

For release By Major A.H. Thiessen
Nov. 1, 1939 Science Service Meteorologist

Balloons! The Montgolfier brothers of France, observing the suspended clouds in the sky, thought they could make a balloon by inclosing some of the same vapor in a large, light bag. This they finally did in 1782, using smoke and hot air for the vapor. Others soon tried the experiment, either sending up the balloon unloaded or tying on animals or birds. In 1783 a man, Rozier, made an ascent in a free balloon. Improvements followed quickly, and within a year after its invention all the principal aeronautical appliances now used were applied to balloon navigation. Dr. Black, as early as 1766, demonstrated that hydrogen, lightest gas known then and now, could be used for inflation. Ballast was carried and valves for letting out gas were introduced within a year after invention of the balloon.
