

The background is a solid light blue. Scattered across the scene are several white, fluffy clouds of varying sizes, each with a simple black outline. In the center of the image is a large, dark blue circle with a black border. The bottom of this circle tapers into a small point, resembling a speech bubble or a balloon. Inside this dark blue shape, the title 'MARVIN'S BALLOON' is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below the title is a thin white horizontal line, and underneath that, the author's name 'by Christopher Tupa' is written in a smaller, italicized, black font.

# MARVIN'S BALLOON

*by Christopher Tupa*

After my Grandpa passed away some of the family were reminiscing, and my Dad mentioned a story about a weather balloon. No one knew what he was talking about so he told us the story you are about to read. We were all flabbergasted, including my Grandmother. Apparently my Grandpa had told this story to my Dad and no one else. And in a funny twist my Dad never shared it sooner because he assumed my Grandpa had already told everyone.

My Grandpa was known for his sense of humor and pranks; this is one of my favorite stories about him.

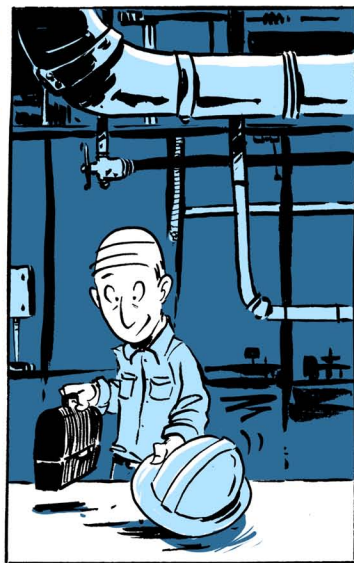
And so now I share it with you.



Our story takes place sometime  
between 1950 and 1965... probably.

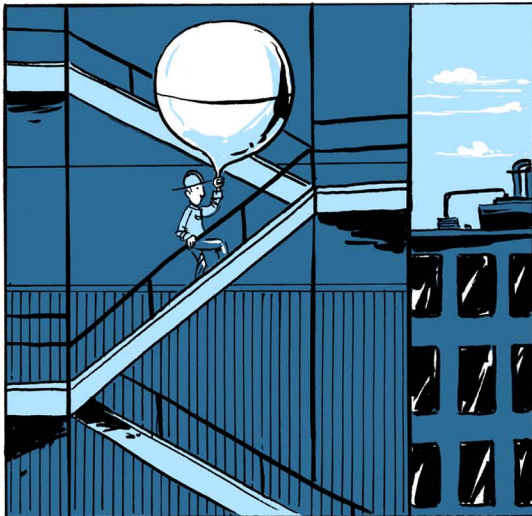
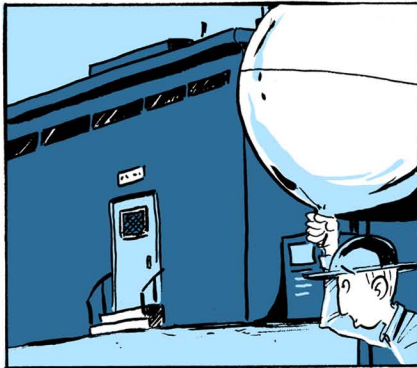
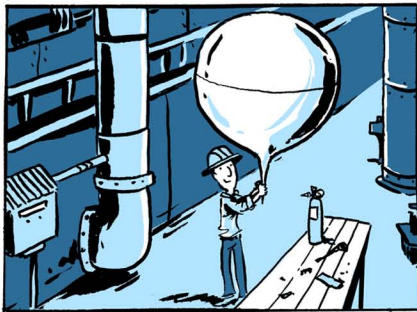
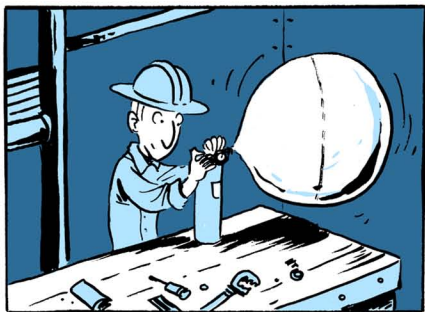
That's my Grandpa  
down there on his  
way to work...

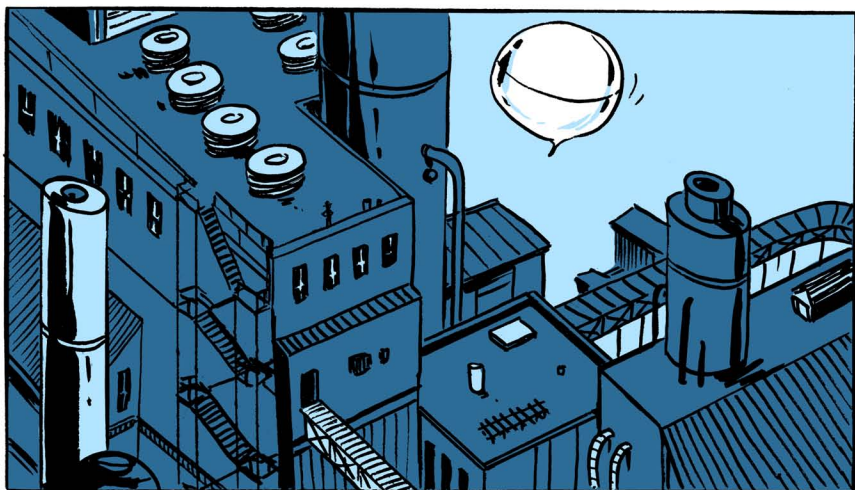
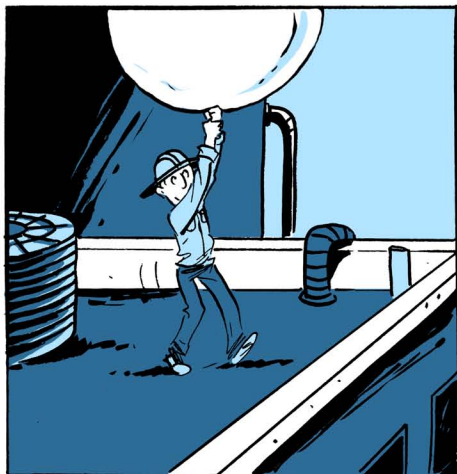












A short time later in the town a few miles away:



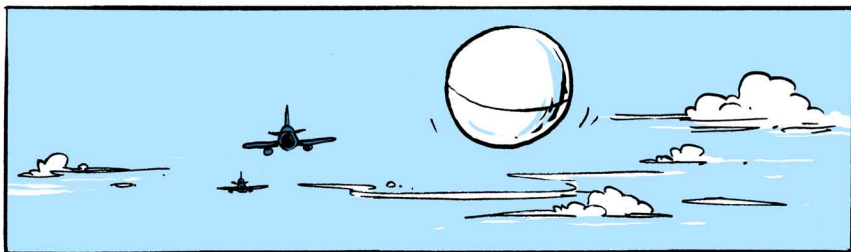
A small Air Force base thirty miles away:



At the Air Force base:







The next morning:

