

# UFO sightings on rise in the district

By James W. Siehl  
The Tribune-Democrat

A wave of unidentified-flying-object reports in the area that started last August never has let up, according to Stan Gordon, director of a Greensburg-based clearinghouse for strange happenings.

"In all the years I've been involved, this is the most unusual, continuous wave I have ever seen — month after month of unusual cases," said Mr. Gordon, an authority on UFO and Bigfoot phenomena.

He said a high percentage of sightings normally are explainable, but there has been a definite increase in the number of observations of things that cannot be explained.

## Cambria high on list

Mr. Gordon said reports have been received of unusual incidents in 22 counties in Pennsylvania this year. Cambria County is one of the leaders.

He said 30 reports — the majority UFO-related — already have been received this year in Cambria County, which he said is a lot.

Checking off some of the communities with reported UFO activity, Mr. Gordon mentioned Cresson, Ebensburg, Nanty Glo, South Fork, Elton, Salix, Daisytown, Richland Township, Geistown, Riverside, Johnstown and Tanneryville, along with Carpenters Park and Davidsville in bordering Somerset County.

He listed these reports:

- On Aug. 8, people driving home from Ebensburg toward Nanty Glo after 10 p.m. saw a bright glow that made a high humming sound moving at a high speed in front of them.

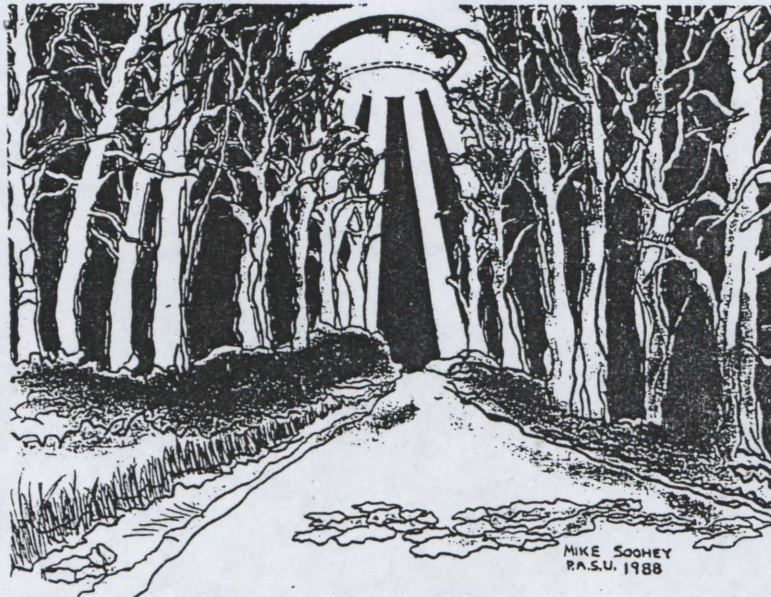
- At 10:50 p.m. that day, Nanty Glo residents reported seeing an object with red and green flashing lights moving in a circular motion.

"Interestingly, within minutes we had other reports in Westmoreland County of people reportedly seeing exactly the same thing," Mr. Gordon said.

## Daisytown sighting

- The previous night, a number of people in Daisytown reported observing an object hovering over and then zig-zagging out of the area.

"People claim to have seen a mili-



tary helicopter a short time later in the vicinity," Mr. Gordon said. "It could have been a coincidence. But in the past several years, we have been getting reports of military jets or helicopters in areas not accustomed to seeing military traffic."

Indiana County also has been the scene of many strange happenings, especially in the past several months near Homer City generating station.

"Historically, we know these things are attracted to energy sources, but what we are seeing now is more of a generalized pattern directly over the power installations," Mr. Gordon said.

## Fireballs

Early last month, residents in the Homer City area reported seeing slow-dropping fireballs, which Mr. Gordon said did not seem to correlate with meteor activity — especially because they happened in the same area several weeks apart.

On July 17, near the Homer City station, people were fascinated by two bright lights at high altitude that criss-crossed each other's path across the sky. According to Mr. Gordon, one of the objects finally broke away and made several passes within 200 feet of the ground, making a high-pitched

hissing sound.

Witnesses described it as "a large dome-shaped thing" resembling a soldier's helmet, with four "legs" at the bottom and lights on the "legs," Mr. Gordon said.

## Search for plane

The researcher is intrigued by an unsuccessful search for what was believed to have been a downed plane in the Homer City area early July 28.

People were awakened at about 5 a.m. by a very high-pitched sound, loud enough to be heard over air conditioners. One person thought he heard something hitting the tops of trees. Workers at the Homer City station also reported hearing the noise, Mr. Gordon said.

Although an extensive search was organized, no plane was found and none was reported missing.

On the night of Feb. 10, numerous witnesses in a 10-mile area covering parts of Cambria and Somerset counties reported seeing a huge, noiseless football-shaped object with multiple lights hovering over the trees within view of motorists. Witnesses said the object at times hovered at an altitude of less than 100 feet.

The sighting was one of dozens reported throughout the general area

for the next several months, Mr. Gordon said.

## Teen saw object in sky

On Aug. 3, a 15-year-old girl in the Mundys Corner area of Johnstown R. D. 7 was looking out a window at approximately 11:15 p.m. when she saw an object cutting through the sky.

The object was leaving streaks of light and throwing off sparks, according to Art Leman of Ferndale Borough, a state section director for Mutual UFO Network, an international organization.

The object was said to be saucer-shaped, as if two plates had been placed together, and emitted a "tractor-trailer roar" as it passed directly over the house some 100 feet off the ground, according to Mr. Leman. He said the object had an outer rim and was self-luminous — bright with no other lights.

## Planet "vanishes"

Mr. Leman had an unusual experience himself. He had been looking out of the window of his study at approximately 4 a.m. when he spotted what he thought was the planet Mars — a large, reddish orange ball in the eastern sky.

While his wife watched, Mr. Leman went to get a telescope. Before he could return, however, the object faded away.

According to Mr. Leman, his wife had not seen the brilliant light move in any direction.

"It simply disappeared," he said. "There it was and now it's gone. I said, planets just don't disappear."

Mr. Leman said there had been a few clouds in the sky, but none that would have obscured the object.

As part of National UFO Information Week, the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, headed by Mr. Gordon, will feature a display from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Westmoreland Mall along Route 30 east of Greensburg.

The association has a 24-hour UFO hotline. The number is (412) 838-7768.

"We want the public to know that indeed things have been seen out there, and there are places to report these things confidentially without being laughed at," Mr. Gordon said.

**STAN GORDON** via **COUD—1**  
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