The Mutilation Mystery

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 cows.

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 dongs caused speculation that wizards were involved. Suspicion fell upon one or more of the following: (1) the irresponsible shamanism of those great pseudo-priests, the hippies; (2) sex deviations practicing bull-dong/cow-vulva atrocities; or (3) the rites of some religious cultists of a devil-worshiping nature.

Many authorities denied. 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 animal health commission declared that 99 percent of the deaths of animals that had been mutilated had been caused by natural causes. 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, 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 damaging cats and scattered hunks of flesh (predators do not eat meat). Also, though many animals were found in secluded areas, others were found near barns or a few feet from sleeping farmers' windows. And then there were the helicopters.

Helicopters without filed plans were sighted quite often in the affected 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 was being rustled along the border and refueling areas. The theories that the helicopters were part of a secret military exercise or that they were simply practicing blackleg, a disease that causes death, was then declared 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 eyes but also the eyelids, membranes and all. There was to be more. Much more.

ESPN: 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 some organs were removed, apparently surgically. High officials again leaned toward the predatory coyote/crow/sacred-with-a-scalpel theory. The toll of mutilates, 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 mutilators were the acts of helicopter-equipped devil worshippers, or some sort of spread among the farmers of Nebraska. Sheriff Decker of the town of Red Cloud, in Knox County, reported that, on several occasions, helicopters were seen on nights when mutilations occurred. There were also copters spotting just over the horizon in Iowa, where on July 12th, a Honey 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 mystery still remained unsolved in South Dakota. In October, a man was found shot in the head near Yankton. Again, copters and boring gourines were much in evidence, and the authorities chose to place the blame on predators. There was one notable exception. D. Mahlon W. Verhues, associate professor of veterinary science at South Dakota State University, said that the animals had been examined at the school and that some of them had probably been mutilated by Homo sapiens.

In Minnesota, meanwhile, there was one case that was considered to be a possible solution to a part of the mystery. On Friday, October 4, 1974, a 400-pound cow was mutilated at the Charles Neff farm, in the extreme southwestern tip of the state. Both of the bull's ears were chewed off and its head was completely damaged. The local vet said that the cause of death was blackleg, a disease caused by Clostridium bacteria. Nevertheless, the lawmen added, there was a sign of struggle, such as in case of blackleg, nor was there much blood in the carcass. In fact, the animal appeared to be mutilated after the....
caused by disease. The coopting-satirist hypothesis was so compelling, however, that no one was yet ready to entertain the theory that the bull had been infested with Closuticia bacteria or toxins—perhaps for experimental purposes.

For indeed, how difficult it would have been for a bunch of airborne turkeys to invoke a cold, dead animal in the dark? An attempt at isolation might have been within the realm of possibility; but any idea of the bull's being ready for weird smells also, as the fumes from a rotting cow causes one to seriously consider pushing as a high-priority activity.

THE UFO ANGLE

The incident that ultimately brought the UFO-sleuth nexus into the public picture occurred in mid-December 1974, when a cow was found dead on the farm of Frank Johnson, 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 roadblocks 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 suggested, by alien-satirist's common technique; 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 pontificate that UFOlogists like him were as much as most Americans—although, again, the public of the animal taken were those seldom found in any but a weirdo's casserole. Nevertheless, Mitchell's theory created a stir. The Minnesota State Marshal immediately telephoned interview on Tom Snyder's NBC Today show in late 1974.

"It was at this time 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. In January 1975, Dr. Hynek asked him to investigate the Minnesota mutilations.

Flickinger traveled to Kimball, interviewed Frank Schiefelbien and rapidly demolished the UFO hypothesis. The saucer-landing divots in the pond turned out to be water holes chopped in the ice; the tree branches had been broken by the wind and by Schiefelbien 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 Doen, a Kansas state senator. In late 1974, Doen 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, Doen 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 Doen that the mutilation were the work of a clandestine society of Satan, which had decided to expand its public visibility.

Doen did not place much credence 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 it members scattered the animals' blood with hypodermic needles, and that the mutilators were infected with "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, which led to a university researcher death. Most terrifying of all, Bankston claimed that the animal mutilations are but a prelude to what he shall here call hum-sac, or human sacrifice.

Bankston was quick to tell Clark that he had to help authorities round up priests 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," he reported them to a number of organizations that were investigating the case. The investigation was brought to an end over the next few months, the cattle mutilations spread like a psychoactive epidemic into 22 Western states.

THE BANKSTON SCENARIO

At Flickinger's urging, Clark went 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 21, 1975, for instance, Bankston swore that he had been threatening and 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 state penitentiary, 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 Myres Lord, a respected Minnesota liberal jurist. Lord urged Flickinger to contact 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, asking for a transfer so that he could get away from Minneapolis; he said that he feared a group of deviant bikers who were heavily involved in the mutilations and some of whom believed, had contacts within law-enforcement circles. The group was said to be located in the Minneapolis area, and if they should misbehave, they might hurt what he wanted. Bankston said, was some small county jail, out of the way.

Bankston had said that he could bring to Minnesota for questioning the former Leavenworth inmate-friend of named Don Dugan. Dugan, who was serving time at LaTuna Correctional Institution in Texas, had actually been Bankston's claim went, been a member of the satanic society and had participated in its rituals—including the dress code—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 allegations at one time taken very seriously by them political liberals—who were killed by the mutilators. Minnesota Attorney General Hubert Humphrey, a close friend of Lord's, was on the alleged list, so the names of newspapers, state and Congress and even movie actor Novak. Accordingly, on February 1975, Bankston...
(Continued from page 32) 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 help from Dr. Clark and former Army paratroop commander 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 through other inmates who had recorded their 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 then hefted the animal's muzzle to an animal's nose to cause its heart to beat rapidly, then withdrew the tool via a large X-50mation device. 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 this evasive evidence, Bankston claimed, was that the mutilations would appear as 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 sites, including some in Alaska. He told Bankston of an idea to store 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 Munson's missile sites in Missouri, which there were also anomalous mutilations; according to law-enforcement officials in the area, Munson 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 described was all-Caucasian; it was extremely anti-black and anti-Mexican. Its adherents, in fact, could be called Satanists. And what was the name of this organization? In his letters—and I have 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 worshipers offered him a path of escape; 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 salutes 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 satanic activity. One woman on the list, for instance, had been arrested in 1969 for robbing a bank 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 grasp of the satanic 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 Casad, 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 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 the ceremonies on the deceased, and withdrew blood and worked satanic cruelties. Afterward, Dugan claimed, the bodies were cut up and placed in garbage 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 Casad were informed of Dugan's story as soon as the bodies were located. At the same time, police searched 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 1975.

Bankston also accused an attorney in Oklahoma of having shared his enthusiasm for plutonium in her basement. What 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 sabotage at a plutonium-processing plant, Kerr-McGee's Cimarron Falls, in Crescent, Oklahoma.

Plutonium is extremely dangerous, and is one of the deadliest of poisons. Only 4.4 pounds of it are needed to make an atomic bomb powerful enough to vaporize the downtown of a city. When a cloud of plutonium shafts mobile across the land, it stains the earth, as it has done in an investigation went over to David Burton of the New York Times. "The day after he was killed, when friends searched his wreckage, the file was missing. Bankston's story raised the possibility that Silkwood's prematurely burned across the prairie as the mob as it ripped off plutonium for its own domestic terror weapon."

When Federal officials checked records, they were surprised to see a passenger list of Bankston and Silkwood on a plane that was scheduled to fly over the site. The plane was already suspected by local authorities of having contact with a prominent member of the Mafia."

All in all, the Bankston-Dugan case was the ultimate tale of terror, involving bizarre sleep talking and satanic rituals in the name of Satan, and terror, quirks with buried violence and the ominous possibility ofưenck stockbrokers and people who want to get their hands on any of the mob's 400 members."

Because some of what the informants were saying agreed with Flickinger's belief that Dugan was involved in the ATF duties and was found guilty of the mutilations case, the United States Attorney Robert Fedders in Minneapolis,

What actually went on...
THE MUTILATION MYSTERY. 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 organization 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 the 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 ten-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 cult. 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 Makig 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 satanic ceremonies.

Some authorities believe, the Bankston-Dugan affair was part of a master escape plan, predicated on the assumption that the county jail is smaller to fleen than a big Federal pen. On May 27, Bankston did, in fact, escape from the jail in Starks, Minnesota (to which he had been sent 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 doubts cast on the satanic thesis, the investigations continued to spread and to increase in frequency. They were especially common in Texas, where Bankston was to have his last-filled innings as well.

LONE-STAR MUTES

One star at a map of Texas, with its 254 counties containing some 17,000,000 head of cattle—incidentally, there are more cattle than people in Texas—and it is obvious that a group of moneyed mutilators could ship away pretty much to the tune of their own folly. More than $50,000 cattle reportedly die each year in Texas from natural causes, so a few hundred more 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 June 21, for instance, Hopkins County sheriff Paul R. Jones announced that a blood-sucking group called 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 attribute 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 flies spread widely; predators quickly arrive by land, air, and burrow for the feast.)

-A year later, in January, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram paid for toxicology tests on cattle found near Brownwood, and the results 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 shot 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-saucer sightings reports in early March, two mutilated cattle 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 mutilated mutes in Minnesota. As several of the mutilated mutes, 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 mutilation 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 thesis 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 Southern Cattle Ranchers 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-weapon research. I found no indication, however, that the California and Texas Sons of Satan were connected.

Between January and September 1975, John Makig of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram wrote a series of articles on the mutilations. The articles eventually attracted the attention of state-mob officials in Bankston, who began a correspondence with Makig, in which he repeated some of his old charges and also came up with some new, even more lurid, ideas. There is no mystery about 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 120 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, Makig began to treat Bankston with more caution. When Bankston announced in a letter that the mutilators were going to
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In Utah, a United State Department of Agriculture veterinarian announced that an animal had been autopsied and had been injected with bacteria or toxin.

A vendetta 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 had already fingered a member of the mute-mob as an animal 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 Wightman, 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 raising alleged members of the mutilation to include the alleged leader and the woman, and found strong indications of involvement.

In early October 1975, Makeig wrote a scathing article in the Star-Telegram discrediting most of Bankston's allegations as self-servingly baseless. Bankston was finished in Texas.

Weird and unusual.

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 had been autopsied because of its discovery 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, thyroid specialists, and radiology experts, issued a report dated March 3, 1975.

The report was a masterpiece of accuser. The animals had died of "natural causes." And who was shopping away at the carcasses? "It was the opinion of the task-force members that the human involvement can be traced to an attempt to get in on a big or young people dissecting dead carcasses for biological or experimental purposes [emphasis added]." The report also stated: "We are dealing with the opinion, the human involvement in mutilations is a sad generation by publicity and is only temporary."

A sad! You know: Hula Hoops, phonebook Paddington, twisted, twisted against the war, and now rectangle and teenagers with secret dreads under these 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 northeastern 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 full of terror of the sort that talk-show comedians ascribe to the streets of New York City. People were afraid to venture far from home where helicopters hovered over wild and antelope lay still and mutilated in the dawn.

Despite the organized efforts of law enforcement officials, the mutilations continued unchecked in Colorado until the first snow fell in the fall; then they ceased to a virtual end. The investigators had gotten wise over the year. They understood to discard any involvement of blood drinkers, or sea-created Satanic; if such weepers were involved, the thinking went, it was only, peripherally and a scrap in the real villains in the shops.

My very own language excels.

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 list marked SACRIFICE (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 horrible data, and I really wanted a respite from the images of violence and mutilation, 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 had been forwarded to me from the publisher of my Manson book was exhibiting thoroughness. Upon my urging, the wrappings were removed. Inside was a box in which rested a large cow's tongue. I instantly recalled my file of mutilation clips, and the fact that tongues were often removed from the animals.
Springs. Naturally, I was scanning the skies for flying mute squads. Suddenly I saw a light appear under the clouds. I was excited! I could see the headlines: "HEAT- INVESTIGATOR BREAKS INTERSTATE- TERROR CASE." I looked for an entrance to the grazing range, envisioning a cross-country chase after evil Satan scientists. I stopped the car and got out to listen for the whirring of chopper blades; alas, the light had disappeared, and there was nothing to do but drive onward. I was feeling a mixture of disappointment and elation—I mean, who really wants to have a rumble with airborpe surgical professionals? And the ugly headlines:

"HEAT- INVESTIGATOR MAILED TO FRIENDS." :

As we continued, however, we were passed by a shiny white van, which was pulling a large shiny white trailer and must have been traveling at 85 miles per hour. I tried to catch up, hoping to copy down the license number, but couldn't keep up. The trailer, I decided, was definitely large enough to carry a small helicopter, and I had just suggested to someone at the sheriff's office that maybe the mute mob was using trucks to transport copters into the vicinity of targeted cattle ranges.

Months later, I was speaking with the chief investigator at the district attorney's office in Trinidad, Colorado. "Louis, Girod, you blame the theory that the muta- tion were part of a bacteriological-war-зван project," I said. "Girod talked about the staging areas, or ground-support systems, that the nanomutant mob would have to have in order to operate with safety and impunity."

"Well, we know they are ground sup- ported," he replied. "We know there are nanomutants people on the ground with trucks." He mentioned a rancher in Kim, Colorado, who had shot at and hit one. "I then asked, "Do you have anything on big white vans pulling white trailers?""

"And he replied, "Yeah. Texas plates; yeah, sure do."

Girod went on to describe an east Colorado ranch that he knew to be under heavy security—with guards, guard dogs, chained access routes, and so forth. The ranch was owned by some sort of doctor. "And," he continued, "this was one place where they had taken photos of the particular type of trailer you're talking about." Officials had flown over the armed ranch to take photos of the vehicles and the doctor had called up the local Federal Aviation Administration office to complain; when officials then asked to be allowed onto the property, the doctor refused."

"We feel that he's using those damn 204," Girod said. "That setup is
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, 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 blew away from the Dugway Proving Grounds, a bacteriological-warfare research center located southwest of Salt Lake City. The Army paid local ranchers something like $175,000 in damages for 6,000 suffocated sheep.

After that little...indication, there was tremendous pressure, particularly in Utah, to ban such research and development. President Richard Nixon himself ordered a halt to the biological warfare program and the destruction of existing VX nerve gas. 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 VX nerve gas enough to kill dozens of thousands of human beings. Senator Church's committee also found that the CIA had socked away many mysteries of VX nerve gas for emotional use of the CIA.

There are some 93 species of Clostridium, among which are several diseases that affect cattle: these include blackleg (Clostridium chauvoi) and malignant edema (Clostridium septicum). Clostridium attack humans, also. Typhus is caused by a Clostridium (Clostridium tetani) and one of the world's most potent stains is produced by Clostridium botulinum (which causes botulism). According to Seymour Hersh's *Chemical and Biological Warfare—America's Hidden Arsenal*, a mere 4,000 gallons of botulinum toxin would theoretically kill everybody in the world.

In virtually every state where National Guard troops were called out, 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 state of death was being covered up by vaguely worded reports by the state government investigators, who had not been charged with the task of investigating. The reports for the states have been suppressed. The well-informed investigators, for instance, told me of a female buffalo that was mutilated or a snake in Colorado Springs on October 21, 1968.

"An autopsy was performed," Girod said, "and traces of a chemical foreign to the animal were found in its blood stream. Boy, after that they clamped down on us. They didn't let another word out." E. Paso County, Colorado, underlies Gary Gibb, who spearheaded much of the early mutilation investigation in the state. He 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 none investigation had been done as early as April 1975. The report was based on some 295 incidents of apparent mutilation; the conclusion was that 95 percent of the mutilations had been caused by predators.

This prompted a froastate chorus of aide and fear from local law-enforcement officials, who must have begun to feel that the CBI was treating them like a bunch of dumbards. Moreover, of the small number of animals that the CBI aimed to have balled up by human hands, 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-mischievous 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 CBI’s maddening story, as reporter Dorothy Aldridge of the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, has unashamedly observed. A blizzard in November 1975 left thousands of cattle dead in the range and the corries of the West went on instant cattle-corch maneuvers. But, in Aldridge, checked with the rendering plant at Tiobune, Kansas, which processed 30,000 of the indigenous carcasses, he learned that the predators had eaten no eyeballs, ears, noses, or other favorite treat of the mutilators. So much for the CBI report.

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

“Was it a healthy heifer?” I asked Girodo.

“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 Clostridium had been found, and she told me that, in fact, a culture of Clostridium perfringens 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.

Girodo had also asked Dr. Colter to try to clear up one of the mutilations mysteri-
southern 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 or 150 feet, the pilot couldn't see anything.

"What was there?" I asked.

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

"Aha! I thought—the ultimate cover! Used a revamped missile site as a landing/supply zone for quite some time! There had been a "shack incident" on August 21, 1975, when an unidentified helicopter had hovered above a Strategic Air Command missile site south of Buhl, Nebraska, then had disappeared into Colorado.

The only problem with missile installations as landing zones is their size. According to Jackson, the site—most of which are unmanned—are enclosed with barbed-wire fence and are approximately 200 x 400. There is a small shack on each site and then there's the scaled missile site itself, which is about 12 feet in diameter with a 10-foot wall 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 camouflage bunker nearby. I would also point out that the electronic system is fairly intense near a nuke site, but—can it be that the United States nuclear-security system is breaking down and that we're free to perform drooling filmdance around our missile-site hatches?"

RADIOACTIVITY AND GERM

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)

Trace 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 neck—but not on the rest of their bodies. There have been reports of radioactive activity at a "mutilation site" in Wyoming also.

The thought that radioactive-material bacteria, or perhaps a bacteria radioactive-material icicle, are being slipped to animals causes the mind to go "spitfire!"

THE DETECTIVE

C. G. Esth, a private investigator in Colorado Springs, who began looking into the mutilations in May 1975, takes the bacteriological Research doctorately very seriously. For a number of years, Esth has been an employee of one of the clandestine intelligence services; he was mentioned in Myra's book as a 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. Esth wonders if he has any current connection with the Agency; in fact, he seems to have joined the ever-growing roster of patriots-but-critical former employees of Government intelligence agencies.

Some of Esth's Government experiences have led him to suspect that the recent mutilations are really the work of regime researchers. In 1961, Esth claimed, he learned that secret research was being conducted by the U.S. in "several secret places." 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. It was pretty well subsidized, that they did have a meeting in regard to some type of research."

"What kind of bacteria?" I asked.

"Well, in regard to Oricinal warfare," Esth replied.

I had long heard 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 poked the enemy 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 fumes 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 distinctly different human target.

One hopes to learn more about Esth's investigators that the enormous weapon of the world's secret weapons is the mosaic 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 sounds to me like a ship out of its Vincentian, of course. In talking with reporter Bill Hendrix of KTVK 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 in Maryland—and tested on such research—where scientists had tested 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 project. 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 Cholera? Possibly. While Cholera is very common, it has, according to scientists, the potential for sophisticated development against specific targets. One cure was said to be efficacious: Why, instead of causing death, don't the mutilators just send a wave of disease out of the U.S. and start chopping? One theory, as supplied by a Colorado newspaper editor named Dan Edwards, is that the researchers used to experiment on children. And the year—apparently to see if this particular strain would work in the various parts of the world where the target race dwells. I asked investigator Girod why he thought the studies might want to cause temper, 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

couple of their cattle—national secu-

rity, 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 mutes and copters

and even UFOs. Mrs. Cammack has

investigated the mutes for a local news-
paper. In spite of the weirdness and ter-

tor, she wrote: "If this is Government

military maneuvers, then it is time people

are informed. To say that there are exper-

iments, or research, or 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

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."

Apparent not. First of all, the activ-

ities of a rogue group of chupacabras who

deny a Presidential order could well be-

come a hot election-year campaign issue

in a country where millions distrust the

Government after years of Watergate,

CIA revelations, corruption, et alia alia.

Secondly, there is a good chance that

home of those 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 'picky.'

Sometimes I think those bovine terrorists

are trying for art. You look at photos of

these smooth and perfect chupacabra-pat-

terns—neat circles, occasionally sporting

a saw-toothed edge, etc.—and you won-

der what they're trying to produce some-

type of military-industrial-surrealistic self-

sculpture movement. Consider, for in-

stance, the two-week-old calf killed near


It was small enough for the mutes 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

pokes 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

mute wave broke in 13 states and there

was terror in dozens of counties through-

out the West. There were reports of un-

turn copters and UFO reports. There
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. They 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 Bankston, 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 s-crooked cut. The meat was in a can in June and the test results were never found. The test arrived in the fall. Police used the usual roadblock, radio and aircraft methods of investigation, as usual.

PSYCHOLOGY

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 veterinarian and 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 dusk on September 30, 1975, two miles outside of Emery, Utah, in the middle of the state. Law enforcement officials suspected that the mutilations had been disturbed in their work and 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. Keep posemam.s searched the entire area, but found no further clues.

It was strictly by chance that Hedelius happened to be in the vicinity the following day or so. "A highway patrolman drove by and recognized my car," Hedelius told me. He went to the area 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 missing—the uterine had been cut out 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 Clostridias family," Hedelius told me. "When I cut the autopsy, it was apparent that the testicle was extremely irritated and in the pelvis, an area around the size of a baseball."

- That night, after the autopsy, Hedelius experimented, injecting a testicular sample into the heifer in various places over the next few days. "I've never seen anything like it," he said. Hedelius asked the following question. "If this isn't a disease caused by the bacteria, what is it?" Hedelius wondered. "Well, Clostridias bacteria are very common and are usually localized in one part of the infected animal. However, in this case it was extremely localized. You might say it was pin-pointed, and I believe that the bacteria were injected into the testicle."

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 to reporters; but afterward, yes, I was warned, both by state and federal people. I was told that I was not to talk to any of the news media. I then told him about a campaign supposed to be launched to discredit him. "Well, a week after this interview happened, the state veterinarian of Utah was on television—I saw that myself—and there was a real effort made to discredit me in everything. He said it was the work of the predators and that the mouse-inoculation test was negative. The mouse that was inoculated [with bacteria taken from the uterine] didn't die and was well and happy." Hedelius rebuts this by noting that the Clostridias are anaerobic bacteria as we..."
live in the open air. Through her cloth or a deliberate break-up, Hedelfig's tissues were exposed to oxygen by others in the bed and therefore the inoculation was useless.

When I talked to him, Hedelfig's feet firmly behind his findings. "I know 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 someone sort of research going on?"

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

"Hedelfig made a very detailed observation relative to the case. For instance, when he 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 supply and appropriate the culture, which can be done easily. Would it take great expertise to isolate the poison?"

"Not really. Actually, anybody who has a basic course in bacteriology could do it. It's not that complicated.

"On the other hand, Hedelfig 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 pouch or uterus (the first one in the uterus). He speculated that, for some reason, the animals may have sterilized the rumen.

"Dead animals start to bloom quite rapidly after death, especially in the hot sun, and with the somewhat drying of the air, that would make the gas production slow. And I wasn't called in on this until the last afternoon. The case was just about as fresh as it could be.

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

"Oh, just about immediately," Hedelfig said. "Especially in the case of a ruminant animal, like a cow. Cow's always have a certain amount of gas. But when I opened the 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 no gas is 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 a living farm. Reading S. Yeager's "sly board on chemical and biological smog, one encounters something the U.S. developed called mortality-enhancing factors (MEEFs); these agents are added to ordinary biologicals so as to rapidly speed up the kill time of a disease. People are now using MEEFs to produce quick death, the kind of production of something they want to collect. One researcher, in fact, does claim that the mutilators are using MEEFs to get their demise death time down to 15 minutes. There are also reports that the glands that are removed from the animals, as well as the other major fat tis sue, are the kinds of things that builders 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 a purse of $2,650, which is the approximate total of rewards now being offered by various state cattle associations, newspapers, etc. Private investigator Erienne has promised $50,000 to the first person to break the case. She has also offered $50,000 to the first person to break the case.

I mentioned to Erienne, as I had to other investigators, the obvious weakness of the murder—that no one will be able to reproduce the killing or security experts, they're still quite lacking. When he was responded, "we just don't know whether the second or third section of high Government is doing it.

A few weeks later, in reading Hedelfig's book on the chemical and biological weapons, I was impressed by the complexities of the enterprise involved. In the mutilation case, Hedelfig points out one could check the-duty-fuel-delivery systems, and repair those ordered for supply vehicles; one could look for unusual vans, perhaps with False-bottomed boxes, which appear to have broken down by the side of the road.

It turns out that the way that flying services transport helicopters—for airfield work, for example—is to carry them in big vans; these vehicles have a single-loading device, enabling the co-pilots to "jump on in and out of the van. Erienne points out that the Government, on their unit within it, could easily move vans, helicopters and supply equipment throughout mutilation country.

There is, he tells me, certainly a type of attack that is offered to Government vehicles in order that local officials may not check or search them—just as in the event of a highway accident. If there is a wreck, only Government vehicles may examine the wreckage. Therefore, a few Government or military equipment—railway cars or trucks—can travel on the roads secretely anywhere in the United States.

Erienne is skeptical about what will occur when some mutilator is actually caught carving a Hereford in some country. "I think the only person who can break something like this," Frazee says, "is anyone who knows with the affairs of a large organization and how it produces its particular type of operation. And I don't think a deputy sheriff, with a 20-gauge shotgun in law enforcement or intelligence is going to be able to do it. If he does catch a guy, or a group, the culprit's background is going to be covered as far as possible. And the victim is going to be pacified. The execution may be for suppressing or some misdemeanor like that."

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FBI Joins Investigation of Animal Mutilations Linked to UFOs

By WILLIAM S. BARNHILL, BOB PRATT and DAVID WRIGHT

The FBI, which joined the investigation of the bizarre mutilations of thousands of grazing beef cattle over wide areas of the South and Southwest, has now linked the attacks to UFOs.

Previously, the FBI had been investigating the mutilations as possible cases of vandalism or natural causes. However, after a series of incidents in which the FBI was able to recover evidence linking the attacks to extraterrestrial activity, the agency concluded that the attacks were caused by extraterrestrial beings.

According to FBI sources, the attacks began in 1973 and have been reported in 14 states across the United States. The attacks have been linked to UFO sightings in New Mexico.

The FBI has received reports of mutilations in areas where UFO sightings have been reported. In one case, a UFO was seen flying over a herd of cattle in New Mexico, and the following day, a number of cows were found mutilated. The FBI believes that the UFO may have been involved in the attacks.

The FBI has also received reports of extraterrestrial entities communicating with humans. In one case, a man in New Mexico claimed to have had a conversation with an alien spaceship. The FBI is investigating these claims.

The attacks have been described as being caused by extraterrestrial beings using advanced technology. The FBI believes that these beings are interested in studying Earth life forms as part of their research on the possibilities of interstellar travel.

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estimated 1.28 million square mile area stretching from Tennessee to Oregon since the mutilations began around 1970. The 1.28 million square miles is more than a third of the total land area in the continental United States.

In many cases, the attacks were recorded with UFO sightings. Reports from other countries suggest that the same pattern of mutilations has been occurring there as well:
- No tire marks, footprints or gash marks of human activity were found over the carcasses.
- Only the blood and certain parts of the animals—usually the reproductive organs—are removed.
- Trace elements found in some carcasses by the USGS were collected after a UFO sighting in New Mexico.
- Scurfs and splayed fingers in the mutilated horses and cattle.

Dr. Schenkel, who received a Ph.D. in biology from Harvard University, believes there is an alien explanation for the mutilations. When the Apollo 17 moon landing crew, said Schenkel, and local law enforcement officers were unable to come up with leads on their own, FBI help was needed.

To date, the mutilations have been as mysterious as they’ve been grisly,” he said. “The Justice Department authorized the FBI to look into the matter 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 at animals at the Picacho Apache Reservation, in Dulce, N. Mex.:

“Any place we’ve had a mutilation, we’ve also had UFO sightings,” reported Gabe Valdes, a veteran New Mexico...

SACRAMENTO, Calif., the site of the state’s capitol, has investigated more than 10 attacks.

If predators are involved, he said, “we have some predators with super predators. We find them there have been days when the attacks have been lifted up (off the ground), and then we have clump marks on the body. It is also very hard for me to believe that a predator can take the heart out of an animal through a small wound in the neck.”

Dr. Henry Monteith, an engineer at Searles Laboratories in the Mojave Desert, agreed that the attacks are a possibility. He said, “It might be the first instance of a satellite being shot down over Earth.”

These are some of the questions that have been raised by the attacks:

1. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
2. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
3. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
4. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
5. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
6. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
7. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
8. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
9. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?
10. Why are the mutilations occurring in such a large area?

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

Richard Aligam said, “The attacks are being done by ‘star people,’ they say. Some believe that the attacks are being done by a group of aliens who are trying to establish a foothold on Earth.”

Dr. Monteith has been investigating the attacks since they began, and Indians have told him of actually seeing spaceships land and unload 'star people' who chase down...
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ENCLOSURE COVER SHEET

Subject: Cattle Mutilation

File: 198-1048

Section 1 of 1

This section is comprised of 96 pages which were reviewed for this release.

96 pages are available from this section for release.

This is enclosure ___ of ___ enclosure(s)

No duplication fee for this page
To: SAC, Albuquerque
From: Director, FBI

THE MUTILATIONS OF
15 ANIMALS;

CC: Albuquerque

Re Bureau airtel to Albuquerque, 3/6/79.

Enclosed for the Albuquerque Division is a package containing numerous documents from the Department of Justice concerning captioned matter. It is forwarded for the information of the Albuquerque Division.

Enclosure
Judge -
Here's the Schmidt letter you asked for.
Ray Cabmoro
January 10, 1979

Honorable Harrison H. Schmitt
United States Senate
1251 DSOB
Washington, D.C. 25010

Dear Senator Schmitt:

As I told you over the telephone yesterday, I have asked Philip Heymann, head of the Criminal Division, to look into our jurisdiction over the cattle mutilation problem with which you are concerned. We will be in touch with you at an early date.

I must say that the materials sent me indicate the existence of one of the strangest phenomena in my memory.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Griffin B. Bell

[Redacted]

bcc: w/materials to Terry Adamson
Ray Calamaro
Phil Heymann - Please have someone look into this matter at an early date. Sen. Schmitt is our friend and there have been about 60 mutilations in New Mexico in recent months. GBBD
December 21, 1978

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
10th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

During the past several years, ranchers throughout the West including my home state of New Mexico, have been victimized by a series of cattle mutilations. As a result, these ranchers have as a group and individually suffered serious economic losses.

These mysterious killings have been the subject of at least two articles in national publications, copies of which are enclosed. Mr. Cockburn's article in the December 1975 issue of Esquire states that there had been a federal investigation into this matter, but it was dropped. Mr. Cockburn implies the investigation may have been terminated because cattle mutilation per se is not a federal offense.

While an individual cattle mutilation may not be a federal offense, I am very concerned at what appears to be a continued pattern of an organized interstate criminal activity. Therefore, I am requesting that the Justice Department re-examine its jurisdiction in this area with respect to the possible reopening of this investigation.

Enclosed are copies of my files on this subject. While awaiting what will hopefully be a favorable reply, I shall continue to gather materials that could be of help in such an investigation. If you need further information in studying this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Harrison Schmitt

[Signature]

Enclosures!
SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE - SENATOR SCHMITT (LIVESTOCK MUTILATIONS)

FROM: MARTIN E. VIGIL, DIRECTOR

TO: CAPTAIN CHARLIE P. ANAYA
New Mexico State Police
Espanola, New Mexico

DATE: JULY 18, 1978

ATTENTION OF: MAJOR M. S. CHAVEZ

Dear Captain:

We are in receipt of correspondence from the Honorable Harrison Schmitt, State Senator, and Mr. Manuel S. Gomez, Dulce, New Mexico regarding livestock mutilations in Rio Arriba County for the past two years.

Kindly instruct Officer Gabe Valdez to submit copies of all his reports concerning this matter to this office, in order that we may forward them to Senator Schmitt's office.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN E. VIGIL, DIRECTOR

BY:

W. J. FULLOCK, CHIEF
Uniformed Bureau
State Police Division
Criminal Justice Department

cc: File
The Honorable Harrison Schmitt, State Senator

MEV/WJB/cl

ATTACHMENTS:

ENCLOSURE FOR LETTER DATED AUGUST 16, 1978, TO MR. MANUEL S. GOMEZ
TO: Criminal Division

On December 29, 1978, John Ryan, Schmitt's administrative assistant, called OLA regarding the status of this matter. OLA only received this correspondence yesterday but we have learned that the Senator has personally discussed this matter with the Attorney General. The AG agreed to have someone in the Criminal Division look into this matter to determine whether or not there is any statutory basis for federal intervention.
Crime

ALEXANDER COCKBURN
Rippers of the range

As so often happens with crime, it's a question of viewpoint, really. Given the rate of human slaughter in any large American city, it might not seem too important that between April and September of this year 129 cattle were mutilated in the state of Colorado. As a matter of fact, in 1974, there were about 3,750,000 cattle grazing in Colorado and around 37,000 of these died of natural causes, so we are not talking about an event of prime importance to the ranching business.

But in ranching circles, Colorado is taking this comfortable view of the matter. What the ranchers dislike is the idea of driving across their pastures and finding, as one did last August, a dead bull with its penis, rectum, testicles, tongue and an eye excised with surgical deftness and absolutely no trace visible of the surgeon or surgeons involved.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of such mutilators have occurred in Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, New Mexico and Texas. In fact, if you follow this kind of thing, you may have noticed the odd item in the newspapers about the cattle-cutting craze. I'd seen such items myself but not taken too much of an interest till my good friend Ed Sanders told me last fall that some anonymous person in Sacramento had sent him a cow's tongue in the mail. Now, Sanders is the author of The Family, a fine and eerie book about the Manson group. Like myself, he had taken only a passing interest in cattle mutilations. The arrival in June of what he likes to call the lingua bovina excisa, packed in a shoe box, at the office of his literary agent escalated his attention remarkably. In June, you may remember, Sacramento was rendered the more colorful by two young Mansonian ladies called Squeaky Fromme and Sandra Good strolling about in their red robes.

Back in 1970, when Sanders was compiling material about the Manson group, ritual murders, and other diverting practices in California, he'd examined the case of a ritual da-capitation of a goat in Topanga Canyon. Five years later the question seemed to be whether excised animal parts had, so to speak, become part of the currency of satanic groups; whether a sliced cow's tongue was now an essential part of the ritualist's working equipment.

So far, after some investigation, Sanders has found nothing to connect the tongue from Sacramento with the mutilations in the Midwest. But he did, in the course of a drive across the country, find himself standing in the office of the sheriff of Elbert County, Colorado, looking at a Polaroid photograph. It showed a cow with its udder bag and rectum removed. The cow had been pregnant and the photograph also showed a long, thin, unborn calf's neck and head, which the mutilators had cut and pulled out of its mother's uterus. The calf's tongue had been cut out. As Sanders later remarked to me, he could understand why the ranchers were getting upset.

The mutilation case histories make for depressing reading. In Minnesota, in the fall of 1974, a young cow was found dead with its sexual organs, one ear and the udder removed. The incision to remove the udder was made in the form of a diamond. The previous spring, the mutilation mob had turned up in Nebraska. Among its victims, a calf with its sex organs removed and its body drained of blood. On we go to Oklahoma to find reports of a Hereford cow killed by strangulation or a blow on the neck.
and with the tip of its nose, its tongue, left ear, udder and vagina all removed with a knife. And on and on, from Texas to Colorado to Montana. Behind them the mutilators always leave county sheriffs and veterinarians saying they have never seen anything like it before, and local authorities on black ritual discouraging on the importance of always using fresh meat, if drinking the blood is called for.

A survey of newscasts and other literature on cattle mutilation seems to indicate that the whole business started with the mysterious death of Snippy. Snippy was a horse whose mutilated body was found on a ranch near Alamosa, Colorado, eight years ago. Snippy's throat had been cut and flesh from the head and neck removed. Also removed were Snippy's brain and stomach. Snippy's owner was convinced that his horse had been "zapped by a flying saucer." Snippy's bones may still be viewed in the museum at Adams State College in Alamosa.

U.F.O.'s are still being blamed for the cattle mutilations. Some students of the craze simply see no other explanation. Carl Whiteside, of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, evidently felt it necessary to contest this hypothesis, since he told me seriously, "We do not feel these people have any magical quality that puts them in the realm of the supernatural or some alien planet civilization."

The occupants of U.F.O.'s have not so far appeared to refute slanderous allegations about their attitude toward terrestrial livestock. People associated with occult groups, on the other hand, have vehemently tried to distance themselves from the unknown slicers. Back at the start of the year, after twenty-three mutilations in Texas, a self-professed witch in Dallas told a local reporter she thought they were the work of a satanic group from Fort Worth.

These Texas cattle had been drained of their blood, which the witch thought was consonant with satanic addiction to blood. "They give witchcraft a bad name," she added.

A writer in Gnostica was even more alarmed. "Despite the obvious illogicality of it," said Isaac Bone-wits, a former member of the Church of Satan, "the favorite theory right now among state and federal investigators is that the leftists of a certain sort are involved. This is of course sheer scapegoating, since only a rank amateur would believe it possible to get usable psychic energy out of such mutilations, and a rank amateur would not be able to (a) levitate so as to leave no footprints, or draw without leaving evidence of a pumping machine, (b) make the neat 'surgical' incisions that were used to remove organs and extremities, or (c) teleport so as to be able to perform two such operations on the same night, hundreds of miles apart."

It would be interesting to know what Bone-wits would consider the talents of a professional; but he was right in thinking that at one point federal and state investigators did think that occultists were involved. For a time, indeed, they thought a solution to the great mutilation wave was at hand.

Early in 1974, a student at Kilgore Junior College in Texas wrote a paper on "The Sons of Satan," which contained detailed descriptions of how this group would mutilate cattle between midnight and sunrise. The ritual would be completed just as sunlight started to filter down on the animal through the branches of a tree. (In the absence of trees, the adepts would hold a branch over the beast and proceed as usual with this substitute.)

The teacher at Kilgore Junior College was sufficiently revolted by the theme's details to destroy it forthwith. The student said he had heard the story from a friend familiar with the satanists. An English professor from Pennsylvania told John Makeig of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he was familiar with the Sons of Satan group, had some of its members in his class, and had seen "some girls who'd cut off their fingers and pieces of their ears and things like that." Their "primary thrill," he added, was to eat their own flesh.

All this information was passed on to Don Flickinger, an Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent in Minneapolis. Early this year Flickinger became the main federal investigator of the mutilation phenomenon, for somewhat bizarre reasons. Cattle mutilation is not, as a spokesman in the Justice Department stiffly informed me, a federal offense. Flickinger became involved because three prisoners in federal institutions suddenly wrote to various authorities announcing that not only did they know the satanic cult practicing the mutilations, but that this same group had compiled a "death list" of intended assassination victims. Among the alleged targets were Senator Hubert Humphrey and a federal judge in Minneapolis.

The U.S. attorney in Minneapolis, Robert Renner, put A.T.F.'s Flickinger on the case because, as he put it to me, "We thought it was the only agency freewheeling enough really to do something." The informants continued to pour out their stories: a small city near the Gulf Coast would have its water deliberately poisoned; two people in another Texas town would suffer dismemberment in the near future. Just enough of the informants' stories checked out to cause Flickinger and investigators in several states to continue the hunt for the allegedly four-hundred-strong band of rich cattle-mutilating satanists. Reputed leaders of the group in Texas were polygraphed. All survived such examinations. One of the claims was that the group was escalating from animal to human mutilations and police earnestly scanned all cases of ritualistic murders that occurred. Flickinger himself was threatened and his door daubed with blood.

Sometime in the summer of this year the federal investigation came to an abrupt end. All that a person in the Justice Department associated with the case would tell me was, "We were looking into alleged threats to elected officials from the same type of people involved in cattle mutilations and we were unable to come up with anything at all." This was not particularly illuminating, but John

WIDOW PRICE

Oscar Price died with a hunk of steak in his throat, dining among friends at Top of 21, a restaurant for people on top of it all. His friends thought him laughing, then mildly miffed, red-faced at his wife, who salted her potato and missed his going.

Where she lives now (on top of a hill), she wonders about choking. This is on days when rocks shift place and daisies are spineless with west wind at their backs. She watches birds, how flycatchers take food and are gone. It is frightening: all this shifting and bending and flying. The thing about choking, too.

She misses Oscar, she says.
The Sportables are seven brand-new black and white television sets from RCA—featuring two models with battery packs that go right into their bases. Plug an AC or DC model and you'll still get up to four hours of great viewing. An advanced VHF tuner helps keep the picture clear almost everywhere it goes. See the entire RCA line, including the smart, new, indoor "Sportables" (AC only) with the same great picture and sound. Now showing at your RCA Dealer.
must of them adopted a wait-and-see attitude. And some of the Stateside fugitives had grown downright paranoid after years on the lam. "How do I know they won’t come up and put me back in the Army?" asked a duchard deserter in New York.

When the Clemency Board—headed by an outspoken critic of the war, former New York Sen. Charles Goodell—began its work, some of the resettlers feared they might be down the drain. But their views will be bolstered by those of other board members, including National Urban League director Vernon E. Jordan and the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame and a former head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

The panelists clearly have some very difficult problems ahead—weighing, for example, time served in jail against time owed for alternate service, or battle honors against time spent AWOL. And the board contained some hawkish members who might oppose leniency, including retired Marine Corps Gen. Lewis Walt and James Maye, executive director of Paralyzed Veterans of America. Still, the Ford plan had the virtue of all compromises, said Hesburgh. "As long as Nixon was in, these guys could not as far as he was concerned. It's the difference between no chance and some chance."

INDIANS:
Blazing Saddles

It didn't look like much of a border crossing. They by the side of the road merely demanded a 10-cent toll from passing motorists, most of whom didn't even stop. But the militant Kootenai Indians manning the roadside picket lines outside Bonners Ferry, Idaho, weren't kidding. After years of frustration trying to deal with Washington, the 67 members of the Kootenai tribe finally lost patience last week and declared war on the United States—by registered mail.

Their challenge was delivered in a letter to President Ford demanding a 198,000-acre reservation, plus as much as $3.2 million for tribal land the government had paid for in 1982 at the rate of 30 cents an acre. To back it up, they threatened to tax white homeowners and quit squatting on their ancient tribal lands. Idaho's Gov. Cecil Andrus sent 60 lawmen to keep the highways clear, but tensions soon eased. The Bureau of Indian Affairs invited tribal leaders to begin negotiations, and the citizens of Bonners Ferry relaxed. The Indians have not lost sight of their ancient treaty rights, "They know it's tough for 67 people to get a reaction from Washington, D.C."

MYSTERIES:
The Midnight Marauder

Each day, just before dusk, ranchers and farmers pile into pickup trucks and fan out across the rolling prairie of northeastern Nebraska. They park mostly on ridges or hilltops, where they can scan the pastures and the narrow roads that wind through them. With rifles and shotguns leaning against their trucks, they nervously, smoking cigarettes and talking with each other over a network of citizen's band radios. Some of the men will stand guard all night, yet none of them really knows what he is looking for. "I've never seen anything like this," says State Sen. Jules Burba, who has represented Knox County for eighteen years. "Folks are almost hysterical."

Since last May, more than 100 cattle have been found dead and gruesomely mutilated in Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. On John Sunderman's farm outside Madison, Neb., a cow was killed with a blunt instrument last June and her udder and sexual organs were cut off. When a veterinarian examined the corpse, he found that all of the animal's blood had been drained. On the nearby ranch of Vern Stringfield, a month-old bull calf was clubbed to death. Its blood was drained off, too, and someone cut a hole in the calf's side, removing the heart and cutting it nearly next to the head.

Rumor and anxiety have produced a host of unproved theories to explain the bizarre events. Many people, noting that some of the victims were black, suggest that doughnut of witchcraft may have done the deed. It could be someone setting the streets on fire; one man claimed that a shiny UFO landed in a field where a slaughtered animal was later found.

Rustlers: Still others think the killings may be the work of marijuana smugglers, who supposedly use searchlight-equipped helicopters to harvest the wild stands of pot known to grow in Nebraska. A helicopter once has been seen hovering over the range around the time of a midnight, and some ranchers swear they have seen down by roads by choppers. Helicopters are also said to have been used in cattle rustling, and some stockmen think the rustlers may be collecting blood and organs as lures for cattle grazing on the open range this fall.

"Warpath": Tribesman soliciting tolls

"Warpath": Tribesman soliciting tolls

Cuts: The explanation doesn't suit everyone. "Why didn't we notice this sort of thing in other years?" asks one skeptic. "The predators are not wolves," insists Senator Burba, "there is a domesticated, two-legged animal called man." Noting that many of the cuts seemed to have been done with a blade, Gorden Cruber, an organizer of the patrols, remarked: "I've yet to see a coyote who can chew a straight edge."

Some officials are beginning to worry that the real danger is not some ghostly hunter, but the key-ed up vigilantes themselves. After two slugs pierced the canopy of a utility-company helicopter checking power lines, the Nebraska National Guard ordered its pilots to cruise cross-country at higher altitudes than usual— generally 2,000 feet instead of 1,000—to avoid being fired upon by frightened ranch hands. "I would hate to think what would happen," a Guard spokesman told Newsweek's William L. Thomas, if one of the pilots was forced to put down a disabled chopper in a pasture at night. Someone might get killed."

Newsweek, September 30, 1974