

Space-Ship Story Raises Eyebrows

The World-Herald's News Service.

Kearney, Neb.—A grain buyer who said he saw a space ship Tuesday in a field near here and chatted amicably with its six occupants had more pleasant dealings with the visitors from outer space than with skeptical authorities.

The sensational report by R. O. Schmidt, about 50, of Bakersfield, Cal., which topped a host of reports across the nation Tuesday of seeing mysterious flying objects, had these consequences:

—State Penitentiary records showed a man of the same name served a term for embezzlement from Scotts Bluff County in the 1930's. Scotts Bluffs County Sheriff Steve Warrick said he talked to Schmidt by phone and was convinced he "saw nothing."

—He turned down a chance to take a lie-detector test.

—Schmidt was kept up most of the night for questioning. He finally asked for an attorney. Ward Minor of Kearney was named.

—Wednesday forenoon he went to the scene of the space ship's landing with investigators from the Continental Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo., Kearney Police Chief Thurston Nelson and Buffalo County Attorney Kenneth Gotobed. They said Schmidt's story "appeared to be weakening."

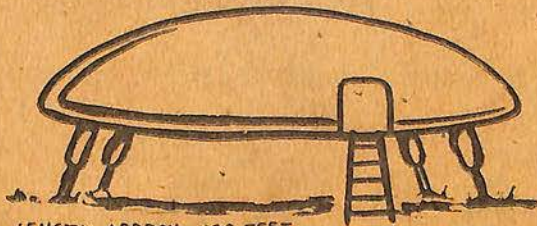
—Oil drippings on the ground from the space machine were being analyzed at Kearney State College. Investigators said the "mysterious green oil" closely resembled that in a partially-emptied can of commercial auto oil found in the back of Schmidt's car and a nearly-empty can found near the site of the "landing."

Schmidt's story came to



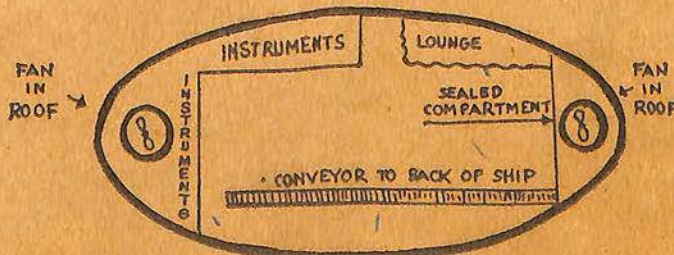
Schmidt (left) and Kearney Police Chief Nelson . . . In "heart-to-heart" talk.

SIDE VIEW
OUTSIDE



LENGTH: APPROX. 100 FEET

FLOOR PLAN
INSIDE



The Schmidtnik . . . As described by the grain buyer.

light when, white-faced and shaken, he appeared in Kearney Tuesday and asked to see a minister. Taken to police, he told this story:

Tuesday he inspected a field of milo about two miles south and a mile east of Kearney. When ready to leave he drove down a side road seeking a place to

turn around. Near the Platte River he saw what appeared to be a wrecked balloon. As he neared it, Schmidt said, his car engine conked out.

Schmidt said he got out and walked toward the machine. Proximity revealed

Baker

*OF FLYING
SAUCERS*

*ROAD
file*

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