

The following articles were published in 1873 in the News and Herald. The Prof. Wise cited was living in New York and trying to fly to Europe in a balloon.

July 16, 1873 Issue of the News and Herald

#### Balloon Ascension.

It was rumored on the streets Thursday that Mr. Dannenburg was constructing another balloon. That evening by six o'clock, quite a crowd of juveniles had assembled before Landecker's store, anxiously awaiting the ascension. At precisely seven o'clock the balloon appeared on the scene, escorted by a guard of honor composed of the elits of Winnsboro. The procession was brought up in the rear by the local and several small boys, and the usual complement of dogs. The place fixed upon for the ascension was the site of the old "Odd Fellow's Building". A fire was kindled and a stove pipe inserted in the balloon. As she gradually filled, intense excitement was manifested by "the boys," while a few curs howled their appreciation. The word was given and off she went. But she sprang a leak and fell to Mother Earth. The leak was mended and a second trial was successful. She shot up like a rocket, until she reached an altitude of several hundred feet. Here she ignited and became a mass of flame. The ascension was a success. Another balloon will probably be sent out soon to overtake Prof. Wise on his trip to Europe.

P. S. We are required to state that Prof. Dannenburg did not ascend as commonly reported on the streets Thursday night. He is still on "terra firma." These are only trial trips preparatory to an excursion to the North Pole in search of the Polaris. The day for the trip has not yet been appointed.

August 6, 1873 Issue of the News and Herald

#### That Balloon

We exceedingly regret to have to chronicle the fact that the balloon ascension expected Thursday afternoon was a failure. Prof. Dannenburg and his corps of able and expert assistants, bearing "The Champion," came on the ground in due time, and at once proceeded to inflate the air-ship, but owing to circumstances over which they had no control, the supply of gas was inadequate to the demand, and the balloon did not ascend.

Prof. D. desires to assure the public that it failed through no fault of his and begs to announce his intention to "try, try again."

August 13, 1873 Issue of the News and Herald

#### Aerial

Winnsboro is much interested in the problem of aerial navigation. As announced, Prof. Dannenburg has been making a series of interesting experiments in aeronautics, in order to insure success in his contemplated voyage to the Moon via Congo Hall and the North Pole. The desideratum has heretofore been to construct an air-ship that will not ignite before leaving the ground. This has been obtained. Thursday the Professor received a balloon per express from Baltimore, fabricated from the finest material, modeled after the "Graphic," and embellished

with "full length busts" of Gen. Grant and the Man in the Moon. The arrival of this paragon of perfection caused intense interest among all classes, and the small boys fairly hankered "to see that balloon go up". We give the dimensions of this wonder in the French metrical system, as the English scale is not sufficiently refined and delicately graduated to measure it accurately. Length 1,121.32 millimetres, diameter of base 229.18 m. m., largest diameter 874.66 m. m., capacity 999,999 milligrammes.

At the designated hour all the devotees of science congregated at "Balloon Square" to witness the ascension. Conspicuous among these was Capt. Jeems Mac, who had doffed his nether integuments for the occasion, and whose flowing drapery, as it flapped lazily in the breeze against his symmetrically proportioned ebon pedestals, suggested mingled thoughts of the blessings of soap and the glorious results of the fifteenth amendment. (This is an episode.)

Everything was ready. The guys were loosened. The balloon, like a caged bird, panting for its native air fluttered for an instant. The brass band struck up No. 1 quickstep and amid its inspiring strains and the acclamations of the assembled multitude, the balloon arose gracefully until it struck a S. S. E. wind and was wafted to worlds unknown. - In its course it passed directly over Main St. Merchants, lawyers, physicians, clerks and loafers, might be seen hatless, breathless, speechless with suspense, until the aerial prodigy had gone from their gaze like a beautiful star. Then they returned to their work, wiser, if not sadder men.

Two colored individuals on their way from town, considerably elevated by copious draughts of untamed benzine, saw the balloon. They pronounced it "a sign in the elements." The strains of the band they mistook for Gabriel's trumpet summoning them to Judgment. One dropped on his marrow-bones and began to shout, "Now I lay me down to sleep," and shattered one eye tooth, two incisors and four molars down his throat. The other broke off at full speed and ran until, from the combined effects of fright, bad liquor, perspiration and heat, he fell in an almost melted condition. He was brought to town in a wheelbarrow, placed on ice, and had the pores of his skin closed with plaster of Paris to prevent further exudation. By degrees he recovered, but his chiseled profile is gone forever. It is a remarkable circumstance that his hair did not turn gray from fright. We did not learn the names of the unfortunates.

The band are practicing to play at the next ascension the popular song,

"Up in a balloon boys, up in a balloon.

Up above the little stars in Dannenburg's balloon."

August 20, 1873 Issue of the News and Herald

### Balloons

Several successful ascensions have been made recently, but our reporter has not recovered from the agony of his last "graphic" account, and we are not able to do the subject full justice.

### That Balloon

The Union Herald complains that we did not give an account of the descent of that balloon. We sent the balloon up, and expect some other journal to give an account of its coming down. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the "Kamschatka Gazette" or the "Spitzbergen News" as these exchanges may furnish the items desired by our contemporary.

### THE BALLOON WENT UP

Shortly after three o'clock on Thursday evening the balloon was seen straightening up from the ground and in one half hour from the time the fire was built it left the earth and darted up in the air like a thing of life. The ascent at first is straight upward from the earth and after going from a mile to a mile and a quarter it takes the general course of the wind up at the point where it is. The balloon left the hill near the A. R. P. Church and commenced to drift toward the Presbyterian Church.

The dog, "Miss Daisy," landed about one hundred yards from Dr. Quattlebaum's house and was picked up by a colored boy and taken along. The canvass fell right in the corner of the Presbyterian churchyard. It appeared to get faster as it neared the earth and made something of a smothered report as it struck.

The man, Professor Thompson, was the only object in the air at the time, and it seemed as if he was going toward Alston before he would stop to those who were following near, but to parties further off, it seemed as if he was dropping in town. It was soon seen however that he would drop in some place, on the right of the road, but by kicking and exerting himself other ways he deflected the course of the parachute for more than one hundred and fifty yards and landed in the "old Fraiser field" about three hundred and fifty yards from the Presbyterian Church.

Professor Thompson made a complete success of the feat and every body was wild with excitement.

It is certainly an interesting sight, and would not grow old to a great many of us even if it went up every day in the week for quite a while.

The dog has a bandage around its body arranged so as to let hang in a natural position.

Professor Thompson sits in a swinging rope. The parachutes are tied to the balloon and at the signal of the pistol firing he jerks a slip-knot right at his hand and lets the dog loose. Then at the second shot he jerks another slip knot and lets himself loose. When he first cuts loose from the balloon he darts straight toward the earth and by the action of descent the air gets under the parachute and it resembles a large umbrella and they both glide as smoothly along as if floating on water.

On Friday the balloon went up about 4 o'clock. The anxious crowd was wild with excitement and the fields in the lines of the current was lines with people running wildly after it. The little dog landed in a field in front of Mr. Ellison's house, and Prof. Thompson landed about two hundred yards from there a little nearer the road. The ascent was not quite as high apparently as on Thursday, but the landing would have been more difficult had it gone further.