



JAMIE REEVE/Rocky Mountain News

Littleton writer Linda Moulton Howe says the case is very strong that some kind of extraterrestrial life forms are intruding on this planet.

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Colorado, along with the entire Rocky Mountain region, has long been fertile ground for tales of strange doings that may — or may not — be linked to visitors from beyond.

The following are highlights of recent oddities that have surfaced in reports to police, the military, the media and others:

- **May 1958:** Unexplained cattle mutilations, the target of hot debate in the 1970s, continue. Weld County sheriff's deputy Mike Stark photographs a mutilated cow near Greeley that bears wounds corresponding precisely to those suffered by hundreds of other livestock around the world.
- **Oct. 31, 1988:** Jefferson County sheriff's personnel investigate a "large orange ball of fire" that falls to the ground near Aspen Park. They conclude it "probably

- was a meteor" but find no debris.
- **March 10, 1989:** Little River County, Ark., is the site of three cattle mutilations. A Denver pathologist's examination reveals findings identical to results of tests on "Lady," a mutilated horse discovered in Colorado's San Luis Valley 22 years earlier.
- **March 21, 1989:** Flight controllers at the Denver Air Route Traffic Control Center are baffled by strange radar blips. Some controllers "had a dozen or more of these targets merging with actual aircraft targets over a half-hour period," controller Kevin Cain wrote. Cain now dismisses the episode as "false targets" generated by a computer malfunction.
- **March 28, 1989:** A Longmont resident writes the Rocky Mountain News to

- report her sighting of a daytime UFO she witnessed March 21, the same day FAA controllers made their puzzling sightings.
- **April 3, 1989:** A "brilliant blue object" rocketing across Colorado daytime skies tentatively is identified as a possible "late daytime meteorite" by a Boulder astronomer. North American Defense Command at Colorado Springs acknowledges sightings, has no explanation.
- **April 18, 1989:** Capt. Thomas Niemann, at the U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, says that military facility routinely tracks 6,900 man-made objects in space. Each day, he says, an average of "one or two" objects enter the Earth's atmosphere which do not "correlate" with any known object.

Aliens among us, local writer says

By CHARLIE BRENNAN
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

There are strangers among us. So says veteran Littleton documentary filmmaker Linda Moulton Howe, who will make her debut as an author next month with a startling new book: *Alien Harvest: Further Evidence Linking Animal Mutilations and Human Abductions to Alien Life Forms*.

Caution: People with a low threshold for the bizarre and improbable may want to stop here. For the rest, here is Howe's description of the book's hypothesis:

"The case is very strong that we have some kind of non-human alien life form that is intruding on this planet for reasons that are still not clear to me, and may not still be clear to the government."

Howe is far from the first to allege that the highest levels of government have kept a tight lid on their own knowledge of unidentified flying objects, and their crews, at least since the supposed crash and recovery of debris near Roswell, N.M., in July 1947.

But Howe's credentials separate her from many UFO believers. Her master's degree is from Stanford University, and her resume features an entire page of journalism awards — 39 of them. They include three regional Emmys for television documentaries.

One of those Emmys came for *A Strange Harvest*, which first aired in 1980 and explored the possible links between western-states livestock mutilations and UFOs.

Livestock mutilations became such a concern in western states in the mid-1970s that Gov. Richard Lamm ordered the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in 1975 to examine the problem.

A year later, the FBI concluded — in a report many still criticize — that all but a few mutilations they studied could be attributed to predators. And the animals were in most cases already dead from natural causes, the FBI said.

In her book, Howe expands upon the mystery she first probed with *A Strange Harvest*.

Within three weeks of the film's first broadcast, Howe said, "All I heard from ranchers, from deputies, from sheriffs, from a fellow journalist up in northeast Colorado — from one veterinarian who would only talk to me confidentially — were wild UFO stories."

"I heard so many UFO stories that I myself was stunned," she said.

U.S. Air Force officials have heard plenty of stories, too, but don't express great interest.

Maj. Lou Figueroa acknowledged that the Air Force did investigate the UFO phenomenon from 1948 to 1969, and checked out "over 12,000 sightings."

Of that number, he said, "There were only 761 reported sightings that could be categorized as unexplained."

The final "Project Blue Book" report, he said, stated that "there has been no evidence" that any sightings recorded as unidentified are "extraterrestrial vehicles."

The government stance is vexing to Howe, who has a copy of the "Majestic-12 Preliminary Briefing for President-elect Eisenhower." It purports to be a digest concerning findings of a top-secret panel empowered by President Harry S. Truman to investigate material recovered from the Roswell incident and others.

The Nov. 18, 1952, alleged government report describes the wreckage, and the condition of four "human-like beings" recovered near the wrecked aircraft:

"It was the tentative conclusion of this group that although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development has apparently been quite different."

Figueroa said he'd heard of the Majestic 12 report but had never seen it. Asked if he had ever heard an explanation that would debunk the report's content, he said simply, "No, I haven't."

Philip Klass, a senior editor for 35 years of *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine, is perhaps the nation's best-known UFO skeptic. He considers the Majestic-12 report a fraud.

Among other things, Klass said, the military-style writing in the document is inconsistent with the military style at the time.

In short, said Klass, "There's a greater chance that Santa Claus and his little elves exist, than us having extraterrestrial visitors."

University of Colorado physics researcher George Lawrence, a board member of Rocky Mountain Skeptics, also dismisses Howe's theories, though in more guarded language.

Lawrence said stories of supposed UFOs "fall into the category of being too good to be true."

His skepticism stems in part, he said, from his belief that "there are no hard artifacts" to prove UFOs' and aliens' existence beyond any doubt. Still, he concedes, he's "never really researched the UFO question" for himself.

Howe denies that she has adopted "some kind of 'ism' or a belief system."

"I am a filmmaker and I am a writer who has been presented material from a variety of sources that all say the same thing, that we have alien life forms mucking around on this planet," she said.

Howe has done more than merely review the already well-thumbed documentation of UFO lore. She actively investigated continuing developments in the field as recently as last month.

Howe was contacted in March by Jim Williamson, editor of the *Little River News*, in Ashdown, Ark. After a series of what Williamson called "dancing lights" in the night sky dating back to August 1987, local residents discovered five dead cows in a field March 10 of this year. Three had been mutilated. There were no signs of bleeding. Or of human footprints.

Williamson and Howe said tissue from one of the carcasses was analyzed at their request by pathologist Dr. John Altshuler of Denver.

Micro-photographs showed that the excisions were made "at a very high heat" and were done "rapidly," Altshuler told the *News*.

Williamson, called by Arkansas State Police, said that one of the cows appeared to have died suddenly, practically in mid-stride.

"Something freeze-framed it," he noted. "If we've got buzzards that are doing this, they're awesome."

Howe said that although she feels her research has been thorough and exhaustive, she has no illusions about winning over the doubters of the world.

"In terms of hard proof, until the aliens and the silver discs are laid out in front of us by the President of the United States . . . I don't think anybody is going to accept anything as hard proof," she said.