

VIDEO SCRIPT

TITLE: Stories From The Skies

SERIES: Dakota Pathways: A History

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V I S U A L

A U D I O

1. OPEN MONTAGE (:20) Kids at Cultural Center with guide
2. WS: Car traveling down country road...white clouds, blue sky.
3. WS: Airliner taking off into beautiful sky over Sioux Falls.
4. WS: Treeless sky
5. DISSOLVE TO: Harvey Dunn painting with beautiful sky.
6. WS Low Angle: Cathedral spires in Sioux Falls.
7. WS: Crazy Horse Memorial in Custer, against skies.
8. WS: Rain on young corn crop.
9. CU: Rain on corn plants.
10. WS: Tornado tearing up land.
11. WS: Lightening from storm clouds.
12. MS: Powered parasail flying .
13. MS: Father and son hunting.
14. WS: Brooding but colorful sunset.
15. MONTAGE: Sky shots, fast moving clouds, ending in mysterious low clouds on hills.

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER
MUSIC UP.
MUSIC UNDER
NARRATOR:
No matter where you travel in South Dakota...
...no matter how you travel, you can't help noticing the sky.
On the treeless prairies, the sky looks immense.
That's why South Dakota artists have painted it big and colorful.
The sky serves as a backdrop for our most inspiring buildings
and monuments.
From the skies have come both life-giving rains...
and life-threatening dangers.
South Dakota skies deliver sport...
stories...
and mysteries.
MUSIC UP AND UNDER

V I S U A L

A U D I O

16. DISSOLVE TO: Photo of Black Elk supered over clouds on hills shot.

NARRATOR:

A holy man of the Oglala people—Black Elk—described meeting spirits from the sky.

17. PHOTO MONTAGE: Curtis Collection of Medicine man and animation to demonstrate story of men flying from clouds with lightening spears.

VOICE OF "BLACK ELK":

"...and these two men were coming from the clouds, head-first like arrows...each now carried a long spear, and from the points of these a jagged lightning flashed."

18. MS: Black Elk photo superimposed over impressive sunset sky.

NARRATOR:

Black Elk said he himself was carried into the sky on a cloud, so he could gain understanding from the spirit world.

19. MONTAGE: Impressive clouds and sky shots.

South Dakota skies have inspired religious thinking for as long as people can remember. What we call Bear Butte, the Cheyenne people call Noaha-voose, and the Oglala and other Lakota speaking people call Mato Paha. It is holy to many American Indian people. Cheyenne religion tells of a man named Sweet Medicine who climbed Noaha-voose long ago, up toward the sky, and met the Creator.

WEB POINTER

20. Bear Butte against nice sky.

21. POP-UP FACT: "Noaha-voose, means 'where people are taught'".

AERIAL view of Bear Butte

22. Pop-up Fact: "Mato Paha means 'Bear Mountain' because it looks like a sleeping bear".

23. DISSOLVE TO: CU Bookshelf with early South Dakota titles and CU "Shores of Silver Lake" by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

In a similar way, South Dakota skies inspired the state's earliest authors. Some said the sky here was so big and overpowering that it made people feel small and lonely. Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote the curve of a prairie sky is like the inside of a bowl.

24. CU: PHOTO: Laura Ingalls Wilder at 60+ years old

V I S U A L

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25. Aerial:Autumn sky
26. MWS: Flock of geese flying through autumn sky.
27. PHOTO Laura Ingalls Wilder as a young woman.
28. Image of Kent Meyer's "The River Warren" book over Storm Cloud shot.
29. WS: 9 year old boy (follows storyline)
30. ON CAMERA: Kent Meyers against a nice sky, reading his own words.

Nine year old "Kent Meyers" reacting to the storm clouds and thunder.
31. MS: Black clouds rising.
32. WS: Tornado bearing down across the plains.

- VOICE OF "Laura Ingalls Wilder":
"The sky downturned a brazen bowl above me,
And clanging with the calls of wild gray geese,
Winging their way into the distant southland
To 'scape the coming storms in rest and peace."
- NARRATOR:
Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote that poem in 1930.
Modern South Dakota authors also describe the sky.
- Authors like Kent Meyers.
- KENT MEYERS ON CAMERA:
"When I was about nine years old I was pounding nails in the lumber pile fifty yards from the house when something..."
- KENT MEYERS VOICE OVER:
...an overbearing silence, a quality of light, a dash of cold air against my neck—caused me to glance up. I saw a black cloud looming behind the grove on the western horizon, perspective eliminated by its size, distance swallowed by its speed. I dropped my hammer and ran."
- NARRATOR:
And sometimes, in South Dakota, there's good reason to run from the sky.
- NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

V I S U A L

A U D I O

33. MAP : Tornado Alley

NARRATOR:

34. WS: Tornado.

Right up the middle of the United States is an area known as Tornado Alley, where tornadoes can happen most any time during summer months. South Dakota sits on the north end of Tornado Alley, and within our state, the Aberdeen area has seen the most storms of this type. Also called cyclones, or twisters, tornadoes usually develop along with thunderstorms.

35. POP-UP FACT: "South Dakota averages 30 tornadoes per year."

36. CU: FUNNEL CLOUD with animated graphic.

The tornado itself is wind spinning in a circle, creating a funnel.

37. PHOTO MONTAGE: Photo of the 1884 tornado

One of South Dakota's most spectacular tornadoes, and among the first anywhere to be photographed, developed near Huron and moved toward Sioux Falls in 1884—killing people and animals and destroying buildings along the way. Other big, killer twisters hit Brookings in 1918, and the towns of Bath, Florence, and Wilmot in 1944. In recent years, the towns of Chester, Pine Ridge and Spencer, have been devastated by tornadoes.

38. MAP: South Dakota showing towns and dates of tornado hits.

39. WS: Trucking shot of Spencer Tornado damage.

Super: Spencer, SD May 30, 1998

40. POP-UP FACT: "The average tornado travels 16 miles."

But in every case, those places have bounced back. People decided to rebuild, always helped by volunteers from neighboring towns.

41. Tornado shots.

While tornadoes spring up quickly, we're lucky to live in a time when there are ways to predict them, and to alert people.

42. ON CAMERA:

NWS REPRESENTATIVE ON CAMERA:

Todd Heitkamp

(Brief description of modern systems for predicting, detecting, and tracking tornadoes, and for warning the public.)

Warning Coordination Meteorologist.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

43. PHOTO MONTAGE: Dust bowl years and Drought

NARRATOR:

Tornadoes and blizzards are not the only challenges to ever drop from the South Dakota skies.

The 1930s were the state's toughest years, and it seemed like all the problems started in the sky. First, no rain came. Farm lands dried up and turned to dust.

44. MONTAGE CONT. Sandstorms

Wind whipped all that dust into great, black clouds in the skies. Dust fell back to earth like snow, burying fences and roads.

45. MONTAGE continues

The sky filled with clouds of hungry grasshoppers. The grasshoppers landed, and in some parts of South Dakota, ate away every bit of plant life.

46. CU Macro shot grasshoppers eating leaves.

47. PHOTO MONTAGE: Dust Bowl years, ending with "Oregon or Bust" car photograph.

Between dust and bugs, many farmers and ranchers were driven off the land.

48. WS of healthy farmlands with irrigation.

Those who stayed eventually used new technology to keep crops healthy...

49. Crop dusting plane in motion.

including crop dusting—spraying from a plane to kill insects and fungus.

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

50. Another angle of the cropdusting plane at work.

One of the first cropdusters was Clyde Ice, a man who had many adventures in the air.

51. PHOTO Clyde Ice with plane.

V I S U A L**A U D I O**

52. PHOTO MONTAGE: Clyde Ice.

Clyde with planes, flying, hanging from plane etc.

53. Shots of Clyde Ice and planes.

54. Bi-plane flying in snowstorm.

55. Clyde Ice in later years.

59. CU: Young boy or girl on farm looking up to skies.

60. Nellie Willhite in her flight helmet.

61. Photo of a freight wagon dissolving into shot of Nellie with her plane.

62. Newspaper headline about Explorer II flight. Showing Anderson and Stevens.

63. Gondola used in flight.

64. Montage of Stratobowl launch.

In the year 1919 he traded two used cars for a small airplane. He made a name for himself at air shows across the country with stunts like walking on his plane's wings as it flew, leaping from one plane to another in flight, or hanging from a rope ladder. Clyde Ice started an early airline company that moved people and mail, and he often flew emergency flights in terrible weather, rescuing people stranded by blizzards, or dropping food to them. Despite taking risks few other pilots would consider, Ice never injured himself or a passenger in 62 years of flying. He lived to be 103 years old.

There have always been South Dakota kids who've dreamed of soaring into the sky. And plenty have grown up to do just that.

Nellie Willhite, who in 1928 became the first woman licensed as a pilot in South Dakota, lost her hearing at age two. That didn't stop her from flying.

Nellie's father made his living moving goods by freight wagon. Nellie's job was moving goods and people through the air.

In 1935, two explorers won worldwide attention for a scientific flight aboard Explorer II, an Army Air Corps balloon.

The balloon was launched from here, the Stratobowl, a huge natural hole in the ground near Rapid City. The Stratobowl shielded the balloon from winds as it was prepared for lift-off.

V I S U A L**A U D I O**

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64. Shots of Anderson and Stevens, Explorer II in flight,
65. The men wearing the football helmets.
66. More Explorer II shots in flight.
67. WWII training pictures. Troops marching to war film shots.
68. War planes flying.
69. MAP: showing towns.
70. WWII planes flying, WAC, WAVE, etc. posters.
71. WWII era Spearfish Airport.
72. PHOTO: Violet Cowden
73. PHOTO: Group of planes flying by.
74. Foss and McGovern as they appeared during the war, and as they were later in life.

NARRATOR:

A little after seven in the morning on November 11, 1935, Explorer II rose. In the balloon's gondola were one ton of scientific equipment, and pilots Orville Anderson and Albert Stevens. The Army Air Corps didn't have flight helmets, so the two men wore football helmets from a Rapid City high school. They sailed nearly 14 miles straight up. Nobody had ever been that high before, and no one would reach those heights again for 21 years.

Six years later, the United States entered the Second World War, and South Dakotans went into military service at a rate unequaled by any other state. Some fought the war in the sky. Special air fields for war planes and their pilots were built near Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre, Mitchell and Watertown.

Flying planes during World War Two wasn't just men's work. Women were flight instructors at Black Hills Airport, outside Spearfish, and they prepared flyers for war missions. South Dakotan Violet Cowden flew new planes from factories to where ever they were needed for the war. She could fly 19 different types of planes.

Two South Dakotans who were World War Two flyers came home and became very successful political leaders. Joe Foss was elected governor. George McGovern was elected to Congress and the Senate.

V I S U A L**A U D I O**

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75. Photos of Don Smith.
76. Photo of plane crash at sea during WWII.
77. Photos of Don Smith in Belle Fourche before crash.
78. MONTAGE: Photos of Doolittle Raids on Japan.
79. POP-UP FACT: The Doolittle Raid, was the first time American planes bombed Japan."
- WEB MARKER
- 80 WWII Planes.
- 81 B1B Bomber
- 82 Ellsworth Airforce Base Gate.
83. Images of NASA flights over the years.
84. Black and white image of Mercury or Gemini spacecraft.
85. Rocket launch with sound. (NASA)
86. Shot of Charles Gemar in the 1990s in flight suit.
87. Shuttle launch.
88. Shots from NASA flights.

NARRATOR:

Don Smith, was one of those who didn't return home from the war. He died in a war-time plane crash, but not before becoming a true hero. Born at Oldham, he grew up in Belle Fourche, and was one of 16 American pilots who flew a daring mission called the Doolittle Raid, in April, 1942.

Everyone who flew planes—or prepared others to fly or took care of the planes—is represented by one of the figures at South Dakota's World War Two Memorial, in Pierre.

South Dakota flyers have been part of every American war since planes were invented, and some of the most advanced war planes have been flown from Ellsworth Air Force Base, just east of the Black Hills.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

In the early 1960s, the United States manned space program took off—picking up where Anderson and Stevens of Explorer II left things 25 years earlier. Only now it wasn't balloons headed toward space.

Charles Gemar became the first South Dakotan in space on November 15, 1990. He was one of five astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis that day, and he and his crew stayed in space for five days, circling the Earth 80 times. Gemar returned to space on other Shuttle missions, in 1991 and 1994.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

- 89. Shots of earth from space station or shuttle.
- 90. EXTERIOR EROS
- 91. ON CAMERA: Kalli Jenkerson
Modus Science Data Specialist
- 92. Aerial over Spearfish SD.
- 93. Aerial of Spearfish SD
- 94. Aerial coming into Spearfish Airport.
- 95. Fed-Ex plane,
- 96. Modern Cropduster
- 97. Bomber dumping slurry on forest fire.
- .
- 98. Eagle flying through sky.
- 99. Aerial views over river and badlands..
- 100. Spectacular sunset shot of the sky.

But being part of America's space program doesn't always mean traveling there. The Earth Resources Observation System north of Sioux Falls is usually called by its initials: EROS. It has been the national center for receiving photographs beamed to Earth from satellites in space since 1972.

ON CAMERA: Kalli Jenkerson
(Describes the kinds of images that are beamed down to EROS, and how they are used.)

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

NARRATOR:
Maybe you've flown over South Dakota in a plane. It's not only our biggest cities that have airports. All through the 20th century, towns worked to build good airports. Like trains, planes deliver people and create business. Air travel saves time...and lives.

It saves our crops...

And our forests.

But South Dakota skies don't always bring danger and destruction. They are home to our national bird, the eagle.

Have you ever wondered what our state looks like, from a bald eagle's point of view?

In stormy times or calm times, South Dakota skies can be as exciting as its people.

Approved: _____

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V I S U A L

101. VOCA PAGE

CLOSING CREDITS

A U D I O

CLOSING MUSIC

VOCA: "For additional information, a teacher's guide, games, quizzes and more, log on to Dakotapathways.org."

MUSIC OUT.