill] Weekly, April 8, 1897) The Chicago [Ill] Record of April 10, 1897, revealed that it was a hoax.

April 3, 1897-Lawrence, Kansas-A strange red light was seen in the sky at 2000. It turned out to be the reflection of a fire. (Lawrence Journal, April 5, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Independence, Kansas-At 2000, many saw the airship appear in the southeast. It gradually came closer and grew in brilliance. It

did not move in a straight line, but darted this way then that but on the same course. It was low when first seen but rose higher and higher as it approached. It veered south, turned, passed over the city going north, then returned, and passed over again. It descended and hovered for 5 minutes. It then darted about again and left northwest. It was seen for 30 minutes. (Indianapolis [In] Journal, April 5, 1897)

(H) April 3, 1897-Olivet, Kansas-The airship was seen at 2030, but closer and brighter than on April 2nd. It was moving east, veered, and left west. At times, the lower part appeared heart shaped with an opaque center. It had rays of light extending obliquely downward to the right and left. At times the light would almost go out and a dark shape was seen below the light. Its movements indicated human control and some thought they heard strains of music. It was seen for 40 minutes. (Osage City [Ks] Free Press, April 8, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Evanston, Illinois-At 2040, a mysterious light was seen to pass over rapidly to the northwest. It was a very bright light and gave out a curious sort of flash at intervals. It was $1/4$ mile up and was gone by 2055. The witness declined to give his name for fear of being laughed at. (Chicago [Ill] Times Herald, April 4, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Vinton, Iowa-Many including Judge Lot Thomas and wife saw the airship at 2100. George Steig saw it and heard machinery and voices as it went northwest. (Marshalltown [Ia] Times Republican, April 9 and 13, 1897) The Cedar Rapids [Ia] Republican of April 9, 1897, added that it moved with a swaying manner like a bird flying against a wind. It was seen for 30 minutes. The Chicago [Ill] Times Herald of April 8, 1897, indicated the date as April 6th and the Toledo [O] Blade of April 12th indicated April 7th. (H)

April 3, 1897-Albia, Iowa-At 2200, many saw a reddish light moving west to north in an erratic manner. (Chicago [Ill] Tribune, April 5, 1897) The Ottumwa [Ia] Courier of April 9, 1897, added that it was quite large, moved up and down, and would often disappear then reappear.

April 3, 1897-Keosauqua, Iowa-Many saw the airship in the west moving rapidly north at 2200. It was a large, brilliant red light that moved up and down and would often disappear and reappear. (Keosauqua Republican, April 8, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Sedan, Kansas-At 2215, several saw the airship to the southwest and going north. It was very fast, red, larger than Venus, and seen for 15 minutes. (Sedan Lance, April 8, 1897) The Wichita [Ks] Beacon of April 5, 1897, reported that it was seen by A. E. Howe and others as a brilliant electric light. It shifted a little north of west and hovered for a few minutes. It then went west rapidly, changed course, hovered for a few minutes, and left north. When it was moving it was reddish, but when stationary it flashed up like a large electric light. It was seen for 30 minutes.

April 3, 1897-Monticello, Indiana-About dusk, Capt. B. F. Price saw a strange light and after supper he went to investigate. He went to John Ward's house and found Ward watching it. They and Milt Goslee went to

(H) find it. They soon found that it was moving toward them. It rose occasionally from the ground and swung to and fro. They felt that it was a man carrying a lantern. It approached by going around a pond. Suddenly it seemed to be further away. They returned to Ward's house and read up on Jack-o'-Lanterns, they now believed that this is what it was. Mrs. Ward said she watched it until 0200 when it began to rain and the light left. (Monticello Herald, April 15, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Hollenberg, Kansas-R. T. Kerr saw the airship over the city. "He may have seen the 'stars' but we believe his eyes were in an eclipse." (Washington [Ks] Post Register, April 9, 1897).

April 3, 1897-Emporia, Kansas-A light was seen dodging about and bobbing up and down. It was identified as Venus. (Clinton [Mo] Democrat, April 5, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Phillipsburg, Kansas-Clovis Johnson, Mel Strain, and Clyde Smith saw a bright light that left northwest. (Phillipsburg Herald, April 8, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Herington, Kansas-George Simmons and Charlie Barton saw the airship. It was first in one place, then in another. (Herington Times, April 8, 1897)

April 3, 1897-Tipton, Missouri-The airship was seen at night. (California [Mo] Dispatch, April 8, 1897)

(H) April 4, 1897-St. Louis, Missouri-At 1430, Mr. Joseph Joslin was walking in Forest Park when he suddenly felt as if being stuck with a thousand needles. He passed out from the pain and when he came to he saw a very strange animal on the ground. It was like a Chinese dragon, 100 foot long, dull red color and had 2 great bat like wings. It had 2 white eyes, 2 red eyes, and 2 green eyes. It had a huge mouth and horns. On top of this were creatures, shorter than the average man, and also red. They had black heads and seemed to have no eyes. Against his will, he was forced to climb onto the dragon and it flew away. He was on it for nearly 3 weeks and was frequently tortured by the over 1,000 beings. The next thing he knew, he was in the City Hospital and his case was diagnosed as alcoholism. (St Louis Post Dispatch, April 12, 1897)

April 4, 1897-Winona, Minnesota-The airship was seen at 2000 and it was southwest of the Evening Star. It seemed to sway slightly and would turn around and show a red and a green light. It left southwest at 2130. It was seen by Harry Friday, C. G. Robertson, W. Stewart, and others. (Winona Daily Herald, April 9, 1897)

April 4, 1897-Troy, Kansas-At 2130, many saw what resembled a train headlight pass directly over the city. It slowly went west, maneuvering as it did. (Troy-White Cloud Weekly Kansas Chief, April 8, 1897).

April 4, 1897-Bethany, Missouri-The airship was seen at 10:30 p.m., coming from the southwest at 35 mph, and 1/2 mile high. It stopped over the court house and left northeast. "This morning two men, John Leib and Ira Davis, living six miles east, brought word to town that an airship

had fallen on J. D. Sims' farm and a man was found dead. The coroner has gone to hold an inquest." (St. Joseph [Mo] Herald, April 6, 1897) On April 8, the Herald printed a letter from Bethany, dated April 7, and signed "Truthful Jones." The man had "died of congestion of the brain from an overflow of gas, the motive power of the ship." He must have died happy, as he was smiling, and the name of the ship was the Eureka. It was spherical and surrounded by a ballustrade, all made of wicker-work and asbestos. "It was sailing with ballast of silver for the redemption of silver certificates after 1900. The mast, standing erect in the center of the ship served as an anchor to a huge balloon, below which was a simple apparatus for manufacturing its own gas." The April 9 issue of the Herald printed another letter from Bethany, dated April 8 and signed "A True Fakir." It reported that there were two dead men and from letters in their pockets they came from either San Francisco or Omaha. It seemed that the accident was caused when the rigging of the airship became tangled in a flag pole. "The ship resembles a cigar in shape, and has three propellers on either side, all of which were broken in the fall. A large hole was torn in the lower side, which revealed a large number of cells for the gas." The remains of the ship were transported into town. (H)

April 4, 1897-Darlington, Wisconsin-The airship was seen in the evening. (Elkhorn [Wi] Independent, April 15, 1897)

April 4, 1897-Minneapolis, Minnesota-Several people saw the airship. It was shaped like a boat with a large, bright light at the bow. It had red and green lights on the sides and a pale light at the stern. They saw men, women, and children moving about on it as if very busy. (Winona [Mn] Herald, April 9, 1897) (H)

April 4, 1897-Wilsonville, Nebraska-The airship was seen and caused a general panic. When it was close enough to be seen clearly, they saw 2 sets of wings which moved alternately and a large wheel at the stern. It stopped in front of the Review office and descended to 50 feet. A man appeared at the railing. He was extremely handsome and of intelligent appearance. He said "Weiver eht Rof EBIRCSBUS" and the object left. (Wilsonville Review, April 9, 1897) Reading what the man said backwards it says "Subscribe for the review." (H)

April 5, 1897-South McAlester, Oklahoma-At 0300, James Coughlin saw the airship going northwest. It was moving at 50 mph, brilliantly illuminated, 1/4 mile up, and made a swishing sound as it left north. (Kansas City [Mo] Times, April 6, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Sycamore, Kansas-At 1730, a strange light was seen at 18 degrees to the southeast and it left smoke and steam. It was identified as a hot air balloon ascension made at Cherryvale and the balloon had a leak in it. (Independence [Ks] Star and Kansan, April 9, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Nashville, Illinois-At 2000, many saw a large red light to the northwest. As it approached, a faint dark outline was seen. It came from the northwest despite a wind from the southeast. (Chicago [Ill] Times Herald, April 6, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Omaha, Nebraska-At 2130, many saw the airship including members of the Knights of Ak Sar Ben. It was 600 feet up, 90 feet long, and elliptical. On the forward and aft were large projections like large wings. There was a bright light in front and a red light at the rear. It hovered a few seconds and left toward Manaw at a rapid rate. (Omaha Bee, April 6, 1897) An article appearing in the Chicago (Il) Tribune of April 7, 1897, it was said to be a light 18 inches in diameter which reflected along a 12-30 foot long steel body. It was 3/4 mile up, 1 mile to west, and going south. When it reached the limits of South Omaha, it described a semi-circle to the east, went 1 mile, then turned north against a northeast wind. It went 1/2 mile, turned east, and was lost in the clouds. Later, it was seen to southwest going north against the wind and left. The initial story from the Omaha Bee was repeated in several newspapers, Chicago (Il) Journal of April 7th; Dillion (Mt) Tribune of April 9th; and Kewaunee (Wi) Enterprise of April 23rd, but dated the report as April 6th. Williamson reported that it was in Chicago, Illinois, and dated it April 6th. The Omaha World Herald of April 10, 1897, revealed that it was a balloon hoax.

April 5, 1897-Stockton, Kansas-J. W. O'Donnel saw a brilliant object at 2230. It was 15 degrees above the southwest horizon and was larger than a star. It vacillated and moved about in an eccentric manner. It was pointed out to Henry Blake and Mr. Neber. It was the size of a lantern and descended to about 10 feet. It left on a zigzag course. (Osborne [Ks] Osborne County Farmer, April 8, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Harmon, Nebraska-J. C. Bailey saw a bright light going north at 2300. He pointed it out to others. (Hermann [Nb] Review, April 10, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Burlingame, Kansas-At 2300, N. B. Raymond, Rev. N. D. Johnson, Fay Welch, Jeorgis Drew, Will Allison, and Will Chatfield saw a light the size of a man's head. It was yellowish green with other lights about it. It would raise and lower as if manipulated at will and left north. (Burlingame Osage County Chronicle, April 7, 1897) In the April 10th issue of the same newspaper, a letter to the editor from N. D. Johnson appeared in which he denied having seen or reported seeing an airship.

April 5, 1897-Bern, Kansas-A burning straw stack was mistaken for the airship. (Sabetha [Ks] Republican Herald, April 8, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Wilmington, North Carolina-Hundreds saw a brilliant mass floating rapidly to the west. Many saw a network about it and it had something like a searchlight facing the earth. It came from the east and went west. A pair of field glasses revealed wires, ropes, and rigging about it. To the naked eye it was just colored lights. (Wilmington Messenger, April 6, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Creighton, Nebraska-Jud Marsh saw the airship to the northwest. It was a white light like a train headlight and later changed to red. It was possibly the reflection of electric lights on the clouds. (Creighton Courier, April 8, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Ottawa, Kansas-A swinging light was seen in the sky. (Ottawa Daily Republican, April 6, 1897)

April 5, 1897-Cedar Falls, Iowa-The airship was seen. (Minneapolis [Mn] Journal, April 13, 1897)

April 6, 1897-north of Peru, Nebraska-James Southard had become lost while searching for some missing cattle. About 0200, he saw a light and went to it. He found the airship and several men moving about it. It was cigar shaped, 200 feet long, 50 feet wide, and narrowed at both ends. At each end was a snail shaped device, each of which was attached to a gas engine. These revolved rapidly and pulled or dragged the airship along. Two more of these devices was attached to the sides, near the rear and were used in steering. It was loaded with several tons of dynamite and was bound for Cuba where it was intended to bomb the Spanish camps and navy. They were repairing the searchlight and this was done by 0300. It then left for the Ozard mountains where the captain said it spent the days and experimented with at night. They expect to sail for Cuba later in the week. (Auburn [Nb] Granger, April 9, 1897) It is interesting to note that the Fort Worth [Tx] Register of April 18, 1897, printed a story concerning the experience of Patrick Byrnes. The Byrnes story was identical with the above Southard story, virtually word for word. The Byrnes account is not reproduced since it is felt to have been stolen from the above.

April 6, 1897-Denver, Colorado-During the afternoon, a weather forecaster's kite was seen as the airship with a man in it. (Denver Republican, April 8, 1897)

April 6, 1897-Waverly, Kansas-At 2130, several saw a red light the size of a baseball to the west. The night was cloudy and no stars were visible. It made various movements and slowly faded away. (Waverly Gazette, April 16, 1897)

April 6, 1897-Goodland, Kansas-In a drizzling rain, William Walker and his family saw an object 1/4 mile up at 2230. It was a brilliant light that was moving rapidly to the west. At times it would fade away then flare up as brilliant as before. (Goodland Republic, April 9, 1897)

April 6, 1897-Guthrie, Oklahoma-At 2300, Mr. Trumbell saw a dark object moving over the city. A bright light was at the front and it was shone in different directions. He pointed it out to others. At times there were flashes of light along the sides. It moved swiftly back and forth and almost sank to the ground just north of the city. It then rose straight up at a great speed and left. There were outlines seen but they were indistinct. (Galveston [Tx] News, April 8, 1897)

April 6, 1897-Decatur, Nebraska-At dusk, an indefinable globe of light was seen going south. It was round, low, and its movements were quick and unsteady. It was seen until just after midnight. (Omaha [Nb] Bee, April 9, 1897)

April 6, 1897-Ravenna, Nebraska-A fire balloon was seen as the airship. (Ravenna News, April 9, 1897)

April 6, 1897-Harrison, Nebraska-During the night, many saw the airship going southeast at an extraordinary speed. It slowed down, circled, stopped, and hovered for several minutes. The lights would change from white to red, blue, and green. It was seen for 30 minutes by Judge Dartow, A. Habbiger, R. White, E. Daily, J. Porter, A. Agee, John Linnin and others. Habbiger said it was a large ellipse shaped body, like a whaleback with streamers, many lights, and several moving objects inside the ship. He even heard voices from it. Daily said it was shaped like a large box with an oval shape, 2 people on board, and a propeller at the stern. A pair of field glasses revealed that one of the people on it looked like Albert Whipple (who had disappeared from Crawford after robbing a bank). While in Crawford, Whipple told several people that he was working of inventing an airship. Linnin said it was like a big man with wings and voices. (Omaha [Nb] World Herald, April 18, 1897)

April 7, 1897-Lake Mills, Wisconsin-At 0100, George Crump and George Everson saw the airship. It was like a great crescent with the horns down. It moved rapidly southeast to northwest and gave off long rays of light. (Lake Mills Leader, April 15, 1897)

April 7, 1897-20 miles south of Chadburn, North Carolina-A very powerful light was seen for 5 minutes at 0200. It was the size of a barrel, lit up the area, and left west at a moderate speed. (Wilmington [NC] Messenger, April 9, 1897)

April 7, 1897-Fairfield, Iowa-Several saw a bright light to the north at 2000. It was seen for 30 minutes as it moved rapidly to the west. Some said that it was like a star with peculiar red and green lights; some said it moved erratically up and down and side to side. (Fairfield Ledger, April 14, 1897)

April 7, 1897-Spring Grove, Minnesota-At 2050, several saw a large red star for 5 minutes. It sometimes changed to yellow and settled to the northwest. (Spring Grove Herald, April 15, 1897)

April 7, 1897-Aberdeen, South Dakota-A man saw a bright red light a short distance above the northwestern horizon between 2200 and 2300. It was half moon shaped and moved northwest rapidly. (Aberdeen Daily News, April 12, 1897)

April 7, 1897-Wolf Creek, Iowa-Richard Butler saw a light in a field and he stopped to investigate. It glowed like an electric light and he saw that it was a dark mass and the light came from windows. It was a long narrow car, 30-35 feet long, and 6-7 feet wide. Above the car was a cigar shaped bag horizontally placed, 30-35 feet long, and 8-10 feet at widest point. His horses bolted and he fell. The object left south at a 45 degree angle. (Springfield [Ill] Illinois State Register, April 11, 1897)

April 7, 1897-Trenton, Missouri-Herman Crooks saw a strange light to the west. It was seen for 15 minutes and left west. (Trenton Republican, April 10, 1897)

April 7, 1897-Follettts, Iowa-The airship was seen. (Clinton [Ia] Morning Age, April 11, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Waterloo, Iowa-At 0100, Jack Casebeer and Will Ewald saw the airship. It came from the direction of Cedar Falls and went south. It was a dark cigar shaped object with a red light at the rear and a green light in front. (Waterloo Daily Courier, April 8, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Hermann, Nebraska-George McKarcher saw the airship going south at 0300. (Hermann Review, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Between West Liberty and Cedar Rapids, Iowa-At 1930, hundreds of people along the line of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern Railroad saw the airship. Operators along the line would see it and report it to operators in the direction of its travel. It was described as having a large reflecting headlight, 2 feet in diameter, and giving off strong rays. It had a glistening body and dim wing-like projections on either side. It moved swiftly with a slight hissing sound. At times it seemed to be within 1,000 feet of the ground and at times it hovered. It was generally seen 20-30 minutes. (Quincy [Ill] Whig, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Independence, Iowa-At 2000, Dr. and Mrs. M. R. Brierly saw a light moving northwest with a slight swaying motion. It was in view for 15 minutes. (Independence Conservative, April 14, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Vinton, Iowa-An operator and others saw the airship to the northwest shortly after 2000. It was like an immense star and was twice the size of the largest and brightest star. (Cedar Rapids [Ia] Republican, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Solon, Iowa-At 2030, many saw the airship to the north and moving west. It was seen for 45 minutes and left west. (Quincy [Ill] Whig, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-New Richland, Minnesota-The airship was seen as a bright light at 2030. It left to the south. (New Richland Northstar, April 15, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Central City, Nebraska-At 2045, C. Jacobson saw a light to the west, moving north at 1 mile up. He pointed it out to others. It disappeared and reappeared to the northwest. It was beneath the clouds, very bright, green, and moved like a searchlight. (York [Nb] Times, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Sparta, Illinois-Several saw a strange light between 2000 and 2100. It moved too fast to be a star. (Sparta Plaindealer, April 16, 1897)

April 8, 1897-near Kansas City, Kansas-Postal Clerk Kincaid and his wife saw the airship to the southeast between 2000 and 2100. It was not very high and was seen for 25 minutes. The headlight was very bright and the hull could be seen above the light. It darted about as it left to the

south. At times the light was turned away from them. (Salina [Ks] Republican Journal, April 13, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Mt. Pleasant, Iowa-At 2100, many saw the airship float calmly and serenely along. W. J. Martin saw a bright light to the northwest between the zenith and horizon. It was a brilliant white and swayed a little side to side as it went slightly southwest. Once it changed from white to red. (Burlington [Ia] Hawk-eye, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Burlington, Iowa-James Dunn and others saw a light moving south to north at 2100. (Burlington Hawk-eye, April 11, 1897)

April 8, 1897-St. Edward, Nebraska-C. A. Gibson and others saw a very bright light to the east at 2100. It moved swiftly to the west. It passed over the city and left. Thirty minutes later, it was seen again 1 mile away. It quickly disappeared, then reappeared further to the south, came toward town, and disappeared again. It was 1/2 the size of the moon and took 15 minutes to cross the sky. (Lincoln [Nb] Nebraska State Journal, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Fairfield, Iowa-At 2100, hundreds saw the airship come from the southwest, pass over the city, and leave west. It had a large headlight the size of a hat and moved with a vacillating motion. Stanly Dubois saw it with field glasses and saw 2 smaller light of yellowish green. He also saw the outlines of a long dark object. It was in view for 20 minutes. (Burlington [Ia] Hawk-eye, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Lake Mills, Wisconsin-At 2100, W. F. Meyers, George Lusted, and many others saw a great red light to the west. It was moving up and down as it went west. It was seen for 10 minutes. (Madison [Wi] Wisconsin State Journal, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Marshalltown, Iowa-A. S. Richards saw a deep red light to the northwest at 2100. (Marshalltown Times-Republican, April 10 and 13, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Tonganoxie, Kansas-At 2100, several saw the airship to the northwest at 1/2 to 3/4 mile altitude. It was a brilliant light that sailed to the northwest at considerable speed. (Tonganoxie Weekly Sentinel, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Cresco, Nebraska-Several saw the airship going southwest, then northwest, at 2100. (Cresco Courier, April 17, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Dixon, Illinois-James H. Clark saw a bright light to the northwest at 2100. It was moving at 75 mph to the northwest. Its brightness alternated, it was a cloudy night, and he felt that it was a searchlight. It was seen for several minutes before leaving toward Palmyra. (Dixon Telegraph, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Clarence, Iowa-At 2100, Aldus Lames and R. Dean saw the airship. (Clarence Sun, April 16, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Cedar Rapids, Iowa-At 2100, a light like an immense star was seen to the northwest at 35-40 degrees elevation. It was twice the size and brightness of a star and swayed side to side. It rapidly left northwest and was gone by 2200. (Cedar Rapids Republican, April 9, 1897) This report was widely circulated and recieved the usual alterations, mainly as to the time it was seen. The most interesting variation appeared in the Saginaw (Mi) Courier Herald of April 11, 1897. This paper reported that a glistening steel hull with dim wing like projections on each side was seen. It added that it made a hissing sound.

April 8, 1897-Milton, Iowa-Henry Bauch and others saw the airship to the northwest at 2130. It was seen a few seconds as it moved in different directions but generally northwest. It was as large as a train headlight. (Milton Herald, April 14, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Ottumwa, Iowa-At 2130, many saw the airship heading west. It was not very high up. (Ottumwa Courier, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Nebraska City, Nebraska-Several saw lights moving southeast to northwest at 2130. (Chicago [Il] Tribune, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Surprise, Nebraska-At 2147, Col. Shively saw a light to the northeast. It moved southwest and was gone in 20 minutes. (Surprise Herald, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Marinette, Wisconsin-Many saw the airship to the northwest at 2200. It seemed to veer up and down, then shot off to the west. (Marinette Daily Eagle, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Decatur, Nebraska-At 2200, a globe of light was seen moving south. It was round, moved quick and unsteady, and threw rays of light on the river. It was gone by midnight. (Omaha [Nb] Bee, April 8, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Wausau, Wisconsin-A large number of people saw the airship at 2200. It came from the southeast and passed over going northwest. A dim egg shaped outline was seen and lights were attached to the ship. (Milwaukee [Wi] Journal, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Northwood, Iowa-At 2230, residents saw an immense light like a star which swayed side to side. (Chicago [Il] Times Herald, April 9, 1897) The Cedar Rapids (Ia) Republican of April 9, 1897, said that it was to the west and going northwest.

April 8, 1897-Albert Lea, Minnesota-Residents saw the airship moving north at 2300, It was no larger than a star and displayed red and white lights. It seemed to be under perfect control. (Minneapolis [Mn] Tribune, April 9, 1897) The Albert Lea Freeborn County Standard of April 14, 1897, said that it was 1 mile up and moving at 60 mph.

April 8, 1897-Atchison, Kansas-P. D. Bonebrake saw a peculiar light moving in a peculiar manner at 2300. It was like a Japanese lantern

attached to a kite tail and was seen several minutes. (Atchison Globe, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Waseca, Minnesota-A night operator saw the airship at 2310. It was drifting west and seen at intervals due to the clouds. (Waseca Radical, April 14, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Centerville, Iowa-Between 2300 and midnight, Bill Pealman, George Bryan, and Col. Haynes saw the airship approach from the northwest. It was 1/2 mile up and many lights were seen including the headlight. It had a 12 foot long steel frame and 4 studded top gallants that were set due southeast. Bryan got out a telescope and could hear the swish of wings and saw 13 people making merry in the cabin. (Ottumwa [H] [Ia] Courier, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Waverly, Iowa-Frank Fortner saw a huge white light at midnight. It had smaller red and green lights on the sides and was to the northwest. It was seen by others as it went north in an irregular swaying manner. (Waverly Democrat, April 15, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Rock Creek, Nebraska-At midnight, several saw the airship. (Cresco [Nb] Courier, April 17, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Dayton, Iowa-Numa Leonard was awoken by a noise at the barn at midnight. He saw a very bright light coming from the south and it passed over his house with a loud noise. (Dayton Review, April 15, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Ironton, Ohio-During the evening, a woman saw a very strange light east of the zenith. It was 4 foot long, 22 foot wide, and tapered toward the ends. Its light was like the moon's but not as bright. It gradually went up and disappeared. It was seen again later. (Ironton Register, April 15, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Fayetteville, North Carolina-A big storm was going on in the evening when several saw a football sized ball of fire passed over. (Fayetteville Observer, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-East Carroll, Illinois-Mrs. W. H. Sliteley, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. Weldon saw the airship in the evening. It had 2 lights, 1 as large as the moon, and moved with a wavy motion. (Dixon [Ill] Telegraph, April 12, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Sterling, Illinois-At night, S. S. Greider saw the airship going east. (Sterling Gazette, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Paullina, Iowa-The airship was seen at night to the northeast. (Paullina Times, April 15, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Emmettsburg, Iowa-A moving light was seen going northwest. (Emmettsburg Democrat, April 14, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Rodman, Iowa-J. B. Martin saw strange light for 15 minutes at night. (Emmettsburg [Ia] Democrat, April 14, 1897) The Dubuque [Ia]

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Herald of April 10, 1897, reported that it was a large red light, 1,000 feet up, and going west.

April 8, 1897-Kirksville, Iowa-Several saw the airship at night. (Oskaloosa [Ia] Saturday Globe, April 17, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Eddyville, Iowa-At night the airship was seen by A. Terrell, N. B. McNees, and F. H. Glover. (Eddyville Tribune, April 16, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Waverly, Iowa-At night, a man saw the airship. It had wings and seemed to be a combination of a balloon and bicycle. It had a cow catcher, a green light on port, and a red on starboard. He heard a familiar voice from it say, "Say, boys, just boost her up a couple thousand feet higher till we get out of sight of town. You see she has got a revolver." He had seen a man from Waverly get into the airship. (Waverly Democrat, April 15, 1897) (H)

April 8, 1897-Harlem, Missouri-Conductor Clay Stevenson and crew of a train saw a strange moving light. It was 1 mile up and moved up and down and across the night sky. (Trenton [Mo] Republican, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Carrolton, Missouri-Jno. Warner and his wife saw a light to the west at night. It gradually climbed until it was directly overhead and passed slowly east. It was seen over an hour and often jumped about. (Carrolton Daily Democrat, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-St. Johns, Kansas-A strange light was seen going northwest with a buzzing sound. The light was Venus and the sound was a windmill. (St. Johns News, April 16, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Alma, Kansas-Several saw the airship at night. One witness recognized Prof. McMillan as the pilot taking it southwest. (Alma Signal, April 15, 1897) (H)

April 8, 1897-Minneapolis, Minnesota-At night, James Gamery was walking home after having no "more than 5 whiskies" and "no one can charge me with being intoxicated." Near Lake and Spruce he heard a buzzing sound, saw lights flash all around him, and he was thrown to the ground. He saw a bright light like a cross between an arc light and Welsback burning. It was going south at 850 feet up and 19 1/2 mph. It was shaped like a beer schooner with the handle down. The light from the headlight was reflected enabling him to see the whole thing. It was painted electric blue and "looked to me about as big as a washtub at 60 feet. That would make it really about 45 feet long." He found several cut in his clothes that were bleeding profusely and his body had not even been scratched. The ground all around him was torn and broken as if cutting harrows had been over it. He found the log book of the craft and it recorded all the points where it had passed in the last 2 weeks. It stated that a speed of 120 mph had been reached. The record was simply headed "Cruise of the Hermes, J. M. McMasters, 7613 Michigan Ave. Chicago, proprietor and master." He noted that today's stop would be just below Taylor's Fall on the St. Croix. (Minneapolis Journal, April 9, 1897) This was accompanied by a dispatch from Taylor's Fall from a correspondent who had gone to (H)

(H) look for the airship after receiving the above bulletin. He found the airship and 2 men. One of them said that he was J. S. McMasters of Chicago and that he had invented the airship. He said that it operated on negative gravity. The wheels began to revolve, great wings unfolded, and the men were drawn into the ship. It rose and left down the St. Croix river. The correspondent stated that he was placed in jail for being crazy after repeating the above. He stated that he "never wrote a fake any more than Sioux City and Omaha reporters." He asked McMasters about the Wolf Creek incident and was told that it was a fake for the farmer was dead drunk.

April 8, 1897-Kansas City, Kansas-A light was seen at night and it seemed to waver. (Kansas City Journal, April 9, 1897) The article made comments about smoke in the sky being needed for the airship to be seen and said it was Venus seen through a smoke cloud.

April 8, 1897-Waupaca, Wisconsin-The airship was seen by Mr. and Mrs. E. Jeffers, M. Skinner, D. James, Tom Pipe, and F. Barnum. It was moving rapidly northwest and field glasses revealed different colored lights. (Waupaca Republican, April 16, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Belle Plaine, Iowa-A huge light was seen to the west and it left north. (Marshalltown [Ia] Statesman-Press, April 13, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Ft. Dodge, Iowa-The airship was seen to the east. (Minneapolis [Mn] Times, April 9, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Lucy, Wisconsin-For the past few nights, many saw a light over Lake Winnebago. It was seen by Capt. Lee and Mr. Mast. (Milwaukee [Wi] Sentinel, April 10, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Comanche, Iowa-The airship was seen. (Clinton [Ia] Morning Age, April 11, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Shell Rock, Iowa-The airship was seen. (Greene [Ia] Iowa Recorder, April 13, 1897)

April 8, 1897-Cisco, Illinois-Perry Nelson saw the airship to the north. There was a possibility that it was a kite with a lantern as some area boys had been flying one. (Monticello [Ill] Piatt County Republican, April 15, 1897)

(H) April 8, 1897-Osco, Illinois-The airship had stopped for repairs "having dislocated a wing. August Anderson rubbed the fracture with 'dead shot' and it left for Cambridge to take something." (Cambridge [Ill] Chronicle, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Waseca, Minnesota-The airship was seen at 0030. (Berlin [Wi] Daily Journal, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Perry, Oklahoma-At 0100, J. B. Drake saw the airship, high to the southwest. It had a headlight and other lights. It moved up and down easily and seemed to be under perfect control. It had 2 sets of wings or sails, 1 set some distance above the other. The wings fanned

the air alternately: while one set was drawn in, the other set was expanded. It was also seen by Dock Miller. (Perry Enterprise Times, April 12, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Madison, South Dakota-The airship was seen going west at 0100. (Minneapolis [Mn] Tribune, April 9, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Marion, Iowa-At 0205, the airship was seen moving south. It was 500 feet up and outlines were seen. It gave out 2 bright lights of an electric glow. (Chicago [Ill] Times Herald, April 10, 1897) The Marion Register of April 14, 1897, said this was a false report and that it was a meteor that was seen.

April 9, 1897-Anderson, Ohio-In the early morning, Deputy Clerk Fulton and many others saw the airship. (Cincinnati [O] Enquirer, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Joliet, Illinois-A conductor on the Rock Island Road saw the airship in the early morning. (Rock Island [Ill] Argus, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Rock Island, Illinois-In the early morning, a policeman heard a rustle in the air. He saw a "swift moving mass that seemed to have an eye like a ball of fire." It was 1/2 mile up and moving north to east. He heard a sound like the distant whiz of an electric motor car. It had a glittering steel hull, dim wing like fans on either side, and it moved with a gentle sway. (Rock Island Argus, April 9, 1897)

April 9, 1897-West Union, Iowa-A man and a boy saw the airship during the afternoon. It was 100 feet up and was rising with a wavering motion and veering side to side. It then descended slightly, then rose to 200-300 feet up. It was moving to the southwest. It was white with blotches of oblong, black but no red or blue lights. It was not very large and the shape dished from the upper surface. (Elgin [Ia] Echo, April 22, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Kewanee, Illinois-At 1900, several saw an object of unusual brightness moving northeast. It had peculiar movements and flashing lights. (Princeton [Ill] Bureau County Republican, April 22, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Clinton, Iowa-The airship was seen at 1930. (Clinton Morning Age, April 11, 1897) The Des Moines (Ia) Leader of April 11, 1897, reported that it was seen to the west at 2300. It was at a considerable altitude and gave forth rays like a searchlight. It would become stationary and at times would disappear and reappear. It left northwest.

April 9, 1897-Salem, Missouri-At 1930, J. A. Cary and J. A. Holman saw a strange light going northwest. It was the size and brilliance of a train headlight, but reddish. (Cuba [Mo] Crawford County Telephone, April 23, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Maxwell, Iowa-Several saw the airship going east at 2000. When it was over the city, it turned and left north. (Des Moines [Ia] Iowa State Register, April 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Marshalltown, Iowa-Shortly before 2000, Officer Jones, George Sieg, A. S. Richards, and others saw the airship to the northwest. It was too red to be a star and left northwest by 2100. (Marshalltown Times Republican, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Goodrich, Illinois-Between 2000 and 2100, a night operator saw a light moving northeast. (Streator [Ill] Free Press, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Des Moines, Iowa-Al Nichols saw a peculiar light moving at a rapid rate between 2000 and 2100. Police Sgts. Burns and Hayes saw the light to the northwest and going northwest. It was seen for 15 minutes and it was brighter than a star. A dark cloud was seen above the light. It rose and fell and would disappear and reappear. (Des Moines Iowa State Register, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Rockford, Illinois-At 2030, Capt. Elisha Thayer and Frank Thayer saw a strange light moving southwest. It seemed to be 4 lights, 2 green and 2 white. It sailed low and they heard "human voices" coming from the terrestrial regions in the direction of the airship. (Rockford Republic, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Sterling, Illinois-Residents saw the airship moving northwest at 2030. It was thousands of feet up and appeared like a large star. It made rapid progress and the working of wings or side propellers could be plainly seen. (Sterling Evening Gazette, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Mt. Carroll, Illinois-At 2030, hundreds saw the airship approach from the northeast. When opposite the city, it changed course and went west at a terrific rate. It was oblong, carried a great red light, 8-10 feet long, 2-3 feet high, and was seen for 10 minutes. Owen McGinnis saw it with field glasses. Part of the time the light was red, sometimes green, and sometimes white. (Sterling Evening Gazette, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Oshkosh, Wisconsin-John Thompson and C. Cleveland saw an object moving swiftly across the western sky at 2030. It was 2-3 miles up, cigar shaped, the rear part was box shaped, and the center part was sunk below the 2 ends. There was a red light on the port and a green on the starboard. It oscillated as it went toward Lake Paygon. It took on the form of a cross and flamed out at rare intervals in other obtruse mathematic symbols. (Oshkosh Northwestern, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Buckingham, Illinois-At 2030, H. Monteith saw a light going east. He pointed it out to others. It was reddish and moved in different directions. (Kankakee [Ill] Gazette, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Kankakee, Illinois-Several saw the airship moving northeast for several minutes. It was oblong, carried a great red light and was 8-10 feet long, and 2-3 feet high. (Streator [Ill] Monitor, April 10, 1897) The Chicago [Ill] Times Herald of April 10, 1897, reported that

it was at 2100, 1,000 feet, rapid, and had a headlight with smaller lights behind it.

April 9, 1897-Freeport, Illinois-At 2100, many saw a strangely acting white light to the northeast. After a few minutes, it shifted about in an uncertain way and approached the city, rising as it did. It suddenly shot off to the west in a partially overcast sky. (Freeport Weekly Democrat, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Evanston, Illinois-Over 800 people saw an object with vari-colored lights. The brightest light was white and all seemed to be backed by a reflector that could be turned and aim the beam. Some saw a red light just behind the large white one and all saw smaller white and green lights side by side. It was 400 feet up and moving erratically to the west. (Chicago [Ill] Tribune, April 10, 1897) The Chicago Times Herald of April 10, 1897, said that it was at 2100 and one of the witnesses said it seemed to be made of 2 cigar shaped bodies attached by girders. Robert Lowen saw it with field glasses which showed 4 lights a short distance apart and moving in unison.

April 9, 1897-Newport, Indiana-At 2100, many saw a red light larger than a star to the west. It moved rapidly to the northwest. (Newport Hoosier State, April 14, 1897) The Indianapolis (In) Journal of April 11, 1897, said it was low in the southwest, moving north, and seen for 20 minutes.

April 9, 1897-Britt, Iowa-Several hundred people saw a light at 2100. It moved southwest to northwest in an undulating course and was 25 miles away. It was seen for 2 hours, varied its speed and course. (Marshalltown [Ia] Times Republican, April 10 and 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Osage, Iowa-At 2100, several saw the airship to the west and going northwest at great speed. It was like a toy balloon with a great flaming red light. (Osage Mitchell County Press, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Roberts, Wisconsin-Several saw the airship to the west and going northwest at 2100. (Hammond [Wisc] News, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Collins, Iowa-Henry Downs and others saw a bright light moving in the sky at 2100. (Collins Liberator, April 15, 1897) The Collins Clipper of April 15th reported that it was seen just after a shower, was like a train headlight, and twice it went out and reappeared. It was going to the northwest. It was felt to be Venus.

April 9, 1897-Newton, Iowa-At 2100, a farmer saw a bright reddish light moving slowly to the northwest. It was identified as Venus. (Newton Herald, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Moweaqua, Illinois-Between 2100 and 2200, V. Snyder and others saw the airship to the northwest. It was flaming red and going west. (St. Louis [Mo] Post Dispatch, April 11, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Nassau, Iowa-Dr. J. Travis and others saw a strange light to the north between 2100 and 2200. It was to the north and going southwest rapidly. It was 800 yards up in an overcast sky. There were 3

lights of intense brilliancy the size of a train headlight. As it got closer, a faint outline was seen. (Burlington [Ia] Hawk-eye, April 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Grinnell, Iowa-At 2130, several saw a bright light. (Marshalltown [Ia] Times-Republican, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Aurora, Illinois-Many saw a bright light pass over at 2130. (Aurora Beacon, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Norman, Oklahoma-At 2130, T. J. Wiggins and 300-400 others saw a bright light. It was a long, dark object that was exceedingly bright and glittering. There were occasional flashes of red light along the sides. It followed a very erratic course to the northwest. (Enid [Ok] Daily Wave, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Wausau, Wisconsin-At 2130, a bright light was seen to the northwest and going north. Field glasses revealed a dark object and one man said he had seen it since 2000. It was identified as Venus. (Wausau Record, April 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Chicago, Illinois-Many saw an object approach from the lake at 2130. After reaching inland, it turned slowly to the northwest and faded into the night. Some with field glasses saw the outlines of the structure carrying the lights. It was 70 feet long, slender proportions, and had a movable headlight and other lights. Some saw 20 foot wide wings or sails a short distance above the body. (Chicago Tribune, April 10, 1897) The Chicago Times Herald of April 10th said it was like a balloon and a red light was plainly discernable.

April 9, 1897-Gilman, Iowa-Two people saw the airship going northwest at 2130. (Marshalltown [Ia] Times Republican, April 12, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Sycamore, Illinois-Between 2130 and 2200, many including Policeman Jack Connell, Frank Gabel, W. Gabel, George McGirk, and Charles Quinn, saw an object at the zenith. It was below and to the north of the moon and Venus was also nearby. It seemed to rise and fall slightly. The bright white light was seen for 20 minutes. (Sycamore True Republican, April 14, 1897) The Sycamore City Weekly of April 15, 1897, said it was moving northwest and that it altered its course several times.

April 9, 1897-Niles Center, Illinois-George Glen saw a light to the south moving west at 2200. (Chicago [Ill] Times Herald, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Kiowa, Kansas-At 2200, Dr. Downtain and 3 others saw an airship with several lights attached. It was 1/4 mile up and going southwest. It was 20 feet long, 10 feet wide, and encircled with 12-15 brilliant lights. There was a red light on port and a green on starboard. It took the form of a cross and flamed out at rare intervals in other obstruse mathematic symbols. (Kiowa Journal, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Cleveland, Ohio-Some boys stole a hot air balloon that had a 6 foot car and sent it up. It was seen as the airship. (Danbury [Ct] Evening News, April 12, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Perry, Oklahoma-At 2215, a reporter saw a flash of light and a moving object. It was very high and circled around. The searchlight flashed on the city several times and it kept circling. It was 100 feet long, 25 feet wide, and had a number of fans or wings on each side which moved rapidly. There were smaller lights in different parts of the ship and moving objects were seen. (Perry Enterprise Times, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Prairie Hill, Kansas-Several saw the airship between 2200 and 2300. It was 12 inches long, quite high, and moved southwest to northeast. (Cottonwood Falls [Ks] Revielle, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Pella, Iowa-At 2300, a light was seen moving northeast to southwest, then northwest, and left west. (Pella Advertiser, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Rhodes, Iowa-Many saw a very bright light approaching rapidly from the southwest at 2300. It came so low that the sound of machinery was heard loudly. Then it took a sudden downward plunge and immersed in the reservoir of the C. M. and St. P. railway. It created a horrible hissing sound that was heard for miles and the water was so hot that the naked hand could not be placed in it. (Des Moines [Ia] Iowa State Register, April 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Dubuque, Iowa-At 2330, a man saw a light at 30 degrees elevation to the south. It was reddish and approaching since it was getting larger and more distinct. He ran into his house, got his field glasses, and went to the roof. After 30 minutes, it had approached to 2000 feet distance and descended until 150 or 200 feet of the earth. It then reversed its course and ascended. Again, it reversed its course and passed directly over his head. "The machine, as it was thus brought into view, seemed to be about 40 to 50 feet long from north to south and about 6 feet wide-pointed at the ends, not unlike a huge canoe. Extending laterally from each side were two immense wings which were not in motion but which, as was later disclosed, were under the control of the pilot and were, so to speak, 'feathered' by him at will, so as to cause the ship to ascend or descend. The rift in the clouds kept pace with the ship as it moved northward, so that, after it had passed by, the observer was able to discern that the canoe shaped portion was suspended from what seemed to be an immense balloon which floated some 20 feet above it." After it had gone 500 feet further, he heard a "Now then", then a hissing, a movement of machinery, several electric sparks, the wings changed position, and it again ascended. As it did, he saw "sitting in the hind end of the car, was the pilot, mounted on an appliance rigged like a safety bicycle." The pedals moved a wheel which was evidently connected to a generator and the handlebars controlled the feathering of the wings. "Everytime it crossed a street the operator rang his bell like a law bidding bicycler, and once, when he saw a team approaching, he yelled, 'Tra-a-ack!' He had on a regulation cyclist suit, sweater and knee breeches." At this time, the observer yelled and fired

his revolver. The object suddenly turned and moved very rapidly toward the witness and he retreated into the shuttle hole in the roof. The object also crashed into the shuttle hole. (Dubuque Herald, April 11, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Ridott, Illinois-At 2359, residents saw a bright light to the east. It moved about and came closer. When directly overhead, a white and 2 green lights appeared. The lights were at the ends and sides of a cigar shaped ship. There were wings on each side and a propeller at each end. It moved slowly to the west. (Freeport [Ill] Journal, April 12, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Kenosha, Wisconsin-About midnight, several saw a green star traveling rapidly. (Kenosha Evening News, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Kansas City, Missouri-During the evening, J. W. Leslie and others saw the airship for an hour. It was 200 feet above the buildings and left slowly west. It carried a headlight and maneuvered about. (Kansas City Journal, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Odebolt, Iowa-The airship was seen in the evening. (Sac City [Ia] Sac Sun, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Kenosha, Wisconsin-The airship was seen in the evening and one could see the framework, cigar shaped body, and wings. (Kenosha Telegraph Courier, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Harmon, Illinois-At night, many saw a light at 45 degree elevation to the northwest. (Dixon [Ill] Telegraph, April 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Montezuma, Iowa-A fire balloon was seen as a brilliant light going west. (Montezuma Weekly Republican, April 14, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Dixon, Illinois-Joseph Cook and Alf Rickard saw a bright moving light to the west at night. (Dixon Telegraph, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Pittwood, Illinois-At night, several saw the airship to the northwest. (Watseka [Ill] Republican, April 14, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Lawrence, Kansas-The airship was seen and an anchor from it caught the clothing of a youngster. His family caught hold of him and held the ship. The ship, youngster, and family were on view in Raymond's windows and were the center of attraction to 300 or more rabbits, chickens, and child faces that gathered. (Lawrence Journal, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Holdrege, Nebraska-George Titus and family saw an object to the northwest at night. (Holdrege Weekly Progress, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Chokio, Minnesota-Several telegraph operators saw a light the size of a railroad lantern. It was going north at 60 mph in the night sky. (Chokio Times, April 14, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Minneapolis, Minnesota-A strange light and the body of an airship turned out to be a cigar shaped balloon sent up by a boy. (Minneapolis Journal, April 14, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Goldsboro, North Carolina-At night, a great light was seen moving rapidly east to west. (Wilmington [NC] Messenger, April 11, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Boone, Iowa-At night, the airship was seen. (Marshalltown [Ia] Times Republican, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Morris, Illinois-Many saw the airship at night. (Morris Herald, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Evansville, Wisconsin-Charles Fuller saw the airship at night. (Janesville [Wi] Gazette, April 14, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Berlin, Wisconsin-The airship was seen at night. (Berlin Journal, April 11, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Lake Mills, Wisconsin-Several saw the airship at night. (Fort Atkinson [Wi] Jefferson County Union, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Moorland, Iowa-The airship was seen at night. (Fort Dodge [Ia] Evening Messenger, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Monroe, Iowa-At night, the airship was seen. (Marshalltown [Ia] Times Republican, April 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Guthrie Center, Iowa-The airship was seen to land near Fort Buck. The author went to the area and found the airship. It was 43 feet long, 13 feet wide, and 9 feet tall. It had wings, and the interior was fitted with staterooms for 8, a galley, and a dining room. There were 4 crewmen and the captain said they had sailed from St. Louis, north through Missouri, Iowa, southern Minnesota, west through Dakota, southeast through northeastern Nebraska, Iowa, south of Sioux City, and was headed for its starting point. The captain said they were making trial trips at night and after April 15th would make daytime trips. When the crew found that the county seat was going to be moved, they offered to be of help in moving records and fixtures. (Panora [Ia] Guthrie County Vedette, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Byron, Illinois-The airship was seen at night. (Byron Express, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Schermerville, Illinois-At night, the airship was seen. (Chicago [Ill] Tribune, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Joliet, Illinois-Residents saw a strange light moving high over the city at night. (Joliet News, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Elburn, Illinois-At night, many saw a bright spot moving across the sky. (DeKalb [Ill] Evening Chronicle, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Storm Lake, Iowa-Many saw a light that was not very high. In the night sky, they saw the outlines of it. (Dixon [Il] Telegraph, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Robinson, Illinois-Col. Ike Cunningham, C. S. Jones, Kick Stiles, and others saw the airship swoop in and hover to the northwest. It carried white and green lights and left toward Melrose. (Robinson Argus, April 14, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Mason City, Iowa-The airship was seen (Marshalltown [Ia] Statesman-Press, April 13, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Elder, Iowa-Several saw the airship. (El Dora [Ia] Ledger, April 15, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Renwick, Iowa-The airship was seen. There was mention that it might have been Venus. (Renwick Times, April 16, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Vinton, Iowa-Hundreds saw the airship moving southwest to northwest. It was a brilliant red light, 8-10 miles, and varied between 20 and 40 degrees elevation. (Burlington [Ia] Hawk-eye, April 10, 1897)

April 9, 1897-Mausau, Wisconsin-Frank Barder saw the airship from a train. It was seen until train reached Marshfield. (Marshfield [Wis] News, April 13, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Racine, Wisconsin-At 0010, Silas Bilderback was walking home. The sky was heavily overcast and there were no stars or moon. Suddenly, he saw his shadow and saw several moving lights at a 45 degree elevation. The lights were red, blue, and yellow and some were fixed and some whirled about with an eccentric motion throwing off sparks. It slowly left northwest. He had to hold onto the fence to keep from falling. He went back to Mr. Smoger's place, where he had spent all evening, but it was closed. He thought he heard voices, but could not understand them. The voice was authoritative and commanding, as if a captain giving orders. He also heard, at intervals, what sounded like "Hic, hick, ugh" with a hissing and gurgling sound. These must have come from the airship as there was nobody else around. (Racine Journal, April 10, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Russell, Kansas-Between 0000 and 0200, a bright light was seen, but it was the reflection of a train headlight. (Russell Record, April 17, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Waterloo, Iowa-J. K. Joder saw the airship approach from the east at 0100. It was an immense black object with eyes of fire. It landed in the road and he approached to 100 feet of it. The men in the airship were probably Polanders, small in stature, and dressed in furs. They had apparently stopped for repairs and used signs to indicate that they were hungry but they felt it would be of no use to ask for a hand out in Waterloo, because Jack Casebeer didn't come down proper when they passed over a few nights ago. They made the repairs and left. (Waterloo Daily Courier, April 10, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Anderson, Indiana-At 0100, Mrs. William Marsh saw a light like a big headlight in the sky. It swooped down at her and she pointed it out to others. It made circles in the sky, would descend, ascend, and circle again. It rose straight up to a great height and left south. When it was low, she could hear the shuffling of the wings. It was seen by Mrs. Clarence Hudgell and others in a different part of the city. (Indianapolis [In] Journal, April 15, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Chicago, Illinois-Several saw a bright object to the west at 0200. It was the size and color of an orange and hung there for a time. (Chicago Tribune, April 10, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Kewanee, Illinois-A telegraph operator saw the airship pass over in the early morning. He wired a report to the Galesburg operator. (Galesburg [Ill] Evening Mail, April 10, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Galesburg, Illinois-In the early morning, a C.B. & O. telegraph operator saw the airship pass over. (Galesburg Evening Mail, April 10, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Maxwell, Iowa-In the early morning, the airship was seen going northwest. It proved to be a fire balloon. (Des Moines [Ia] Iowa State Register, April 15, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Danville, Iowa-At 1830, Wm. Speelman saw the airship pass over. It came from the east, was quite high, and was very small. (Burlington [Ia] Hawk-eye, April 11, 1897) The April 13th issue of the same paper said it was seen at 2100 and was thought to be a balloon sent up at Burlington.

April 10, 1897-Kankakee, Illinois-Residents saw a blazing light at a 40 degree elevation to the west at 1855. It sent out corruscations of lights with flashes of red and green. At 1930, it was either lower or further away. At 2000, 3 men said they saw a red light appear on the left circumference of the central illumination and it moved down to the lowest point and up the other side. At 2030, it began to grow dimmer. At 1930 on the following day, the light was not there, showing it was not Venus or a star. (Kankakee Gazette, April 15, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Shell Rock, Iowa-At 1900, a dark object was seen moving south. It was 20 feet long, had a large searchlight in front, a red light at rear, and green and white lights on the sides. (Minneapolis [Mn] Tribune, April 11, 1897) The Cedar Rapids [Ia] Republican of April 11, 1897, reported that it was seen at 1920, it was low, came from the south, and that there was a green light on one side and a white light on the other side.

April 10, 1897-Eldon, Iowa-The airship was seen at 1925. (Minneapolis [Mn] Tribune, April 11, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Galesburg, Illinois-At 1930, O. C. Lanphear saw a very bright white light to the north. It was like a train headlight. Mrs. H. L. Wilbur saw 2 green lights below the white one. A large crowd slowly gathered. (Galesburg Evening Mail, April 12, 1897) The St. Louis [Mo]

Post Dispatch of April 11, 1897, reported that it was seen for 1 hour and went west with a wobbling flight. The St. Louis (Mo) Republic of April 11, 1897, said it went northeast, was 2 miles up, and 16 feet long.

April 10, 1897-Ottumwa, Iowa-A red light was seen moving up and down and going northwest. It was seen by a large number of people between 1925 and 2010. (Minneapolis [Mn] Tribune, April 11, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Kinmundy, Illinois-At 2000, the airship was seen (Moline [Ill] Dispatch, April 12, 1897) The East St. Louis (Mo) Journal of April 12, 1897, reported that it had a searchlight in front and 2 red lights at the rear.

April 10, 1897-Mt. Ayr, Iowa-H. G. Roberts, Arthur Harris, and others saw the airship at 2000. It was seen for 5 minutes as it moved north at 25-30 mph. (Grant City [Mo] Worth County Times, April 13, 1897)

April 10, 1897-La Crosse, Wisconsin-At 2000, the airship was seen to the southwest going northwest. It was in view for 1 hour. Some saw just a bright light and some saw yellow and blue lights with it. One man saw it with a glass and said it there was an oblong object suspended beneath the light. (La Crosse Daily Press, April 12, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Eldora, Iowa-The airship was seen at 2000 and for 40 minutes. (Chambers) It was a gigantic airship of polished silver. (Beyond)

April 10, 1897-Clarion, Iowa-At 2000, many saw a square red light going northwest at a very rapid rate. It was the size of a common balloon and 3/4 mile up. It changed course and passed over again. It was seen for 15 minutes and left north. (Clarion Wright County Democrat, April 14, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Champaign, Illinois-Dr. J. H. Wood saw a long red light to the northwest, going northwest, at 2000. (Champaign Gazette, April 13, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Bunch, Iowa-At 2000, Capt. Mark Box and others saw a light to the northwest. It moved rapidly south. It was many times brighter and larger than a star. It swayed side to side and would change from bright white to bright red. (Ottumwa [Ia] Democrat, April 14, 1897)

April 10, 1897-Lake City, Iowa-J. D. McVay, A. Losee, J. McCrary, F. Williams, George Daviss, Jack Zane, and G. Shuster saw a very bright white light at 2000. It was to the northwest, very high, and rapidly going northwest. One man said it was only a star as he had seen it for several evenings. It moved side to side and became redder as it moved further away. It was seen 30-45 minutes. (Des Moines [Ia] Iowa State Register, April 13, 1897) The Des Moines (Ia) Leader of April 11th suggested that it was Venus.

April 10, 1897-Waterloo, Iowa-At 2000, the lights of the airship was seen. (Minneapolis [Mn] Tribune, April 11, 1897)