

12 April

One came in from
Over Lake Michigan

Hovered
Over Milwaukee

Fifteen minutes
Before thousands

*

...beer...whiskey
...paper balloons
fooling no one...

13 April

Harry Harrison
observing the night sky
through his telescope

Watched neither a planetary nebula,
meteor, comet, star, nor cloud
until midnight

Two hours later
brighter than ever
the horizon finally obscured it

14 April

AIR SHIP BLOWS UP?
The Strange Wonder of the Western Sky Passes Away with a thud

Although admitting the Americans are no more advanced in the science of aerostatics than their own countrymen, that eminent Parisian journal *Figaro* has judged the Great Air Ship of being more than a mere *canard* too late: for the air ship, that restless phantom haunting the Western horizon, which has startled and awed the mighty West for some time, now belongs to the glorious past. Two veterans, tending an old, ill mount, viewed the aerial craft's flaming lamp pass quickly across the starry heavens, then heard a dull report like that of a muffled cannon, and, finally, the hiss of debris as it falls; their neighbor, Mrs. Wallace, likewise heard a thunderous noise the night before, and reported Max, her son, had found pieces strewn over two miles.

*

One landed near Howard
 and what come out
But some tall blond fellah
 buck naked
Who tried to say something or other
 in some sing-song gibberish
Then kicked him what musta seemed
 clean clear across the field
So hard
 it cracked his hip
He hung around for days after
 Most everyone around here seen him

15 April

Near Springfield W. H. Hopkins came upon
A shiny metal craft landed on four legs
Twenty feet long with three large propellers

Nearby the most beautiful being he'd ever beheld
Clothed in her skin alone
Her hair glossy waves to her waist

Bound back from her eyes by a jeweled band
As that of a man who sat nearby fanning himself
Otherwise unperturbed by the noon heat

By friendly gesture then by signs he asked
Where they came from until after a while
They smiled and looking to the sky together

Each indicated a particular point
And said what he thought was Venus
Boarded and took off

*

The lower portion was
Made of light, white metal

The upper portion was dark
And long, like a cigar

16 April

One showed up
with the sun
over Linn Grove

Winging slowly
two thousand feet
overhead

To land
just a few miles
past the village

Then ascend
drop two boulders
and leave

*

Fishing on Lake Erie
he sighted an odd
forty-footer ahead

With cabin
parents and child
on deck

An enormous
cylindrical balloon
elaborately decorated

Burst from the water
and swept the craft up
six hundred feet

To circle several times
and drop
A swordfish
on the *Sea Wing's* deck

*

It crossed the moon over Benton
Over three towns they said like a Mexican cigar
Wings like a butterfly's
lit in twin searchlights
sailed southeast with the wind