

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

“Exploring the Stratosphere.” *National Geographic Magazine*, Oct. 1934.

From this original National Geographic Magazine I obtained information about what the Aeronauts learned while soaring in the Stratosphere, as written by Captain Albert Stevens. I read a first hand, detailed description of what it was like to be in the gondola. This publication also contained incredible images from the flight, which I used throughout my website. This magazine was one of my best primary sources. It contained tremendous information that I used to compare with my other sources to make sure everything was historically accurate.

“The Geographic's Stratosphere Expedition.” *National Geographic*, Apr. 1934.

From this National Geographic edition I learned about all of the steps that were needed to make the flight of Explorer I successful. I was excited to gain possession of this original magazine. It included the names of the scientists who installed the scientific instruments, making it possible for Explorer I to handle the high altitude flight.

“The Journey Museum and Learning Center.” Rapid City, South Dakota, 24, July, 2019.

The Journey Museum was an extremely valuable source because it is where I interviewed a museum volunteer and the exhibits and curation coordinator. The Stratobowl exhibit had real artifacts from Explorer I and II, such as lead ballast and fabric from the balloon, as well as pictures, a book of first hand witness accounts, and a video from the day of each launch on display.

National Endowment for the Humanities. "Chronicling America: Library of Congress." *News about Chronicling America RSS*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/.

This website, Chronicling America, was a collaboration of numerous Primary Sources. I found seven newspapers that described two of the four Stratobowl balloon flights and the equipment used during those flights: The Sunday Star, June 24, 1934; The Bismarck Tribune, August 4, 1934; The Sunday Star, August 4, 1934; The Bismarck Tribune, March 2, 1935; The Evening Star, April 30, 1935; The Evening Star, December 12, 1935. I pulled a quote from the December 12, 1935 edition of The Evening Star and placed it on my page Explorer I.

The Rapid City Daily Journal, 16 Nov. 1935.

The Rapid City Daily Journal was an important source because it was specifically written on the preparations and the flight of Explorer II. This primary source provided first hand information and details that were published in this newspaper as the events occurred.

"Scientific Results of the Stratosphere Flight." *National Geographic Magazine*, May 1936.

In this original National Geographic Magazine, I uncovered the first achievements documented from the Explorer II flight. This magazine was an extremely valuable source because it was written by Captain Albert Stevens, one of the aeronauts. It unveiled the barriers that were overcome through the Explorer II flight. I disclosed this information on my page "Broken Barriers."

"The South Dakota Air and Space Museum." Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, 26, July, 2019

The South Dakota Air and Space Museum was another valuable source because it had an exhibit on the Stratobowl balloon flights as well as authentic artifacts from Explorer I and II. . The display included pieces of the Explorer I gonola, a football helmet that one of the aeronauts wore in the flight of Explorer II, and instruments such as a manometer, altigraph, hydrogen leak gauge, and a Fairchild camera. I was also able to purchase a souvenir copy of the November 16, 1935, Rapid City Daily Journal [here](#).

Secondary Sources

Balloon Historical Society. "Stratobowl Flights." Stratobowl Rim Rapid City, South Dakota.

The Balloon Historical Society placed stone monuments at the rim of the Stratobowl. These stone markers documented the launches of Explorer I, Explorer II, Stratolab I, and Stratolab IV. I personally visited and saw these monuments.

Bauer, Gene. *On the Edge of Space: The Explorer Expeditions of 1934-1935* .

This PDF document presented material about the Explorer flights. In this PDF I found the image that I used on my web page "Explorer II".

The Black Hills Journeys into the Space Age.

I viewed this book at the Journey Museum. This book contained multiple fun facts and eyewitness accounts that I used on my page "Eyewitness Accounts." The interviewees from this book that I included in my website were: Fernie Scovel, Lola Aimonetto, Spencer R. Smith, Ruth Helland-Burnham, Vern Haas, and Cal Inman.

Christianson, Cory. 24 July, 2019

Cory Christianson is the Exhibits and Curation Coordinator at the Journey Museum and Learning Center in Rapid City, SD. She was the creator of the Stratobowl exhibit at the museum. During my interview with her, she shared a wealth of information about the Explorer flights including the order in which the aeronauts escaped before it crashed near Holdrege, Nebraska. She had a wealth of knowledge regarding space exploration, as she was also working on an exhibit for the Apollo mission.

Fadness, Arley K. *Balloons Aloft: Flying South Dakota Skies*. Xulon Press, 2013.

This book was crucial in providing information about Explorer I, Explorer II, Stratolab I, and Stratolab IV. I quoted this book frequently throughout my website. I uncovered the impact that these balloon flights had on the future of space exploration and aviation.. This book was my best secondary source.

Frederickson, Travis, et al. "Stratobowl Rim Trail." *AllTrails.com*, 26 Jan. 2020,

www.alltrails.com/trail/us/south-dakota/stratobowl-rim-trail.

Alltrails.com provided a great selection of images, one of which I used on my web page "Introduction to the Stratobowl".

Gevik, Brian. "The Stratobowl Flights of the 1930s." *SDPB*, SDPB, 21 Nov. 2019,

www.sdpb.org/blogs/images-of-the-past/the-stratobowl-flights-of-the-1930s/.

The South Dakota Public Broadcasting website was an imperative source to me because it provided a link to the videos of the Explorer I and Explorer II flights. From this site I also gained background information about the Stratobowl balloon launches.

History of the Stratobowl, Rapid City, South Dakota, www.stratobowl.com/stratobowl.html.

History of the Stratobowl.com was helpful because it contained information that I used on my website explaining the launches of Explorer I, Explorer II, Stratolab I, and Statolab IV. It also contained images, one of which I used on my web page "Introduction to the Stratobowl".

Kraemer, Norma J. *South Dakota's First Century of Flight*. Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

This book contained the location of the landing site of Explorer II. I followed the directions provided in this book to find the location and historical marker near White Lake, SD, on July, 26, 2019.

“Membership Slider.” *Welcome | History Nebraska*, 4 Sept. 2019, history.nebraska.gov/.

Nebraska Historical Society was beneficial as it provided a great image of the crash site of Explorer I. I used this image in my web page, “Explorer I.”

National Geographic Society. “Commemorative Plaque.” Stratobowl Rim Rapid City, South Dakota.

This commemorative plaque marked the location of the launches of Explorer I, Explorer II, Stratolab I, and Stratolab IV. I personally saw this dedication plaque along the Stratobowl Rim Trail when I visited in July of 2019.

“On A Ballooner's Bucket List.” *South Dakota Magazine*, 2013.

The South Dakota Magazine article “On a Ballooner’s Bucket List,” stated that there are hot air balloons launched from the Stratobowl each year to honor and remember the historic balloon flights of Explorer I, Explorer II, Stratolab I, and Stratolab IV.

Parsons, Isaac. “Hike to the Stratobowl Rim.” *Hike to the Stratobowl Rim, 13620 U.S. 16*, The Outbound Collective, Inc., 30 Oct. 2018, www.theoutbound.com/south-dakota/hiking/hike-to-the-stratobowl-rim.

Theoutbound.com was useful to me because it had multiple photos of the Stratobowl. These were then used on my web page, “Introduction to the Stratobowl.”

Rambow, Charles. 24 July, 2019.

I interviewed Charles Rambow, a retired history teacher and volunteer at the Journey Museum and Learning Center. This interview was significant because he shared his knowledge of the flights from the Stratobowl. His father was part of the Fourth Calvary who helped with the Explorer flights, and his mother was present at the Explorer II launch, carrying Charles in her womb. He was born a month after the flight of Explorer II.

Ruble, George. "Eyewitness to Explorer I." *South Dakota Magazine*, 2007.

George Ruble's article "Eyewitness to Explorer I," was his personal viewpoint of the first balloon launch. He was a member of the CCC and on location as a spectator before and during the Explorer I launch. This allowed me to obtain a clear and descriptive image of what it would have been like to be on-site at the launch.

South Dakota Historical Society. "Stratosphere Balloon Landing." White Lake, South Dakota.

This monument marked the landing site of Explorer II. I personally visited this site on July 26, 2019.

Stout, Captain-Crystal. "75 Anniversary of the Flight to Stratosphere-Explorer II." YouTube, 2011, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrxcoLEwnrs&t=25s>

This was an excellent video that I was able to break out into segments representing each flight and embed as my media clips on my pages, "Explorer I," " Explorer II," and "Stratolab I and Stratolab IV." This video provided information on the effects that these balloon launches had on science and history.

Watching for the Stratosphere Balloon | Local ...

rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/watching-for-the-stratosphere-balloon/article_99190370-118d-5be3-87ba-18a9de27afb2.html.

The Rapid City Journal had many pictures and considerable information. I used many of these images throughout my website.