



# MUFON

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

### Volume 3 / Issue 9

*The Truth is Out There . . .*



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**MEETING DATE: Monday, September 19, 1994 ♦ MEETING TIME: 7:30 Sharp**  
**LOCATION: 8227 E. Orange Blossom, Scottsdale, AZ (Clubhouse)**  
**PROGRAM: "Structures on the Moon" presentation by Richard Motzer**

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#### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

From time to time, people have asked me to write about abduction cases; so I have decided to write about some of the more unusual aspects of the phenomenon. We all have heard the same stories over and over again about people being removed from their environment and undergoing intrusive medical examinations -- we have gone over that ground thoroughly. What I am looking for are those tidbits of information that can take us a little farther. I am still of the opinion that we are dealing with more than one phenomenon . . . some of which is physical and some of which is non-physical . . . but both valid contact experiences. I found it interesting that an article from Australia (in the last *MUFON Journal*) mentioned the fact that in U.S. abduction cases researchers have a tendency to overlook or play down the psychic or paranormal aspects of the case.

One story I will pass along to you is of a case where three friends (two women and a man) were sleeping in the same house. The man was in a separate bedroom, and the two women were in the same room (but in different beds). During the middle of the night, one of the women cried out to the man for help. When he came running into the women's bedroom, he saw to his surprise and amazement the other woman's bed bathed in a greenish blue light from an unknown source. The woman was in some sort of trance with her back half-propped up at a 45° angle. The man and the other woman stood in utter amazement and just watched this scene. Then the light disappeared, and the woman who was in the trance awoke. What followed was a description by the woman of an alien encounter. She said that the ceiling opened up, the greys came into her room and were at the foot of her bed. She felt her body rise to a 45° angle, and she proceeded to converse with them. The two friends heard her mumble something during that time but could not understand what she said. They all did see the strange light, however.

Another case I heard of recently involved a little girl going into her mother's bedroom in the middle of the night to find her mother gone. She then searched the rest of the house looking for her mother. After a thorough search, she went back to her mother's room to find her back in bed in a deep sleep. The mother has had many previous abduction experience.

The last case I will include here is short but has a very unusual aspect. In this case, a woman woke up in the middle of the night and saw a bunch of greys reflected in a mirror in her bedroom. Yet when she looked directly around the room, she could see nothing. She was only able to see them in the mirror. Sound impossible? Not really, if you look at it from a different perspective. Mystics have used mirrors to make paranormal contact for centuries. Dr. Raymond Moody, the researcher of near death experiences, is using mirrors in his current research.

I bring up these cases because I feel strongly that we must look at all aspects of this phenomenon. If we expand our minds to all the questions, we might be able to expand our minds to all the answers.

As always, I welcome your input and suggestions. *Please contribute!!*

Ray Maurer, State Director



The often romanticized image of cowboys and aliens

# 1947 REVISITED ? ? ? ?

The Arizona Republic

Friday, September 9, 1994

## Roswell UFO wreckage just a balloon, U.S. says

By John Diamond  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A supposed alien spacecraft discovered near Roswell, N.M., 47 years ago likely was a secret Army Air Forces balloon designed to monitor Soviet nuclear testing, the Air Force concluded Thursday.

The Air Force, in a report on the

"Roswell Incident," said a wave of sensational books and television specials are "undocumented, taken out of context, self-serving or otherwise dubious."

The July 1947 discovery of wreckage on a ranch near Roswell has been at the center of longstanding disputes between UFO advocates and the government over whether the Air

Force has been hiding evidence about alien-spacecraft discoveries.

The Air Force began its investigation earlier this year amid charges that it was covering up the truth.

The material found near Roswell consisted of foil-wrapped fabric, wooden sticks, rubber pieces and small

— See **ROSWELL**, page A8

— **ROSWELL** from page A1

I-beams with strange markings on them. A local newspaper at the time reported: "Air Force Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch."

"The Air Force research did not locate or develop any information that the 'Roswell Incident' was a UFO event," wrote Col. Richard Weaver, author of the report. "The most likely source of the wreckage . . . was from Project Mogul balloon trains."

Although it rejects UFO and alien theories, the report nevertheless suggests an interesting ancestry to the Roswell wreckage.

Project Mogul was a top-secret venture to develop balloons that would carry sensing devices aloft and alert the U.S. military to any Soviet nuclear tests. It was a high priority at a time when the government was concerned that its monopoly on nuclear weapons might be threatened.

The Roswell Incident also occurred amid a so-called UFO wave, a surge of interest in unidentified flying saucers, presumably from other galaxies. Soon after the incident, officials in what was then the Army Air Forces dismissed the flying-saucer speculation, saying that the wreckage found near Roswell was that of a weather balloon.

There the matter stood until 1978, when the supermarket tabloid *National Enquirer* reported that Maj. Jesse Marcel, the Army Air Forces

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*From the rather benign description of the 'event' and the recovery of some material as described in the original newspaper accounts, the 'Roswell Incident' has since grown to mythical, if not mystical, proportions.*

**COL. RICHARD WEAVER**

AUTHOR OF AIR FORCE REPORT

intelligence officer who brought in the wreckage, claimed he had discovered UFO debris.

A series of books followed that advanced the UFO theory and accused the Air Force of a cover-up.

The Robert Stack-hosted television show *Unsolved Mysteries* aired a recreation of the Roswell incident, and other television shows followed suit.

"From the rather benign description of the 'event' and the recovery of some material as described in the original newspaper accounts, the 'Roswell Incident' has since grown to mythical, if not mystical, proportions," Weaver wrote in the Air Force report.

He conceded that debunking conspiracy theories is a no-win business,

because "pro-UFO" elements simply dismiss the report as part of the cover-up.

Rep. Steven Schiff, R-N.M., began pressing the Pentagon last year to declassify Roswell-related documents.

The Air Force appears to have expended considerable energy on the report.

Dozens of people, including several who were in Roswell and involved in the discovery of the wreckage, as well as veterans of Project Mogul, were interviewed. Investigators also combed archives for material relating to UFOs.

In one example of the extent of the effort, the Air Force tracked down the original photo negatives of newspaper pictures showing the wreckage and sent them to "a national-level organization" for digital analysis.

This probably refers to the National Photo Interpretation Center, a super-secret branch of the CIA. The analysis found that the photos were of "insufficient quality" to produce substantive results.

Walter Haut, a volunteer at the UFO Museum at Roswell, a center devoted to gathering information on this and other UFO incidents, rejected the Air Force conclusions.

"I feel very strongly about it," he said.

Referring to those who made the original UFO claim, he said, "We're not talking about flaky people."



## MEDIA WATCH

by Tom Taylor

In the interest of keeping the UFO topic before the public, the following is a list of programs on the subject recently aired via television, radio and newspaper in recent weeks. We will attempt to list programs ahead of time whenever possible; unfortunately, we are not notified of the majority of programs until it is too late to publish them in the Newsletter in time for members to view, hear or read them. In the case of TV and radio programs, ask at MUFON meetings to see if anyone is aware of someone who may have taped them to share.

The September issue of FATE magazine is almost like receiving an issue of the Mufon Journal! FATE always has a column devoted to UFOs by Antonio Huneus, but this month it kind of went all out! "UFO Abductions" by Barbara Kent; "The Alexander UFO Religious Crisis" by Victoria Alexander; and one of the most interesting articles, "UFO Hoaxes" by J. Antonio Huneus make this an exceptional issue.

Not to be outdone, Monteil Williams is *finally* having his long-awaited "Area 51" program which he promised to viewers last January. It is expected to be aired possibly the week of September 19th; check local TV listings for exact time.

With the "channel numbers switch" occurring this month, we'll do our best to identify station call letters AND channel numbers, but bear with us if things aren't quite the way we list them by the time you go to watch the programs. Check local listings to see the "final resting place" of ABC, CBS and FOX, among others (NBC is actually staying Channel 12!).

Sunday evenings, KFYI - Art Bell's "Dreamland" Show: Linda Moulton Howe reports weekly and has recently been reporting the disappearance of over 120 cattle without a trace from a ranch in Oklahoma. Modern-day cattle rustlers aside (surely not on horseback -- and how many trucks would it take to transport that many cattle??) there is no explanation for this overnight disappearance. The banks which have financed the cattle are understandably quite upset and have involved local law enforcement officials in the case.

On September 1 or 2, callers to Art Bell's nightly KFYI program reported a green object either landing or crashing in the vicinity of Oceanside, California. Anyone having further information on this is asked to contact me.

September 18, 7 or 8 p.m. NBC (still Channel 12): Unsolved Mysteries will be airing a two-hour UFO special. Exact details sketchy at this time -- set your VCRs!

Wednesdays, Noon - 2 p.m., Local Public Access Cable [Dimension Channel 22 in some areas] - UFO-AZ/UFO TALKS. [Moves this week from Tuesdays (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.) to Wednesdays (Noon - 2 p.m.)] Ted Loman, Rick Keefe and sometimes Jim Nichols co-host this continuing series featuring interesting guests and topics related to all aspects of the UFO experience. Ray and Tom will be featured on an upcoming program (date as yet unannounced).

Fridays on FOX "Sightings" is supposed to return We've seen nothing in the TV listings -- check around and let us know if you hear anything.

Omni Magazine's October issue is supposed to have a copy of the "Roswell Declaration." This will provide thousands of copies of the Declaration to be filled out and mailed in by Omni's vast number of readers. Featured articles in this issue include "UFOs, Science and Religion."

October 1 - Larry King Live (TNT) - check local listings for exact time. - This broadcast of Larry King Live will originate from Area 51. It is reported that Bob Dean will also be interviewed on this broadcast, as well as Glen Campbell, who heads the Secrecy Oversight Council in Rachel, Nevada (site of the "Little A'Le Inn"). [See article below.]

TRAX - Local Public Access Cable [Dimension Channel 22 in some areas] - Special thanks go to Susie Smith and Mary Hart who accompanied me to be guests at a recent taping of a short clip on our MUFON group. It will possibly air on a Wednesday (date as yet undetermined) at 11:30 p.m. We appreciate all opportunities to "advertise" MUFON Arizona!

Tom Taylor  
Asst. State Director

### UFO EXPERIENCER SUPPORT GROUP

A free meeting will be held on Sunday, September 25, at the Tucson Main Library (101 N. Stone, Tucson - lower level meeting room) from 1:00 to 4:45 p.m. For additional information, call Jean at (602) 323-7981.

#### Larry King Plans Special on Shadowy Nevada "Base"

On October 1 Larry King will do a live, on-location special, with phone calls, of course, from Rachel, Nevada, "in the shadow of the U.S. government's supersecret air base known as 'Area 51'" on TNT. It's called *The UFO Cover Up: Live From Area 51*.

Area 51, TNT explains, "also known as Groom Lake, is an enormous military installation hidden deep in the hostile Nevada desert -- a secret the Pentagon won't confirm its existence."

Among Larry's guests will be Glen Campbell, who heads the Secrecy Oversight Council in Rachel.

### USED AND OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS

Used and out-of-print UFO books are obtainable from two of our local members, Ginger and Edward Redman. The Redmans can be reached at (602) 437-0219. If you are looking for something, give them a call. They do have a wide selection and can probably



come up with that hard-to-find book you've been looking for. They may still have some copies of the new book "The Truth About the Roswell Incident."

## AREA 51: LET IT GO!

Let's be reasonable! Each government in the world has defense projects. For a world power like the U.S., it is even an obligation. But in order to be efficient, they'd better be secret.

If we read about new weapons in the newspaper or tabloids, not only spies will stand in an unemployment line, but the weapon itself will be useless. Granted, the USSR and Communist block have collapsed . . . but there is still mysterious China. Have you heard of North Korea? Also, there are mad ayatollahs and fanatics of all kinds still running around. Russia, in need of hard currency, wells everything; and it is not impossible that some unheard-of third world dictator winds up with a nuclear weapon, pointing it on Washington DC.

In military activities secrecy is imperative, our Constitutional rights notwithstanding. The unfortunate reality is that we as taxpayers can only shut up and pay. This is a reality -- and it always was.

Imagine if in 1942 you called Los Alamos, and as a citizen and taxpayer you demanded to know what was going on. would you expect an answer such as: "We are building an atomic bomb to drop on Japan?" That would be treason, right? So all we get is "Area 51? It does not exist . . . oh, that thing in Nevada? Yeah, it's a funny farm for overworked corporals. Sure, there is security -- so they don't run to Las Vegas. Don't worry . . . forget it . . ."

So what if the Air Force is attempting to reproduce flying saucers? What is wrong with that? by now this thing is called Stealth or Aurora, which also does not exist . . . or has a serial number and is not a UFO any more. So why bother?

And then there is the security force. These guys have no sense of humor. Your civil rights and the public's right to know does not weigh much with them. They may shoot to kill. "Accidents" can happen in the desert. By now, Area 51 is only a tourist attraction for those in search of sensations. With all this publicity, UFOs and greys, if any, are moved somewhere else.

Is it worth risking your life and rotting under a sun just to find out if some greys are still lurking in tunnels? In my book it is not a heroism, but a lack of brains. It is better to drive to Rachel and enjoy the local hospitality!

Let it go! This is a purely military business, land-grab and disabled workers included. From the UFO point of view, there is little to find. Instead, let's concentrate our efforts to force the government to declassify ALL UFO-related records from Roswell to this day. That will take some worthwhile energy!

No, I am not a government agent in charge of information, deformation, disinformation or transformation. At my age, no one will take me even

as a volunteer . . . I am just trying to instill some common sense into hysteria.

Dimitri "Jim" Ossipov

## UFO SIGHTING IN CHANDLER

I received a telephone call from Tom Taylor on Monday, August 8, at approximately 4:15 p.m. in which he asked me to follow up on a call recorded on the MUFON Hotline which might have been to report either a crash or a landing. There were two calls. The first call reported the happening as "last week, about a week ago," and left no name or phone number. The second call that same day was left by "Alice" (pseudonym to protect privacy). I agreed to call her back and find out what I could.

After finding a map of the Valley, I called "Alice" at approximately 5 p.m. I found the number was that of a new age bookstore and that "Alice" had left at 3 p.m., but she would be in the next day. The next morning, at approximately 11:30 a.m., I was able to contact "Alice." She told me a man had come into the bookstore earlier and said that his wife, a schoolteacher and Sunday School teacher, was running one morning (as was her habit) between 3 and 5 a.m. He had stated that during the prior week on a Wednesday or Thursday (making it August 4 or 5), while running in the vicinity of Ray Road, his wife had seen two UFOs landing. They had lights light blue in color which flashed red, then blue again, and they seemed to lower down into an excavation being built for water retention.

"Alice" was quite busy with customers at the bookstore, so she was only able to give me a brief outline of her meeting with the man who made the report. I later called her back, and this time she said that the sighting had taken place prior to the time last reported, which would have changed the date to July 27 or 28. The man making the report told "Alice" that his wife did not tell him right away -- it was a few days before she mentioned it to him. He said she did not want to discuss it further with him and wanted no one else talking about it. She is fearful.

The location of the sighting, according to "Alice" from what she was told, was south of Ray Road and east of Price in Chandler, in a field (either "in" or "beyond" a field). There was an excavation being dug in or beyond that field for some kind of water retention. The observer had watched two UFOs for about 10 minutes. One seemed to be larger than the other. Both hovered, glowing blue, then flashing red, and they dropped down behind the trees toward the excavation; they then turned blue again as they dropped below the trees and into the hole to the water retainer. (I did not ask if there was water in the excavation.) The observer waited for about 5 minutes to see if they would reappear. When they did not, she continued on her run.

"Alice" asked the man if his wife had mentioned experiencing any lost time, to which he replied "no." I asked "Alice" to ask the man to call me if she saw him again (she had earlier stated that she had never seen the man before or after he related his story to her).

The man called my house on August 11 at approximately 4:30 p.m. Unfortunately, I was not home, but he spoke with my son, who relayed to me



that the man had said there were other witnesses to the sighting and that a family had seen the objects. The man never called back to speak with me personally.

Following the August MUFON-AZ meeting, a friend and I decided to go to Chandler to look at the site. Along Ray Road toward Price there is a walkway/sidewalk which a runner could conceivably use. The most likely "south of Ray and east of Price" site is a subdivision called "Crystal Bay" which is being excavated with residential buildings being erected. There is an unfinished, meandering waterway throughout the subdivision which has water in it. There are also small groves of trees more or less following the path of the waterway. The subdivision faces Ray Road for probably 1/2 to 3/4 mile. My friend and I spoke with the security guard, who said he had not heard of anything "strange" being seen in the area. It was his first night on duty, but other guards had not reported seeing anything. His shift ends at 5 a.m. I gave him our Hotline number and asked him to call if he or other guards saw anything strange that could not be explained.

I received word of a second Chandler sighting occurring Sunday, August 21 at 4:40 p.m. with only one observer. It occurred near the intersection of Chandler Blvd. and McQueen (NE quadrant). The caller, who prefers anonymity, was lying in a lounge chair watching his children. The day was clear and hot, with a southwest wind. There were light, puffy clouds with a storm building in the southeast. The sun was behind him as he faced east-northeast.

The clouds had dissipated when he sighted an object almost directly overhead. He watched it for about two minutes . . . it traveled east in a straight line. He watched the object until it faded from view due to distance. The object was silvery white, vaguely egg-shaped, and seemed to pop into existence and then moved with the smaller end leading. Its speed was approximately 300 knots or 345 mph. He detected no sound from the object, and it did not leave a trail. No structural details were observed, but he got the impression of three dimensionality. It did not wobble, rotate, change appearance, or vary its course or speed.

About 15 to 20 minutes later a DC-9 came overhead at approximately 25,000 feet, in approximately the same direction of travel. The object was apparently about 1/4 the size of the DC-9. The observer did hear the aircraft; it took about 90 seconds to traverse the same distance, at about 350 knots.

The object traveled in the direction of the Crystal Bay subdivision to the east, where we believe another sighting occurred during the latter part of July, about 2-1/2 miles away.

Irene Alcott  
MUFON-AZ Member

## CALENDAR

September 24: "A Galactic Perspective on Crop Circles - 1994" - The Courtyards, Marriott Inn, 13444 E. Shea Blvd. (next to Mayo Clinic). 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Contact Sharon Warren, P.O. Box 31501, Rio Verde, AZ 85263 (602) 471-2062 for information.

September 25: UFO Experiencers Support Group, Tucson Main Library, 101 N. Stone, 1p - 4:45p. For additional information call Jean at (602) 323-7981.

September 30 - October 3: National New Age and Alien Agenda Conference, Mesa Holiday Inn, Mesa, AZ. Vance Davis, Linda Cortile, and many other speakers will be featured. Phone (602) 230-5381, 24 hr. hotline for program and information.

October 14-16: Second Gulf Breeze UFO Conference, Grand Hotel, Pensacola, FL. For further information call (904) 432-8888.

October 15: Seminar featuring Yvonne Smith, downtown Ramada Inn, 1-10 and St. Mary's, Tucson, AZ. Public session (10a-1p - \$10), workshop for Mental Health Professionals (2:30p-4:30p - \$25). Both sessions: \$30. For additional information, call Bodhi Project at (602) 884-7937.

November 12 & 13: "The Philadelphia Conference." American Motor Inn, 4444 City Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131. Admission: \$65 in advance, \$75 at the door. Call (215) 878-3100 for hotel reservations. Featured speakers include Karla Turner, Ph.D. Contact Bob Eure, P.O. Box 1152, Glenside, PA 19038 (215) 659-7580 for details.

November 27 - December 4: Fourth International UFO Congress Convention, Peppermill Oasis Resort, Mesquite, Nevada (north of Las Vegas). For further information contact Bob Brown, 4266 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611 (510) 428-0202.

## NEWS RELEASE

NBC-TV has commissioned "Unsolved Mysteries" to present a recreation of *The Allagash Abductions* planned to air on Sunday, September 18, 1994. The author of the book, Ray Fowler, was filmed in a number of sets for this big time production and mentioned MUFON several times, hoping to obtain national exposure. Ray is MUFON's Director of Investigation.

## THE OMINOUS MEN IN BLACK

The visit reportedly came in 1976 while Dr. Herbert Hopkins was working as a consulting hypnotist on an alleged UFO abduction case in Maine. One night when he was home alone, the physician said, he got a telephone call from a man who claimed to represent a New Jersey UFO research group (Hopkins would later discover that the group did not exist). The caller asked to see Hopkins in order to discuss the abduction case with him, and the doctor assented. He would later reflect upon how odd it was that he had so readily agreed to share the matter.

At the time, however, Hopkins did not even find it odd that an extraordinary visitor was on his doorstep only seconds after the phone call ended. The man was hairless—bald, and without eyebrows or eyelashes. He wore a black suit, a black tie, and a gleaming white shirt—all immaculate and precisely pressed. "I thought, He looks like an undertaker," Hopkins said later. The man also had a dead-white face and wore what appeared to be lipstick.

Apparently put off by none of this, the doctor sat with the stranger and talked about the details of the case for some time. Eventually, Hopkins noticed that the man's speech seemed to be slowing and that his movements were unsteady as he rose to leave. His cryptic parting words to his host were, "My energy is running low. Must go now. Goodbye." Only after his guest had staggered off did Hopkins find himself shaken, cognizant at last of the incident's strangeness.

Despite certain anomalies, the mysterious visitor was not untypical of the fabled Men in Black, or MIB, as they are known—beings, outwardly human yet plainly not human, who are said to emerge as the threatening presences in the lives of UFO witnesses or researchers. Since the late 1950s, MIB have become a curious adjunct of some UFO sightings and have attained near-mythic status in their own right.

Researchers have investigated more than thirty alleged MIB visits in detail. While

some involve pale creatures such as the one Hopkins described, the MIB are more usually depicted as dark-skinned and somehow foreign looking, often with slanted eyes. Although they sometimes appear singly, they usually travel in threes. Many are said to show surprise and puzzlement at such mundane items as ballpoint pens and eating utensils. Nearly all have in common their somber attire of dauntingly neat black suits, black ties, and white shirts.

Some reportedly speak with peculiar accents, and their language is either excessively formal or prone to the jarring slang of dated Hollywood B movies ("Look, boy, if you value your life and your family's too, don't talk any more about this sighting of yours," a UFO witness quotes one of the Men in Black as saying).

As reports have it, MIB personalities tend to be robotic; they usually seem neither warm nor malign. Nevertheless, they appear menacing. Some, such as the one who supposedly visited Dr. Hopkins, instill fear merely by their presence. Others supposedly intimidate their victims with threats of bodily harm, although there has never been a report of any MIB resorting to violence. In all cases, MIB mission seems to be to dissuade people from talking about UFO experiences or seeking information about them. An early and persistent theory about the Men in Black was that they were government agents who were bent on obscuring truths about UFOs. That notion gradually lost currency, however—probably because eccentricities of the MIB outstripped all but the most paranoid imaginings about nefarious federal conspiracies. Most present thinking is that either the encounters with MIB are illusions conjured by persons shaken by real or imagined encounters with UFOs, or they are hoaxes.

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# Cattle Mutilations on Rise in Northern New Mexico

By Richard Benke

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAGLE NEST, N.M. — Reports of mutilated cattle, suggestive of cases around the nation 20 years ago, are on the rise again in northern New Mexico.

In the past 16 months, nine ranchers reported 27 cattle mutilated, the largest number near Eagle Nest, ranchers and livestock inspectors say.

They repeat stories first heard in the early 1970s:

No animal tracks are found near the carcasses, no blood. Genitals have been removed, tongues sometimes cut off at their roots, ankles often cored out, one eye usually gone. Sometimes ears are missing. Incisions seem heat-cauterized.

Some people speculate that aliens may be responsible. Others blame ranchers or natural predators.

State livestock inspector Jerry Valerio rules out coyotes, bears, birds, dogs and mountain lions.

"I'm not saying anything about UFOs," Valerio says. "I'm saying I don't know. But, by golly, if I could get a clue that I could go on, I will find out, even if it takes me a long time."

The Associated Press reported in 1985 that deputy sheriffs in Arkansas and Texas stalked out carcasses and saw birds carve wounds similar to those blamed on mutilators.

But Valerio says he and ranchers have watched mutilated carcasses and found that predators wouldn't

go near them.

State Livestock Bureau director John Wortman of Albuquerque says he's aware of the resurgence of mutilation reports.

"If there's somebody up there that's butchering livestock, that's who we want to go after," Wortman says.

Eagle Nest rancher Eli Hronich has suffered the lion's share — 11 cattle mutilated so precisely, he and Valerio insist, that it could not have been the work of predators.

"Some people are scared and say it's predators, but it is not predators," Valerio says.

Hronich, who runs 2,500 head here, says he's seen hundreds of cows dead on the range in 25 years of ranching, and "when you see a mutilation, you know what it is."

The most recent death was July 14.

Reports include one other mutilation in Eagle Nest, eight in the Jemez Mountains, two in Questa, one in Tano, one in El Prado, one in Arroyo Seco and two in an area one livestock inspector wants left unidentified, pending completion of his investigation.

Rancher Ray Moore says he found a mutilated yearling steer in a pasture overlooking Eagle Nest Lake in August 1993.

"I have seen cattle killed by bear, and I've seen wildlife like deer killed by a mountain lion and coyotes. And they don't just leave them intact after they ate the anus out. They usually devour them," she says. "I think this is definitely human."

Motivation?

## Newspaper Calls for Inquiry

ANGEL FIRE, N.M. — The Sangre de Cristo Chronicle has called for a serious response to recent reports of cattle mutilations in northern New Mexico.

"Cattle Mutilations — are UFOs Responsible or is it a Satanic Cult?" the headlines may scream, but this is no laughing matter for the ranchers," the newspaper said in a July 28 editorial.

The weekly paper has been reporting on mutilations since May. The Associated Press has learned that 27 cattle have been reported mutilated in northern New Mexico since April 1993, including 12 in Eagle Nest.

Ranchers are scared, the Chronicle editorial says.

"They don't know who is responsible. And besides the mere nebulous harm of fear, they have to deal with the all too real harm of financial loss."

There is plenty of documented photographic and physical evidence, the paper says, adding: "Who knows how many cases go undocumented because of the fear of public ridicule?"

The Chronicle acknowledges that the story is the sort that tends to attract "conspiracy managers and UFO watchers."

"Regardless," the paper says, "we think it has real merit, and it should be neglected no longer."

"I have no idea. I think it's something nobody will ever know. I'd be amazed if we did find out."

Hronich says: "I think somebody does know, somewhere. That's what bothers me. ... It's somebody that's got some money and equipment. It's a sophisticated deal."

Too high-tech, too clean, he says,

for cultists.

UFOs?

"I wouldn't rule 'em out, wouldn't rule 'em in," he says.

Valerio, whose Taos-based area includes Eagle Nest, says many ranchers have clamored up about finding mutilations because previous reports went unheard.

The only way to fight it, he says, is for ranchers to report cattle deaths — even those readily explainable by lightning, poison, predatory attack, disease or accident.

"A lot of people think if they don't say anything, it'll go away," Valerio says. "But it doesn't."

One who doesn't believe in staying silent is Gail Staehlin of Albuquerque, a volunteer mutilation sleuth, fascinated by unexplained phenomena.

"It's the mystery of it," she says.

Valerio says that Staehlin has helped him by helping organize ranchers and encouraging them to report suspected mutilations.

Staehlin and a friend, Gene Nierl, head out on a moment's notice with video equipment when mutilations are reported.

The UFO phenomena fringe frustrates former FBI agent Ken Rommel of Santa Fe, whose government-commissioned 1980 report blamed previous mutilations on predators. Rommel says that UFO buffs fan false rumors. He calls them "the garbage grapevine."

Valerio says he's still infuriated by Rommel's report 14 years later.

But Clair Hibbs, a veterinary pathologist who retired in 1989 as head of the New Mexico Agriculture Department's Veterinary

Diagnostic Service, also blames most mutilations on predators attacking after cattle die.

"I have looked at these in three different states — Kansas, Nebraska and New Mexico. ... I would say over 90 percent are due to predators of some type," Hibbs says.

Denver pathologist Dr. John Altshuler says that two of the recent spates of cattle deaths were most likely caused by "massive confluent bilateral bronchopneumonia," but he doesn't know who or what may have mutilated them.

Some deaths remain unexplained for lack of information, Hibbs says, adding that thorough post-mortem examinations are necessary — preferably on entire carcasses.

The state does not routinely conduct cattle post-mortems. The current Veterinary Diagnostic Service director in Albuquerque, John Thilsten, says the only way the agency would get involved would be if veterinarians referred cases. He says that hasn't happened.

The veterinarian who works in the Taos area with Valerio and ranchers there hasn't reported any cases, Thilsten says. The vet, Tim Johnson, repeatedly refused comment through aides when contacted by The Associated Press.

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