

THE DOMESTIC ADVENTURES OF
OCTAVIOUS WATT
AND HIS PNEUMATIC BRIDE
AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

On this particular Friday morning, if one were to look eastward towards the London horizon, one might spot a peculiar shape in the sky, reminiscent of a boat; sailing through the blue sky - appearing and then disappearing as it navigates the billowing clouds.

One individual might be fearful of such a device while another might simply attribute it to a trick of light. Still another might assume it to be a new and improved design on the familiar hot-air blimp and this person would certainly win the title of being the most accurate, for this mysterious flying object is, indeed, just that.

In actuality, this flying boat is a brilliant new vehicular invention - an airship, to be precise. More specifically, it is the invention of a man by the name of Octavious Watt and he has christened it the, 'Sky Skimmer'.

It is difficult to say which is more impressive; the airship or its inventor, a man of 50 years, with a mind as quick and eager as one much younger. Octavious enjoys the distinction of being recognized as one of the finest inventors in all of London. His name is well known among those of high society - and this is due to the fact that many of his most marvelous inventions are sought out by these fine people. In fact, it is said the Queen herself owns several of his creations, including his most recent effort: the electric hair dryer.

But for all his intelligence and wit, Octavious has never been fully embraced by the society that buys his creations and encourages his business. This can be attributed to the fact that he is a bit of a hare-brain and a difficult individual for the common man to relate to. His

rambling ways and distracted nature make it an uncomfortable challenge to engage him in conversation upon making his acquaintance at a ball or similar social gathering. However, any awkwardness on his part is quickly forgiven when one of his amazing new devices is unveiled to an eagerly awaiting public.

The Sky Skimmer, although a splendid example of his remarkable skill, is an invention he has chosen not to mass-produce for his fellow Londoners although, he was persuaded, for a generous sum, to share his blueprints with the British Army.

The Sky Skimmer is itself a splendid machine, as finely constructed as a Norwegian fishing vessel, with its polished redwood and its pearl white sails which are more for show than anything, for what drives this airship upward and forward is a series of rapidly rotating propellers on either side of its gondola - 30 in all.

Situated within the gondola is a large room with tall windows on three sides, permitting its inhabitants an unobstructed view of the vast skies. The room is outfitted in the elegant style of an English manor with velvet chaises, oriental rugs, and mahogany bookcases featuring tomes on many topics related to invention and design.

The fore of the ship contains a small room where all the devices necessary for the control of the airship can be found. These are often attended to by Octavious himself, although he has exercised the presence of mind to invent an automatic pilot for those times when he would much prefer to take tea than pilot the craft.

This aforementioned Friday morning was one of those times. The automatic piloting on the ship was set to follow a lazy course east-bound above the Thames river at the comfortable pace of 30 knots an hour. Meanwhile, Octavious was seated in the main galley together with his Pneumatic Wife, Gilda, sipping a cup of tea and eagerly flipping through the sheaves of paper he held before him.

"My darling, I can scarcely wait for the Worlds Fair tomorrow! It shall provide the most fitting opportunity to showcase my most marvelous invention to date!"

WHAT IS OCTAVIOUS WATT'S MOST
MARVELOUS INVENTION TO DATE?

Find out in Octavious Watt Vol.1
available now.