

Flying objects intrigue researcher

By Florence Loyie
of the Star-Phoenix

weather balloon, an astronomical pattern seen only at certain times of the year, lightning or a distant aircraft.

The one case in 10 that can't be explained logically remains a mystery, but "we try to get as much detail as we can, determine the unusual and add the information to our files."

Even though most sightings are explained, Tokaryk speculates only one in 10 people actually reports seeing an object. Most would rather play it safe and keep silent than have others think them crazy or intoxicated at the time.

This makes it difficult for researchers to compile accurate statistics on the actual number of

UFOs seen. Also, most investigators receive their reports second-hand from media reports which often lack some information vital to an investigation.

Tokaryk said he likes to play it safe with his own investigations of sightings. He thinks complete objectivity is the best approach to take, and it takes a long time to investigate thoroughly.

"First I will speak with the individuals involved, to let them get the experience off their chest. Then they have to fill out a stack of forms which I will go over with them to pick out details (weather, time, location) that might remind them of something they've forgotten."

After collecting as much information as possible from the individuals, he gathers data from airports, weather stations and astronomical observatories near the sighting location, and compares the data with the eyewitness' statement.

However, there hasn't been much of a demand for his services lately. Saskatchewan has always been "dry" for extraterrestrial visits and there have been few sightings for the last five years, he said.

The last apparent sighting in Saskatoon was in November 1975 but it was later discovered the "UFO" was homemade and propelled by heat created by a series

of candles.

Tokaryk said he doesn't know of any laws against perpetrating a UFO hoax but cited a case in the United States where four youths were charged with dangerous use of explosives when they tried to create a UFO by filling a garbage bag with helium and attaching flares.

Unfortunately, they didn't realize helium is an explosive gas and when they lit the flares, their UFO blew up, he said. No one was hurt.

The 1978 creation of two Winnipeg men exploded over that city, reportedly sending tremors through homes. It was seen from the airport control tower.

CR: TIM TOKARYK

Interest in flying objects began at young age

How did a young man from Winnipeg become a UFO investigator?

Taking first place in a Fort McMurray regional science fair with his UFO project when he was 11 years old was how it all began, said Tim Tokaryk, 21.

When he was 14, his family moved to Edmonton where he joined the UFO Society and met its president, John Musgrave. He credits Musgrave with teaching him all he knows about UFOs and considers him to be a leading expert on the subject. Through the society, he began subscribing to Mutual UFO Network Inc., the or-

ganization he represents as Saskatchewan's UFO investigator.

"I would send them (Mutual) news clippings about UFOs to add to their files. When I turned 18, they asked me to become a field investigator for Saskatchewan," he said.

Mutual is a private non-profit organization with headquarters in Seguin, Tex., and branch offices throughout North America. It is not involved with any government agencies but does work closely with another company called the Centre for UFO Studies. The centre deals more with scientific re-

search on UFOs rather than investigations, Tokaryk said.

When he's not out in the field doing UFO research, Tokaryk is digging up old bones.

"I'm a vertebrate palaeontological preparator with the Museum of Natural History by profession," he said. He collects and prepares bone fossils for exhibition.

Strangely, it is this job, rather than his UFO research, that earns him odd looks from people, he said.

"Most people think it's (investigating) a hobby until they realize that I'm serious, then they become interested."

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Couple report attack from space

SAUK CENTRE, Minn. (AP) — The most exciting thing that was expected to happen this week at the Truckers Inn in Sauk Centre was the switch to new owners. That was before the truck-driving team of Robert and Jackie Bair of Selah, Wash., showed up.

They had parked their tanker truck of vegetable fat and weren't going to drive any more, they told truck stop attendants Monday, because they had been attacked on the road from Montana to Minnesota by bird-like creatures from a space ship.

The creatures — about 8 inches high, with V-shaped heads and human legs — had followed them to the truck stop and now were surrounding it, the couple said. Then they asked to use the telephone.

"They came into the station all upset and excited and said they weren't going any further because the UFO was shooting at them," said Dorothy Sills, the office manager for Truckers Inn.

"It was strange," she continued. "We couldn't see what they were seeing, let's put it that way."

The Bairs repeated their story to Sauk Centre Police Chief George Trierweiler, who had received a call that morning from Jim Ketchum, general manager of Davis Transport Inc., the Yakima, Wash., firm that employs the Bairs.

"He asked me to go check on a pair of drivers of his at the Getty station and I asked him, 'What for?' and he said, 'I can't say over the telephone, but I want you to go over and see if they're OK,'" Trierweiler related.

The Bairs — he's 45, she's 21 — told the chief that

somewhere around Billings, Mont., a bubble-shaped space ship emerged from a dark cloud and crashed into the road beside them.

"A peanut-shaped cylinder fell out of the ship and these creatures came out of the peanut-shaped cylinder," Trierweiler said the couple told him. "These creatures followed them from Billings to Sauk Centre and there were metal filings shot at their vehicle."

Trierweiler and State Patrol Sgt. Fred Korte, who also inspected the truck. They both strained to see the creatures that the Bairs complained were standing guard in the telephone poles.

"I know there are certain things you can't see that you're supposed to believe — like the Lord," Trierweiler said. "But when someone starts telling me there are bird creatures on top of the lamp posts at the Getty station and I can't see it, in my mind, it's not there."

"As far as I'm concerned, there's nothing to it," Korte said. Ms. Sills described the Bairs as clean, neatly dressed and quiet. "They seemed to believe what they were saying," she said.

The Bairs spent Monday night at a motel where, they told a reporter, they saw metal shavings in the room and writing appeared on Jackie Bair's thigh.

The couple had been driving for the company only a few months, said manager Ketchum, who had little to say except to confirm an earlier statement of his that the pair are "plain-old everyday folks."

"They're not crazies," he said.