

# CAUS

  

# BULLETIN



#1

Ed. by L. Fawcett & B. Greenwood

September 1985

## DEBUT

It took a bit of time to get started but we finally are issuing our first bulletin. Our policy is to print things which are too lengthy or which don't fit the JUST CAUSE format conveniently. Bylined articles are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors. Our style is flexible and can include photos, newsclips, documents, etc.

The interesting animal mutilation report that follows was graciously submitted by Linda Moulton Howe, documentary filmmaker, writer and expert on the mutilation phenomenon. She was the force behind the film A STRANGE HARVEST for KMGH-TV, Denver in May 1980.

We are also including a document from A.F. Intelligence on an early UFO incident.

Cattle mutilations and UFOs ... since the early 1970's there have been hundreds of reports about animals, especially cattle, cut up in bizarre ways throughout the United States, Canada and other parts of the world. UFOs got into the story because ranchers and law enforcement kept seeing unexplained lights hovering over pastures.

Skeptics say there's nothing to it ... only magpies, foxes and other predators. But in the latest wave of mutilations and strange lights near Pine Ridge, South Dakota, families at the Jerry Grass and Clayton Merchen ranches know they're not dealing with simple coyotes.

The last week of January 1984, 19-year-old Alfred Grass started his chores in a pasture 8 miles from his family's ranchhouse. Tending cows is his life and he sees a lot of dead ones, but nothing like the one he saw that morning.

"She was a 4-year-old black cow, close to calvin'. I'd seen her alive the day before. But that morning I found her lying on her left side with half her right ear cut off straight across like with a razor blade. Her right eyeball was gone and on top of her nose someone had cut out a half-circle like the heel of a shoe, just the hide. Half her tongue was cut away and there was nothing left where her udder had been -- only an oval-shaped smooth cut like somebody had used a sharp razor. No blood anywhere and no tracks around her."

Similar descriptions can be read in old mutilation files at sheriff's offices from Montana to Texas, Washington to Pennsylvania.

Two days later, Alfred and a hired hand found another pregnant cow cut up pretty much like the first one.

Then February 8, around 7:30 pm, the Grass's neighbors encountered strange lights. Clayton Merchen, his wife Sheila and his mother Margaret were on their way to a local school board meeting when they saw an object in the sky that showed first one light, then two lights, then one light "as if whatever it was, was spinning around," said Clayton Merchen. The color of the light "was like a white spotlight, it looked like landing lights on a plane." The lights moved to a stop, hovering over a pasture. Clayton drove his pickup to about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the object and then shut the motor off to listen. Almost simultaneously, the lights moved rapidly away. Clayton and his passengers heard "a whirring low roar sound, muffled like it was inside something. It lasted only a couple of seconds. Then we couldn't hear a thing."

But at this closer range Clayton could see a small red light in between the two bigger white lights "and when the white lights turned away there was 3 or 4 red flashing lights on what must have been the back of the thing."

A week later on the morning of February 19, Alfred Grass found a third mutilated cow. That one was a pregnant 4-year-old, too, and was lying in soft moist ground. "There weren't any tracks at all," he said. "It looked like she'd just been layed down there on her side." The cow's right ear was cut off at the head, a "perfect circle one-inch all the way around her right eye was cut away like somebody had used a cookie cutter and her eyeball was gone." The udder had been removed in a square kind of cut and a circular patch of hide had been cut away over the backbone.

February 27-29, the strange lights kept coming back. On the 27th around 10 pm, Clayton was in a pasture near his ranch trailerhouse working with a large spotlight to check for calving cows. He saw moving white lights appear off to the west. He pointed his spotlight at them and flashed it a few times. As soon as he did, "those lights moved real fast toward me. Guess they came from 3 miles out to just about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from me in a couple of seconds." Scared him. He took off for his house and had his wife and three kids go outside to watch as the lights took off and then reappeared over a nearby hill.

The next night Clayton's daughter and cousin were driving home when the lights appeared behind, above and in front of the moving pickup. "They were scared to death and called me from their grandmother's," said Clayton. "But the lights were gone by the time I got there."

On February 29th, David Brewer from the Pine Ridge Bureau of Indian Affairs drove out to the Merchen's place curious about what was happening. From  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away he watched Clayton drive through a pasture and saw lights appear over a ridge. Clayton flashed his spotlight. "It scared the hell out of me the way that thing came toward us," said Brewer. "Stopped about 1000 yards away, 400-500 feet up. It moved a little unstable like a kite. But it looked like a light on a helicopter."

On March 6, two law enforcement officers from Martin, South Dakota followed up the sightings with a stakeout of their own. "We were curious about who was going to such expense, especially in the awful winter cold, to make a farce with these lights. We didn't take it very seriously. We stopped and got some popcorn and pop on the way out. Wish now we'd had a camera and binoculars."

Clayton Merchen had told them that the lights usually appeared around 10 pm near a particular dirt road. So the officers went there and parked in darkness to watch. It wasn't long before they noticed a bright light on the horizon. They got outside the car and watched. The light appeared to come closer and "split in two the way car lights will as they approach." The lights were white and the one on the left was brighter than the one on the right. In between was a flashing red light about half the size of the white lights. The object moved up parallel with their car about 100 yards away and "maybe 100 feet up. The strangest thing is that the lights shining at us did not give off any halo like car lights. It was as if the light was in some kind of tunnel not touching anything. The light never illuminated the ground, the car, us or anything. Never saw such lights and there was no sound. I was spooked," said the deputy.

The object suddenly turned to the southeast and revealed four red lights "like car tail lights at the rear in a wide horseshoe shape, curving, and for about five seconds we could hear a muffled jet whine not quite like anything I've heard before.. Then silence again."

The officers called Ellsworth AFB and talked to an air controller with radar. He told them there were no aircraft for 100 miles in their area.

On March 24th and the first week in April, the Grasses found their fourth and fifth mutilated pregnant cows, cut up like the others except this time the udder was there minus four teats. Charlene Grass said, "they was cut out clean, leaving four neat holes. We couldn't even find the milk tubes."

Back in August 1975 when some Colorado sheriffs were getting two or three mutilation reports a day with bodies still warm to touch, Colorado's Governor Richard Lamm said: "These mutilations are one of the greatest outrages in the history of the western cattle industry. It is no longer possible to blame predators for the mutilations."

Theories about who, what and why have shifted back and forth from predators to Satanic cults to government research to UFOs and extraterrestrials gathering a strange harvest. But so far, nothing's been proved.

One vet in Wyoming who is afraid to speak publicly for fear his professional reputation will be tarnished said: "I never believed there was anything to the mutilations until I examined one cow near Carpenter (Wyoming). The eyeball, optic nerve and eye tissue were so thoroughly removed to clean bone that I still wonder how it was done."

Magpies, answer some. But what are the strange, hovering lights doing in those cow pastures?

**CONFIDENTIAL**

FLEET LOGISTIC AIR WING, ATLANTIC/CONTINENTAL  
AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON ONE  
U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION  
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND

10 February 1951

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MEMORANDUM REPORT to Commanding Officer, Air Transport Squadron ONE

Subj: Report of Unusual Sighting on Flight 125/9 February 1951

I, Graham E. BETHUNE, was Co-Pilot on Flight 125 from Keflavik, Iceland to Naval Air Station, Argentia on the 10th of February 1951. At 0055Z I signed and observed the following object:

While flying in the left seat at 10,000 feet on a true course of 230 degrees at a position of 49-50 North 50-03 West, I observed a glow of light below the horizon about 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the water. Its bearing was about 2 O'Clock. There was no overcast, there was a thin transparent group of scuds at about 2,000 feet altitude. After examining KINGDON the object for 40 to 50 seconds I called it to the attention of Lieutenant KINGDON in the right hand seat. It was under the thin scuds at roughly 30 to 40 miles away. I asked "What is it, a ship lighted up or a city, I know it can't be a city because we are over 250 miles out." We both observed its course and motion for about 4 or 5 minutes before calling it to the attention of the othercrew members. Its first glow was a dull yellow. We were on an intercepting course. Suddenly its angle of attack changed, its altitude and size increased as though its speed was in excess of 1,000 miles per hour. It closed in so fast that the first feeling was we would collide in mid air. At this time its angle changed and the color changed. It then definitely circular and redish orange on its primer. It reversed its course and tripled its speed until it was last seen disappearing over the horizon. Because of our altitude and misleading distance over water it is almost impossible to estimate its size, distance and speed. A rough estimate would be at least 300 feet in diameter, over 1,000 miles per hour in speed and approached within 5 miles of the aircraft.

/s/Graham E. BETHUNE  
Lt, U.S. Naval Reserve

ENCLOSURE (4)