

From On the Phantom Air Ship Mystery: April: 1, 2, 9, and 11

1 April

That evening in Dallas, Fort Worth, Marshall, and Beaumont
Something prowled the sky, pausing to sweep a searchlight
Over the bluffs, roofs, and streets in a brilliant arc

2 April

It returned over Kansas City and Chicago
A searchlight flashed down
Heading east sixty miles an hour

*

In Evanston some students
saw red and green lights
sway through the stars

9 April

...It is the opinion of *The Sun* that the creator and crew of the Great Western Air Ship ought to set course for the city, so they may follow the march to Grant's Tomb...

*

Aboard the Airship *Daedelus*

Finder—chance correspondent!—know the difficulties of flight have been surmounted!

Aboard the *Daedelus* (our electrically-generated-steam-powered craft, constructed in a secluded spot from parts carried overland from Glasgow, manufactured and assembled in Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Chicago) we have cruised for weeks, adjusting her machinery and refining the crew's performance so that she has flown 180 miles an hour at 3,000 feet—and half a ton from Lafayette to Yankton in under seventy-two hours!

(signed) Cpt. Harris

*

For two hours around midnight
Thousands of Chicagoans saw northwest
White red green lights

Seeming miles up
Two searchlights beamed down
Lit up winged cigars

11 April

Walt McCann

ran the news stand
in Roger's Park

First thing

every morning
ready for business

That dawn

he saw
on the step

High

overhead
the air ship

Ran in

and out with his son's new
box camera

Took two

exposures on the run
one sharper

An elongated ovoid

seeming silk
a white metal cabin

*

Max I. Harmar

L. Hosmar

L. Kasmar

Secretary of the Chicago Aeronautical Association

Claimed it came two days early

The crew of three

one a friend

had left San Francisco a month ago

Heading for the Capital

Where everyone would be allowed to inspect it

Made

not of metal

but paper

Filled with gas

Propelled by a hitherto undiscovered method

*

C. A. Case

violin maker

Wrote Secretary Wakefield

Representing the Trans-Mississippi Exposition

And John A. Heron

inventor

Of an air ship

capable of ascending four miles

with a score of passengers

And descending to land

on the thirty-five acre site

requested for its exhibition

*

...Alpha Orionis has followed its celestial course ten million years; how it was settled upon nine days ago and pointed at as the headlamp of a mysterious aerial vessel is as difficult to understand as it is moreso to explain...