

PASU checks sightings

By The Tribune-Review

The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained is an all-volunteer, non-profit research group which investigates strange and unusual occurrences. It is seeking information concerning the incident at Kocksburg and other UFO sightings.

The organization, headed by Stan Gordon of Greensburg, serves as a statewide clearing house for reports of UFOs and other strange occurrences and works closely with the Mutual UFO Network, the largest international UFO research organization.

For more information, contact PASU at 4 Oak Hill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

will be encouraged to come forward.

Three-member search parties were organized along the lines of a grid and the searchers were issued flashlights and portable radios before being dropped off at different points along a road.

They had combed about a quarter of a mile of the woods when one of the parties began shouting that they found something. Being close by, the fireman's own search party was the second to arrive at the scene. Whatever came through the trees, he says, sheared off branches at a 20 to 30 degree angle. "It was just like they were taken off with a meat cleaver," he says.

The searchers anticipated seeing the wreckage of a plane. What they found instead was a large saucer-shaped metallic object which appeared to be embedded in a 25- to 30-foot long ditch apparently created by the impact. The ditch was several feet wide and 7 to 8 feet deep at one end.

The team that discovered the object called the command center to report their find. None of the searchers ventured into the ditch to examine the object close up but from their vantage point they could tell it was no conventional aircraft. They could not recognize any part of it. There were no windows, props or wings and no evidence that the craft had been occupied.

Although the fireman says there was no concern voiced about radiation, "none of us," he says, "had the guts to go down into that hole."

They were puzzled, he says, that the object had remained intact after crashing to earth.

"We all assumed it was a plane but when a plane crashes there are pieces all over." He described it as circular in shape with a bumper around the radius that bore raised markings that reminded him of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. The metal, which he described as grayish pale gold

in color was crumpled much like a deflated beachball. "It was a color you just don't normally see," he says.

No evidence remained of the fireball that had been observed only hours before. The metal did not even appear to be scorched and the observers could detect no heat or see any glow from the metal.

"We just didn't know what to make of it," he says.

The fireman could not recall who it was that relieved the search teams, but he did remember that a state trooper and another man who appeared to be in authority were there. Shortly after the searchers were able to return to the fire hall, Air Force and Army personnel took control of the station. A command post was set up in a nearby house. The searchers were not permitted to enter the fire hall once the military arrived.

The fireman recalled one non-uniformed man who appeared to be in charge. "He just reeked of authority," says the fireman. "There was military everywhere."

By the time the searchers were dismissed, military guards with sidearms had taken positions outside the fire hall.

It must have been approaching midnight, the fireman says, when a flatbed truck came down the road under heavy military escort. A tarpaulin concealed what appeared to be a large cargo.

"They didn't waste any time getting it out of there," he says.

Even though it was clear to members of the search team that the object they found in the woods was manufactured, they were told by the military it was a meteorite.

"Things weren't jibing," the fireman recalled. "I've seen meteorites and seen pictures of satellites."

The fireman says he is convinced the military offered the ruse of a meteorite so as not to alarm the public. "If it was a

meteorite, why the big secret? Knowing what I know now, I would say it was definitely alien," he says. "They knew it and wanted to keep it away from the public to avoid panic."

Although no one ever told him not to discuss what he saw, the fireman says he never considered telling his story until he overheard people discussing the Kocksburg incident at a UFO exhibit at a shopping mall.

The experience, he says, of seeing something close up that he believes is not from this world, changed his whole life in very subtle ways.

The memory of that mysterious object found in the woods, he says, is "something I'll carry to my grave. I saw something that probably changed a lot of the way I think, the way I look at things."