

# The Boy Who Walked on Water



During the early twentieth century, Edwin Pringler was known throughout England as “The Boy Who Walked on Water” because that’s really what he did. Somehow able to pooh-pooh the Displacement of Applied Force Corollary to the Universal Law of Gravitation, Edwin would blithely ford firths, cross creeks, even run down rivers – once all the way from Oxford to Slough upon the River Thames – without ever dampening his breeches. Scientists from all over Europe were fascinated by his unique ability and offered him valuable prizes if only he’d submit to a few “tests.” But the preternaturally shy Edwin ran to the safety of the middle of a pond or lake whenever he sensed a researcher was nearby. Consequently, the scientific community was a hotbed of wildly speculative theories: Was the lad a conduit of antigravity rays from Planet Zombocartumia? Was he a natural aerostat (that is, a lighter than air object)? The truth, when it was discovered by photographer Alonzo “Lucky” Cantwell, was simpler. Lucky had just invented the electrospectrographic camera, which “saw” images from the perspective of a different reality. When he took Edwin’s picture, the camera “saw” the hitherto invisible helium-filled balloons tethered to his head that were providing the extra buoyancy. Edwin claimed he never knew they were there, but he also claimed he was descended from a family of dinosaurs from the Kingdom of East Blammo. Anyway, a peeved researcher popped the balloons, Edwin lost his super-water abilities, and his bright flame of fame soon fizzled, true story.