

Quest

# **ANIMAL MUTILATIONS REPORT 2**

***AN FBI INVESTIGATION OF CATTLE MUTILATIONS IN  
MINNESOTA, NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA, COLORADO AND  
ILLINOIS. FURTHER DOCUMENTS FROM THE U.S. SENATE,  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE, AND SAC.***

**THIS REPORT CONTAINS GRAPHIC DETAILS  
PERTAINING TO THE BIZARRE PHENOMENON OF  
CATTLE MUTILATIONS IN THE USA**

**THE CONTENTS ARE FOR ADULT  
VIEWING ONLY**

**£3.25**

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**REF: QP/082**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
ENCLOSURE COVER SHEET

SUBJECT CATTLE MUTILATION

CROSS-REFERENCES

32 PAGES REVIEWED FOR THIS RELEASE

32 PAGES AVAILABLE FOR RELEASE

THIS IS ENCLOSURE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ ENCLOSURES

September 10, 1974

EX-111

REC-63

63-0-35132

Honorable Carl T. Curtis  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Curtis:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 4th, with enclosure, concerning the recent maiming and killing of cattle in several Nebraska communities.

On August 23rd I answered your letter of August 21st and indicated I was having a representative of our Omaha Office contact Mr. George Hitchcock of Stuart, Nebraska, to determine whether the facts constituted a possible violation of law within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

I have just received a communication from our Omaha Office which sets forth the results of interviews with Mr. Hitchcock and Charles Fox, Sheriff of Holt County, Nebraska. Based on the information furnished by these individuals, it appears that no Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI has been violated, inasmuch as there is no indication of interstate transportation of the maimed or killed animals. I am informed that this matter is currently under investigation by the Nebraska State Patrol and law enforcement officers in the counties involved.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 - Omaha (62-3410) - Enclosures (2)
- Reurairtel 9-6-74.
- 1 - Congressional Services Office - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Bureau has had prior cordial correspondence with Senator Curtis (R-Neb.) on constituent matters.  
JWS:nlm (6)

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CARL T. CURTIS  
NEBRASKA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 4, 1974

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE SCIENCES

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Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

This will refer to my previous letter of August 21 to you regarding the series of incidents stretching from Oklahoma to Nebraska in which cattle have been dismembered in some kind of strange witchcraft cult.

Enclosed is a newspaper article which appeared in the Hastings, Nebraska, Daily Tribune concerning these weird events. Articles similar to this one have appeared in many of the Nebraska newspapers. I thought you would want to see this article in order to substantiate the claims which have been made.

I am wondering if your good offices have instigated an investigation into this situation either in Nebraska or any of the other states experiencing similar acts of mutilation to livestock. I will appreciate hearing from you.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

CARL T. CURTIS, USS

Encl.

CTC:fjp

ENCLOSURE

REC-63

EX-111

SEP 6 1974

CORRESPONDENCE  
SIX



Eight

Article  
Thursday, August 29, 1974 Daily Tribune, Hastings, Nebraska

Are UFO sightings and mutilations related?

## Mutilated livestock, helicopters a

By the Associated Press

Mutilated livestock, unauthorized helicopters and unidentified flying objects have residents wondering and worrying in some areas of Nebraska.

"Doors and locked and guns are loaded" in rural Oakland, according to one resident.

A quarterhorse was found mutilated Sunday three miles southeast of Norfolk on the Warren Papstein farm.

### FIFTH KILLED

This was the fifth animal killed and mutilated in Madison County under mysterious circumstances. Four head of cattle have been found with their sex organs cut out, in addition one steer had one eye, one ear, its nose, mouth and tongue chopped off.

The killings have been reported all over the state. Similar cases have been reported in Texas, Iowa and other Midwestern states. Each case involves the removal of the animal's sex organs.

In Antelope County, Ormer Hoffman, four miles west of Clearwater, reported five head of cattle have been mutilated on his ranch.

Law enforcement officials are puzzled by the killings. Madison County Sheriff Marvin Adams says that the ones he has investigated have been done by people, probably a cult of some kind.

But Robert Mavis of Wakefield, an investigator for the criminal division of the State Patrol, said, "There are a lot of trains of thought. There have been numerous discoveries of dead animals in Madison and Knox counties and there are indications that predators got several of them. We are not convinced it is a person who is doing this. We haven't even found tracks in most cases."

In Cass County, where there have been four times as many killings as in Madison County, Sheriff Larry Higgenbottom says he frankly doesn't know what is doing the killings. At first he blamed it on predators.

Antelope County Deputy Sheriff Hamm said that there has been no definite proof that there were people involved in the killings he had investigated.

He said, "In every case we've had, cattle have been dead for a few days. Some of them are full of maggots and decay. Hard to tell anything with maggots in the tissues."

The sheriffs in Holt, Knox, Antelope and Madison counties are comparing their information and seeing if it is an investigation to see what can be learned from each other.

There have been at least two meetings between the county sheriffs, State Patrol, brand investigators and Game and Parks Commission.

The last big meeting was last Aug. in Clearfield, Knox County. About 20 farmers and ranchers attended along with sheriffs from Holt, Boyd and Knox counties, members of the State Patrol, brand investigators, representatives from

# Bad UFOs source of wonder, worry

CB-D-35130

Game and Parks Commission, city police, mayors and township officials from all of the towns in the county.

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

Cattle killings aren't the only strange happenings in northeast Nebraska. There have been numerous reports of unidentified flying objects in both Antelope and Kearney counties.

Sheriff Herbert Thompson of Kearney County said that it is possible the unidentified flying objects and lights are connected with the livestock killings, but there is nothing definite to connect them. Ten people were gathered on a farm near Clearwater Aug. 21. All of them said they saw a strange light in the sky.

One of the men at the gathering described the incident. "Two of the boys were out in the field to move equipment. They didn't get it all moved. They spotted a light and it came right down at them. It scared the devil out of them. They came right up to the house."

At the house they watched the light for about four hours.

Later on several gathered in town to

watch. Harold Kester told the subject "looked as if it had a little bluish-green light on each side with a glow surrounding it. It was behind a tree and moved from one side of the tree to the other. We couldn't tell how close it was or how fast it was moving."

## ANOTHER LIGHT

About midnight the same night, Mike Kruger reported seeing another light.

He said, "I walked outside to get some calves in and saw a big ball of red fire. It pulsed off the ground and then went out. Since it was dark, I couldn't tell how far away it was or how high it pulsed."

About a month ago there were reports of UFOs in Kearney County. Last week the big stir in the county was another unidentified helicopter.

Sheriff Thompson said, "We don't know if they are helicopters or strange lights for the most part. There were several reported over the weekend. The people who reported them called them strange lights. Previously we had two positive identifications of helicopters."

Antelope County Sheriff Vernon Strang

said that he doesn't think helicopters are used in this type of flying. Although helicopters have been reported.

He said that Sunday night he was among the many persons in the area who saw an unidentified light. "I had a lot of people who reported it. I was out with the delivery pickup and heard it. It was



FBI

Date: 1/23/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY  
 FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (~~9820~~) (62-0-14743)  
 SUBJECT: MUTILATIONS OF ANIMALS  
MINNESOTA, NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA  
RESEARCH MATTER

Miscellaneous - Non-Subversive

For the information of the Bureau, animals, mostly livestock, have been reported as mutilated in the three-state area of this division and parts of their bodies missing. The parts listed as missing have been the sexual organs, ears, lips and udders, and in some instances, the blood from the animals was considered "completely drained." No evidence of value ever located at the scene.

State veterinarians, after examination of mutilated animal carcasses, contend dead animals were eaten by other animals or varmints, believed to be foxes due to their sharp side teeth, which were described as "shearing teeth like scissors."

The Bureau is requested to furnish the Minneapolis Division with any supporting information to the above comments made by state veterinarians or, if already contacted by other law enforcement agencies, the results of their investigations or your laboratory results of evidence previously submitted in similar cases.

Enclosed is a xerox clipping of comments made by RICHARD HILDE (NA), Chief Agent, North Dakota Crime Bureau, Bismarck.

① - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
 1 - Minneapolis  
 HAE:ras  
 (4)

ENCLOSURE

JAN 29 1975

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge



Airtel

1-Office, 7133  
1-Mr. Clark

1/27/75

To: SAC, Minneapolis (62-0-14743)

From: Director, FBI

REC-23  
63-0-35659  
FY-117  
MUTILATIONS OF ANIMALS  
MINNESOTA, NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA  
RESEARCH MATTER

Reference Minneapolis airtel dated January 21, 1975.

The circumstances set forth in referenced airtel were discussed with Dr. Don Wilson, Chief, Mammalogy Section, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

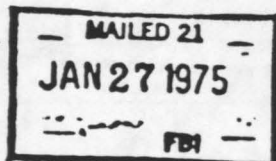
Dr. Wilson said that the circumstances set forth in referenced airtel are consistent with natural phenomena. According to Dr. Wilson, when small mammals such as foxes and opossums feed on the carcasses of large mammals such as cattle that have not decayed they first feed on soft tissues such as the nose, lips, udders and genital areas. He said that it has been frequently observed that the genital area is most often the first soft tissue to be attacked.

Dr. Wilson had no information concerning the specific appearance of tissue bitten by foxes.

Clark 7132

WSC: fch(5)

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## Official says mutilations an

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — An explanation may have been found for a rash of livestock mutilations that have plagued South Dakota and have recently been reported in North Dakota, says an official of the North Dakota Crime Bureau.

Chief Agent Richard Hilde said his office had been getting scattered reports recently of livestock mutilations across North Dakota which were similar to a rash of mutilation reports from South Dakota earlier this month.

"At this point we in the Crime Bureau feel the animals died of

natural causes and that animals have eaten the parts of the livestock after they are dead," Hilde said.

Recently, the bureau has received reports of livestock mutilations in several North Dakota counties, he said. Two cows and a bull were reported as killed in McHenry County, four cattle were found dead with parts of their bodies missing in Dickey County and a cow was found in a similar condition in Foster County, he said. In addition, there was a horse reported killed Monday in McIntosh County,

which was also reported as being mutilated, he added.

"We had been getting these reports and they had called it mutilation," he said. "Farmers could never find footprints and they could never find vehicle tracks."

In most cases there was also no blood reportedly found, he said. However, parts of the dead animals, including sexual organs, ears, lips and udders were found missing on the animals leading the assumption the mutilations might have been the work of humans, he said.

"I'm completely satisfied at

this point that we do not have a maniac or cult on the loose," Hilde said.

He noted that law enforcement officials in both states had been hindered in their investigations because the bodies of the dead livestock were usually found days after they had died "in various stages of being decomposed." The horse found dead in McIntosh County was relatively "fresh" and so a thorough autopsy could be performed, he said.

Dr. Ivan Berg, a veterinarian with the Veterinary Service Department at North Dakota State

## swor may have been found

University, performed an autopsy on the horse, Hilde said. The doctor's findings showed the horse had died of dysentery, Hilde added.

He emphasized that foxes and other small animals may have been responsible for the mutilations, but had not killed the animals. He noted that such small animals were not able to kill livestock the size of a horse or bull, but would eat parts of the animal only after they were dead.

Hilde also noted that no evidence of surgical incisions was found on the horse, although it

had parts of the body missing.

"What we had been told about the mutilations was that the cut was so clean it looked like a surgical cut," he said. However, he added that the bureau now "believes the cuts were made by the side teeth of animals, probably foxes."

He said the dead animals in North Dakota had been found in scattered locations, and the Bureau believes they died of natural causes and then small animals such as foxes had eaten the soft parts of the animals.

Hilde said veterinarians had explained that foxes have sharp

side teeth, which he described as "shearing teeth like scissors." Because the hide of horses and cattle is tough, the small animals, such as foxes, would eat the softer parts of the animals such as the lips and udders, he said.

"He (the animal) is eating with the side of his mouth with shearing teeth that make it look like a surgical cut," Hilde said.

The Crime Bureau agent also noted that small animals — like foxes — would leave no tracks in rough areas and pastures. Since they would not leave tracks that would provide the explanation as

to why no human footprints or vehicle tracks were found at the scene of the livestock mutilations, he added.

In addition, if the animals had been dead for several days there would be little, if any blood, since it would have coagulated, he said.

Hilde said he contacted the South Dakota Crime Bureau Tuesday "and they're satisfied the deaths were natural." He also noted that a doctor in South Dakota had provided an explanation similar to the one being cited by the North Dakota Crime Bureau.

63-0-35659

ENCLOSURE



FBI

Date: 9/4/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTENTION: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FROM: SAC, DENVER

SUBJECT: ~~MUTILATION OF LIVESTOCK~~  
STATE OF COLORADO  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

✓ Re Denver airtel 8/29/75.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of an editorial appearing in the "Denver Post" 9/3/75 relating to Senator FLOYD K. HASKELL's request that the FBI enter captioned investigation.

On the morning of 9/4/75 SA DONALD J. SEBESTA, Media Relations Representative, and I visited with the editorial staff of the "Denver Post" concerning the article. We met with CHARLES R. BUXTON, Executive Vice President, Editor and Publisher, ROBERT PATTRIDGE, Editor of the Editorial Page, and LEE OLSON, Editorial Page writer and writer of enclosed article, and explained to them the manner in which this Bureau enters investigations, stressing the point that unless the FBI has investigative jurisdiction under Federal statute, we cannot enter any investigation. It was pointed out to these individuals that if the FBI were to enter an investigation merely because someone felt we should, we would soon be categorized as a national police force. The limitations placed on the Bureau by Congress and the Department of Justice are well defined and it was pointed out that the FBI would always operate within the scope of its investigative jurisdiction and Departmental guidelines.

These individuals were most receptive to the visit, indicating that they had a better understanding of the FBI's

② - Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM)  
3 - Denver (1 - 62-0)  
(1 - 80-463)  
TPR:jbb (1 - 80-204)  
(5)

SEP 8 1975

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSURE

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 345-286 (11)



jurisdiction as a result of this meeting and expressed sincere appreciation for the visit from this office. It is believed that this meeting was extremely beneficial, both to the representatives of the "Denver Post" and to this office since it gave me a good reason not only to meet them personally but to discuss matters of mutual interest.

At the conclusion of this meeting an invitation was extended to these individuals to visit the Denver FBI Office at any time, which they readily accepted.

The above is being submitted for the information of the Bureau since it appears there will continue to be press interest in Senator HASKELL's request that the FBI enter the livestock mutilation case.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Cattle Deaths and the FBI

If the FBI will not enter the investigation of mysterious livestock deaths in Colorado and some adjacent states then Sen. Floyd Haskell, D-Colo., should take the matter to Congress for resolution.

The incidents are too widespread—and potentially too dangerous to public order—to ignore. Narrow interpretations of what the FBI's role is vis-a-vis state authority are not adequate to the need.

There is already federal involvement. Consider this: Because of the gun-happy frame of mind developing in eastern Colorado (where most of the incidents have been occurring), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has had to cancel a helicopter inventory of its lands in six counties. BLM officials are simply afraid their helicopters might be shot down by ranchers and others frightened by cattle deaths.

If that isn't a reason for federal involvement, we don't know what is. And the question of which federal agency investigates isn't as important as the need to bring a focus on the incidents that is broader than the jurisdiction of one state.

Killings and mutilations of livestock have been occurring in Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and elsewhere—not just in Colorado. If there is a pattern to the incidents it would seem that the broadest possible study of them is indicated.

In any case, Senator Haskell should keep the pressure on the FBI. It has manpower and a wide range of investigatory tools. And if the FBI resists successfully, the senator should go to Congress to get the sort of attention these alarming incidents deserve.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

24 The Denver Post  
Denver, Colorado

Date: 9/3/75  
Edition: Home Edition  
Author:  
Editor: Charles R. Buxton  
Title: "Cattle Deaths  
And The FBI"

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Adams

DATE: September 12, 1975

FROM : R. J. Gallagher

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Cooke
- 1 - Mr. Sheer
- 1 - Mr. Bowers

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous - Non-Subversive  
MUTILATION OF LIVESTOCK  
STATE OF COLORADO  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Off. Liaison \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

In response to a telephone call from Honorable Floyd K. Haskell, United States Senator from Colorado, to the Director 9/11/75, I contacted Senator Haskell telephonically today, 9/12/75.

Senator Haskell indicated his concern for a situation occurring in the western states where cattle have been discovered mutilated. The bizarre mutilations involve loss of left ear, left eye, sex organ, and the blood drained from the carcass with no traces of blood left on the ground and no footprints.

Senator Haskell repeated his request that the FBI enter the investigation. The provisions of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Cattle Statute, Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 2311, were explained to him. It was pointed out that there must be an interstate transportation. Senator Haskell said that he had no information that an interstate transportation had occurred in any of these cases. He said he felt this was too big for the local authorities, and the FBI with its resources could come to a solution. He said the ranchers are getting considerably worried out there and he felt if the FBI would just enter the investigation it would have a deterrent effect. Our jurisdiction was explained to Senator Haskell and he said that he understood our statutory limitations and inquired as to whether a resolution would give us the necessary investigative jurisdiction.

Senator Haskell was advised that it probably would take a law, whereupon he asked if there were anyone that he could discuss this matter with. He was referred to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

Senator Haskell thanked me for calling him and stated he understood but he wished there was something we could do.

RJG:lge  
7 OCT 10 1975

CONTINUED - OVER

140-13526-6  
ENCLOSURE



Memorandum to Mr. Adams  
RE: MUTILATION OF LIVESTOCK  
STATE OF COLORADO

Senator Haskell recontacted me this afternoon and said that he had received a call from Dan Edwards, editor of the paper in Brush, Colorado, who furnished information that U. S. Army helicopters had been seen in the vicinity of where some of the cattle were mutilated and that he, Edwards, had been threatened but Senator Haskell did not know what sort of threats Edwards had received or by whom.

He was advised that this information would be furnished to our Denver Office and that Denver would closely follow the situation. Senator Haskell expressed his appreciation.

Inasmuch as Senator Haskell stated he might call the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, John Keeney, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, was telephonically advised of my contact with Senator Haskell and he was furnished background information concerning this situation.

The above information was also furnished to SA Jim Bristol, Denver Office. Bristol was instructed to have Mr. Edwards contacted concerning the alleged threats that he has received.

ACTION:

For information.

*J* *John*  
*B31*  
*Per* *mac*  
*TV*

September 12, 1975

EX-110  
REC-17

63-0-36721

Honorable Floyd K. Haskell  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Haskell:

Your letter of August 29th to Special Agent in Charge Theodore P. Rosack has been forwarded to my office and I deeply appreciate the sincere concern expressed by you and your constituents.

The information set forth in your letter regarding the mutilation of cattle in Colorado and several other Western states and the reported use of an unidentified helicopter by those individuals responsible has been carefully reviewed. I regret to inform you that these actions do not constitute a violation of Federal law coming within the FBI's investigative jurisdiction.

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more favorable response and I hope the investigation currently being conducted by local law enforcement agencies regarding this matter will soon be successfully concluded.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

MAILED 6  
SEP 15 1975  
FBI

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 - Denver (1-62-0)  
Personal Attention SAC: Reurairtel 8/29/75 and airtel 9/9/75.  
1 - Mr. Gallagher - Enclosures (2) - attached  
Attention Mr. Sheer  
1 - Mr. Herington - Enclosures (2) 18  
1 - Office of Congressional Affairs - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Response coordinated with Legal Counsel and General Investigative Divisions.

WPH:eac (9)

TELETYPE UNIT ☐



FBI

Date: 8/29/75

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
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Director's Sec'y	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DENVER *Miscellaneous - Non-Subversive*

SUBJECT: MUTILATION OF LIVESTOCK  
STATE OF COLORADO  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed herewith is the original of a letter from U. S. Senator FLOYD K. HASKELL which was personally handed to me this date relating to incidents involving mutilation of cattle and other livestock in Colorado.

Senator HASKELL indicates that 130 such cases have been reported to local officials. He makes reference to the fact that such mutilation has occurred during the past two years in nine states.

In his communication Senator HASKELL requests that the FBI enter the investigations being conducted in order to provide unified direction to the overall matter of such mutilations.

I indicated to Senator HASKELL that his request would be furnished to FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C., and that he would receive a reply pertaining to his request. I also pointed out to the Senator that as he well knew, before the FBI can enter any case, we must have investigative jurisdiction provided primarily by statute. I pointed out that in this instance I was not aware of any statute which would provide for jurisdiction in this matter.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM)  
2 - Denver (1 - 62-0)  
(1 - 80-NEW)

TPR:jb  
(4)

*and let to Haskell 9/12/75*  
*WPH:22*

REC-16 63-0-36721

SEP 1 1975

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



DN 62-0

On this date I personally contacted United States Attorney JAMES L. TREECE, District of Colorado, discussed Senator's HASKELL's letter with him, and he concurred with my comments to Senator HASKELL.

In connection with furnishing me this letter, Senator HASKELL, in advance, had released a statement to the press indicating that he was asking the FBI to enter the investigation. Several inquiries have been received and I have indicated to the news media that the Senator's letter was being referred to FBI Headquarters in Washington and that his request would be resolved. Upon being pressed I indicated that I, personally, knew of no legislation specifically covering the mutilation of livestock which would enable the FBI to enter such an investigation.

The above is being furnished to the Bureau for information and for an official reply to Senator HASKELL's request. Senator HASKELL indicated that he is returning to Washington, D.C. in connection with the reconvening of the Senate session.

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 29, 1975

Theodore P. Rosack  
Special Agent In Charge  
Denver Federal Building  
1961 Stout Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Rosack:

For several months my office has been receiving reports of cattle mutilations throughout Colorado and other western states. At least 130 cases in Colorado alone have been reported to local officials and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI); the CBI has verified that the incidents have occurred for the last two years in nine states.

The ranchers and rural residents of Colorado are concerned and frightened by these incidents. The bizarre mutilations are frightening in themselves: in virtually all the cases, the left ear, left eye, rectum and sex organ of each animal has been cut away and the blood drained from the carcass, but with no traces of blood left on the ground and no footprints.

In Colorado's Morgan County area, there has also been reports that a helicopter was used by those who mutilated the carcasses of the cattle, and several persons have reported being chased by a similar helicopter.

Because I am gravely concerned by this situation, I am asking that the Federal Bureau of Investigation enter the case. Although the CBI has been investigating the incidents, and local officials also have been involved, the lack of a central unified direction has frustrated the investigation. It seems to have progressed little, except for the recognition at long last that the incidents must be taken seriously.

Now it appears that ranchers are arming themselves to protect their livestock, as well as their families and themselves, because they are frustrated by the unsuccessful investigation. Clearly something must be done before someone gets hurt.

ENCLOSURE

63-0-36721 *sf/ux*

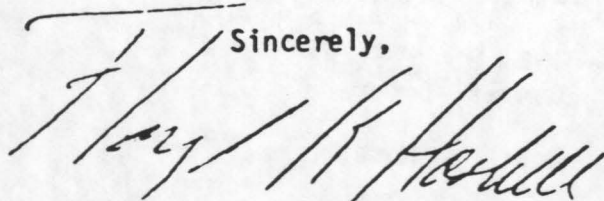


Page 2

The fact that allegations have been made of the loss of livestock in 21 states under similar circumstances strongly suggests the very real possibility that the crossing of state lines is involved and, this alone, I feel, should justify the participation of the FBI in this case.

I urge you to begin your investigation as soon as possible, and to contact my office to discuss in more detail the incidents I have described. We stand ready to give you all possible assistance.

Sincerely,



Floyd K. Haskell  
United States Senator

FKH:enw

6/14  
WJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/14/76

FROM : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (62-2559) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUB;  
MUTILATION OF TWO COWS  
MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
POLICE COOPERATION

MISCELLANEOUS NON-SUBVERSIVE

Re Springfield airtel to Bureau dated 10/1/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of an article entitled "The Mutilation Mystery", which allegedly appeared in Oui Magazine, September, 1976 issue.

For the information of the Bureau, Sheriff RUSSELL CREWS, Marshall County, Illinois Sheriff's Department, Lacon, Illinois, on 9/30/76, furnished enclosed article to SA DONALD R. SORENSEN since it pertained to widespread incidents such as those set forth in referenced airtel. This is furnished to the Bureau in view of numerous references in this article to Federal investigative agencies and also theories that these mutilations of cattle are only a forerunner for later mutilations of human beings. (P.I.)

REC-59

DE-38

63-0-38949

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Encl 1)  
2 - Springfield (62-2559)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED EX-113

DRS/dc  
(4)

4 OCT 20 1976

NOV 25 1976 U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

PCA 8



# The Mutilation Mystery

On  
Magazine  
SEPTEMBER  
1974  
ISSUE

DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS,  
MORE THAN 1500 CATTLE IN 22 STATES HAVE BEEN  
KILLED AND MUTILATED THEIR BLOOD DRAINED  
AND SELECTED ORGANS REMOVED  
WITH SURGICAL PRECISION.  
SUSPECTS RANGE FROM SATANIC CULTISTS  
TO GOVERNMENT RESEARCHERS.

AN EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY ED SANDERS

In the fall of 1973, there were about 40 frightening cattle mutilations in a dozen counties in north-central Kansas, most of them occurring along U.S. 81, which runs north through Kansas into Nebraska. Nebraska also had some mutilated moos.

Kansas sheriff departments, the highway patrol and the state bureau of investigation seemed baffled, as did the victimized cattle ranchers. The ranchers were used to the nocturnal depredations of predators, but they had never seen anything like the surgical precision and methodical discrimination with which these animals had been chopped up: some with their ears and tongue and, say, an eye removed; others with a swish of tail, their udders and a patch of neck flesh cut cleanly away; and nearly all of them with the anus and genitals neatly excised.

The removal of cow vulvas and bull donges caused speculation that weirdos were involved. Suspicion fell upon one or more of the following: (1) the irresponsible shenanigans of those great scapegoats, the hippies; (2) sex deviates practicing bull-dong/cow-vulva atrocities; or (3) the rites of some religious cultists of a devil-worshipping nature.

Many authorities demurred. Dr. Harry Anthony, director of the Kansas State University veterinarian laboratory, stated in late 1973 that four out of the nine mutilated animals that the lab had examined apparently had died of a cattle disease called blackleg; the Kansas state brands commissioner declared that 99 percent of the deaths of animals that had

been mutilated had been caused by natural factors. Such statements triggered a bit of outrage in law-enforcement circles in the 12 Kansas counties affected, with many officials maintaining their belief that humans were involved.

There were several bits of evidence that pointed away from predators. There was the absence of blood and footprints, for example. One cow was even found in a large mudhole, but still there were no tracks. Then, there was a peculiar absence of dangling guts and scattered hunks of flesh (predators do not read Emily Post). Also, though many animals were found in secluded areas, others were found near barns or a few feet from sleeping farmers' windows—closer to civilization than predators usually roam.

And then there were the helicopters. Helicopters without filed flight plans were sighted quite often in the afflicted counties, sometimes hovering above cattle pens. But authorities were not able to catch the choppers or to locate their landing and refueling areas. One of the early theories was that a helicopter-borne rustling operation was going on, but when it was discovered that all that was being rustled were eyeballs, genitals, milk sacs and sphincters, that theory collapsed. Then there was a rumor, apparently without foundation, that the helicopters were part of a secret military exercise out of Fort Riley, Kansas.

The situation invited off-the-wall speculation, especially as more and more strange facts became known—such as, when removing the eyes from cattle, the mutilators would take not only the eye-

ball but also the eyelid, membranes and all. There was to be more. Much more.

## 1974: YEAR OF THE MUTES

In April 1974, the mutilators were at it again in Nebraska, with the same familiar *modus operandi*: Blood was drained in some instances; there were no footprints; and various organs were removed, apparently surgically. High officials again leaned toward the predatory coyote/crow/raccoon-with-a-scalpel theory. The toll of mutes, as mutilation buffs began referring to the acts, mounted throughout the summer, and by September, some 50 cases had been reported in the Cornhusker State.

As in Kansas, the rumor that the mutilations were the acts of helicopter-equipped devil worshipers, or "feral ritualists," began to spread among the good farmers of Nebraska. Shotgun-toting vigilantes took to riding the back roads from dawn to dusk. Ranchers sometimes stopped out-of-state vehicles for a cow-blood check. Some marksman in a pickup apparently tried to win an aircraft that was checking a power line near Grand Island, Nebraska; as result, the state National Guard ordered its choppers to fly at a minimum of 100 feet rather than at the normal low of 50 feet. Sheriff Herb Thompson of hard-bitten Knox County reported that, on several occasions, helicopters were seen on nights when mutilations occurred. There were also copters spotted just over the border in Iowa, where on July 15th, a Horn Creek farmer was shot at from a copter that bore no identification number.

In the fall of 1974, as the mutilations tapered off in Nebraska, the flying mutilation show worked its way up to South Dakota and over into Minnesota. Again, copters and boring goriness were much in evidence and the authors chose to place the blame on predators. There was one notable exception. Mahlon W. Vorhies, associate professor of veterinarian science at South Dakota State University, said that ten animals had been examined at the school and some of them had probably been mutilated by *Homo sapiens*.

In Minnesota, meanwhile, there was one case that points to a possible solution to a part of the mystery. On Friday night, October 4, 1974, a 400-pound cow was mutilated at the Charles McFarlane farm, in the extreme southwestern part of the state. Both of the bull's ears were chewed/cut off and its hind end "damaged." The local vet said the cause of death was blackleg, a disease of the Clostridia family of bacteria. The vet added, however, that there was no sign of struggle, as is usual in blackleg, nor was there much blood in the carcass. In fact, the animal apparently been mutilated after

## THE MUTILATION MYSTERY Most terrifying of all, Bankston claimed that the animal mutilations are but a prelude to what we shall here call hum-sac, or human sacrifice.

caused by disease. The copter-cruising-satanist hypothesis was so compelling, however, that no one was yet ready to entertain the theory that the bull had been injected with Clostridia bacteria or toxin—perhaps for experimental purposes. For indeed, how difficult it would have been for a bunch of airborne turkeys to locate a cold, dead animal in the dark! And post-death mutilities would have had to be ready for weird smells also, as the fumes from a rotting cow causes one to seriously consider puking as a high-priority activity.

### THE UFO ANGLE

The incident that ultimately brought the UFO-sleuth nexus into the mute picture occurred in mid-December 1974, when a cow was found chopped up at the farm of Frank Schifelbien, near Kimball, Minnesota. At the same time, there were a number of UFO sightings in the state. After a rather cursory examination of the mutilation site, a Minnesota flying-saucer buff (and avowed Sasquatch contactee) named Terry Mitchell came to the conclusion that hovering aliens had beamed a high-energy ray at the cow. There were also suspiciously broken branches, undoubtedly caused, so Mitchell's theory went, by heedless saucerite aeronautics; and then there were strange indentations in the ice on the farmer's pond—obviously gouged by UFO landing gear—and peculiar circles in the snow, which appeared in an aerial photo.

Mitchell went on to postulate that UFOs like steak as much as most Americans—although, again, the parts of the animal taken were those seldom found in any but a weirdo's casserole. Nevertheless, Mitchell's theory created a media flap that culminated in a telephone interview on Tom Snyder's NBC *Tomorrow* show in late 1974.

It was at this point that serious saucer students decided to get into the case. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of the prestigious Center for UFO Studies and professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, had a friend in Minneapolis who had done some field-investigation work for the center in his leisure time. This man was Donald E. Flickinger, a special agent for the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and in January 1975, Dr. Hynek asked him to investigate the Minnesota mutilations.

Flickinger traveled to Kimball, interviewed Frank Schifelbien and rapidly demolished the UFO hypothesis. The saucer-landing divots in the pond turned out to be watering holes chopped in the ice; the tree branches had been broken by

the wind and by Schifelbien himself; the saucer circles were actually snow-covered silage piles.

Word spread quickly among UFO researchers across the United States that the highly respected Dr. Hynek had taken an interest in the mutilations. One of those who heard the news was Jerome Clark, a UFO researcher of some renown, who had been investigating the cattle mutilations since they first occurred in his home state of Minnesota in the spring of 1973. Clark wrote to agent Flickinger in January 1975 and related the allegations of a convict named A. Kenneth Bankston.

### ENTER SATAN

During his many months of investigation, Clark had talked with Ross Doyen, a Kansas state senator who, in late 1973, had found a 500-pound heifer dead on his farm, with a six-inch hole carved in its belly. When a report of the incident was carried in Kansas newspapers, Doyen told Clark, he was contacted by Bankston, who at the time was serving a sentence for bank robbery at the Leavenworth (Kansas) Federal Penitentiary. Bankston wrote to Doyen that the mutilations were the work of a clandestine society of Satan, which had decided to expand its public viciousness.

Doyen did not place much credibility in Bankston's story, but this did not deter Clark from calling the warden at Leavenworth and obtaining permission to correspond with the inmate.

There followed an exchange of letters, in which Bankston's first missive—dated January 23, 1974—told Clark that "this cult is of Satan," that its members scarfed the animals' blood with hypodermic needles and that the animals' "sex organs are taken for . . . fertility rites." Bankston alleged in subsequent letters that the same cult was also involved in some way with the bombing of the Army math lab at the University of Wisconsin in August 1970, a grim deed that left a university researcher dead. Most terrifying of all, Bankston claimed that the animal mutilations are but a prelude to what we shall here call hum-sac, or human sacrifice.

Bankston was quick to tell Clark that he wanted to help authorities round up the cultists, but he was afraid of reprisals within the prison system. He asked that Clark intervene to have him and some other possible informants removed to a jail in Minnesota where they could talk more freely.

Clark could not help Bankston and had allowed his correspondence with him to lapse by the time he contacted Flickinger in early 1975. When Flickinger met with Clark shortly thereafter and heard

more details of the "cult of Satan," the seeds of a large and mysterious Federal investigation were brought to shoot over the next few months, the cattle mutilations spread like a psychotic epidemic into 22 Western states.

### THE BANKSTON SCENARIO

At Flickinger's urging, Clark was again to Bankston, who had been transferred to Marion Federal Penitentiary in Illinois. Bankston replied with several letters, and the horrifying allegations continued to flow. In a letter of January 31, 1975, for instance, Bankston averred that bull sex organs had been embedded in the bodies of a young runaway couple murdered somewhere in the Midwest. Bankston also continued to ask that he be transferred to a Minnesota prison, where he would be safe from inmate reprisals.

Flickinger contacted the United States District Attorney's office in Minneapolis, and the U.S. Attorney approached Federal Judge Myles Lord, a respected Minnesota liberal jurist. Judge Lord contacted the warden at Marion Penitentiary to explore the possibilities of a transfer.

When he learned of Judge Lord's interest, however, Bankston wrote to Clark and expressed some fear at the prospect of being removed to a Minneapolis jail. He said that he feared a group of "orientated bikers who were heavily involved in the mutilations and some of whom, he believed, had contacts within law enforcement circles. The group was located in the Minneapolis area, and if they should hip to the snitching, they might harm . . . What he wanted, Bankston said, was a small county jail, out of the way.

Bankston also urged that the parties bring to Minnesota for questioning a former Leavenworth inmate-friend named Dan Dugan. Dugan, who was serving time at LaTuna Correctional Institution in Texas, had actually, so Bankston's claim went, been a member of the satanic society and had participated in its rituals—including the dreaded hum-sac.

It appears that the most compelling reason for Judge Lord to issue an order to bring Bankston (and later Dugan) to Minnesota was the former's alleged at one time taken very seriously by enforcement officials, that there was a list of prominent Americans—including them political liberals—who were killed by the mutilators. Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey, a close friend of Lord's, was on the alleged list, as were the names of newscasters, members of Congress and even movie actors. Novak. Accordingly, on February 11, 1975, Bankston. (Continued on p. 21)



**THE MUTILATION MYSTERY** He said that the cult members had talked about human sacrifice as the next step, but he had thought they were just engaging in satanic jive and hyperbole.

(Continued from page 52) was taken from Marion to the Dakota County Jail, in Hastings, Minnesota, by U.S. Marshals. On February 18th, agent Flickinger conducted his first interrogation; with him, as observers, were Jerome Clark and a former Army paratroop commando named Brad Ayers, active with the Center for UFO Studies.

While claiming not to have been a member of the mutilation mob himself, Bankston alleged during the interview that he had been in correspondence with diverse members of the mob around the country. He said that he had originally heard about the group from other inmates and had recorded his conversations in a notebook crammed with prison-cell gossip. He then outlined a scenario that shed light on many puzzling aspects of the mutilations.

Bankston asserted that the group used a powerful animal tranquilizer called PCP to calm the cattle. They next held amyl nitrite to an animal's nose to cause its heart to beat rapidly, then withdrew blood via a large veterinarian syringe. There were no footprints because the men walked on pieces of cardboard; in snow, they used blowtorches to melt the tracks around the animals. One reason for erasing evidence, Bankston claimed, was so that the mutilations would appear to be the work of extraterrestrials.

Bankston stated that at Leavenworth Penitentiary around 1969, he had met the treasurer of a chapter of a famous motorcycle gang and that this biker talked about earlier cattle mutilations. The biker also described his experiences in the Air Force, where he had driven a general around to inspect various missile silos, including some in Alaska. He told Bankston of an idea to seize a missile at one of the isolated sites; assuming that the missile was armed with a nuclear warhead, the bikers would then have the ultimate ransom or terror device. In 1975, oddly enough, strange flying objects did hover above Minuteman missile silos in Montana, near which there were also numerous animal mutilations; according to law-enforcement officials in the area, Malmstrom Air Force Base scrambled jet fighters to intercept the flying objects—unsuccessfully.

On March 16th, after interviewing Bankston for a month, Federal officials transferred Dan Dugan to the Dakota County Jail from the Texas prison, in which he was serving a term for crimes related to auto theft. Dugan, though kept apart from Bankston, confirmed virtually everything in Bankston's scenario.

The organization the informants de-

scribed was anti-Caucasian; it was extremely anti-black and anti-Mexican. Its adherents, in fact, could be called Satan-necks. And what was the name of this organization? In his letters—and I have seen some 15 of them—Bankston refers to the mutilators simply as the Occult; to Flickinger, however, both Bankston and Dugan named a well-known national organization devoted to the worship of Satan.

Dugan claimed to have been recruited by the cult in Fort Worth, Texas, around 1965. He was into drugs at the time, he said, and the Devil worshippers offered him bottles of dope; other members were into chopping up small animals and using their parts in ceremonies. The man who Dugan said recruited him also happened to be a helicopter pilot and a suspected smuggler and dope dealer. Authorities in Texas later placed him under surveillance to see if he was piloting any whirlybird sallies of Satan.

Bankston and Dugan supplied a list of mutilation-mob members and many of them were found by authorities to have a background in occult practices and criminality. One woman on the list, for instance, had been arrested in 1969 for robbing graves in North Dakota. (Another allegation would, if proved, have meant that there was a Satanist mutilator with her own network TV series.) One factor that seemed to give Dugan credibility, according to a well-informed source privy to the investigation, was his obvious great fear of the Satanist society.

Dugan told agent Flickinger that he began to drift away from the Satanists when he was actually exposed to human sacrifice. He said that the cult members had talked about human sacrifice as the next step, but he had thought they were just engaging in satanic jive and hyperbole. But in 1965, Dugan claimed, he and eight other members were camped on a lake near Cozad, Nebraska, preparing for a ceremony. The group had been using PCP to tranquilize animals and now decided to try the drug out on four young campers from Kansas City. Mutilation-mob members with tranquilizer rifles then shot the four youngsters, who died two hours later, apparently from PCP overdose. Since the campers were already dead, the group decided to try out its ceremonies on the deceased, and withdrew blood and worked satanic cruelties. Afterward, Dugan claimed, the bodies were cut up and placed in burlap bags. Dugan said that he did not see what happened next, but he suspected that the bodies were interred in a nearby gravel pit.

Authorities in Cozad were informed of Dugan's story and as soon as the snows melted (it was March), police spent many long hours looking for the bodies; but no skeletons were found.

During interrogation, Bankston repeated his allegation that the mutilators were involved somehow in the 1970 bombing at the University of Wisconsin. This time he named a man whom he had met in Leavenworth Penitentiary as having supplied the explosives used by the bombers. This same explosives expert, Bankston continued, was involved in a theft of plutonium in Oklahoma in late 1973. Bankston also accused an attorney in Oklahoma of having cached the stolen plutonium in her basement. What was horrifying was the possibility that the plutonium theft was connected to the case of Karen Silkwood. Silkwood died under mysterious circumstances in November 1974, while investigating apparent safety improprieties at a plutonium-packing plant, Kerr-McGee's Cimarron Facility in Crescent, Oklahoma.

Plutonium is extremely carcinogenic and is one of the deadliest of poisons; only 4.4 pounds of it are needed to make an atomic bomb powerful enough to wipe out the downtown of a city. When Silkwood died in an automobile accident, she had with her a file of investigative data given over to David Burgham of *The New York Times*. The day after her death, when friends searched her wrecked car, the file was missing. Bankston's charges raised the possibility that Silkwood inadvertently came across the mutilation mob as it ripped off plutonium for use as a domestic terror weapon.

When Federal officials checked on the attorney accused by Bankston of stealing the stolen plutonium, it was discovered that she was already suspected by Oklahoma authorities of having come into contact with a prominent member of the Mafia.

All in all, the Bankston-Dugan scenario was the ultimate tale of terror: everything: kidnaped missile silos, mutilations in the name of Satan, plutonium, terror, quarries with buried victims, even the ominous possibility of stockbrokers and gore-happy millionaires among the mute mob's 400 members.

Because some of what the informants were saying agreed with known facts, Flickinger was relieved of his ATF duties and assigned full time to the mutilations case, under the supervision of United States Attorney Robert F. Minneapolis.

What actually went on during the investigation (Continued on page 53)

# THE MUTILATION MYSTER Texas had its own prime satanic suspects: a group called the Sons of Satan. In 1974, a Kilgore College student had written that this group performed dawn rituals.

(Continued from page 92) Investigation is unclear. I have read one report, prepared by Flickinger and dated April 10, 1975, in which many other reports and investigations are mentioned. For a few months in 1975, the Federal Government apparently investigated satanic organizations and activities all over the country.

The motives of the informants also remain a bit unclear. Bankston, for instance, appears to have wanted to make a deal so that he could be transferred to a state jail in his home state of Mississippi; he also seems from his letters to have wanted to make some money from the publication of his story. Dan Dugan, the other principal informant, wanted to exchange his testimony for a reduction of his seven-year sentence.

For reasons unknown, Federal officials decided in the late spring of 1975 not to pursue the investigation further. One apparent problem with the informants' story was their allegations regarding the national leader of the mute mob. According to Bankston and Dugan, this man had served a sentence in Leavenworth on a bank-robbery conviction (which was accurate) and had recently moved to Austin, Texas (also accurate); however, when Texas reporter John Makeig obtained the alleged leader's arrest and jail history, it indicated that he had been in jail during most of the time that the informants claimed he was roaming from state to state performing heinous ceremonies.

Some authorities believe the Bankston-Dugan affair was part of a master escape plot predicated on the assumption that a small county jail is easier to flee than a big Federal prison. On May 31, Bankston did, in fact, escape from the jail in Chaska, Minnesota (to which he had been moved from Hastings), along with another prisoner; when they were apprehended six hours later, Bankston insisted that the other prisoner, a murderer, had forced him to go along with the caper. Dugan, meanwhile, had been remanded to Texas, and the day after Bankston's escape, Dugan escaped, too; he was captured on June 19th, during a holdup attempt in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Bankston later asserted that Dugan had escaped in fear for his life.

Despite the doubt cast on the satanic ritual theory, the mutilations continued to spread and to increase in frequency in 1975. They were especially common in Texas, where Bankston was to have his fear-filled innings as well.

## LONE-STAR MUTES

One starts at a map of Texas, with its 254 counties containing some 17,000,000

head of cattle—in fact, there are more cattle than people in Texas—and it is obvious that a group of moneyed mutilators could chop away pretty much to the tune of their own folly. More than 500,000 cattle reportedly die each year in Texas from natural causes, so a few hundred moos mutilated by night stealth would not be significant.

The Texas mutes reached public attention in November 1974 and then appeared to stop. More cases occurred in early 1975, with parallels to cases in other states. On January 26th, for instance, Hopkins County sheriff Paul R. Jones announced that a blood-slurping group calling itself the Devil's Disciples was believed responsible for the mutes. In Kaufman County, east of Dallas, mysterious helicopters were reported and police officers started directing their spotlights into the night sky. And Texas authorities tended to ascribe the mutes to those coyotes with table manners and stomachs big enough to hold eight gallons of moo blood—even though, as in other states, there were instances in Texas where predators had uncharacteristically avoided cattle that had been mutilated. (Usually, when a cow lies dead for a few days, the ripening fumes spread widely, and predators quickly arrive by land, air and burrow for the feast.)

Aho, in January, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram paid for toxicology tests on a heifer found near Brownwood, and the test showed "a significant amount of nicotine" in the liver and the blood; nicotine is the material most commonly used in tranquilizer guns. In March, a cow was chopped up north of Big Spring; its udder had been removed—but carefully, so that the stomach lining had not been punctured—and its heart had been removed through a small hole in its chest.

There were UFOs reported also. In Cochran County, following numerous flying-object reports in early March, two mutes were found in a large wheat field, each lying in a circle of burned, stubbled wheat about 30 feet in diameter. Sheriff C. G. Richards checked the circles and reported finding some radiation residue.

By late March 1975, Texas investigators had gotten word of the Federal investigation of the mute mob in Minnesota. As several of the suspected mob members—including the leader—were supposedly residing in Texas, the state department of public safety, as well as local police departments, conducted surveillance operations in Austin and in Hurst, Texas, near Fort Worth.

Texas, however, had its own prime

satanic suspects in the mutilations case: a group called the Sons of Satan. In 1974, a Kilgore College student had written a paper in which he said that this group performed dawn rituals in which cattle were chopped up. The student's theme was destroyed by one or more of his teachers, who felt that the material was disgusting. But word of the paper reached T. O. Tinsley, an employee of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, who was investigating the mutilations; Tinsley located the student and traveled around Texas, talking with several of the student's sources.

"I knew of a motorcycle gang in California that also called itself the Sons of Satan; in 1970, a pack of its members murdered an Orange County woman and, according to a young man who later confessed, offered her heart to Satan by placing it in the woman's station wagon and setting the vehicle afire. The leader of the California Sons of Satan claimed to belong to a larger satanic organization that regularly sacrificed human victims in ceremonies in Northern and Southern California. One Colorado investigator believes that the Sons of Satan are involved in the mutilations and that the purpose of the mutilations is clandestine bacteriological-warfare research. I found no indication, however, that the California and Texas Sons of Satan were connected.

Between January and September 1975, John Makeig of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram wrote a series of articles on the mutilations. The articles eventually attracted the attention of mute-mob informant Bankston, who began a correspondence with Makeig, in which he repeated some of his old charges and also came up with some new ones tailor-made for Texas. There is no measuring the terror that Bankston caused in Texas that spring and summer of 1975.

In a small city south of Houston, for example, Texas Department of Public Safety agents called together the mayor, the chief of police and the city manager and announced that the town water supply was going to be poisoned by occult terrorists. In Mayflower, a small town near the Louisiana border, a sheriff's deputy called together the town's 100 citizens and announced that two of them were going to be mutilated. The result in both places was total fear-fire.

Meanwhile, learning that the Federal investigation had been called off, Makeig began to treat Bankston with more caution. When Bankston announced in a letter that the mutilators were going to



**THE MUTILATION 'STERY** In Utah, a United States Department of Agriculture veterinarian announced that an animal he had autopsied had been injected with bacteria or a toxin.

rendezvous in August at the Big Bend National Park in south Texas. Makeig contacted the park superintendent, who watched, but no gathering took place. When Bankston promised to deliver a list of mute-mob names, Makeig waited patiently for several weeks, but no list arrived.

Bankston then compounded his credibility problems by hinting that a stockbroker's daughter he had already fingered as a member of the mute mob was about to do something possibly baleful to Makeig. Makeig took the veiled threat seriously and gave the Fort Worth police voluminous data on the mute mob. "If I get killed," Makeig told me in September 1975, "I want the police to have plenty of leads."

Around this time, Captain Keith Wolverton, a very diligent investigator from the Cascade County, Montana, sheriff's department, traveled to Marion Penitentiary to give Bankston a polygraph examination; Bankston failed on important questions. Makeig followed up by calling alleged members of the mutilation mob—including the alleged leader and the woman—and found no indication of involvement.

In early October 1975, Makeig wrote a scathing article in the *Star-Telegram* discounting most of Bankston's allegations as self-serving jailhouse bunk-babble. Bankston was finished in Texas.

#### WEIRDER AND WEIRDER

Even in the *Star-Telegram* article appeared, however, mutilations were discovered in ten more states, and were becoming increasingly weird; in Montana and New Mexico, for instance, wounds were found to have serrated edges. In Utah, a United States Department of Agriculture veterinarian announced that an animal he had autopsied had been injected with bacteria or a toxin; his superiors told him if he didn't shut up, he would be fired.

In Oklahoma—where there had been one mute report in 1974—citizens and officials grew alarmed over the advent of a mute plague in early 1975. Governor David Boren ordered a full investigation under the aegis of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, which, after investigating 26 possibly mutilated animals and consulting various pathologists, theft investigators and radiation experts, issued a report dated March 3, 1975.

The report was a masterpiece of accusation. The animals had died of "natural causes." And who was chopping away at the carcasses? "It was the opinion of the task-force members that the human involvement can be attributed to individuals attempting to get in on a fad or young

people dissecting dead carcasses for biological or experimental purposes [emphasis added]." The report also stated: "We are of the opinion that the human involvement in mutilations is a fad generated by publicity and is only temporary." A fad! You know: Hula Hoops, phone-booth packing, the twist, riots against the war, and now rectectomy and teenagers with secret dried udder sacs hidden in their closets. The report's prophecy did, in fact, come true; the mutilations virtually ceased until the fall of 1975, when mutilations occurred in the northwest part of the state.

There had been mutilations on opposite sides of Colorado in November 1974. They spread in the spring of 1975, and by the fall, animals were being carved up all over the state. Elbert County, in particular, experienced a summer and fall of terror of the sort that talk-show comedians ascribe to the streets of New York City. People were afraid to venture far abroad in country where helicopters hovered at night and anusless cattle lay stiff and mutilated in the dawn.

Despite the organized efforts of law-enforcement officials, the mutilations continued unchecked in Colorado until the first snows fell in the fall; then they came to a virtual halt. The investigators had gotten wiser over the year. They now tended to discount any involvement of blood drinkers or sex-crazed Satanists; if such weirdos were involved, the thinking went, it was only peripherally, and as a caveat for the real villains in the chop-ups.

#### MY VERY OWN LINGUA BOVINA EXCISA

I did not want to become involved in this case. In New York, where I live, there had been several small items about the mutilations in the press in early 1975; I had added the clips to my file marked AN-SAC (animal sacrifices)—opened during my investigation of the Manson clan in 1970 and 1971—and forgotten about them. My mind had been bombarded for too many years with gore data, and I really wanted a respite from the images of violence and snuff-buffery, especially regarding the killing of cattle.

Then one morning—it was June 18, 1975—I received a phone call from the office of my literary agent. The caller said that a package forwarded to me from the publisher of my Manson book was evincing odoriferousness. Upon my urging, the wrappings were removed; inside was a box in which resided a large cow's tongue. I instantly recalled my file of mutilation clips and the fact that tongues were often missing from the animals.

My cow tongue had been postmarked in Sacramento, California, and the sender had used Christmas stamps with robed angels on them. Aha! I thought a clue! For were not Squeaky Fromm and her pal Sandy Good running around Sacramento right at that time, announcing imminent gore—and were they not attired in red robes and red kinnis shoes? Had they sent the tongue? It was a question I was never able to answer. But I could arrange to have someone ask the girls if they had sent the tongue. So I had lugged at President Ford with a knife and was in jail.

About a month after I received the tongue, however, I was in Boulder, Colorado, for a poetry-reading and a lecture, and I decided to drive down to Elbert County, which had been badly hit by the 1975 mute wave. My family and I drove along Colorado's Route 8, an area of vast terrain and fences for miles, broken occasionally by a small town.

When we arrived in Kiowa, the seat, I went to the sheriff's office and learned that a mutilation had been discovered that very morning. After talking with undersheriff Bill Waugh, deputy Bill Orr, sheriff George Y. returned from the Colorado State Laboratory in Fort Collins, where he had taken the animal—a female Shorthorn—for an autopsy. Later, as part of the sheriff's posse stopped by—dressed men with silver-buckled boots, Western shirts, who looked at me frankly, as Merle Haggard's band. The conversation was about mutilations.

Elbert County had had its first mutilations in early April 1975, and by July, the number was up to 30; the figure was to swell to around 100 by fall. The county was a breeding ground for mutilators, as there were only three sheriff's officers to cover 1,364 square miles of extremely rugged land. And the terrain—no one could catch them. Cows would get close, and then they would vanish. The sheriff told me that in Vietnam the copter pilots had to hug the landscape even in rugged areas so as to muffle their own sound.

There was an unstated attitude about the sheriff and his men that, because of the implications, was awful to think. Somehow, in some way, the Government is involved in the mutilations.

#### PASSED BY MUTILATORS

It was almost dark as we drove to the sheriff's office and drove to Kiowa along Route 88, toward

"We feel that he's using those damn strikers," Gironde said. "That setup is

0-507-51

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**THE MUTILATION MYSTERY** As far as I have been able to determine, it was investigators in Colorado who first suggested that (bacteriological-warfare research was behind) the mutilations.

perfect: They've got a van; they've got all the ground support in that van pulling that trailer; and the chopper is in the trailer." The chopper, the investigator continued, could be put in the air in a matter of minutes.

**BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE**

As far as I have been able to determine, it was investigators in Colorado who first suggested that bacteriological-warfare research was behind the mutilations—that animals were being injected with bacteria or toxins and that glands and other parts were being removed to test the effects of the agents. The mutilators, the theory went, were deliberately trying to put the blame on UFOs or satanists or predators as a cover for what was really going on. The theory has some appeal, as it makes

the whole phenomenon more cogent, and it makes many things about it very understandable.

Bacteriological and chemical-warfare research, except for purely defensive purposes, has been banned in the United States since 1970. The ban grew out of an incident in Utah in March 1968, when thousands of sheep were accidentally killed by deadly VX nerve gas that apparently floated away from the Dugway Proving Grounds, a bacteriological-warfare research center located southwest of Salt Lake City. The Army paid local ranchers something like \$376,000 in damages for 6400 snuffed sheep.

After that little ovine indiscretion, there was tremendous pressure, particularly in Utah, to ban such research and

development. President Richard Nixon himself ordered a halt to the biological and chemical programs and the destruction of existing stock piles. The order was framed in November 1969 and sent to Federal agencies in February 1970.

Not all Government agencies complied with the Presidential order, however. Senator Frank Church's Senate Select Committee on Intelligence found earlier this year that the CIA, for instance, had stored a quantity of cobra venom and enough saxitoxin (shellfish toxin) to kill hundreds of thousands of humans. Senator Church's committee also found that the CIA had socked away many registers of toxin and/or bacteria of the *Clostridia* genus. One of the theories in the mutilation case is that a rogue band of researchers is working with bacteria of the *Clostridia* genus.

There are some 93 species of *Clostridia*, among which are several diseases that afflict cattle; these include blackleg (*Clostridium chauvii*) and malignant edema (*Clostridium septicum*). *Clostridia* attack humans, also. Tetanus is caused by a *Clostridia* (*Clostridium tetani*) and one of the world's most potent poisons is produced by *Clostridium botulinum* (which causes botulism); according to Seymour Hersh's *Chemical and Biological Warfare—America's Hidden Arsenal*, a mere eight ounces of *botulinum* toxin would theoretically kill everybody in the world.

In virtually every state where mutilations have occurred, clostridial infections were found to be the cause of death in some cases. Two well-informed Colorado investigators told me that they felt that the cause of death was being covered up by vaguely worded laboratory reports prepared by the state government investigators; it has even been charged that lab reports on the mutes have been suppressed. The well-informed investigator Girodo, for instance, told me of a female buffalo that was mutilated at a zoo in Colorado Springs on October 21, 1972. "An autopsy was performed," Girodo said, "and traces of a chemical foreign to the animal were found in its blood stream. Boy, after that they clamped down on it. They didn't let another word out." El Paso County, Colorado, undersheriff Gary Gibbs, who coordinated much of the early mutilations investigation in the state, believes that a clamp was subsequently put on tests at the laboratory run by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in Denver and at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

But why would an agency of the Colorado state government participate

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation officially began its investigation of the mutilations in the summer of 1975 at the urging of Governor Richard D. Lamm; however, its report—which was released in November—showed that some investigation had been done as early as April 1975. The report was based on some 203 incidents of apparent mutilation; the conclusion was that 95 percent of the mutilations had been caused by predators.

This prompted a cross-state chorus of sneers and jeers from local law-enforcement officials, who must have begun to feel that the C.B.I. was treating them like a bunch of dumdums. Moreover, of the small number of animals that the C.B.I. admitted to have been chopped up by human hand, all had first died, the report stated, from "natural causes." The implication, of course, was that ranchers had chopped the animals up in order to collect insurance money for malicious-mischief damages. Indignant ranchers noted, however, that the report was vague as to the meaning of "natural causes."

But it was nature that ultimately shot down the C.B.I.'s predator story, as reporter Dorothy Aldridge, of the *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, has astutely observed. A blizzard in November 1975 left thousands of cattle dead on the range and the coyotes of the West went on instant cattle-gorge maneuvers. But when Aldridge checked with the rendering plant at Tribune, Kansas, which processed 30,000 of the ravaged carcasses, she learned that the predators had eaten no eyeballs, ears, floops, or other favorite treats of the mutilators. So much for the C.B.I. report.

In the fall of 1975, investigator Girono arranged for Dr. Susan Colter, director of the Trinidad, Colorado, Animal Clinic, to conduct a field autopsy on a mutilated heifer whose carcass had been discovered less than 12 hours after death.

"Was it a healthy heifer?" I later asked Girono.

"Definitely," he replied. "As a matter of fact, the rancher had her fattened up and ready to butcher."

Dr. Colter removed various parts of the animal, including the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver, and sent samples to a laboratory for analysis. I called up Dr. Colter to ask her if a *Clostridia* had been found, and she told me that, in fact, a culture of *Clostridium sordellii* had been removed from the dead animal. The inner organs of the freshly dead animal had already turned to mush—a characteristic of clostridial infection.

Girono had also asked Dr. Colter to try to clear up one of the mutilations myster-

ies: that of seemingly impossible surgery whereby the animal's hearts had been removed through thoracic incisions too small for the bovine heart. There had been two such heart extractions on mutes found near Walsenburg, Colorado. "When Susan Colter did the autopsy on that one heifer," Girono said, "I told her, 'Let's try and get that heart out of there.' I showed her the way it appeared to have been done on two other animals. And she said, 'There's no way you can do it.' She tried it, and she couldn't do it."

Was it possible, I began to wonder, that the mutilators were using razor-sharp extracting devices—similar, say, to core samplers used in geologic drilling—in order to scarf out glands or hearts or whatever else they needed for their research? That way, assuming that it's some form of toxic research, they would have been able to stand at some distance from the animal so as also to avoid self-zap from germs and poisons.

#### CHOPPERS AND MISSILES

Colorado is a key state in the nuclear-defense apparatus of the United States. The state contains several military bases and missile installations, as well as the Air Force Academy, in Colorado Springs. One would think, then, that the military-intelligence agencies would have gotten

on the stick and tried to solve a multi-state case in which helicopter-borne weapons were creating domestic terror.

Indeed, there were alarming reports that mysterious helicopters were seen hovering above nuclear-missile installations. *Sterling Journal-Advocate* reporter Bill Jackson told me of spending long nights chasing helicopters in northern Colorado, where there are many Minuteman missile silos operated by the Air Force. The area has also experienced hot and heavy waves of mutilations. "We don't know if there's any connection with the mutilations," he told me in February 1976, "but there have been incidents here in the past month of an individual or individuals trying to break into two of the installations. And missiles at both sites, according to information that I've got, have nuclear warheads."

Jackson detailed one incident in northern Colorado late in the summer of 1975 similar to that which happened at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana that following November. One night, at about ten o'clock, Jackson and law-enforcement personnel, including someone from the Air Force, began chasing what appeared to be three different flying objects. "We chased those things until about four-thirty in the morning before they disappeared over a missile site in



**THE MUTILATION MYSTERY / Can it be that the United States' near-security system is breaking down and that weirdos are free to perform drooling flamenco dances atop our missile-silo hatches?**

southwestern Nebraska. They just flat disappeared off the radar."

"Did they land?" I asked.

"Well," Jackson replied, "we had a plane in the air that was on the site and saw the lights below; it was a clear night, and when the lights went out, everybody thought that they'd landed. But when the plane came down to 100 to 150 feet, the pilot couldn't see anything."

"What was there?" I asked.

"The only thing that was there was a missile silo," Jackson said.

"Aha! I thought—the ultimate cover! Use a revamped missile site as a landing-supply zone for mute copters! There had been another incident on August 21, 1975, when an unidentified helicopter had hovered above a Strategic Air Command missile site south of Bushnell, Nebraska, then had disappeared into Colorado."

The only problem with missile installations as landing zones is their size. According to Jackson, the sites—most of which are unmanned—are enclosed with barbed-wire fence and are approximately 40 x 40'. There is a small shack on each site and then there's the sealed missile silo itself, which is about 12 feet in diameter with about a foot and a half showing above the ground. It would be difficult to hide three helicopters in such a small space, unless there was some sort of camouflaged bunker nearby. I would also guess that the electronic security is fairly intense near a nuke site, but—can it be that the United States' nuclear-security system is breaking down and that weirdos are free to perform drooling flamenco dances atop our missile-silo hatches?

**RADIOACTIVITY AND GERMS**

In recent months, there has been a minor media flap over alleged Soviet violations of the United Nations germ-warfare ban. Jack Anderson wrote a column in which he accused the Soviets of continuing germ-warfare research, while stating that the U.S. is keeping its promise to destroy biological weapons. "Both nations," Anderson said, "have developed new virus and Rickettsia strains against which the world has no immunity. This has been achieved by using chemicals, radiation, ultraviolet light and other agents to produce freaks or mutants" (emphasis added).

Traces of radiation were, in fact, found at several mutilation sites, one of them, already mentioned, in Cochran County, Texas. And Bill Jackson says that radiation was found at a mutilation site near Sterling, Colorado: "Two of the mutilations we had in 1975 were north of

Sterling in a remote area called Chimney Canyon. There's absolutely nothing up there. The animals were mutilated on a big ranch, and just out of curiosity, the sheriff took a Geiger counter along and got a reading on both animals around the head and anus—but not on the rest of their bodies." There have been reports of radioactivity at a mutilation site in Wyoming also.

The thought that radioactive-mutant bacteria, or perhaps a bacteria radioactive-material mickley, are being slipped to animals causes the mind to go "V-yi-yi!"

**THE DETECTIVE**

G. C. Erianno, a private investigator in Colorado Springs who began looking into the mutilations in May 1975, takes the bacteriological-research theory very seriously. For a number of years, Erianno was an employee of one of the clandestine intelligence services; he was stationed in Europe as, he says, "specialist in Russian affairs; later, in the early Sixties, he was based for a short time in Washington, D.C., with the office of the Secretary of Defense. Erianno has assured me that he has no current connection with the Agency; in fact, he seems to have joined the ever-growing roster of patriotic-but-critical former employees of Government intelligence agencies."

Some of Erianno's Government experiences lead him to suspect that the recent mutilations are really the work of rogue researchers. In 1961, Erianno claims, he learned that secret research was being conducted by the U.S. "in regard to bacteria." He says: "There was a meeting at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1961. One of the people there was [Secretary of Defense Robert] McNamara. At the time, I worked for the Secretary's office, so it's pretty well substantiated that they did have a meeting in regard to some type of bacteria."

"What kind of bacteria?" I asked.

"Well, in regard to Oriental warfare," Erianno replied.

I had long heard it rumored that there had been a Government germ-warfare program that had been targeted against Orientals. It was a bit disgusting to contemplate, I must say, but let us not forget that the United States has not hesitated to use defoliants, napalm and the A-bomb against these same people. Is it unreasonable to think the United States is capable of developing a germ, or toxin, or nerve agent, that picked on the enzymes of a particular race?

According to the bacteriological-warfare theory, the group behind the mutilations consists of scientists who were

fired in 1970 when the Nixon ban on bacteriological-warfare research went into effect; somehow, the story goes, these apostles of germ five subsequently obtained clandestine funding from the Government. There has also been speculation that a private corporation stepped in to fund the research, perhaps in anticipation of the day when the Government ban would be dropped.

One of the grim possibilities is that, while once supposedly targeted against Orientals, the research may now be aimed against a different human target. One hears talk among mutilation investigators that the mucous membranes of a cow's eye possess properties similar to the mucous membranes of a particular race, and that the cow, therefore, is a perfect subject on which to test the effects of a bacteriological agent.

It all sounded to me to be a bit off the padded walls of oo-ee-oo. In talking with reporter Bill Hendrix of KTVX-TV in Salt Lake City, however, I learned that, during the Sixties, the Dugway Proving Ground did work on an anti-Oriental germ or toxin; the stuff had been sent to Dugway—presumably from Fort Detrick or the Edgewood Arsenal (the Maryland homes of such research)—where scientists had tested it on animals.

An official at Dugway had confirmed to Hendrix that an elite group at the bacteriological-research facilities in the East had been working on such a germ weapon. They usually worked under laboratory conditions, but on two occasions, the scientists went to Texas and possibly to Minnesota, where they illegally injected range animals.

Was the anti-Oriental germ or toxin a *Clostridia*? Very possibly. While *Clostridia* is very common, it has, according to scientists, the potential for sophisticated development against specific targets.

One question comes immediately to mind: Why, instead of causing terror, don't the mutilators just rent a ranch somewhere and buy a herd of cattle and start chopping? One theory, as supplied by a Colorado newspaper editor named Dane Edwards, is that the researchers need to experiment at different altitudes, climates and seasons of the year, apparently to see if this particular strain will work in the various parts of the world where the target race dwells. I asked investigator Giroud why he thought the mutants might want to cause terror, and he replied: "Well, there are many possibilities; one is that the researchers are

trying to kick it off their own backs and get it onto that of the occult."

Another question is: Since we ranchers are among the most patriotic of Americans, why not just hand them checks and tell them that the CIA wants a couple of their cattle—national security, you know—and to please leave the gate unlocked and to keep quiet about it?

Down in Nara Vista, New Mexico, for instance, Kathy Cammack operates a ranch with her husband in an area that has been hard-hit with muties and copters and even UFOs. Mrs. Cammack has investigated the muties for a local newspaper. In spite of the weirdness and terror, she wrote, "If this is Government military maneuvers, then it is time people are informed. To say that there are experiments or research in process that are classified would set many minds at ease. And, at the same time, Americans could be pleased, proud and appreciative of the endeavor. We, the people, are called on to provide tax money and to provide young men to fight in wars. Surely we can be trusted to be kept informed about things that affect us."

Apparently not. First of all, the activities of a rogue group of chopopaths who defy a Presidential order could well become a hot election-year campaign issue in a country where millions distrust the Government after years of Watergate, CIA revelations, corruption, *et multa alia*.

Secondly, there is a good chance that some of these researchers, whatever their credentials, are insane. They may have some of the highest security clearances obtainable and impeccable reputations in their fields, but they're still sickies. Sometimes I think these bovine surgeons are trying for art. You look at photos of these smooth and perfect chop-up patterns—neat circles, occasionally sporting a saw-toothed edge, etc.—and you wonder if they aren't striving to produce some sort of military-industrial-surrealist soft-sculpture movement. Consider, for instance, the two-week-old calf killed near Sterling, Colorado, in early March 1976. It was small enough for the muties to carry away the body. Only the head was left behind. They cut off the back part of the tongue and then reinserted the tip into the calf's mouth, where it was later found by the lucky person who had to poke within.

#### SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER

It was the summer and fall of 1975 that fully revealed the enormous scope and security precautions of the mutilators. Between September and December, the mutie wave broke in 13 states and there was terror in dozens of counties throughout the West. There were plenty of reports of copters and UFO reports. There



# THE MUTILATION MYSTERY In Idaho, a man was driving his jeep at about 3:30 A.M. when, he claims, 15 masked people stood across the highway with locked arms and tried to stop his car.

were few footprints. No one was caught.

There was a particularly interesting case in Apache County, Arizona, where mutilated animals were found to have mysterious softball-sized burns. I called sheriff Art Lee and asked him about this report. "There were three of them that had the burn, on the inside of the right hindquarter, about halfway up the ham," he said. "The livestock investigator out of Phoenix wrote a letter to the local newspaper here," Lee told me, "and said that these are all predator-ravaged carcasses. I answered him and I wasn't very nice about it. The same thing happened—these are not predator-ravaged carcasses."

In Montana, the mutilations began around June 1975, and by December, the number of carcasses found was close to 100. They were definitely human caused, according to Captain Wolverton, of Cascade County. Wolverton has studied the mutilations nationwide (as mentioned earlier, he went to Marion Federal Penitentiary to give a polygraph examination to A. Kenneth Bynkston), and he told me about a mutilation case that occurred in early 1975, in which the animal had been mutilated with an instrument that causes a saw-toothed outline that made by pinkie shears. Wolverton also had a case involving burns. "We have one lab report that came in on a very fresh cow—within 23 hours of its death. We got the analysis back and it said that the edges of the lips had been serrated and burned."

The mutilations began in New Mexico in August and lasted until around Thanksgiving; they started up again in early 1976. In October and November, there were mutilations in Nebraska. In Missouri, the mutilations began in early October and continued in several counties into December 1975. There were about ten cases reported in Harney County, Oregon, at the end of the summer—in the region that borders Nevada in the southwestern part of the state. There were a number of mutilations in Wisconsin in October 1975, one of which involved animals belonging to Richard Boom, of Eastman. "Boom thinks that the cattle... were killed with a gas grenade," *The Milwaukee Journal* reported on October 12th.

In Wyoming, beginning in September, there was that tedious mix of helicopters, UFOs and a lot of mutilated cattle; there was one incident in Weston County on October 6th, where an 850-pound Hereford cow was carved up and an area inside its left-rear flank apparently shaved clean. And then, to give the site that

proper UFO appearance, there was a bunch of "mysterious yellow circles," about two feet in diameter, that were located from ten to 300 yards from the mutilated site.

In Idaho that September, a forest-service employee spotted several persons in hooded black robes walking down Cove Creek in Blaine County; the next day, several dead cattle were found, but the hooded hikers—despite an intensive search—were never found. Then, in northern Idaho on October 9th, a man was driving his jeep along U.S. 95 at about 3:30 A.M. when, he claims, 15 masked people stood across the highway with locked arms and tried to stop his car; the man got away, but the spirit of terror did not. The *Teton Valley News*, of Driggs, Idaho, for instance, responded by printing this warning last Halloween: "Parents, please be sure you know where your children are at night and especially Halloween night. On Halloween night, with the happenings in our own area, it would be advisable to have the younger children home before dark and the older ones home immediately after the football game scheduled on that night."

Idaho was hard-hit. The mutilations were first discovered in June and the toll probably went over 100 by the time bad weather arrived in the fall. Police used the usual roadblock, radio and aircraft methods of investigation to no avail.

## PRESSURE

As far as I have been able to determine, the only U.S. Government official to state publicly that a mutilated animal had been injected with a toxin or bacteria was Dr. Robert Hedelius, a veterinary medical officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who works in Utah. Dr. Hedelius is one of a group of about 150 highly trained individuals who serve as USDA foreign-animal-disease diagnosticians—doctors who play a major part in keeping foreign animal diseases out of the United States. Hedelius' mutilation case involved a pregnant heifer that was discovered just before dawn on September 30, 1975, two miles outside of Emery, Utah, in the middle of the state. Law-enforcement officials suspected that the mutilators had been disturbed in their work and had had to split precipitously before they were through. According to a report prepared by the Emery County sheriff's office, two "professional trackers" analyzed the dry pasture grass at the site and determined that two persons had left the scene and that they had

walked along a fence for about a half-mile to the road, where presumably they were picked up. Jeep posse members searched the entire area, but found no further clues.

It was strictly by chance that Hedelius happened to be in the vicinity the following afternoon. "A highway patrolman drove by and recognized my car," Hedelius told me. He went to the site where the heifer lay and performed a field autopsy; he then prepared a report of his findings for the Emery County sheriff. Reading the Hedelius report, one finds that the usual things had been done to the animal. The placenta was missing; the uterus had been cut into two and was lying on the ground next to the three-month-old fetus, which had been removed; the tip of the heifer's tail was also removed. Just an average mutilation.

"What caused the actual death of the heifer?" "It was a disease of the Clostridia family," Hedelius told me. "When I did the autopsy, it was apparent that the disease was extremely localized in the neck—an area about the size of a baseball."

That night, after the autopsy, Hedelius' opinion that someone had injected a toxin or a disease into the heifer was broadcast on Salt Lake City TV. Bill Hendrix, Channel 4, interviewed Hedelius and asked the following question: "And how do you suppose this animal contracted the bacteria?" Hedelius answered: "We Clostridia bacteria are very common and are usually localized in one part of the infected animal. However, in this case, it was extremely localized. You may say it was pinpointed, and I believe the bacteria were injected into the heifer."

In one of several subsequent conversations with Hedelius, I asked him about the warnings he reportedly had received from higher officials after his TV interview. "Initially," he said, "I talked reporters; but afterward, you tell me I was muzzled, both by state and federal people. I was told that I was not to go to any of the news media." I then asked him about a campaign supposedly launched to discredit him. "Well, about a week after this [interview] happened, the state veterinarian of Utah appeared on television—I saw him myself—there was a real effort made to discredit everything. He said it was the work of predators and that the mouse-inoculation test was negative. The mice that were injected [with bacteria taken from the heifer] still were well and happy." Hedelius explains this by noting that the Clostridia are anaerobic bacteria and

order that local law-enforcement officials may not check or search them. *affixed to Government vehicles in*

live in the open air. Through her sloth or a deliberate botch-up, Hedelius' tissue samples were exposed to oxygen by others in the lab and therefore the inoculation tests were useless.)

When I talked to him, Hedelius stood firmly behind his findings. "I'm sure that whoever did this, shot the animal with a dart gun, and that he used either a culture of the bacteria or a dose of the toxin produced by the bacteria."

"Do you think," I asked, "that there's some sort of research going on?"

"Yeah, I think so. And just why it's being done is the question."

Hedelius made many salient observations relative to the case. For instance, when asked how easy it would be to obtain these bacteria or toxins, he replied: "It's very easy. There are perhaps a couple of hundred biological-supply houses in the country. . . . They could buy and propagate the culture, which produces toxins very easily." Would it take great expertise to isolate the poisons? Not really. "Actually, anybody who has had a basic course in bacteriology could do it. It's not that complicated."

On the other hand, Hedelius stressed the possibility that the whole case might be more complex than it appears to be. For instance, there was a complete lack of gas in the paunch or rumen (the first stomach) of the heifer he autopsied. He speculates that, for some reason, the mutilators may have sterilized the rumen. "Dead animals start to bloat quite rapidly after they die, especially in the hot sun; but with this animal, the first thing that impressed me was the absolute lack of bloating—and I wasn't called in on this until the late afternoon. The carcass was just about as fresh as it could be."

"How soon after death does a deceased animal start bloating?"

"Oh, just about immediately," Hedelius said. "Especially in the case of a ruminant animal, like a cow. Cows always have a certain amount of gas. But when I opened this animal up, the intestinal track and the rumen were absolutely empty and completely devoid of gas. I had never seen anything like it. Even when a cow is slaughtered at a packing plant, there's a certain amount of gas present immediately afterward. And so I can only conjecture that, with this research, perhaps there's a little more to it. Maybe they are, in fact, sterilizing the rumen, so that these gases are not produced."

It's enough to boggle the mind of a poor inquiring poet like me. Perhaps they are using the living systems of these

animals as instant bacteria or toxin farms. Reading Sy Herah's scary book on chemical and biological snuff, one encounters something the U. S. developed called mortality-enhancing factors (known, naturally, as MEFs); these agents are added to ordinary biologicals so as to greatly speed up the kill time of a disease. Perhaps the muties are using MEFs to produce quick death, or a quick rush of production of something they want to collect. One researcher, in fact, does claim that the mutilators have got their disease death time down to 15 minutes. There are also reports that the glands that are removed from the animals, as well as the ears, eyes and tail tips, are the kinds of things that bona-fide researchers might take, in order to check the spread of chemical or biological agents.

#### HOW TO BREAK THE CASE

Whoever breaks this case could collect at least \$26,850, which is the approximate total of rewards now being offered by various state cattle associations, governors, newspapers, etc. Private investigator Erianne has presented what seems to me to be a good approach to cracking this case, based on his long experience in the intelligence field. Analyze the mutilation mutilities in order to locate them. "I think they've made mutilations all along the way," he told me. "Penetrate the mutilation system of mistake cover-up and you're on the right road."

Erianne points out the similarity of the secrecy in this case to the secrecy around, say, the U-2 overflights. The U-2 flights could have been uncovered by investigative reporters through examination of the civilian-based supply and logistical companies; even requisition or order forms held clues as to the nature of the enterprise involved. In the mutilation case, Erianne points out, one could check helicopter-fuel delivery systems and repairs ordered for supply vehicles; one could look for unusual vans, perhaps with Federal seals affixed, which may appear to have broken down by the side of the road.

It turns out that the way that flying services transport helicopters—for oil-field work, for example—is to carry them in big vans; these vehicles have a sling-shot loading device, enabling the copiers to be swung in and out of the van. Erianne points out that the Government, or a rogue unit within it, could easily move vans, helicopters and supply equipment throughout mutilation country. There is, he relates, a certain type of seal that is affixed to Government vehicles in order that local law-enforcement officials

may not check or search them—even in the event of a highway accident. If there is a wreck, only Government people may examine the wreckage. Therefore, sealed Government or military equipment—railway cars or trucks—can travel in total secrecy anywhere in the United States.

Erianne is skeptical about what will occur when some mutilator is actually caught carving a Hereford in some rural county. "I think the only person who can break something like this," Erianne says, "is someone with knowledge of the affairs of a large organization and of how it produces its particular type of operations. And I don't think a deputy sheriff with a slight background in law enforcement or intelligence is going to be able to do it. If he does catch a guy, or two guys, the culprit's background is going to be covered as far as possible. And the victim is going to be pacified. The prosecution may be for trespassing or some misdemeanor like that."

I mentioned to Erianne, as I had to other investigators, the obvious weirdness of the muties—that, whatever the impeccable scientific or security credentials, they're still sick-sick-sick. "Well," he responded, "we just don't know what the second or third echelon of high Government is doing."

I detect a sense, in reading Herah's book on the chemical/biological warfare, that that sense tends to attract people—scientists and military officials—with just a touch of fanaticism. Officers and researchers in the Army's Chemical Corps are quoted as placing nerve gas right up there beside apple pie in the pantheon of patriotic symbolism. So, what knows? Assuming that the whole matter is not the work of sloppy over-zealous bowery bums, maybe in 1970 these patriotic waxed wroth over Nixon's war and began to figure out ways to continue their activities.

Whoever they are, they're definitely operating expensively—and with a sense of urgency. Helicopter-fuel costs alone must be up there in six figures; in Utah, for instance, the rental on the copiers from which coyotes and predators are shot is \$125 an hour. As for wages, the muties may well be determined to take advantage of the apparent weakness in the Executive Branch at this time.

But there's always hubris waiting to destroy them. The old Greek phrase of hubris, overweening and arrogant and careless pride of conduct, will cause the muties to make a breaking effort. They'll do it.



# FBI Joins Investigation of Animal Mutilations Linked to URUS

By WILLIAM EARNHILL, BOB PLATT and DAVID WRIGHT

The FBI has joined in the investigation of the bizarre mutilation of thousands of grazing horses and cattle over wide areas — usually within 100 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The measure of the FBI role was made at a recent conference in Mexico City, where the attacks have reached an alarming level.

Dr. Henry Montell, (R-N, Mex.), the ex-attendant and scientist who organized the conference, declared: "Perhaps we've got a UFO situation. We've got a question, but we can't say which is enormously well funded."

At least 2,000 cattle and horses have been butchered with surgical precision over an estimated 1.25 million square mile area stretching from Tennessee to Oregon since the mutilations began around 1970. The 2.25 million square miles is more than a third of the total land area in the continental United States.

In many cases the attacks are associated with UFO sightings, said investigators.

The strange pattern of the mutilations, including their timing, location, and the fact that they are found near the mutilated carcasses.

Only the blood and certain parts of the animals — usually the reproductive organs — are removed.

Two elements found on and in some carcasses are the same as those collected after a UFO sighting in New Mexico.

Buzzards and coyotes refuse to eat the mutilated horses and cattle.

Sen. Schmidt, who received a Ph.D. in zoology from Harvard University and was a member of the Apollo 17 moon-landing crew, said state and local law enforcement officials have been unable to cope up with heads on their own and FBI help is needed.

To date, the mutilations have been as mysterious as they've been grisly," he said.

The Justice Department authorized the FBI office in Albuquerque to become involved in the investigation of these crimes on the basis that several of the mutilation killings occurred on Indian lands.

Many attacks have occurred on animals at the Sycilla ranch in southern New Mexico.



Map of the United States showing the locations of animal mutilations.

BARPLING incidents have occurred in 10 states.

Dr. Henry Montell, an engineering physicist at Sandia Laboratories which handles secret government projects, revealed that Indians are so terrified by the mutilations, they bury the carcasses immediately and are reluctant to discuss what happened. Even their dogs refuse to go near the carcasses.

Dr. Montell, who has been investigating the mutilations for several years, said: "There have been thousands of these mutilations, nobody knows about. The Indians are usually frightened to death," he said.

"They don't say anything about it because they know it's being done by star people, they know it's being done by star people, they know it's being done by star people," he said.



EXPERIMENTAL New Mexico wrote trooper Carlos Valdez, asking for tissue samples from a mutilated cow found at Dulce, N. Mex. Assisting him is retired scientist Howard Burgess, who's investigated several similar incidents with Valdez.

Those any their exact words: "The star people know what they're doing — and should be treated."

Dr. Montell said he has no doubt that alien "from outer space" are responsible for the animals' bodies as part of their study of life on earth.

Many other investigators — police, scientists and UFO researchers — agree that UFOs are the only possible explanation.

Said Richard Sigismund, a Boulder, Colo., psychologist and

UFO researcher: "What few clues we have concerning these suggest that we are dealing with well-equipped, highly capable alien entities. We are looking for the hypodermis that undisciplined alien are the means — UFOs."

To address the mystery, District Attorney Roy McWaters of Espanola, N. Mex., is seeking a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Admitting UFOs are a possibility, he said: "I might be the first district attorney in the country to prosecute an alien from outer space."

