

97-1

97-01 March 31, 1897 2200 Charleston, Michigan

Type A

Mrs. Wyngate saw a brilliant white light, and at the same time "distinctly heard human voices from above."

Investigator:

Source: John Keel, Trojan Horse, p. 83, quoting Detroit Evening News,
4/1/97; Clark & Farish, FSR XIV/5, p. 13.

97-02 March 31, 1897 2200 Galesburg, Michigan

Type A

The airship passed over the village of Galesburg. Witnesses reported seeing a brilliant light which revealed the vague shape of the machine's main body; from it emanated both an odd "crackling" noise, apparently the sound of its motor, and the distinct sounds of human voices.

Investigator:

Source: Clark, FSR XII/4, p. 11.

97-03 April 4, 1897 1400 St. Louis, Mo.

Type G

Joke newspaper yarn about how a Mr. Joseph Joslin was kept for 3 weeks aboard the airship, which was a great red dragon inhabited by small red devils. Last sentence: "His case is diagnosed as alcoholism."

Investigator:

Source: St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 4/23/97, p. 12.

Two "traveling men", F. Chamberlain & O. L. Jones, were driving a 2-horse buggy shortly after 11 PM when they saw a man walking around in a clearing with a lantern. When they drove toward him the lantern disappeared, and they heard a crackling of twigs & brush, then a rushing noise like wind. They then discerned in the moonlight "a long, high object of a gray-white color, resembling the top of a 'prairie schooner'". It bore 4 lights in 2 pairs, including red & green lights, & rose at a sharp angle so as to just clear the treetops. It went up all in a jiffy, and we were too surprised to get a good view." At the site they found 14 prints in the mud, each 2 ft x 6", "manifestly the massy supports of the contrivance."

Investigator:

Source: St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, 4/15/97 (courtesy of J. Clark.)

97-04 April 11, 1897 2100 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Type A

An oval-shaped object, below which was suspended a brilliant light, approached Milwaukee from Lake Michigan & hovered above the City Hall. A man named Mayer observed the object through a telescope & distinctly saw 4 occupants.

Investigator:

Source: MUFON V/5, p. 50, quoting Lore & Deneault, Mysteries of the Skies (Hale, London, 1969), p. 19.

97-05 April 11, 1897 2230 Minnetonka, Minn.

Type A.

Stuart Mackroth was riding his bicycle near Minnetonka Mills when the airship passed over him. It was "shaped like an ordinary boat", with a brilliant electric light in the bow, red & green side lights, & a pale stern light. "Mr. Mackroth reports that he saw in the machine men, women, & children. They were moving about as if very busy."

Investigator:

Source: Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, 4/13/97 (Courtesy J. Clark).

97-06 April 12, 1897 1815 Girard-Green Ridge, Illinois

Type B

"A mile North of Green Ridge, a mining camp, a large crowd of people saw the airship settle in a grove. They hastened to investigate, but when they got within 1/2 mile it again rose & continued its northward journey. The Chicago & Alton night operator, who was hunting nearby, was close enough to discover a human being working about the airship, as if tightening some loosened machinery. The spectators say it was shaped like a boat, with oars extending on each side & a top similar to the canopy of a booth." The Tribune account adds that the craft was marked with a huge "M" and other letters; that the operator's name was Paul Mc-Cramer; and that footprints & other ground traces were found at the site.

Investigator:

Sources: Chicago (Ill.) Chronicle, 4/14/97; Quincy (Ill.) Morning Whig, 4/15/97 (reprinted in Skylook #44); Lore-Deneault, Mysteries, p. 20, quoting Chicago Daily Tribune, 4/14/97; Vallee, Magonia, 182, quoting Chicago Times-Herald, 4/14, and Record, 4/14.

97-07 April 12, 1897 2200 Maysville, Missouri

Type B

The airship landed for 1/2 hr. at Maysville. "It came to the ground in a vacant lot N. of U. S. Marshal Crenshaw's home, & was soon surrounded by nearly the whole population of our little city. There was only one man on board, who appeared to be a Norwegian...Scandinavian oaths fairly poured from his lips as he hammered at a peculiar little contrivance in one of the long, gill-like flanges on top of the rear portion of the ship. He seemed utterly disgusted at having to light--was not in a conversational mood, & nothing was learned from him. All that could be seen about the little air vessel was an apparently Danish inscription. In 30 min. everything seemed to be repaired & the mysterious visitor was gone."

Investigator:

Source: Kingston (Mo.) Times, 4/16/97, quoting St. Joe Herald, 4/12.
(Courtesy of L. Farish.)

97-08 April 13, 1897 1830 Greensburg, Indiana

Type A

Professor George Keeley obtained a good view of the airship from his observatory...probably the best view of anyone. He says the searchlight is of medium power...the machine is about 60 ft long, the balloon being about 50 ft long & cigar-shaped, the car hanging about 20 ft under the balloon. The car was entirely enclosed, but 2 men were visible in the lookout. One was apparently 50 yrs old, with a beard, and the other young. Their features were indiscernible. The older wore a stiff hat & the younger a Cuban crush hat.

Investigator:

Source: Chicago Chronicle, 4/14/97.

97-09 April 13, 1897 2315 Lake Elmo, Minnesota

Type C

97-10 April 14, 1897 Lake Erie, off Cleveland, Ohio

Type A

Joseph Singler & S. H. Davis, fishing on Lake Erie, saw a 40-foot "ship" with a canopy, on whose deck were a man of about 25, wearing hunting jacket & cap, a woman, and a 10-yr-old child. The boat had a wheel "similar to those on steamers." When the witnesses' boat approached, a large colored balloon rose up & lifted the "ship" 150 yards into the air; it circled "like a hawk" before flying away, and dropped a large swordfish into the lake; "the fish was stunned, and is now on exhibition at the fire tug "Cleveland"."

Investigator:

Sources: Fort, Books, p. 470; Vallee, Magonia, p. 182; Chicago Tribune,
4/16/97.

97-11 April 14, 1897 1500 Near Gas City, Indiana

Type B

A mile south of Gas City, an object landed on the farm of John Roush, stampeding the horses & cattle. Six occupants emerged and appeared to make repairs. Before the witnesses could get near, the object ascended & flew east.

Investigator:

Source: Vallee, Magonia, p. 182, quoting Chicago Chronicle, 4/15/97.

97-12

April 14, 1897 1630 Reynolds or Howard City, Michigan

Type B

A dozen or more farmers saw an object maneuver in the sky for an hour before landing. "At 4:30 AM on Wed. morning (sic) a strange flying contraption landed in a field near Howard City, and a naked giant stepped from it. 'He is about nine and a half feet tall', the report stated, 'and his talk, while musical, is not talk at all, but seems to be a repetition of bellowings. One of the farmers who was somewhat braver attempted to go near him & got a kick that will last him for some time, having got his hip broken. Great excitement prevails here, and lots of people are flocking here from Morley & Howard City to view the strange being at a distance, as no one dares to go near. He seems to be trying to talk to people.' Piles of furry animal pelts were seen on board the object. --There were no follow-up stories."

Investigator:

Source: John Keel, Strange Creatures from Time & Space (Fawcett, 1970),
pp. 59f., quoting Saginaw (Mich.) Courier-Herald of 4/16/97; FSR
XIV/5, pp. 15f.; FSR XV/1, p. 27.

(Cf. #97-26).

97-13 April 15, 1897 Morning Near Linn Grove, Iowa

Type A

F. G. Ellis, James Evans, David Evans, Joe Croaskey & Benj. Buland followed a large object as it landed about 4 miles north of Linn Grove. When they came within 700 yards of it, it "spread its four giant wings and rose toward the North." Two figures aboard, with unusually long whiskers, seemed to be trying to conceal themselves. "The occupants threw out 2 large boulders of unknown composition, which were taken into the village, & are now on exhibition."

Investigator:

Sources: Chicago Times-Herald, 4/16/97; Vallee, Magonia, p. 183; Keel, Trojan Horse, 80-81 (quoting Saginaw (Mich.) Courier-Herald, 4/16); Jacobs, The UFO Controversy in America (Indiana, 1975), p. 9.

97-14 April 15, 1897 1200 Near Springfield, Illinois

Type B

Two farmhands, Adolph Winkle & John Hulle, came upon the airship in a field 2 miles north of Springfield. Two men & a woman emerged & said they had flown from Quincy in 30 minutes and were repairing the electrical apparatus & search-light mechanism. They said they "would make a report to the government when Cuba is declared free."

Investigator:

Sources: J. Clark, FSR XI/1, p. 31 (quoting AP, 4/16); Vallee, Magonia, p. 183; Keel, Trojan Horse, p. 81; Skylook #43 (6/71), 17 (quoting Quincy (Ill.) Daily Herald, 4/15/97.)

97-15 April 15, 1897 Evening Farmersville, Texas

Type A

Mr. Brown, the city marshal of Farmersville, said that when the airship passed over him at about 200 ft, he could see in it "2 men, and something resembling a large Newfoundland dog." He heard the occupants talk, but could not understand the language.

Investigator:

Sources: Skylook, 4/72, last page, quoting Dallas Morning News, 4/18/97;
Jacobs, Controversy, p. 9 (ibid.)

97-16 April 15, 1897 Night Pine Lake, Michigan

Type C

William Megiveron was awakened by a tap on his window, & found the room filled with intense light. When he went outside, a voice from above addressed him, explaining that the light came from the airship, which had been damaged by a hunter's gun that afternoon, & was under repair. The voice then asked for coffee & sandwiches, which were provided by Megiveron & hoisted aloft by a large scoop. A scoop containing Canadian quarters was let down in exchange. Megiveron estimated that the object hovered at 300 ft, and might be "a half mile long." All he could see were the outlines, due to the intensity of the bright beam of light, which lit up everything below "as bright as day, and above as dark as midnight during a cyclone." He asked to be taken aboard & was greeted with hoots of laughter, leading him to suspect that the crew might be drinking, since they had asked for a cork-screw. Just before dawn, the airship took off, headed toward Lansing.

Investigator:

Source: FSR XIV/4, p. 14, quoting Lansing (Mich.) State Republican,
4/17/97.

97-17 Not later than April 16, 1897 Dunkirk, Ohio

Type A

The mysterious airship was seen in the eastern part of Dunkirk, within 300 ft of the ground. "Marshal Mahon & others heard passengers in the airship talking loudly."

Investigator:

Source: St. Louis (Mo.) Star, 4/16/97, p. 3.

97-18 April 16, 1897 Downs Township, McLean Co., Illinois

Type B

An aerial craft landed on Haney Savidge's farm; six people emerged and spoke to him for a few minutes before leaving again.

Investigator:

Sources: Vallee, Magonia, p. 183f., quoting Chicago Times-Herald, 4/17/97;
Jacobs, Controversy, pp. 9f. (ibid.): Chicago Tribune, 4/17/97.

97-19 April 16, 1897 Dawn Waterloo, Iowa

Type C

At dawn an airship with a conical front was seen sitting in a farmer's field. The craft's occupant had supposedly got permission from the farmer to park there for a few days to make repairs. He was reported to have guarded the vessel with a gun to keep people from getting too close. "He remarked that he was attempting to fly around the world, and that in a few days he would give the people in the vicinity a free performance of the airship." (For more details of this hoax craft, "constructed of canvas tightly stitched to a light framework of wood", see Chicago Record.)

Investigator:

Sources: Lore-Deneault, Mysteries, pp. 20f., quoting Chicago Daily Tribune, 4/17/97; Skylook #47 (10/71), p. 17, quoting Quincy (Ill.) Daily Herald, 4/20; Chicago Record, 4/17.

W. H. Hopkins, 50, wrote to the Post-Dispatch to tell of his experience with the airship. In the hills east of Springfield he discovered in a valley "a vessel similar to the airship shown in the Post-Dispatch a few days ago", resting on 4 legs and with 2 horizontal & 1 vertical propeller wheels. It was about 20 ft long & 8 ft wide, the propellers about 6 ft in diameter. Near it was a beautiful girl with long blonde hair, rather under medium size, wearing nothing but a band of jewels around her forehead; she was picking flowers "with exclamations of delight in a language I could not understand", & fanning herself with a fan, though to Hopkins the air was not warm. In the shade of the vessel lay "a man of noble proportions & majestic countenance", with dark auburn shoulder-length hair & full beard, likewise naked & fanning himself. When the woman became aware of H., she rushed to the man with a shriek of fear. H. uttered words of apology, which were not understood, and held out his hand, to which the man responded in kind. He asked them by signs where they came from; they pointed upwards & pronounced a word that sounded like "Mars." The man showed him the ship, which was illuminated by a luminous ball & contained a luxurious couch & robes. Rotating balls of metal activated the propellers & also the lights: "as they revolved, intense lights, stronger than any arc-light I ever saw, shone out red & green at the sides & intense white at the prow." The couple looked at his gray hair with surprise & examined his watch with wonder, then activated the propellers: "The vessel rose as lightly as a bird & shot away like an arrow." Hopkins's friends & business associates called him perfectly reliable.

Investigator:

Source: St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, 4/19/97 (courtesy of L. Farish); reprinted in Coleman & Clark, The Unidentified, p. 152.

97-21 April 16, 1897 Night Greenville, Texas

Type B

C. G. Williams was startled by the light of an aircraft landing nearby. Three men came out, 2 of whom began to work on the "rigging". The third, after asking him to keep it a secret, told him they were inventors from a small town in New York, who were engaged in perfecting their craft. Electricity was used to get off the ground, and "wind power" to turn the ship's large propeller. The man said that if Williams would mail some letters for him, he would come back & take him on a ride to South America.

Investigator:

Sources: Jacobs, Controversy, pp. 11f., quoting Dallas (Tex.) Morning News,
4/19/97; FSR XIII/1, p/ 21 (ibid.); Galveston (Tex.) News, 4/19/97.

97-22 Not later than April 17, 1897 Near Abbott, Texas

Type E

Two unnamed farmers near Abbott saw a man & 6 boys descending from the skies. "They drifted down as gracefully as birds alighting until within a few feet of the ground, about 50 yards away; they remained stationary a few seconds & then reascended into the heavens. The day was perfectly clear, not a cloud in sight anywhere."

Investigator:

Source: Dallas (Tex.) Morning News, 4/18/97, Part 3.

97-23. April 17, 1897. Cleburne, Texas

Type A

A man who claimed that "he had not touched a drop of anything except water during the evening" saw an airship speed by "just above the tops of the houses" with a passenger in it. "The passenger gave him the go-ahead sign that brakemen give on the railroad."

Investigator:

Source: Jacobs, Controversy, p. 9, quoting Dallas (Tex.) Morning News, 4/18.

97-24 April 17, 1897 0600 Aurora, Texas

Type B

About 6 A.M., an airship traveling at only 10-12 mph sailed over the Aurora public square at a low altitude, traveling north; it then collided with Judge Proctor's windmill and "went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground and wrecking the windmill & water tank." The body of the "small" pilot was "badly disfigured, but enough has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world. Mr. T. J. Weems, the U. S. Signal Service officer at this place, gives it as his opinion that he was a native of the planet Mars. Papers found on his person cannot be deciphered." The ship "was built of an unknown metal somewhat resembling a mixture of aluminum & silver...The town is full of people who are viewing the wreckage." The pilot was buried in Aurora. (FSR XIII/1, pp. 21f., quoting Dallas Morning News, 4/19/97; FSR XIX/4, pp. 7f.) The latter source adds that T. J. Weems turns out to have been the village blacksmith. Two old residents "scoffed at the story" (Jacobs, Controversy, p. 17, quoting Frank Masquelette, Houston (Tex.) Post, 6/13/66, p. 8.) Alfred Kraus's search of the Proctor property with a metal detector in 1967 turned up no supporting evidence (UPI story from Tucson, Arizona, 6/16/73.) On the other hand, 2 surviving eyewitnesses remembered the occurrence, and one of some metal samples from Aurora proved to be an unusual alloy (3:1 iron:zinc). Hayden Hewes, director of IUFOB, sought to exhume the grave, but was prevented by local opposition (FSR XIX/4, pp. 7f.)

Investigators: see above; also W. Andrus (for MUFON).

Sources: quoted above.

97-25 April 17, 1897 Waxachie, Texas

Type B

Judge Love & Mr. Beatty found in the woods a "queer-looking machine" & 5 "peculiarly dressed men". One of these, who spoke "fairly good English", told them that the airship came from "regions in the north pole...contrary to popular belief, there is a large body of land beyond the polar seas." He said his people were descendants of the 10 lost tribes of Israel, who had learned English from polar explorers. There were said to be 20 of these airships afloat, all of which were planning to show up in mid-June at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition at Nashville.

Investigator:

Source: Jacobs, Controversy, p. 11 (quoting Dallas Morning News, 4/19/97.)

97-26 April 17, 1897 Morning Williamston, Michigan

Type B

(This is the same story as that of April 14 at Howard City (#97-12), but attributed to Williamston on the 17th.)

Investigator:

Source: Vallee, Magonia, p. 184, quoting Lansing State Republican, no date.

97-27 April 17, 1897 Night Stephensville, Texas

Type B

C. L. McIlhaney, a prominent farmer, reported that the airship had alighted on his farm 3 miles from town & was making repairs there. He piloted a large number of prominent citizens (names given), including the mayor, out to see it. "It consists of a cigar-shaped body about 60 ft in length, with 2 immense aeroplanes; the motive power is an immense wheel at each end, which derives its power from storage batteries. The crew consisted of 2 men, who gave their names as S. E. Tillman & A. E. Dolbear. They say they are making an experimental trip to comply with a contract with certain capitalists of New York who are backing them...They rapidly made the necessary repairs, & bidding adieu to the astonished crowd, boarded the ship, which rose gently into the air & sailed off."

Investigator:

Sources: New Orleans (La.) Daily Picayune, 4/20/97, p. 1; Jacobs, Controversy, pp. 10 f., quoting Dallas Morning News, 4/19.

97-28 April 19, 1897 Noon Near Lake Charles, La.

Type G

A correspondent of "unquestioned veracity" wrote to Dr. D.H. Tucker that he had been aboard the airship. When he first saw it, about 1/2 mile away, it emitted a whistle that terrified his horses, which ran away, throwing him to the ground. It landed 100 ft away, and 2 men came down a rope ladder to apologize, and to invite him aboard. The crew consisted of a Mr. Wilson, the owner, Mr. Scott Warren, his friend, Mr. Waters, the engineer, & a Mexican who did the cooking. The cabin was lighted by incandescent lights, but Mr. Wilson said the craft was propelled not by electricity, but by the compression & expansion of a gas. The ship, 75 ft x 25 ft, was made wholly of aluminum. By a contrivance of wheels, a rotation velocity equivalent to 65,000 rpm was attained. Maximum speed was over 125 mph. "The interior arrangement is very neat & comfortable, but not luxurious." Mr. Wilson said he had been experimenting for only about 2 weeks & had not yet settled the optimum altitude. A 10-ft propeller furnished propulsion. 3 different models were being tried out at the same time, all having been put together "at Mr. Warren's place." It was planned to construct a line of airships to be operated between New York & San Francisco. --A week after writing this letter, its author was drowned while attempting to save some livestock in a flood.

Investigator:

Source: Dallas (Tex.) Morning News, May 18, 1897.

97-29 April 19, 1897 Afternoon Greenfield, Illinois

Type A

M. G. Sisson, postmaster of Greenfield, Ill., was walking in the woods when his dog crouched down at his feet in abject terror. Hearing a noise from above, he looked up & saw the airship approaching, about 150 ft from the ground. He distinctly saw a lady standing on what seemed to be a step in front; she held a net on a pole, & was netting pigeons. When Mr. S. was discovered by the occupants, the ship increased its speed & rose to a great height. It passed about 100 ft above him, & he could see that it was about 100 ft long, 15 ft wide & 25 ft deep. It was metallic, & had a railing around the deck. Wings about 20 ft wide reached nearly the entire length of the ship. On the top, "just behind the pilot house", was a large horizontal screw or fan. --A letter was picked up near Hagaman, about 9 miles E of Greenfield, which was on paper bearing the printed letterhead "Air-ship Co., Oakland, Cal." & read in part "Mollie's scheme for running down birds works excellently: we feast daily on pigeon pie."

Investigator:

Source: St. Louis (Mo.) Star, 4/20/97, p. 3.

97-30 April 19, 1897 1800 Elysian, Minnesota

Type A

A farmer near Elysian saw the airship suddenly descend, as though it would light in a pond. As he ran toward it, he could plainly see 3 men who were laughing at him. When he got close, the ship suddenly darted up into the air.

Investigator:

Sources: Mankato (Minn.) Review, 4/20/97; Windom (Minn.) Reporter, 4/22/97
(courtesy J. Clark.)

Awakened by his cattle, Alexander Hamilton looked out & saw an airship descending about 40 rods away. He called his son and his tenant, Gid Heslip, and they ran out to the corral with axes. They came within 50 yards of an airship whose cigar-shaped balloon was possibly 300 ft long; the carriage underneath was "made of panels of glass or other transparent substance; alternating with narrow strips of some other material; it was brilliantly lighted within." There was an "immense" movable searchlight, and smaller red & green lights. In the cabin, not more than 30 ft above the ground, were "six of the strangest beings I ever saw: 2 men, a woman, & 3 children. They were jabbering together, but we could not understand a syllable." When the occupants noticed the men, "a great turbine wheel about 30 ft in diameter, which was slowly revolving below the craft, began to buzz, sounding precisely like the cylinder of a separator", and the vessel rose to 300 ft. The witnesses then discovered that a 3-year-old heifer was noosed around the neck by a half-inch cable of dark-red material from the vessel, which had become tangled in a wire fence. Unable to remove the noose, they cut the wires, and "stood in amazement to see ship, cow and all, rise slowly & sail off." The next day a neighbor, Lank Thomas, found the hide, head, and legs a few miles west of Leroy, with no tracks on the ground. Hamilton said that whenever he tried to sleep he "would see the cursed thing with its big lights & hideous people. I don't know whether they are devils or angels or what, but we all saw them, and I don't want any more to do with them." The newspaper that printed this account followed it with an affidavit signed by 11 prominent community members, who said they had known Hamilton for 15-30 years and believed in the truth of his statement.

97-32 April 19, 1897 2300 Beaumont, Texas

Type C

J. B. Ligon and his son went to investigate lights in a nearby pasture, & found 4 men standing around a large, dark object. One of them asked him for 2 buckets of water. Another, giving his name as Wilson, told Ligon that they had taken a trip "out on the gulf", and were now returning to the "quiet Iowa town" where the airship & 4 others like it had been constructed. According to Wilson, the craft was powered by electricity. It was 140 ft long with 2 huge wings on each side, & propellers at bow & stern; it was made of steel.

Investigator:

Sources: Jacobs, Controversy, p. 12 (quoting Houston (Tex.) Post, 4/21/97); MUFOB V/5, p. 52 (quoting Galveston (Tex.) Daily News, 4/24/97.)

97-33 April 20, 1897 1800 Near Homan, Arkansas

Type B

James Hooton, a railroad conductor, was returning from hunting when he heard a sound like the air pump of a locomotive. In a clearing he saw an airship (the drawing in Arkansas Gazette shows 2 aeroplane wings in tandem, & 3 "side-wheel" propellers) apparently being repaired by a man wearing smoked glasses. 3 or 4 other men emerged as he approached. On his remarking that the noise sounded like a Westinghouse air brake, the pilot replied: "Perhaps it does, my friend. We are using condensed air & aeroplanes; but you will know more later on." The fans began to rotate and the ship rose slowly, then rapidly departed.

Investigator:

Sources: Arkansas Gazette, 4/22/97; FSR XII/4, pp. 14f. (quoting ibid.); Chambers, Facts on FS Controversy, pp. 50f. (ibid.); Keel, Trojan Horse, pp. 90f. (ibid.); Vallee, Magonia, pp. 141f., 184 (ibid.)

97-34 April 20, 1897 2200 Uvalde, Texas

Type B

Sheriff H. W. Baylor, investigating lights and sounds behind his house, came upon a landed airship & 3 men, asking for water. One of the men, giving his name as Wilson, from Goshen, N.Y., inquired after C. C. Akers, a former sheriff, whom Baylor knew well. Baylor was asked to keep the visit a secret; then "its great wings & fans were set in motion & it sped away northward." The county clerk also saw it depart.

A week later (4/27) the Galveston Daily News printed a letter from C. C. Akers, who confirmed that he had in fact, in 1877, known a Wilson from New York who "was working on aerial navigation." Akers also vouched for Sheriff Baylor's reliability.

Investigator:

Sources: Jacobs, Controversy, pp. 12f., quoting Galveston (Tex.) Daily News, 4/24/97, p. 3, and 4/28/97, p. 6.

97-35 April 22, 1897 0100 Harrisburg, Arkansas

Type B

Ex-Senator Harris, awakened by a noise, saw the airship; it descended to within a few feet of the ground a short distance away, to draw water from a well. On board was an elderly man with a dark beard to his waist, 2 young men, and a woman. The bearded man told Harris that the ship was operated by antigravity, an invention of his uncle's. "I have a 4-ton Hotchkiss gun on board, which fires 63,000 times a minute, together with 10 tons of ammunition; I hold it out with one hand before firing." He had intended to "go over to Cuba and kill out the Spanish army", but now thought he might "go to the aid of the Armenians." "I could take breakfast here, do my shopping in Paris, and be back here for dinner without inconvenience." Before taking off he invited H. to take a ride, but Harris declined.

Investigator:

Sources: J. Clark, FSR XIII/4, pp. 22f. (quoting Harrisburg (Ark.) Modern News, 4/23/97); Keel, Trojan Horse, pp. 83f.

97-36 April 22, 1897 2330 Rockland, Texas

Type B

At 11 P.M. John M. Barclay heard his dog barking, and a whining noise. Going to the door, he saw an oblong body "with wings & side attachments of various sizes & shapes" hovering 15 ft above the ground; it then landed in a nearby pasture, and the lights went out. When within 30 yards of the ship, Barclay was met by "an ordinary mortal, who requested him to lay his gun aside." Asked his name, the man replied "Never mind, call it Smith. I want some lubricating oil and a couple of cold chisels, if you can get them, and some bluestone...Here is a ten-dollar bill; get us these articles & keep the change for your trouble." He would not let Barclay approach closer, but promised him a trip in the airship "some future day." B. procured the oil & chisels--free of charge, as the ten-dollar bill could not be changed. As the man was leaving, Barclay asked him where he was from & where he was going; he replied, "From anywhere, but we will be in Greece day after tomorrow." He boarded the vessel, which left "like a shot out of a gun."

Investigator:

Sources: Vallee, Magonia, pp. 144f., 184f. (quoting Houston (Tex.) Post, "4/22/97"); Jacobs, Controversy, p. 10 (quoting Houston Post, 4/25/97); FSR XLI/1, p. 23.

97-37 April 22, 1897 About 2400 Josserand, Texas

Type B

Frank Nichols, awakened by a mechanical noise, saw a lighted object land in his corn field. When he went out, he met 2 men who asked permission to draw water from his well. The crew, half a dozen men, talked to him & told him that the airship was worked by "highly condensed electricity" and was one of 5 built in Iowa.

Investigator:

Sources: FSR XIII/1, p. 23 (quoting Houston (Tex.) Post, 4/26/97); Vallee, Magonia, pp. 145f. (ibid.); Jacobs, Controversy, pp. 13f. (ibid.)

97-38 April 22-23, 1897 Conroe, Texas

Type C

4 men, including proprietor G. L. Witherspoon, were playing dominoes in the hotel restaurant of Conroe when 3 strangers walked in & said they had flown in their airship from San Francisco, en route to Cuba, and had landed not far away. Witherspoon & his friends declined an offer to examine the ship. About an hour later, after the visitors had left, a brilliantly lighted airship passed over Conroe.

Investigator:

Source: J. Clark & L. Coleman, The Unidentified, pp. 146f.

97-39 April 23, 1897 McKinney Bayou, Arkansas

Type G

Judge L. A. Byrne of Texarkana was surveying a tract of land when he saw a peculiar object anchored on the ground. Its crew of 3 spoke a foreign language, & looked like Japanese. They showed him through the ship: the machinery was of aluminum, and gas was pumped into an aluminum tank to raise the craft.

Investigator:

Sources: Texarkana (Ark.-Tex.) Daily Texarkanian, 4/25/97; Vallee, Magonia, p. 185 (quoting Farish.)

97-40 April 23, 1897 Kountze, Texas

Type B

Two "responsible men" observed an airship which had descended for repairs; the occupants gave their names as "Wilson" & "Jackson".

Investigator:

Source: Jacobs, Controversy, p. 13, quoting Houston (Tex.) Post, 4/25/05

97-41 April 23, 1897 Evening Near Chattanooga, Tenn.

Type B

Several citizens of Chattanooga said they had come upon the airship resting on a spur of a mountain near the city. Two men at work on it explained that they had come to earth because the machinery was out of order. One gave his name as "Professor Charles Davidson" & said that the vessel had left Sacramento a month earlier. --Details of ship's construction are given in source: e.g., the balloon portion is "in the shape of a shad minus head & tail", of aluminum, with a bamboo-and-aluminum passenger car 9 ft long. Electric & naphtha motors give the motive power.

Investigator:

Sources: St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, 4/25/97, p. 9; Clark-Coleman, The

Unidentified; p. 147.

97-42 April 25, 1897 Evening Merkel, Texas

Type A/B

People returning from church noticed a heavy object being dragged along the ground by a rope from an airship, which had a bright front light like a locomotive, & several lighted windows. The object got caught on the railroad track; after 10 minutes a small man in a light-blue sailor suit came down the rope and cut it free, then reascended as the craft sailed away. "The anchor is now on exhibition at the blacksmith shop of Elliott & Miller, and is attracting the attention of hundreds of people."

Investigator:

Sources: FSR XIII/1, p. 24 (quoting Houston (Tex.) Daily Post, 4/28/97);
Vallee, Magonia, pp. 143f., 185 (ibid.)

97-43 April 27, 1897 0200 Dayton, Michigan

Type A

Two Dayton people, returning home from staying up with a sick neighbor, were startled by the appearance of a huge cigar with a lighted basket under it. In the light could be seen the forms of 3 human-looking occupants.

Investigator:

Source: Clark & Farish, FSR XV/1, p. 26.

97-44 About April 28, 1897 2030 Deadwood, Texas

Type B

Hearing his horses stampeding, H. C. Lagrone went out & saw a bright white light illuminating the area, then landing. When he went to the spot he found 5 men, two of whom went to fill rubber bags with water. The others informed him that the airship, one of 5 flying around the country, had been built in Illinois and was not yet patented; they were planning to produce them in St. Louis. "They were well supplied with edibles of all sorts, had a good supply of beer & champagne, also a full supply of musical instruments."

Investigator:

Source: Jacobs, Controversy, p. 14 (quoting Houston (Tex.) Post, 4/30/97.)

97-45 April 29, 1897 2330 Holton, Michigan

Type A

A huge lighted object came out of the north & slowed down, finally hovering over the bridge. People streamed out into the street to hear the sounds of revellers aboard the ship. Loud talk & music, "the like of which was never heard in this place", could be heard all during the craft's 55-minute appearance. The ship itself measured 300 ft, plus a 40-foot tail; in width & depth, about 90 ft. Just as the tail started to whirl, the vessel dropped a grappling hook which caught one of the viewers on the ground. Then the ship flew away. The captured man returned from White Cloud the next day "and has been talking ever since about aerial navigation."

Investigator:

Source: Clark & Farish, FSR XV/1, p. 26; Muskegon (Mich.) Daily Chronicle,
4/30/97.

97-46 May 4, 1897 1930 Jenny Lind, Arkansas

Type B/G

At 7:30 P.M. an airship passed over Jenny Lind, & 3 men pursued it on bicycles until it landed by a mountainside spring. Its pilots, who gave their names as George Autzerlitz & Joseph Eddleman, talked with the 3 for a while, saying they subsisted on birds which they overtook in flight. They offered any one of the men a free ride, & took James Davis to Huntington, 15 miles away.

Investigator:

Source: Clark & Coleman, The Unidentified, p. 147.

97-47 May 6, 1897 Night Near Hot Springs, Arkansas

Type C

Riding northwest of Hot Springs in rainy weather, Constable J. J. Sumpter & Deputy Sheriff McLemore saw a brilliant light descend to earth. They approached to within 100 yards, when their horses refused to go further. They challenged 2 persons carrying lanterns; one of them, a man with a long dark beard, came forward to say that he & a young man & woman were traveling in an airship. This, cigar-shaped & 60 ft long, looked "just like the cuts that have appeared in the papers recently." The young man was filling a "sack" with water; the woman held an umbrella. The bearded man invited the policemen to take a ride, but they declined. He gave his destination as Nashville, Tenn. The men rode off & did not see the airship leave. They gave a sworn affidavit of the above. (See source for more details.)

Investigator:

Sources: FSR XII/4, p. 15, quoting Fort Smith (Ark.) Daily News Record,
5/13/97; Vallee, Magonia, 142f., 186; Keel, Trojan Horse, pp. 81f.

97-48 May 6, 1897 2230 Matteawan, N.Y.

Type A

An object illuminating the sky with brilliant flashes of white & green light was observed in the west, midway between horizon & zenith. 2 or 3 occupants were seen, including a boy who threw hot ashes over the side.

Investigator:

Source: MUFOB V/5, p. 54, quoting UFO Commentary 2:3 & Buffalo (N.Y.)
Evening News, 5/6/97.