# THRILLING AERIAL RIDE IN THE GREAT NATIONAL BALLOON RACE

By CARL G. FISHER,

Pilot Balloon Indiana in National Championship Race of Aero Club of America.

FARCE Of Mero Club of America.

FFER four ascensions abroad and eleven here in Indiana, one of which I made alone at night, I began to tibla I hnew something, sahout exploring the trackless, silent regions, about exploring the trackless, silent regions, above us. When I received my pilot; license, Aero Club at America I was sure I knew all.

a "thriller" that my sid, Capt. G. L. Bumbaugh; met with before in his 200 ventures into cloud-n frank to admit that when I started in the big not have a clear and concise idea of real bal-

he Williams Band rent the air with strains of ungled Banner," and more than 40,000 specia-us to the echo, Capt. G. L. Bumbaugh and

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### Magnificent Scene in Moonlight.

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in the basket ang, groupeds over a message in the basket ang, grouped over a message in the settled down for the night. Ballancing up for commes—slong with the settlery of the sun or or congesting of the gas in the balloom, by alloword of 6000 cubic test capacity it takes to fifty pounds of saind if there has been a get the big bag properly ballanced for the get the light page properly ballanced for the wever, after, it is once balanced a handred of 20 to 30 minutes will keep the halloon ridding. But the sain before the comment of the sain the sa

the box will leap to a height of 17,00 rest-clock Saturday night we were jost beginning clock Saturday, night we were jost beginning for the hills of Brown County. Our experience, we are settlined on vigil on the intermediation of was a settlined on vigil on the intermediation of Suddenly I had apother reminder that I wis a ror all at 9000, and without warning, we heard at from balow. Per fore hours the absorbing all 1800g the vanies, No 2000ur had we failed in the distance to be the target for one than private warning that the settlement of the settlement of the high settlement of the settlement o

To waten the sparine from such an antanageous mean to each the tackas of light steal over the bertiens and penetrate the darkness that has anveloped the world below, is worth raising ones life to enjoy. I could only reat my body on the hanket's edge and gase, enraptured at the gtory utsfelding below me.

We soon sighted the Honolier, but all other rivals were

lost to view. At 6 o'clock we came in sight of the Ohlo River and then made our first mistake. We began to



THE INDIANA WELL ON HER WAY
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FIRST TO START IN THE RACE) IS ALSO
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come down as before." But we only went 6,000 feat this time and then began to descend in the same slow manner as before. At 180 feet above the satch we dared not rise again and risk our chances at another "above the church" in the 'clouds, to we decide to drop a voge and another to a tree if possible. We were thein weak from loss of sleep, accidenant and werry. We let out a draft rop, which was 450 feet long, and one lack thick, waighing 140 pounds. When the rope was draging over the tops of the trees, which were very thick at this place, it made a good anchorage. We sat huddled in the basiket, expecting any minute to be jerked into the air again. Fee half an hour this superase continuied: But we drifted to the southwest and scaped our death trip. . By morning we had made about their-yiew miles in a southwasterly direction and were over bland City. Our water had again become tainted and until to drink, and believing that we were nive out of the race, because of the mistorium with currents, we decided to make a landing:

rope at first as directed, they finally lent a hand and pulled us down. The earth was quite rugged and for fear of hurting the basket we ordered the men to pile some ties and we effected a landing on these. We occured our buckets and replanished our watter supply. I had a cigar in my pecket and was aching to emjoy a good emice, so I created out of the basket and curied up under a meanly tree and smokes.

Girls Sieze Rope and Hold Balloon.

### Get Water at Schackle Island.

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We dropped at Schackle Island, Tenn. By the time we neared the earth a large crowd had gathered beneath us. We let down a bucket by a rope, procuped the much needed water, hid goods by to the currous country folks, after finding that we were about twelve miles from Rashviller and rese to continue our journey. This stop old but disquantly us from the zace, however.

We rose to 60 feet, hoppin to atrike a current that would carry set to, the chast, about 50 miles goutheast. But at this time we experienced our first encounter with the enemies of indiconfage air eddles. We, were treating on the rights of an summer purported at the skylands, whose share was aroused, journbaugh has made more than 200 million treps, but eggst mist this one was ble most their limit despite the fact that the has survived before the contract of the skylands.

a minute. At an altitude of 10,000 feet, having gope directly straight above, I could tell that, even an old veteran, cool and accustomed to serfad dangers like Burnbuth, was wortfel. It was growing feet code, and yet small bisides of perspirating stood out on the forehead. I cointes that I begin to "Burns" his anxiety and I urged bits to tell me what was wrong. He said that in all his experience he had never encouptered such conditions. Without thriowing out an ouise of ballast we had six-cended 13,000 feet and were aitli going up at a terrince clip. Ours teeth were chattering and we hurrically crawled his sweaters and overcate and soon winpped blankets around these. The gais in the bag, was constanted to most on extent that it was foreed out of the

out of the race entirely, was not cheering, to any the feat.

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Bumbaugh hald his feared; the statisticage decele had, been frozen and tapped it to find out. Imagile our curprise, 
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# ABOVE DIVISION STORY CARL FISHER'S OWN STORY THRILLING AERIAL RIDE IN GREAT NATIONAL BALLOON

# By CARL G. FISHER,

Pilot Balloon Indiana in National Championship Race of Aero Club of America.

in Indiana, one of which I made alone at night, I began to think I knew something bout exploring the trackless, silent regions above us. When I received my pilot's license from the Aero Club of America I was sure I knew all about it.

Now, after my experience of forty-nine hours in the air," from Hoosierdom to Dixieland, some of which time was spent at an altitude of close to 16,000 feet, and which included a "thriller" that my aid, Capt. G. L. Bumbaugh, had never met with before in his 300 ventures into cloudland. I am frank to admit that when I started in the big race I did not have a clear and concise idea of real ballooning.

while the Military Band rent the air with strains of the "Star-Spangled Banner," and more than 40,000 spectators cheered us to the echo, Capt. G. L. Bumbaugh and To watch the suprise fro to see the streaks of lipenetrate the darkness below, is worth risking or rest my body on the bas at the slory unfolding h

looning.

While the Military Band rent the air with strains of the "Star-Spangled Banner," and more than 40,000 spectators cheered us to the echo, Capt. G. L. Bumbaugh and myself rose from the Motor Speedway June 5 at about 5 o'clock, nerved to brave whatever obstacle time had in store. We were armed, too, to baffle with the elements of the clouds and to defy hunger and thirst, but our armor had defects as developments proved.

No sooner had we mounted on the wings of a southeast wind, following close on the trail of A. Holland Forbes and Clifford B. Harmon in their balloon, the New York, than we began the work of examining the conditions of our vessel. It is necessary to inspect all valve ropes, the supply of ballast, and the instruments that tell the story of ascent or descent. I might say here for the benefit of the uninitiated that the key to the gates of the mysteries above is the canvas bag of sand. Sand is to the pilot of the sky what water is to the traveler of a desert.

All was well at the start. We made a graduel ascent of 2,000 feet, all the time keeping our eyes on Forbes, who was rising rapidly and apparently seeking for a high current, which he found at 7,000 feet. We decided that we had better chance it at about 3,000 feet, where we found a wind blowing directly south.

sented an inspiring sight, as we could see thousands of men and women waving us a last good-by and wishing us good luck. It is a queer sensation that creeps gradually over one's body until you are flooded with a feeling that the earth is fast falling away, while you have become the helpless victim of the invisible element that rules the sky. For miles around the Speedway in every direction we could see the crowds on foot and in automobiles trying to follow us. But we soon left them. For the roads of the sky are not beset with turns and curves, bridges and hilfs, nor do you meet passersby and have to slow down to let them pass.

### Magnificent Scene in Moonlight.

Up to 6:30 o'clock all the entrants in the national race were in sight. We then rose to 8,000 feet in order to keep the University City, which had followed and was gaining,

penetrate the darkness below, is worth risking of rest my body on the bash at the glory unfolding be We soon sighted the Ho lost to view. At 6 o'clock River and then made ou seek a northwest current. of paper we found such above the earth. We wer lighted to find we had cale a swifter breeze. We h stronger, so kept in it for out warning, it seemed t about forty miles from t the river, in a northwest wind blowing in any direc We hung over one spe descended to 6,000 feet an Magnificent Scene in Moonlight.

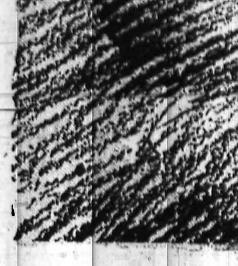
were in sight. We then rose to 8,000 feet in order to keep the University City, which had followed and was gaining, from overtaking us. We drifted at this height as peacefully as a sail boat on smooth waters. We had also quieted down from the excitement consequent to the said by the time the moon had risen I had concluded hat man has never really lived until he has floated high over the terrestrial ball, watching the earth lured to sleep by the magic wand of night.

We fell like famished animals on our supply of food and enjoyed our first meal, not knowing that it would be the only undisturbed one we would be able to munch together.

Remembering that we had promised to send word home and knowing that anything dropped after dark would not be found we let go two of our carrier pigeons. They refused to leave the basket, as we were then 8,000 feet high. They were evidently afraid of the drop. One of them caught on the load ring and clung on desperately. We picked it up in our hands and it would clinch its little feet in our flesh, quivering with fright. We let them stay in the basket and dropped over a message in paper bag.

We then settled down for the night. Ballancing up for the night comes along with the setting of the sun or cooling off or congealing of the gas in the balloon. Usually in a balloon of 40,000 cubic feet capacity it takes from forty to fifty pounds of sand if there has been a hot sun to get the big bag properly balanced for the night. However, after it is once balanced a handful of sand every 20 to 30 minutes will keep the balloon riding at a level all through the night. In the morning as the sun comes up the gas begins to expand, and unless you are careful the bag will leap to a height of 12,000 feet.

At 10-5 clock Saturday night we were just beginning to fly over the hills of Brown County. Our experience here as we drifted along sleepless and alert reminded me that I was a sentinel on vigil on the skirmish line of eternity. Suddenly I had another reminder that I was a sentinel for all at once, and without warning, we heard gun reports from below. For four hours this shooting



take us back to Indianar We went to 10,000 feet an east. We went 2,000 feet an current until noon Sundarectry over the spot we ing, when we had decide We had lost six hours at foolish maneuvering. We and found a current blow held it until 6 o'clock that

At this time we found in cans that had held oil. as we discovered this our by leaps and bounds until I could not taste just of We had been riding all temperature to 110 degree directly over the balloon shadow protected us. Whin every direction and for reflected into the basket hot and tired, and because we were out of the race, get water and rest.

### Get Water at

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At 11 o'clock that night Bumbaugh, who had been up all the previous night preparing the balloon for the flight, had fallen asleep, hanging over the edge of the basket with one arm around a stay rope. At 1 o'clock we lighted Forbes again. He had apparently abandoned the southwest current and was drifting back to the southwest current. We were traveling at about ten miles an

Bumbaugh slept but an hour or so and was soon as active as ever helping steer the balloon. Soon day broke.

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To watch the sunrise from such an advantageous height, to see the streaks of light steal over the horizon and penetrate the darkness that has enveloped the world below, is worth risking one's life to enjoy. I could only rest my body on the basket's edge and gaze, enraptured at the glory unfolding below me.

We soon sighted the Hoosier, but all other rivals were lost to view. At 6 o'clock we came in sight of the Ohio River and then made our first mistake. We began to seek a northwest current. By throwing over small bits of paper we found such a current at about 10,000 feet above the earth. We went down into this and were delighted to find we had calculated correctly and had found a swifter breeze. We had hopes of this becoming stronger, so kept in it for about two hours. Then, without warning, it seemed to die out entirely and left us about forty miles from the point where we were over the river, in a northwesterly direction, and without any wind blowing in any direction.

We hung over one spot for at least an hour. We descended to 6,000 feet and found a current which would

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take us back to Indianapolis. This would not do at all. We went to 10,000 feet and found a current to the southeast. We went 2,000 feet higher and remained in that current until noon Sunday, when we passed almost directly over the spot we had abandoned Saturday morning, when we had decided to take a northwest current. We had lost six hours and several bags of sand by this foolish maneuvering. We had a scended to 12,500 feet and found a current blowing eighteen miles an hour and held it will 6 o'clock that evening.

At this time we found 'that our water had been placed

in cans that had held oil. It suffices to say that as soon as we discovered this our already aching thirst increased by leaps and bounds until I thought I would go insane if I could not taste just one mouthful of delicious water. We had been riding all day in a sun that raised the temperature to 110 degrees, except at noon, when it was directly over the balloon. For an hour the balloon's shadow protected us. White fleecy clouds were under us in every direction and from these the sun's heat was reflected into the basket at an intense degree. We were hot and tired, and because of the loss of time we thought we were out of the race, so we decided to descend and get water and rest.

### Get Water at Schackle Island.

We dropped at Schackle Island, Tenn. By the time we neared the earth a large crowd had gathered beneath us. We let down a bucket by a rope, procured the much needed water, bid good-by to the curious country folks, after finding that we were about twelve miles from Nahville, and rose to continue our journey. This stop did not disqualify us from the race, however.

We rose to 600 feet, hoping to strike a current that

We not to 640 feet, haping to strike a current that would not us to the count, about 550 miles southeast. But at the time we experienced our first encounter with the see of hallocating air eddies. We were tree-passing a the rights of an income proprietor of the sky-leads.

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We rose to 600 feet, hoping to strike a current that would carry us to the coast, about 550 miles southeast. But at this time we experienced our first encounter with the enemies of ballooning—air eddies. We were trespassing on the rights of an unseen proprietor of the skylands, whose anger was aroused. Bumbaugh has made more than 300 balloon trips, but says that this one was his most thrilling, despite the fact that he has survived some hair-raising incidents among the clouds.

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Without any warning, while 600 feet above the earth, the balloon commenced to turn around. Our ascent became so rapid that it took all our energies to watch the instruments and gauge the gas and ballast accordingly. The current of air seemed to be straight upward and was blowing so hard that it went directly past the basket. I think we leaped into the sky at the rate of 800 feet

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LDO II vater. d the t was loon's er us was were ought: dand a minute. At an altitude of 10,000 feet, having gone dithe ray of hope so muci rectly straight above, I could tell that even an old vetover six bags of preciou eran, cool and accustomed to aerial dangers like Bummuch as that much gold o baugh, was worried. It was growing very cold, and yet time We were in a gray lig d besmall beads of perspiration stood out on his forehead. far underneath us. Appa cured I confess that I began to share his anxiety and I urged the world. It lent a col counhim to tell me what was wrong. He said that in all his thing about us, while we miles experience he had never encountered such conditions. condition, together with t This Without throwing out an ounce of ballast we had asfice all our ballast, if we cended 12,000 feet and were still going up at a terrific out of the race entirely, that clip. Our teeth were chattering and we hurriedly least. heast crawled into sweaters and overcoats and soon wrapped Our descent was hard with blankets around these. The gas in the bag was con-Bumbaugh said he feared tresgealed to such an extent that it was forced out of the frozen and tapped it to f skyappendix in a stream which looked like smoke. And all however, when the needl made this far above any chance to yell for help. It was working order and yet ou e was up to us, or rather up to the laws of nature, to decide could hardly see the need vived whether we would soon be dashed to death thousands After half an hour of su of feet below or strike a current that would lead us out like a toy balloon 15,000 fe earth. of this whirtpool of winds. we neared the earth. It Bumbaugh said we must release the balloon or there 11 40 enough to recognize a hou was danger of its bursting. We pulled the valve rope h the But just when our no and allowed a small quantity of gas to sacape. ingir. we shot again with the But it did he good. To let out more gan meant that out any more warning the . Ill begin to drop we would go down like a was turning and the air. At-14,000 feet we began to descend. This was "We must get out

a militaries. All an admittable of 15,000 feet, having gone div the control of the co Color, maes apid a freque some de la config. Campana de la color ways were were only it was grawing carry many sind sold erroll beads of peregonalize enough out on the foreland. 🖟 Committees (Cast I) Garge on the 🍑 since this program to a cast II carpaid hard to tell one what was wrong, life sold that in all life experience he had been encountered with non-discout Without throwing cut an ease of hallest we had as conded 11.600 feet and were still going up at a terrific clip. Our teeth were chattering and \$4 C Lurrically crawled into aweaters and overcosts and soon wrapped blankets around these. The gas in the bag was congealed to such an extent that it was forced out of the appendix in a stream which looked like smoke. And all this far above any chance to yell for help. It was up to us, or rather up to the laws of nature, to decide whether we would soon be dashed to death thousands of feet below or strike a current that would lead us out of this whirlpool of winds. Bumbaugh said we must release the balloon or there

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much as that made gold o We were in a gray lie OF Present the same A 72211 the word of the first oak Prairie who is a series of the second to not have together with h free all our ballact if we int of the race rittely, ic at i Our descent was hard

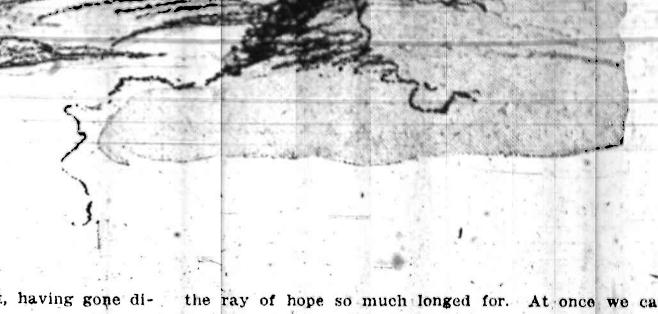
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Bumbaugh said he feared frozen and tapped it to f however, when the need! working order and yet ou could hardly see the need After half an hour of su

like a toy balloon 15,000 fe we neared the earth. It enough to recognize a hou But just when our ne

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the ray of hope so much longed for. At once we cast over six bags of precious sand, worth at that time as much as that much gold dust, in order to check the drop.

We were in a gray light with reddish-grayish clouds far underneath us. Apparently we were at the top of the world. It lent a cold, barren appearance to every thing about us, while we were about half frozen. This condition, together with the chances of having to secrifice all our ballast, if we did not break our necks, and be out of the race entirely, was not cheering, to say the least.

Our descent was hardly noticeable it was so slow. Bumbaugh said he feared the statiscope needle had been frozen and tapped it to find out. Imagine our surprise, however, when the needle was found to be in perfect working order and yet our descent was so slow that we could hardly see the needle move.

After half an hour of suspense and having been tossed like a toy balloon 15,000 feet over the Cumberland valley we neared the earth. It was a decided relief to be near enough to recognize a house again.

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come down as before." But we only went 9,000 feet this time and then began to descend in the same slow manner as before. At 800 feet above the earth we dared not rise again and risk our chances at another "shoot the chutes" in the clouds, so we decided to drop a repeand anchor to a tree if possible. We were then weak from loss of sleep, excitement and worry. We let out a drag rope, which was 450 feet long, and one inch thick, weighing 140 pounds. When the rope was dragging over the tops of the trees, which were very thick at this place, it made a good anchorage. We sat huddled in the basket, expecting any minute to be jerked into the air again. For half an hour this suspense continued. But we drifted to the southwest and escaped our death trap.

By morning we had made about thirty-five miles in a southwesterly direction and were over Island City. Our water had again become tainted and unfit to drink, and believing that we were sure out of the race, because of the misfortune with currents, we decided to make a landing.

We hailed some plantation colored workers at early dawn, and though reluctant to take hold of our drag



rope at first as directed, they finally lent a hand and pulled us down. The earth was quite rugged and for fear of hurting the basket we ordered the men to pile some ties and we effected a landing on these.

We scoured our buckets and replenished our water supply. I had a cigar in my pocket and was aching to enjoy a good smoke, so I crawled out of the basket and curled up under a nearby tree and smoked.

## Girls Sieze Rope and Hold Balloon.

We did not have quite enough ballast at this time to ride through the night, but we did have enough to continue until 6:30 o'clock in the evening, which gave us

### Girls Sieze Rope and Hold Balloon.

We did not have quite enough ballast at this time to ride through the night, but we did have enough to continue until 6:30 o'clock in the evening, which gave us 49 hours and 25 minutes in the air. Deducting thirty minutes for the time we were landed at Island City, we spent 48 hours and 55 minutes riding, which was several hours longer than any other contestant. We were,

however, quite a number of miles short of the distance traveled by the University City balloon or Mr. Forbes in the New York. They apparently had kept to the southwest wind the morning of Sunday, while we had gone off on the lild goose chase after a northwest wind. The loss of this time no doubt lost us both the race and endurance trophy.

We landed seven and one-half miles in from Tennessee City, in a very rough and mountainous district of the state, on a farm owned by a man by the name of Burgess. When we decided to land we had about forty pounds of ballast, which was not enough to balance the balloon to ride into the night. As far as we could see the ground was covered with scrub trees, and, inasmuch as we were out of the race anyway, we decided we had better come down and not use up our last ounce of ballast before landing.

Two girls rushed from the farmhouse as we began to descend. They screamed and ran back, evidently very much frightened. They soon rushed out again and began to pull frantically at the dinner bell rope to summon the men who were working in the fields.

As we came nearer to earth and the girls saw we were men, and white ones, too, they were willing to assist us. They took hold of the drag rope as requested, and ran around a tree with it, thus holding us securely.

Mr. Burgess and his son and three or four other neigh-

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Mr. Burgess and his son and three or four other neighbors came to our assistance and helped us roll up the balloon and pack it away. We loaded it on a little mountain wagon hauled by a couple of mules, and got down in the valley at 10:30 at night.

As we were going down, Mr. Burgess informed us that when they had seen the balloon he and his son had made a bet to see which one could "bust" it first. They had no idea that there were passengers in the basket, but thought it was a stray circus balloon. As we came close to the earth on his farm they were walting for a shot. We commenced to use the megaphone just in time. As we drove up to the house two long rifles were leaning against the door, and we were informed that they were the instruments they had decided to use in "busting" the balloon.

In the morning we had seven-mile tramp to Tennessee

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Wilson was absoluted to force was councile of hadron, which was not enough to believe the igilianos do como linto dia migriti. An fue an hor sepula sea the primary was sovered with solven trees, and formation and was weared until the City Course and weat, who shoulded were band influe some flows and not use up our last anime of bullest SOUTHWAY MANAGEMENT The granted the posterior of the part of the participation of the partic teripiano ano elemento o tra la engalita e tiberecesió e france. to other war cases and the late of the contract o AND THREE CARRY BUR us prai les suites proposes la later affigues anne la constitución de la constitución de la constitución de la (4) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) i di di 🗸 6 - 6 di sendi i 6 di di si i si a ad i si di di alam di alam di 3 di 4 di 🐱 💆 da 👁 😘 🙃 record that was a record, that they be a state of the content of Place: County lighted to the first process and recessions. See to be and assumed the Colonia Months in , Albania Benediking and depresentation, Alle Britig biete binet biete beibe beite bereit foreit auf festen mitten beite bei beite beite beite beite bei battha to meet tours to our transfer and free and transfer and the the body and the The Total of a test grace & the acceptance of the right facilities are at 100 in managers. to the page that the transfer of the residence to the part from the As we were going down, Mr. lourgest informed to that \$ 7 7 8 A S S SW when they had seen the halloon he and his ein had made needle had been a bet to see which one could "bust" it first. They had no idea that there were pastengers in the banket, but ne our aurprise. thought it was a stray circus balloon. As we came close o be in perfect to the earth on his farm they were waiting for a shot. so slow that we We commenced to use the megaphone just in time. As we drove up to the house two long rifles were leaning against the door, and we were informed that they were ving been tossed the instruments they had decided to use in "busting" the imberland valley balloon. relief to be near In the morning we had a seven-mile tramp to Tennessee City over the mountains, which took four hours' hard walking and pulling. We arrived in Tennessee City and ieted down, up there learned that but for our disqualifications we had peed and withwon the endurance trophy and had broken the American re. The balloon endurance record for ballooning, but that Forbes and the us. Bumbaugh University City were hoth ahead of us in distance covcan not always ered. 1:00

