

UFO!

COUD-1

Criswell Road Family Sees Bright Lights, Mushroom-Shaped Object Hovering in Sky

By MARIA KLINE
Eagle Staff Reporter

They're here.

Or, at least, they may have been here.

For some Butler Township residents Thursday night may have seemed like something right out of the movies.

A bright light adorned a mushroom-shaped object that hovered in a field behind the Criswell Road home of Jim and Debbie Hahn between 9 and 10 p.m., Thursday night, Mrs. Hahn said.

As she and a friend sat on the back porch, they also say two smaller objects with red lights fly from the main object, Mrs. Hahn said. After a short time, all three objects "shot off to the left," she said.

And the Hahn's were not alone in their sighting.

Unexplained lights were also reported seen in Cambria and Westmoreland counties between 9:30 and 10:15 p.m., said Stan Gordon, director of the UFO hotline and the Pennsylvania Association for the Scientifically Unexplained, in Greensburg.

Mrs. Hahn said she doesn't believe what they saw was a helicopter. "It sat there 10 minutes," she said. "We didn't hear anything."

About an hour later, when her husband returned from a trip to the store, he also saw the object, Mrs. Hahn said, but at a slightly different location in the field.

"We get numerous reports all the time but usually

they're misidentifications of natural objects," Gordon said. "But in this case, all reports said they saw a bright illuminated object which moved back and forth and up and down," he said.

Unidentified flying objects are not unusual in Butler County. The last reported incident occurred near Route 422 near Fenelton in December 1986, according to Butler Eagle files, and many other sightings are documented in the paper.

The Hahns also spotted military-type jets circling the area within a half-hour of the sighting, even though the couple had informed no one except a family friend, she said.

"Coincidentally," Gordon said, jets are usually seen after a sighting even when there is no normal military action in the area."

Since 1969, Gordon said the military has not been involved in UFO research on the public level. "But there's no doubt that the government continues to investigate UFOs on a high level of security with specialized units responding," Gordon said.

PASU is a volunteer, state-wide organization made up of research specialists and former military personnel as a scientific clearinghouse for incidents of unexplained phenomena, Gordon said.

Gordon asks that any other people who may have seen the UFOs to contact the PASU so the phenomenon can be further studied. The address is 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.