

Northwest Kansas reports three UFO sightings on the records since 1952

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Beginning in 1947, the United States Air Force carried out an investigation into the appearance of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Sometimes known as ‘flying saucers,’ because the first identified ones had been so described, most of the nearly 13,000 sightings of unknown objects were officially deemed by the Air Force to be due to natural causes when the project was concluded in 1969, although many people still doubt the verdict, and some UFO experts claim a coverup.

Northwest Kansas has had at least three official sightings, one of which is still listed as unknown. Sightings to date have been recorded on April 29, 1952; March 6, 1967, and August 19, 1972.

The 1952 sighting was brief, lasting only two seconds and remains unidentified. The *UFO Casebook*, published in 1952, and several other sources, list the following sighting. April 29, 1952; Goodland, Kansas. 10 p.m. Witness: B-29 bombardier Lt. R.H. Bauer. One white fan-shaped light pulsed 3-4 times per second for 2 seconds.

The other two documented sighting are more detailed.

1967

The Official Guide to UFO Sightings, published by Carl Sifakis in 1979 states that on March 8, 1967, two top lawmen, Sheriff G.L. Sullivan and Police Chief Al Kisner of Goodland, observed a 12 to 14 foot-long object with another object some 12 feet in diameter attached to the bottom of it. It had three lights, red, amber and green. On that same evening, a Goodland policeman, Ron Weehunt, reported he had seen an oval-shaped, domed object about 50 feet long. It flew over the city at about 1,000 to 1,500 feet.

The Colby Free Press, in the Monday, March 13, 1967, issue reported:

The unidentified flying objects spotted over the skies of northwest Kansas early Wednesday morning were also seen by members of the Colby police department, as well as several other persons in the area. And, those who saw the UFO’s or whatever they were, are convinced that something was there.

The sightings received enough publicity to get the area mentioned on the NBC evening news report.

Colby Police Chief M.C. “Bud” Tillett said that the local patrolmen Harry Dreiling and Bob McLemore first saw an unidentified flying object over the McDonald area at about 2:15 a.m. Wednesday morning. For about an hour, the two watched the UFO and then called Tillett, who joined in the observation.

Tillett said the object was stationary and had several flashing lights. Colors on the lights seemed to be red, green and amber. Tillett said while the lights were flashing all the time, there seemed to be no set pattern to their operation.

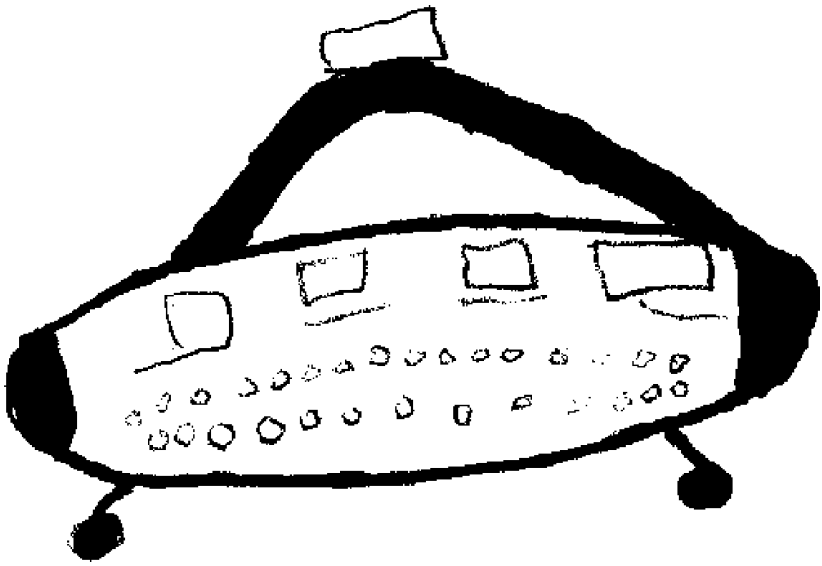
At about the same time, UFO’s were also being spotted over Goodland, and at about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, Tillett and McLemore drove to Goodland to observe for themselves just what was happening there.”

Joining the group at Goodland was Al Kisner, (in 1967) police chief at Sharon Springs, and a former member of the Colby force.

Tillett said there seemed to be three objects hovering over Goodland. The group parked near the port of entry and watched the UFOs for about half an hour.

Tom Dreiling, editor of the *Goodland Daily News*, was called out of bed to watch the UFO and reported it made a noise. Dreiling wrote in the Wednesday edition:

“The ‘thing’ was approximately 1,000 to 1,500 foot over the ground, had one extremely bright light on what could have been the front of the object, and a number of colored and white lights below. It made a noise...likened to that of a huge vacuum cleaner. At



A Goodland police officer drew this sketch of the UFO spotted over Goodland on March 6, 1967. The device included a flashing red light on top, with a flashing amber light on the left, and a flashing blue light on the right end, while blue and green lights were seen in the middle. No one was noticed looking out of what appear to be windows.

first it appeared to be built like a helicopter...(but) the more it was observed, the more the helicopter type appearance lessened.” “

Tillett said the objects did not fly over Colby. They were also observed by John Smith, city night dispatcher, and on two occasions the sightings were listed in the official radio log of the day’s operations.

Bill James, editor of the *Prairie Drummer* of Colby, also noted the UFO appearances in his column, *Anklin’ Down Franklin*, on March 16, 1967, and that the sightings by police and several farmers were listed in the police department’s official radio log.

1972

Another sighting took place on Aug. 19, 1972. The following information is from *The Science Of UFOs — Fact Versus Skepticism*, By Richard Hall, *The Colby Free Press-Tribune*, and the *Prairie Drummer*.

A series of sightings was reported to police, the first call at 2 a.m. from John L. Calkins of Gem. Awakened by barking dogs, he went to his front door and saw three objects hovering nearby, making shrill, high whistling sounds. The larger object had six flashing red and green body lights. He also heard beeping sounds. The sightings continued until about 6:20 a.m.

According to the *Colby Free Press-Tribune*, Colby Police Officers Paul Carter and Dennis Brown were headed east, separately, on Fourth Street near the Rusty Bucket (now the Jaycees Building) and saw a UFO moving in a westerly direction with flashing red and green lights. Carter reported he was about a half mile from the object which was about 30 feet across and 20 feet high. They followed the object and estimated it to be traveling about 50 miles per hour. The UFO stopped by I-70 in a pasture about a fourth mile east of Country Club Drive, changed to a very bright white light, and hovered motionless about 10 feet about the ground.

“Suddenly the object emitted intense, blinding white light (‘too intense to look at’) that illuminated the terrain as bright as daylight. He could even see jackrabbits in the field by the glare of the light. The brilliant luminosity tended to conceal the shape of the object, but twice Carter could see that it was ‘like a cereal bowl turned upside down.’ The object then made a ‘whooshing noise similar to a vacuum cleaner’ and shot straight up into the sky and out of sight in about three seconds. Officer Brown, approaching Carter’s position, saw the glow of the object and saw it rocket up into the sky.” (*Flying Saucer Review*, November-December 1972, pp. 30-31; *MUFON UFO Journal*, August 1987, p. 20)

Later the object was seen heading southeast toward Oakley where police observed it through binoculars. Officer Earl Wood, Jr., and his partner, Duane Nelson, could see six body lights on the object, and saw that it was circular in

shape. Three lights on the front were white, and those on the back flashed from red to green.

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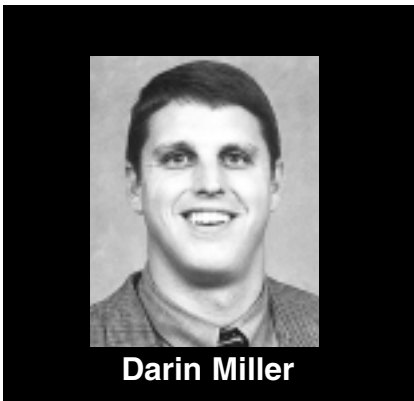
Asked if he knows of any more recent UFO sightings, Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones replied none had been documented, however, “Within recent times, the last year or two, I’ve been called to the northeast part of the county several different times and the most recent one was probably during the early, early spring. It was not just one person, but several people in several families.”

He said they described the object as a flashing, zigzagging light, which would blaze across the sky, back up abruptly, make an abrupt 90 degree turn, flash, then just vanish.

“I’ve gone out and looked. One night with a particular individual, I did observe something I don’t know what it was. I’m reluctant to call it alien to this world.

It could have been a modern military mechanism that I could not personally identify, not little green men from Mars. Several of us were standing there watching and talking about what we had seen. None of us could explain it as an everyday airplane as you and I would know it.

“The people who saw it are common, everyday, rational citizens. You would recognize them if I were to divulge their names, which I won’t. God created this world, I think he created other life in the universe.”



Darin Miller

Fair broadband rules will benefit Kansans

Cable companies control about 70% of the high-speed Internet market nationwide and in Kansas — not because they offer better products or services than their competitors, but simply because they face less regulation. Companies offering the same services should be regulated the same way.

For more information on this and other telecommunications issues, visit www.connectkansas.org



Everyone agrees: broadband — or high-speed Internet access — is vital to the future success of Kansas. Broadband is a critical tool in today’s global economic environment, and access to it is an important consideration for companies seeking to move or grow their businesses.

The trouble is, broadband isn’t as accessible as it should be. SBC Southwestern Bell has invested millions into Kansas’ broadband network in order to provide its version of high-speed Internet access, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) service to customers, yet because of uneven regulation, many Kansans can access broadband only through cable or not at all.

In fact, cable companies control about 70% of the broadband market nationwide and in Kansas — not because they offer better products or services than their competitors, but simply because they face less regulation. **Here in Kansas, cable companies face no state broadband regulation whatsoever.** And of course, they’re loving it.

Why? Telecommunications companies like SBC which are trying to compete are burdened with dozens of costly rules and regulations. And state regulators are contemplating adding their own rules on top of the regulations already in place. Such heavy-handed regulation raises the price of providing DSL service, slows broadband deployment and hinders network investment. Above all, it creates an unfair competitive marketplace, which ultimately hurts customers like you.

Companies offering the same services should be treated the same way. And less regulation will clearly mean more competition in broadband. It’s time for our state’s policy-makers to level the playing field for high-speed Internet access. Talk to your legislators about this issue, and urge them to ensure that high-speed Internet deployment moves forward, by making the rules fair. Once they do, all Kansans will reap the rewards of real broadband competition — better prices, more choices, a stronger network and greater access.

Darin Miller

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Tuxedo gets good review

The Tuxedo is a great movie and will likely be enjoyed by everyone who sees it. Jackie Chan is hilarious and so is his co-actress, Jennifer Love Hewitt. Together, they work to overcome the underworld and spoil their plans to destroy the world’s entire supply of water.

The Tuxedo is a movie filled with all the karate moves that make Chan the film success he is. With all Chan has going for him, he still needs a little help from the “Tuxedo.” He puts it on and becomes more than he was before. I wish I could find a suit to help me become more than I am.

However, most of us live in the real world and will not find any help in a suit of clothes. The His Shop will be able to help you look better, but ultimately it’s what is inside of us that make us who we are.

I’m not a huge Jackie Chan fan, but

Jeff Owen

● Movie Review

the combination of his martial arts moves and humor kept me interested in the movie. I give “The Tuxedo” 3.5 tuxedo’s out a possible five. My nephew (Aaron Moss) went with me to see “The Tuxedo.” He said it was well worth a 4.

Some movies coming out in the near future are *Core*; *Lord Of The Rings*, *The Two Towers*; a new Star Trek movie; and several others which I will see.

Aaron told me that *Sweet Home Alabama* is a great one to see. His words were, “It is really funny.” I’ll be going to see that on Monday evening. Perhaps I’ll see you there and you can give me your rating of the movie.