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Ocean Balloon goes up

Looking back from these days of jet travel, it's hard to realise that man made his first flight dangling from a cumbersome balloon. In fact, the Gordon Bennett Balloon Races were once a sporting classic.

But the spirit of those early pioneers lives on. With this balloon, four people (as first reported <sup>as</sup> in the Daily Mail) <sup>first reported</sup> are to make a Kon Tiki expedition of the air.

In this aerial car (fitted with propellers to give additional air-lift) they hope to drift with the wind, three thousand miles across the South Atlantic.

At Cardington, (long famous as a balloon base) the pioneers took out their balloon on a foggy day - for the first flight tests.

The leader of the expedition is Arnold Eiloart

Beneath the balloon is the aerial car - some eleven feet by five.- ~~ix~~ ~~xixix~~ This will be the living and working quarters for the crew during the flight which may take three weeks. Mr and Mrs Mudie are two of the crew members.

All set - and up goes the balloon: not too far, of course. But still a reassuring lift after two years of planning...

The balloon has been named "The Small World." It will set out from the Canary Islands and if it reaches the West Indies, it will have set up new distance and endurance records. But whatever happens, the little band will ~~have~~ ~~had~~ ~~new~~ ~~adventure~~ on the four winds, in the true spirit of pioneers...

It's going to be a great  
adventure.