

Johnstown, Pa.

The Tribune-Democrat, Tuesday, January 17, 1989

# Cambria was UFO hotbed

By James W. Siehl  
The Tribune-Democrat

Cambria County had an extremely high number of unexplained UFO incidents in 1988, according to Stan Gordon of Greensburg, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU).

In his annual report, Mr. Gordon said information about unusual incidents was received from people in 25 other counties, as well as from Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey.

The sightings were reported by people of all walks of life, among them police officers and pilots, according to Mr. Gordon.

"In recent years, the typical saucer-shaped UFO is rarely reported. Many witnesses claim to have encountered large, mostly silent, metallic, elongated cigar-shaped objects, as well as large triangular and rectangular-shaped devices," Mr. Gordon said.

He said there is no explanation for 44 percent of the unprecedented 350 UFO cases and other strange incidents the state experienced in 1988, including numerous reports of encounters with the legendary Bigfoot and observations of black panthers and mountain lions.

There also were reports of giant footprints, unusual geological finds, beams of light from the sky coming from no apparent source, fireballs and strange animal killings.

Mr. Gordon said the wave of UFO sightings began in August 1987 and continues to date.

Some cases involve local power failures and reported landings or near-landings of objects — some with physical traces left behind.

"PASU also investigated a number of claims by state residents who felt that they had been temporarily abducted aboard a UFO, physically examined and then released," Mr. Gordon said.

Many of the sightings were concentrated in specific areas for a period of time, according to Mr. Gordon.

Fifty unusual incidents were re-

Continued on 3 A

## County had many UFO sightings

Continued from 1 A

ported in Cambria County last year, Mr. Gordon said, compared with four in 1987. Most reported sightings of UFOs, but five reported sightings of Bigfoot in the South Fork/New Germany area during August, he said.

Of those, 40 cases including the five Bigfoot sightings, remain a mystery, Mr. Gordon said.

Incidents reported in 1988 in other area counties totaled 1 in Blair; 7, Somerset; 3, Bedford; 15, Indiana; and 137, Westmoreland. Many of the cases reported in those counties have been explained and have been stable in recent years, except Indiana and Westmoreland, which experienced a number of sightings last year of Bigfoot along the Chestnut Mountain Ridge in the Ligonier, Latrobe and Derry areas.

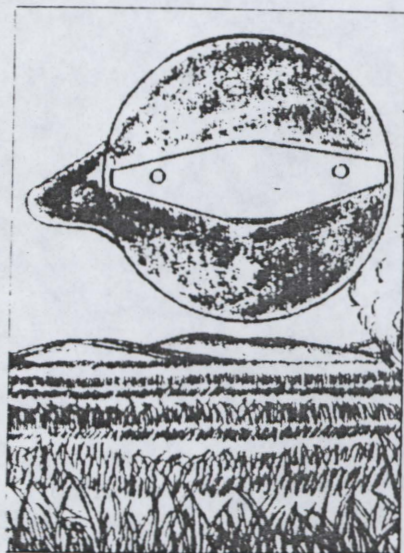
Mr. Gordon said media coverage of his organization in Cambria and Westmoreland counties may account for some of the calls as people are made aware of the service. He said the organization receives practically no crank calls.

Below are some 1988 case highlights:

February — A 60-foot-long object with several rows of lights, described by some as looking like a small cruise ship in the sky, was seen by numerous independent observers between 7:45 and 8:30 p.m. in a 10-mile area bordering Cambria and Somerset counties. The object passed over cars and trees — at times between 50 and 100 feet above the ground. It emitted only a slight humming sound and at times projected multiple beams of light toward the ground.

July — Numerous UFO sightings were reported in Indiana County during the month near the electric generating station near Homer City. For several weeks, residents reported slowly dropping fireballs and strange sounds. On the night of July 17, several witnesses observed two objects with red and green flashing lights make two close passes near the facility. Later, one of the objects made two passes about 200 feet above the ground. It was described as circular and about the size of a large car with four lighted, leg-like projections on the bottom.

Sept. 2 — Ebensburg R. D. On a sunny afternoon, a man sitting by a pond at his rural residence was startled to see an orange/red spherical object come out of the sky from the north.



Drawing by Mike Soohy

Sighting near Ebensburg.

**STAN GORDON via COUD—I  
PASU**