# Balloon adventure has bigger surprise than expected high as 13,000 feet. The duo, learful of drilling into Mexico or worse, the Gulf of California, decided to abandon the race and a pottential prize of \$100,000 for a sale landing. The fact that they had lost communication with their ground tracking crew, which included Paul Abbo, a Troy resident, and Judy Berke from Bloomfield Hills, also influenced their decision. The pair first touched down within a couple hundred yards of what they thought was the Mexican border. They three wout their drag line, picked up a north/northwest wind and travelled 10-15 miles per hour about three feet off the ground for 2½ hours. "THAT, IN some respects, was the

A Troy lawyer who last week took part in a cross-country belium balloon race experienced even more than he thought possible.

And Walter Noenke only "flew" from Las Vegas to southeastern Artzona. But during a period of 36 hours. Noeske and his ballooning partner. Gordon Boring of Plymouth:

Battled unusual atmospherie/ wind conditions.

Lost radio contact with their ground tracking team.

• Landed in a restricted military .

Landed in a restricted military, target-shooling area.

• Walked more than 40 miles through rocky terrain and searing desert heat to safety.

"It was enjoyable," Noeske said matter-of-factly, "It certainly was not my expectation of a challenge, and I guess the only regret I have is it was a southern heading.

Noeske's and Boring's adventure began 7:30 a.m. Nov. 14 when they left the twinkling lights of Las Vegas en route to what they hoped would be New Jersey.

Joursey.

IT ENDED at 7 p.m. the next day when the pair — sweaty, disheveled, thirsty an. hungry — tapped on the door of a cotton mill in a desolate area of Arizana.

door of a cotton mill in a desolate area of Arizona.

"We were hoping for an easterly heading," Noeske said. Winds, though, pushed them south, then west. Air pockets also forced their balloon into a bobbing movement. They climbed as Character of the control of the cont

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Abbo and Berke, meanwhile, became more and more concerned as time went on.

"We were looking in the sky for their strobe light." Abbo said. "In a small town (Batchard, Art.). called the Phanik Alrey. The Research of the Abbuquerque Airport to see if bey so them on radar or had made control to the property of the prop

contact."

Abbo said he also contacted Luke Air Force Base, which had shut down its tower operations earlier in the evening, and the sheriff's department of three counties.

Tueson reported of an earlier contact, he said.

BACK AT THE balloon, Boring and Noeske decided to search out help at sun up rather than wait for assistance to the part where the part wait for assistance. They first walked about six miles west where they thought they had seen lights. When they reached a ridge and saw nothing but more sagebrush, they went back to the gondola and took a nap.

Shortly after noon, they set out again, this time heading due north. They reached the mill after trudging about 18 miles, Noeske said.

When the military helped them re-claim their balloon after they reached safety, a dud missile was sticking out of the ground less than 200 yards away, he added. 4/

Several military alreraft aided in the search for the pair. However, military maneuvers continued in the area because four different ranges and several different bases were involved, Noeske apeculated.

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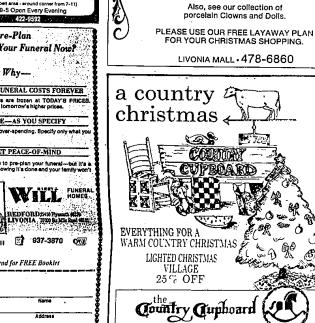
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