**Gordon Newkirk Jr. Coronascope-I Balloon Experiment 1960.**
Extended observation of the intermediate corona was the ultimate purpose of balloon experiments such as the one pictured. This project used an unmanned stratospheric balloon to raise a coronagraph above the dust and smoke of the lower atmosphere for several hours of continuous operation. At the end of the day's observation, the instrument and its photographs were returned to the ground by parachute. The gondola holding the instrumentation was the same one used by Princeton physicist Martin Schwarzschild to take images of the solar granulation with his "stratoscope" in 1959. The first two successful deployments of Coronascope-I were made outside of Minneapolis, in cooperation with the General Mills Company, in September and October of 1960.