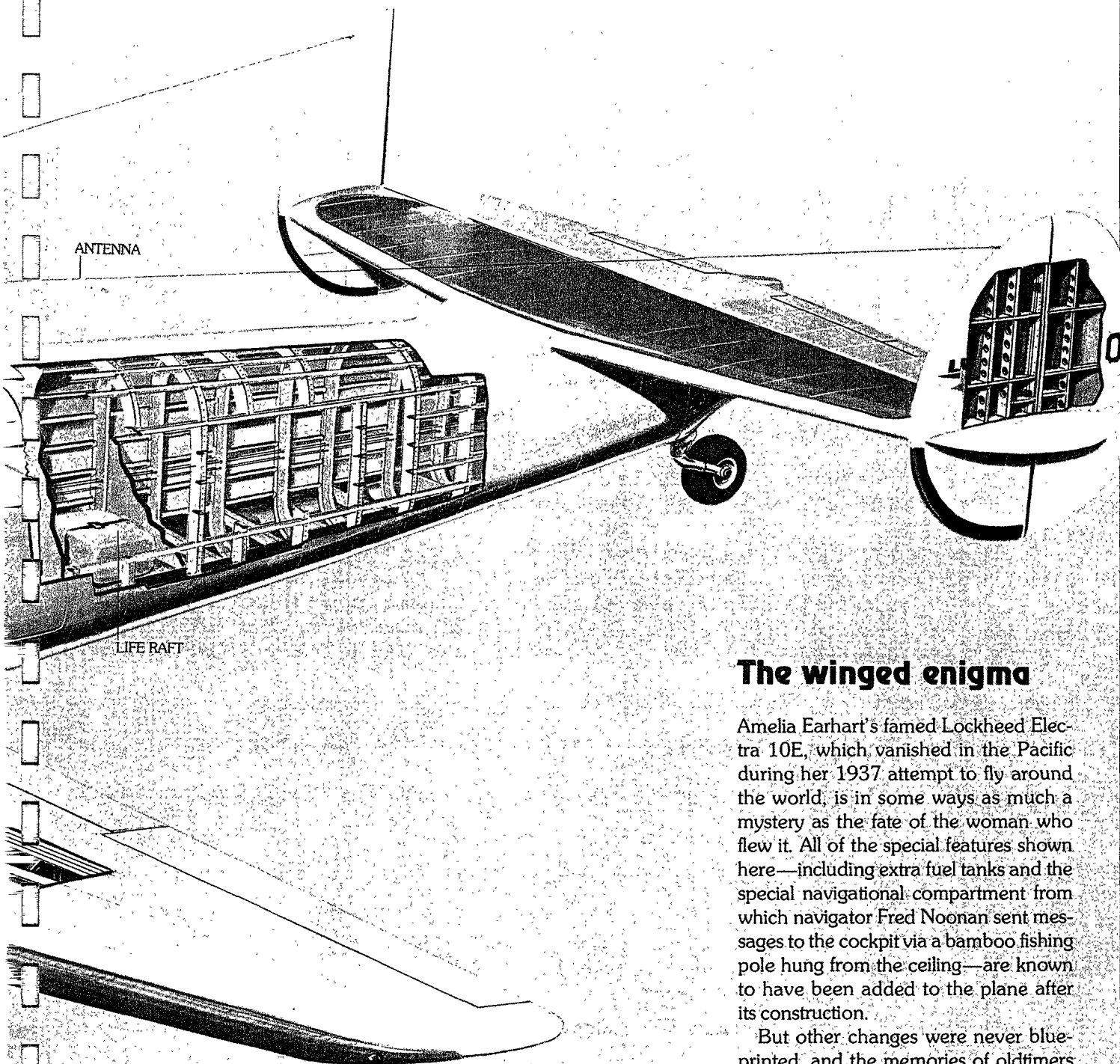


Extra fuel tanks in the wings and fuselage led one engineer to call the Lockheed Electra "a flying gasoline tank." The supplementary tanks raised its fuel capacity from 250 gallons to 1,150 gallons and gave the plane a range of 4,000 miles.



The winged enigma

Amelia Earhart's famed Lockheed Electra 10E, which vanished in the Pacific during her 1937 attempt to fly around the world, is in some ways as much a mystery as the fate of the woman who flew it. All of the special features shown here—including extra fuel tanks and the special navigational compartment from which navigator Fred Noonan sent messages to the cockpit via a bamboo fishing pole hung from the ceiling—are known to have been added to the plane after its construction.

But other changes were never blueprinted, and the memories of oldtimers who worked on the plane vary enormously. Some claim, for example, that there were camera mounts in the nose for spying on Japanese islands—and others who knew the aircraft have heatedly denied it. Unless the remains of the Electra are eventually found, the complete details of its equipment may forever remain a mystery.