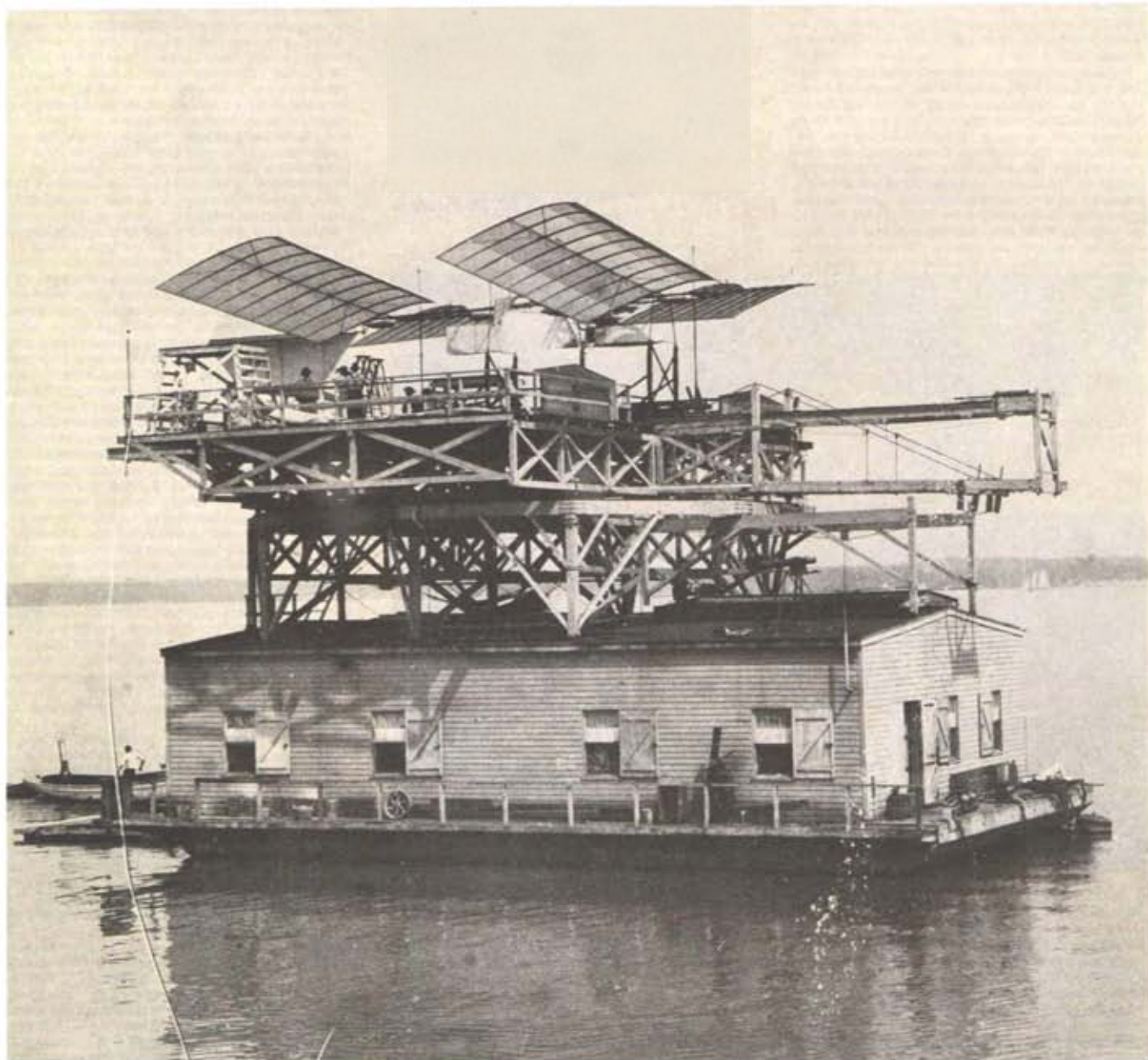


Dr. Langley's Houseboat



Samuel Pierpont Langley, astronomer, physicist, and Secretary of the Smithsonian, made history in 1896 as the first American to fly an unmanned aircraft. He later attempted manned flight with the "Aerodrome," a larger machine piloted by Charles M. Manly. On October 7, 1903, from a houseboat in the Potomac, the Aerodrome's engine roared, its catapult shud-

dered, and the 850-pound craft "slid into the water like a handful of mortar," wrote a Washington Post reporter. Langley's second try on December 8 proved equally wet. Nine days later, at Kitty Hawk, the Wright brothers made the first sustained, controlled, manned flight in a heavier-than-air vehicle.