

Man, 78, witness to flight

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A love of flying led a Goodland man to brave a chilly evening in Salina and see history made, as the GlobalFlyer piloted by Steve Fossett, a Chicago adventurer, set off for the first non-stop around-the-world solo flight.

Keeping warm in his car for most of the action, Lawrence Tedford, 78, said he scored a prime spot, about three deep next to the fence near the runway, for the takeoff. He said the airplane flew directly over his head.

"When the plane went by, it was 50 foot in the air," he said, noting that he was surrounded by women, young and old men and even children. "Everybody was excited."

The take off was preceded by another plane, he said, and helicopters circled the scene.

Tedford, an avid pilot, is still flying nearly 60 years after his first takeoff. He said he took his first flight in a neighbor's wheat field near Minneola on Dec. 23, 1946.

He has been flying ever since and has taken about 300 people up with him. Today he no longer owns a plane, and he and takes instructors along on his trips.

"I've had a lot of fun flying," he said.

He said he decided to drive to Salina for the take-off in part because he wanted to see a girls' basketball game at his alma matter, Sterling College.

"It just happened to work out real good," he said. "I knew Sterling was gonna have a game the next day."

To make it to the event, he said, he got up early on Monday, Feb. 28, and drove to Salina. He arrived

around 2 p.m. and he checked out the airport.

Because it was so cold and windy, he waited until the radio announced the take off to head to the fence.

"It was real cold and windy," he said. "I was wearing a real heavy coat and an overcoat. It was terrible, but people weren't going to leave."

The plane, he said, was scheduled for flight at 6:20 p.m., but it didn't make it in the air until 6:45 p.m.

Tedford said he tried to take pictures, but since it was dark, none of the shots turned out. He took some pictures earlier, but the GlobalFlyer was shielded by another plane.

The pilot chose Salina, he said, because the runway at the former Air Force base was long enough, over 12,000 feet, for a slow takeoff with a fuel-laden plane, 144 miles per hour.

Fossett later would need all his fuel when he lost about 1,600 pounds while on the flight. Tedford

said the loss actually worked to his advantage by making the plane lighter.

"It was a blessing in disguise," he said.

After returning home, he said, he followed Fossett's flight around the world and saw the plane land safely back in Salina on television.

"It came right over Denver," Tedford said about the GlobalFlyer's return. "it probably came right over Goodland."

He was impressed, he said, because the flight that should have taken 70 hours was cut to only 68.

Unlike the GlobalFlyer, Tedford said he has never flown farther than Omaha. Although he never dreamed of flying around the world, Tedford said he has always wanted to take a flight to Alaska.

"It's very unusual," he said of Fossett's long flight. "It's unbelievable."



Lawrence Tedford proudly wore his GolbalFlyer t-shirt, a souvenir from watching the airplane take off. Photo by Tom Betz/ Star-News



Tedford

Burglars raid high school

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

High School Principal Harvey Swager told the school board Monday that someone had entered the school over the spring break, stealing money from the office but doing no damage.

The thieves apparently knew where to look, how to get in and what to steal. While the kept the cash, they dropped the checks outside Swager's office.

Although they did no damage, they did leave some empty beer cans on the principal's desk. Swager said he isn't sure if the beer is related to the theft and doesn't know if the thieves drank the beer at school or just brought in the cans.

The theft happened sometime between last Thursday, March 24, and when the first person came back to school Monday morning, Swager said.

"I'm not sure which night," he added.

The thieves broke into his office, Swager said, where they stole \$221. They left no damage, broken doors or locks.

"We don't how they got in," he added.

Goodland Police Chief Ray Smee said they are investigating the

burglary. He said they don't have any good leads yet, but believe burglaries at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall last week and at hospitals in the area are related.

"We're leaning that way," Smee said. "We're just trying to develop some leads."

Swager said none of the school's outside doors or windows had been broken into either and everything was closed back behind the thieves.

The money was taken from a filing cabinet, Swager said, that had been closed and locked. He said a bag filled with checks and cash was in the cabinet and the thieves took both. The filing cabinet was left unlocked after the burglar.

The checks, all made out to the high school, turned up in a plastic baggy in front of his office.

"That's the strangest part of the whole thing," he said, adding that the burglar must have thought he had enough time to take care of the checks. "I felt that was kind of unusual."

He said the thief must have known exactly where to look in the office to find the cash because it wasn't marked and nothing else had been unlocked.

"You would have to pretty well know where we kept it," he said.

The money was in the filing cabinet, Swager said, because they normally keep smaller amounts overnight and deposit the money the next day.

"We're going to start depositing nightly," he said adding the school's procedure has been the same since he started without any trouble until now.

The cash came from donations, collection for senior announcements and even the purchase of a letter jacket. Swager said they traced all of the money and know which accounts are short.

With access to the office, he said, the burglar could have taken other valuables including a laptop computer and sporting equipment. With keys, the thief could have gone into other parts of the school, too.

"I feel like we were really fortunate," Swager said. "I'm surprised they didn't take the laptop."

Swager said his office had three doors, each of which requires a key that is different from any other school keys.

The list of people holding a key, he said, is short, with nine handed out to the school secretaries, custodians and administrators.

"There are not very many keys out there," he said.

Marriage amendment on ballot

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Along with choosing school board and city commission members next Tuesday, voters will say yes or no to a state constitutional amendment on marriage.

A "yes" vote would support amending Article 15 of the state Constitution to define marriage as between "one man and one woman."

A "no" would leave the constitution as it stands, with no section on marriage.

Brent Wood, grand knight of the Goodland Council of the Knights of Columbus, said the amendment would protect the traditional view of marriage.

"Protecting the sanctity of marriage is very important," he said. "I believe you need to stick with the traditional interpretation."

Wood said the Catholic church teaches that homosexuals should be treated with respect, but he feels allowing unions between gays would not respect the history of marriage. He argues that homosexual couple can follow the process of law to create wills, living wills and other documents.

While in Goodland, arguments for the amendment are plentiful, some people may agree with Kansans for Fairness, a statewide nonpartisan group formed to defeat the amendment.

Bruce Ney, the group's chairman, says he's outraged that we would even consider an amendment

that "is meant only to hurt Kansas citizens." The organization teamed up with fifty ministers from across the state to put together a letter against the amendment. The letter says that people of faith can and do disagree on the amendment.

"This amendment would hurt people, threaten religious liberty and stifle the diverse religious voices in Kansas," the ministers said. "For all these reasons, we urge all Kansans, and particularly, all Kansans of faith, to vote NO."

Kansas law already defines marriage as a civil contract between two persons of opposite sex and declares all other marriages to be contrary to public policy and void, says Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1601. The amendment would prohibit the state from recognizing any relationship other than marriage as entitling the parties to the "rights or incidents of marriage."

The proposition for the amendment reads:

(a) The marriage contract is to be considered in law as a civil contract. Marriage shall be constituted by one man and one woman only. All other marriages are declared to be contrary to the public policy of this state and are void.

(b) No relationship, other than a marriage, shall be recognized by the state as entitling the parties to the rights or incidents of marriage.

The amendment is being brought to a vote after being passed by a majority of the Legislature.

Two left in Kanorado mayor's race

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Four candidates for Kanorado mayor were whittled down to two in the March 1 primary.

Incumbent Robert Helderman was on top with 37 votes and Gerald Webber was second with 12. They face each other in the general election Tuesday.

Helderman is the elevator superintendent at the Kanorado Co-op, and Webber is a retired detention officer who works nights at Wal-Mart.

Kanorado has a five-person city council that meets the first Monday of the month. The mayor presides and only votes if there is a tie.

The city has received about \$1 million in grants and loans to replace its 76-year-old water lines.

The candidates expect to have a role in carrying out the project if elected, and both say they see a need for economic development to save the small town.

Helderman — Concerning economic development, the mayor said his main goal is to clean the town up, getting rid of a lot of old junk cars and debris. They need to bring property values up, he said, and get the city's tax base back to what it should be.

Also, he said, if the city is cleaned up, people will want to live in Kanorado. If junk is left around, he said, that will attract "riff raff."

If the city is cleaned up, he said, people will understand there are ordinances and they will be carried out. After the clean up, he said, the second step will be development.

Webber — He said for Kanorado to grow, they need to make it a place people want to move to.

"I would like to say you could snap your finger and get businesses to come in," Webber said, "but it's not gonna happen."

Family farms kept Kanorado going in the 1970s and '80s, he said, but now the equipment is so big, there aren't many small farms. They need to find new reasons for people to move to Kanorado.

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