"Aerial Cruises"

By Leon Aker

A Monday Evening, 1925

After having ascended the 200-foot high embarkation tower over Brooklyn Bridge (where the great airship is moored to the revolving platform of the tower, by its nose end, swinging to the wind) we enter and walk through a passage to the elevator that takes us up to our quarters on the top of the great bag, where we get a beautiful view of the city, with its great White Way bathed in the light of the many electric signs.

When all of the 500 passengers are on board we leave our moorings and faintly hear the hum of the six 1,000 horsepower motors 200 feet below us as we start on our first journey above the clouds. The 10,000,000 cubic feet of helium gas carrying us safely above the storms of the lower areas.

As we walk out of the stateroom onto the nearly 1,000-foot long promenade deck leading toward the great rudder and elevating planes we are impressed by the seemingly strong headwind blowing, not realizing that we are travelling at a speed of 85 miles an hour. With the wind in our direction this is increased to nearly 100 miles an hour. Wednesday evening we see faint lights on the horizon, and some time later make a short stop in Ireland, where a few passengers are landed. Early next morning we arrive in London. After wishing our fellow passengers a pleasant journey to Australia, we descend the landing tower into the hotel, from the roof of which we watch the now seemingly much smaller airship leave for its journey half way around the globe.

The artist who painted this picture is an engineer and inventor. The Aero Club of America, recognizing the value of the combined talents of this remarkable young man, has encouraged his efforts to visualize the fast growing air future in the country.

He exhibited at the Aero Show, Madison Square Garden, last March, and his fine colored canvases will be seen at the second Pan-American Convention at Atlantic City.