

STIGMATA

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ONE DOLLAR

THE PROJECT STIGMA REPORT ON THE CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE OCCURRENCE OF ANIMAL MUTILATIONS

THE NEXT STIGMATA

STIGMATA No. 8 will be published, although it may not appear until several months into 1980. It could, however, appear much sooner, pending developments. To receive STIGMATA No. 8, send \$1.00 to:

Project Stigma - P.O. Box 1094 - Paris, Texas 75460

SUPPLEMENTAL NEWSLETTER

In lieu of another STIGMATA this year, we will issue a one-or-two-page supplemental newsletter. We'll pass along the latest news from the investigative front and we'll update our readers on our plans to publish a special report on the helicopter/mutilation connection.

To receive this supplemental newsletter, send a stamped (15¢), self-addressed no. 10 (9½") envelope to Project Stigma - P.O. Box 1094 - Paris, Texas 75460.

"20-20"'S MUTILATION REPORT - OUT OF SIGHT

For those who have been wondering whatever became of ABC-TV's mutilation report that was to have appeared on "20-20": After the "20-20" crew spent three months and untold thousands of dollars gathering information, the project has been cancelled (most seasoned mutilation investigators were not surprised at this development). The reason: One ABC source says "lack of funds"; another disagrees, saying money was not the problem, that the reason for cancellation lies elsewhere. It can only be hoped that "20-20" will reconsider or at least divulge the results of their investigation. Do we detect anyone holding their breath??

MUTES & RESPONSIBILITIES

In May of 1979, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration provided a grant of over \$40,000 for the establishment of an animal mutilation investigation under the auspices of the District Attorney's office in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Kenneth M. Rommel assumed the role of director of the inquiry in May, upon his retirement as an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It may be of interest here to briefly examine the events leading up to the establishment of this mutilation probe. Many readers are aware of this information, but many are not.

Mutilations began in earnest in New Mexico in 1975 and they have been reported in every subsequent year. There was a notable drop-off in activity following the first quarter of 1977. However, in May, September and December of that year, mutilations occurred in Costilla County, Colorado, just north of Taos County, New Mexico. Relatively little was to be heard regarding mutilations in New Mexico until April of 1978, when a renewed onslaught began in Rio Arriba County (see STIGMATA #4 & #5). Mutilations were then reported in Rio Arriba County (and a few nearby counties) in each of the remaining months of 1978 (possible exception: August. If any occurred then, we are unaware of them).

The authorities seemed powerless to do anything about the mutilations. Someone other than the mutilators had to make a move. Republican Harrison Schmitt, who had stepped from the moon (Apollo 17) to the United States Senate (from New Mexico), took a stride into the mutilation arena (some might term it the abyss). Whether as a result of constituent pressure or his own interest and concern - or a combination of both - Sen. Schmitt, on December 21, 1978, sent a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell in which he voiced his concern at "what appears to be a continued pattern of an organized interstate criminal activity". Schmitt requested that the Justice Department get involved. When Bell replied on January 10, 1979, he wrote that he had asked Philip Heymann (head of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department) to look into the matter. Bell added, "I must say that the materials sent me indicate the existence of one of the strangest phenomenons (sic) in my memory".

Eventually it was decided that a conference should be held in an attempt to get investigators and their information together. As reported in STIGMATA #6, the meeting was held in Albuquerque on April 20, 1979. Some

suspicious observers have suggested that the conference might have been arranged to get the scattered investigators together - not so much to promote dialogue and understanding among them as to find out how much they really know, as part of a continuing effort to monitor, not so much the mutilations, but the investigation itself and the investigators themselves. Other (paranoid - or reasonably justified?) observers have proposed that the conference was designed to embarrass the sincere and legitimate mutilation investigators by sprinkling the meeting with bizarre, dubiously-relevant presentations and information. This would make it easier for the media and the public to reject the whole matter by "throwing the baby out with the bath water". Then again, the possibility also exists that most or all of the motives behind the conference were earnest, sincere and "up front".

As for what the participants themselves got out of the conference, the results varied. If you were Mark Acuff (see comments elsewhere in this issue) you experienced slack-jawed astonishment at what seemed to be a circus of preposterousness. If you were Tommy Blann (see "Letters") the affair was not dull. If you were a court reporter transcribing the proceedings, you pondered whether the speaker just said something about NORAD or someone named "Noel Red". If you were a county lawman, you might have huffed and puffed over the presence of "hippies", the press and assorted wackos - or you might have entered into dialogue in an attempt to find out all you could about the puzzling mutilations situation. All of this was done - and more.

Senator Schmitt, in his opening remarks, echoed the concern he had expressed to Griffin Bell and added, "Strange as it may seem, it is not an obvious federal crime to have a systematic destruction of property in several states by similar or the same process". Schmitt announced that the federal government does have investigative jurisdiction over crimes (including violations of state laws) that occur on federal lands. United States Attorney R. E. Thompson of Albuquerque, the co-host for the conference, then introduced local FBI agent Sam Jones, who had been "assigned day-to-day responsibility for this investigation on behalf of the Department of Justice". Indeed, it began to look as though the FBI was publically and admittedly getting involved.

A succession of scheduled and non-scheduled speakers then gave generally brief presentations of varying content and viewpoint. If space permits, we will examine some of these offerings in this or future issues of STIGMATA.

Forrest Putman, head of the FBI's Albuquerque office, commented on Senator Schmitt's opening remarks about federal jurisdiction. Putman claimed that the FBI only had jurisdiction on federal Indian lands - not on BLM or national forest lands - but that they could also cooperate with other agencies "where we had a similar-type m.o.". Schmitt replied that he and Philip Heymann of the Justice Department had agreed that federal lands other than Indian lands could be included under federal investigative jurisdiction. Putman stood his ground, and Schmitt said it was something to be looked into.

The conference ended with the FBI having indicated (or feigned) interest in the situation. It was promised that various pertinent agencies would be conferring over the extent and structure of the anticipated investigation. As it turned out, the FBI decided against launching an investigation of its own. After all the furor, it seemed that no federal investigation would be undertaken at any level. Instead the ball was passed to Santa Fe District Attorney Eloy Martinez, who had been attempting to launch a probe under his auspices since long before the April 20th conference. Thus, Ken Rommel becomes the A-number-one mutilation investigator in the first district of New Mexico. But what about the first district in Texas or the 3rd district in Colorado - or any other area where mutilations have occurred? Things may become a little more coordinated in New Mexico but the other mutilation-plagued areas are left to fend for themselves. Although Rommel has no formal jurisdiction in other states, he apparently intends to communicate with other areas and to set up a centralized information depository.

Other attempts have been made, through U.S. Senators such as Frank Church and James McClure of Idaho and (then-senator) Floyd Haskell of Colorado, to elicit investigative response from the federal government. We do not necessarily subscribe to the notion that the federal government is composed of nothing more than paper-pushing dullards and maladroit morons. It is likely that there are intelligent people in one or more branches or agencies who know a great deal about what is going on regarding mutilations. They may have a grasp of the situation that is much keener than that which we possess in the hinterlands. We do not know who they are or on what levels they are stationed, but they do not choose to put their cards on the table. It may be that they are covering for the mutilators (be they human, non-human, officially-sanctioned or whatever) or, as Jacques Vallee and others suggest: they may know just enough to know (to

their horror) that they really know nothing - but they could never give that impression, of course, since a cardinal rule in the intelligence community is to always appear to know everything.

As 1979 began, a series of horse mutilations occurred in Eddy County, New Mexico, followed by cattle mutilations in Taos and Torrance Counties. There had been speculation to the effect that, due to the publicity accorded the mutilation conference, no mutilations would occur in New Mexico - at least not in the spring and perhaps none during the remainder of 1979. Not a chance. Following the conference, mutilated carcasses turned up in the Lindrith-Regina area of Rio Arriba County and at the Santa Clara Pueblo in northern Santa Fe County, near Los Alamos.

In mid-June Kenneth Rommel announced that, although there had been no opportunity to use it, an informal task force of investigators were more or less on standby to engage in field investigations and analyses (about a month later, Rommel admitted that he had been out to look at several "dead animals"). Rommel said that offers of assistance came from the State Police, State Medical Examiner, State Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Fish and Game Department and even FBI agent Sam Jones (who "will accompany the group as an observer of mutilations that do not occur on Indian lands"). The implication here, of course, is that the FBI would indeed involve themselves in investigations into mutilations on Indian lands.

Recent mutilations have occurred, not only on the Santa Clara Pueblo lands, but on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. We find no indication of FBI investigations in these cases. Around the time of the Pine Ridge mutilations (details elsewhere in this issue), news reports emanated from the Red Lakes Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota - not about mutilations but human conflicts resulting in homicides, and the FBI was investigating, only serving to emphasize that the FBI has jurisdiction in such areas. Many observers seem to feel that, where the mutilations are concerned, FBI or federal jurisdiction would be justified by (1) the occurrence of mutilations on Indian lands and (2) the unavoidable suggestion of the same or similar culprits and techniques being utilized in an interstate operation. The FBI or some other federal agency may not be compelled to investigate but could do so if desired; apparently no such desire exists.

6

In 1975, while Colorado was experiencing a siege of mutilations that has not been matched before or since, then-U.S. Senator Floyd Haskell responded to the furor by requesting, as Senator Schmitt did, FBI and Justice Department intervention. Project Stigma obtained from the FBI, under the Freedom of Information Act, excerpts from their files pertaining to Haskell's request and the situation in general in Colorado in 1975. On August 29 of that year, Haskell sent a letter to Theodore P. Rosack, then head of Denver's FBI office, in which he asked that the FBI enter the case, citing the occurrence of mutilations in 21 states which "strongly suggests the very real possibility that the crossing of state lines is involved and this alone, I feel, should justify the participation of the FBI in this case". Then-FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley replied:

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

On September 24th the DENVER POST reported that the FBI declined to enter the probe because (to quote an unnamed spokesperson), "There is no evidence of interstate movements". To put it charitably, there was no truth in that statement. Though the evidence was and is largely circumstantial, it is compelling; some might say overwhelming. Most people seem to have a general impression that the FBI has jurisdiction over any interstate crime. Without having knowledge of the specific statutes involved, we must admit that this may not be the case. There are unsubstantiated allegations of FBI investigations into mutilations in such places as South Texas, Lincoln County, Missouri and the Flathead Indian Reservation in northwestern Montana. The FBI was interested enough in 1975 to at least gather information about the mutilations, above and beyond simply accumulating news clippings. We have been informed of at least two investigative forays made by FBI agents in Colorado in 1975. Palmer Hoyt, the legendary newspaperman and "Emperor of the Rocky Mountain Empire", who died in Denver in June of 1979, told a Project Stigma investigator in late 1975 that he had seen a copy of an FBI report which included personal correspondence that the Project Stigma investigator had written to another party. We do not know if this resulted from mail tam-

pering or if the recipient of the correspondence provided the copies. As for Palmer Hoyt himself: this courageous and objective journalist had developed an intense and abiding interest in the mutilations, following his retirement as editor and publisher of the DENVER POST. It was his opinion that the FBI and/or the CIA (and/or some other agency or agencies) were - and still are - protecting the mutilators. Either that is the case, or the people in our federal government are simply innately obtuse and monumentally unresponsive. We have already indicated that it is unlikely that all federal employees fit that mold.

At some time - perhaps soon - a state - it may be Colorado or New Mexico or Arkansas or elsewhere - will experience a serious and concerted wave of animal mutilations. Pressures will be brought to bear on public officials and maybe a senator will look to Washington, D.C. for aid and solace for his electorate. The governor might call the unchecked mutilations an "outrage"; someone in Washington might even deem it "one of the strangest" things in their memory; but if any firm federal investigative action is taken, we shall be surely amazed.

State and county and local investigators - both "official" and "civilian" - must pool their efforts, enter into dialogue with each other and exchange information, without expecting aid from beyond the state level. The "officials" and "civilians" can help each other, and must if any progress is to be made. This is not a conventional law enforcement problem which can be completely solved using only conventional techniques, so lawmen must reach out beyond their counties, beyond their agencies, beyond the methods they are used to. At the same time, the civilian investigators must strive to profit from the knowledge and experience of law enforcement people - because some conventional law enforcement methods can be enormously useful in this probe. So - cooperation is the charge; objectivity, detachment and healthy skepticism are among the tools to be utilized; knowledge - but more than that - understanding - is our goal.

There is something of value to be learned from this experience. It may be that each of us as individuals must learn it or know it within ourselves. And, who knows - we may all be acting out our roles in a crisply-orchestrated scenario that may have little or nothing to do with the dismembering of livestock, just as UFOs may have little to do with lights flitting across the sky. Where the mutilations are concerned, there exists an imposing barrier to our knowledge and understanding. Barriers are made to be broken.

1979 MUTILATIONS

ARKANSAS

In 1979, more carcasses of potentially-mutilated animals have been strewn across the landscape of Arkansas than across the terrain of any other state. Possible mutilations have been reported in no less than 15 Arkansas counties: Conway, Cleburne, Franklin, Crawford, Lonoke, Jackson, Little River, Prairie, Faulkner, White, Newton, Marion, Stone, Van Buren and Washington. These incidents included a 10-day-old pig seemingly-classically mutilated in Marion County, at least 5 horse-slashing incidents in Stone County (likely not classic mutilations) and at least 3 helicopter/mute cases. There is not complete unanimity among Arkansans concerning the authenticity of their mutilations. State Police Sgt. Doug Fogley, specifically assigned to investigate mutilations, told Project Stigma that he doubts that any classic mutilations have occurred in Arkansas in 1979. He does feel, however, that authentic cases occurred in 1978, especially in Benton County.

As far as the 1979 events are concerned, we have little to go on at this point beyond the fact that most of the recent cases, as reported in the press, sound "classic". From these accounts come such comments as:

*"...surgical, perhaps super-surgical precision". (Re: a July mutilation in Little River County)

*"Veterinarian Gary White said the missing parts were professionally removed with what appeared to be surgical instruments". (THE SPECTATOR; Ozark, Arkansas, 6/7/79)

*"...surgical precision." (Crawford County Sheriff Trelton Ball)

*"...Surgically". (Franklin County Sheriff Bob Pritchard)

*"The best we can tell, this is the same quality work as in the northwest part of the state. This may not be the same people, but it's the same kind of job as in Benton County". (State Police Investigator J.R. Howard, regarding a Cle-

burne County mutilation.)

*"There's no way anybody just like us could do this with a knife. It might have been a cult or something. But they used something like a surgical knife and knew how to do it". (Mrs. Bobby King, Crawford County)

An Arkansas source questioned by Project Stigma feels that publicity following the Albuquerque conference (an ARKANSAS GAZETTE article and a 4-part TV news report by a Little Rock station) prompted hoaxers and sleazo-warpo's to perpetrate pseudo-mutes throughout much of Arkansas. Indeed, although many cases appeared "classic" on the surface, others were reported as "sloppy", cruel and decidedly and contrastingly unprofessional.

The mutilation furor in Arkansas led to a meeting in Little Rock on August 14th. Attending were humane society members (who have asked Gov. Clinton to appoint an investigative task force) and representatives of various state agencies, including State Policeman Doug Fogley - plus Kenneth Rommel, head of the mute probe in New Mexico's First Judicial District. Rommel told the assemblage that "professionals" should investigate the Arkansas mutilations in the manner used to investigate homicides. He declined to discuss the specifics of any case with reporters. Fogley asked for news media cooperation, fearing that sensational headlines about mutes could bring "every kook out of the woodwork".

Between August 11 and the time of the Little Rock meeting on the 14th, at least nine potential cow mutilations were reported in Faulkner and Conway Counties, immediately north and NW of Little Rock. A silver helicopter was spotted in Faulkner County on the 10th and a blue unmarked chopper was seen near a Conway County mute site on the 12th. It was suggested that the former was a military craft en route to a nearby Titan II missile silo, but there has been no further word on whether that was substantiated (many will recall the reports of unmarked helicopters over missile silos during the mutilation outbreak in Montana in 1975 and 1976.

They were never identified.). On August 13th, two Conway County veterinarians, Drs. Norman Gray (President of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association) and Tom Brown, held a press conference in which they stated their opinion that the mutes in Conway County and elsewhere in Arkansas were the work of natural scavengers, primarily buzzards. They felt that the reason for the abundance of recent mutilation reports was simply that such reports were "fashionable right now". The Arkansas mutilation controversy is a long way from running its course, and we'll be watching developments there closely.

Sources: Lucius Farish, supplier of invaluable aid and information through his "U.F.O. Newsclipping Service"; Route 1 - Box 220; Plumerville, Arkansas 72127; Sgt. Doug Fogley; William D. Leet; Conway Co. Deputy Sheriff Ray Coffman. The following Arkansas newspaper articles are only partially representative of the extensive coverage of the 1979 mutilations: THE SPECTATOR (Ozark), 6/7/79; LOG CABIN DEMOCRAT (Conway), 7/19/79, 8/13/79, 8/14/79, 8/15/79; PETIT JEAN COUNTRY HEADLIGHT (Morrilton), 8/1/79, 8/15/79; THE GRAPHIC (Clarksville), 6/13/79; BAXTER BULLETIN (Mt. Home), June(undated); LITTLE RIVER NEWS (Ashdown), 8/2/79; VAN BUREN COUNTY DEMOCRAT (Clinton), 8/2/79; SEARCY DAILY CITIZEN, 6/8/79; MORRILTON DEMOCRAT, 8/2/79; ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT (Little Rock), 6/1/79, 6/3/79, 6/4/79, 7/28/79, 8/2/79; ARKANSAS GAZETTE (Little Rock), 6/1/79, 6/2/79, 6/8/79, 6/28/79, 8/11/79, 8/15/79.

TEXAS

Bexar County - A young bull was killed and mutilated south of San Antonio on July 15th. The genitals and anus were intact - except that the tail had been cleanly cut off. Both eyes were gone, and there was a puncture wound in the jugular vein. Cowboys in a line shack 25 yds. away heard nothing that night. Bull owner Roy Martinez and his family have seen cultists meeting and dancing around bonfires in nearby river bottoms. Remember the film, "Race With The Devil"? Filmed in the same area, ironically enough.

Sources: Robert E. Morgan(MUFON); Bill Shields(KENS-TV)

COLORADO

Huerfano County - On March 26, 1979, Sergio Abila discovered that a cow of his had been mutilated near Red Wing. Abila's wife, Dora, told Animal Mutilation Probe Director David Perkins that the udder had been removed "as if by a cookie cutter". There was no blood. The cow had given birth to a male calf three days before. The live calf was found near the mother, but none of the other 150 head were in the area.

Source: David Perkins

Then, in mid-May, the end of the world came for "Fool's Gold", a 1300-lb. prize rodeo bull owned by Mr. and Mrs. John King, who live at the opposite (east) end of Huerfano County from Red Wing. "Fool's Gold" had been fighting with other bulls, so he was moved to a remote pasture on May 10th. A ranch hand discovered the mutilated carcass on Sat., May 19th. Mr. King estimated that the animal had been dead for 5 to 7 days when found. There were no tracks nor any signs that predators had touched the carcass. AMP Director David Perkins, who lives in western Huerfano County, investigated. At the time of his report to us, he had not been able to travel to the very remote pasture where the carcass lay (due to rainy weather). From viewing photos of the animal and from interviews conducted with sheriff's investigators and with Mrs. King (Mr. King was on the rodeo circuit), Perkins reports that the condition of the carcass included the following details:

- (1) The rectum had been "cored" with a perfectly round cut, with no blood in evidence.
- (2) One testicle had been removed (on the right). A grapefruit-size hole in the groin was evident.
- (3) There was a burned circle (approx. 1½" in dia.) on the upper thigh of the right hind leg.
- (4) The left ear had been removed with an incision that ex-

tended into the head.

(5) Small flakes of splattered blood were on the bull's neck and chest - no other blood was on the ground or around the cuts.

(6) The carcass attracted no predators - including flies.

(7) The left eye was intact; the right eye appeared either "popped" or missing.

(8) Sheriff Harold Martinez said he noted a small amount of blood coming from a corner of the mouth and he assumed that the tongue was probably missing, though the mouth was not opened for examination.

This was the third mutilation in John King's herd, the other two coming during the siege of 1975. They've had problems with missing cattle, as well. In the fall of 1973, 50 head disappeared from a ranch they leased in Wyoming. Another 50 head turned up missing from the Colorado ranch in the fall of 1975. Then, in the spring of 1978, "Mr. Charlie", another prize rodeo bull, vanished from his pasture. Rustlers? Perhaps, though the Kings have no evidence.

On May 24, 1979, an AMP investigative team drove to the King Ranch to interview Mrs. King. Near the ranch entrance they observed a dark green or black helicopter (with no markings that could be discerned through field glasses) which flew from the south and passed over the King house, flying northeast. The craft was flying at roughly 1500 feet and, as it passed within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to 1 mile of the AMP team, they could hear no sound from the chopper. Mrs. King, at the house, did not hear or see the craft as it passed directly overhead.

David Perkins reports that two more suspected mutilations have occurred: a bull 15 miles NW of Walsenburg, found on June 25th; and a cow and a calf found near Gardner on the 29th. Sources: David Perkins, Louis Girodo, Mrs. Alice Richmond; PUEBLO (CO) CHIEFTAIN, 5/21/79, 5/23/79.

El Paso County - Information here comes from a type of source that is often overlooked: livestock removal services that pick up dead animals for butchering or rendering. Drexel Lawson, who runs such a service in Colorado Springs, reports seeing "dozens" of mutilated carcasses, but few are reported to authorities. At least half a dozen cases have occurred in El Paso County since May 1, 1979, according to Animal Mutilation Probe investigator David Perkins. Lawson told Perkins that he had picked up 20 mutilated carcasses in the last two years - in El Paso and Lincoln Counties.

On the morning of Friday, May 25th, Wendel Hertel, who ranches west of Calhan, Colo., observed two or more helicopters hovering over remote rangeland. That afternoon he checked his cattle and found that all were well. Early on the morning of the 26th, he found the mutilated carcass of his \$1,000 Geldzieh cow (a rare crossbreed of German and English strains). The udder had been cleanly removed. There were no tracks or anything else on the undisturbed ground, and there was reportedly no blood nor body fluids in the carcass. During a several-week period in late spring, there were numerous accounts of dark helicopters flying around ranches in El Paso County.

Other livestock removal services have reportedly picked up mutilated carcasses. For instance, in the Roswell, New Mexico area, several mutes were picked up but, to our knowledge, these were officially unreported or at least unpublicized.

Sources: David Perkins, Dorothy Aldridge, Howard Burgess; COLORADO SPRINGS SUN, 6/5/79.

OKLAHOMA

Washington County - The mutilated carcass of a cow was discovered on the Oscar King ranch near Dewey on July 9, 1979. Both eyes were missing and the udder had been removed "in an almost perfect circle". No blood was in evidence.
Source: TULSA WORLD, 7/17/79, from Ed Vieth, Jr. via Steve Hicks.

NEW MEXICO

Eddy County - Four expensive horses - all mares and all in foal - died under odd circumstances in an area south of Carlsbad, New Mexico. It has been estimated that three of them died on Friday, January 19, 1979, and two of those appeared to have been classically mutilated. The foal was removed from one of the mares. The deputy in charge of the investigation, John C. Neill, visited the scene on Monday, the 22nd, along with Sheriff Tom Granger. That night the owner of the ranch, Clarence McDonald, kept watch over the area until midnight. The next morning - Tuesday, the 23rd - a fourth horse was found dead and mutilated. One of the other three mares - which was found dead but not mutilated on Monday - was found mutilated on Tuesday. Carlsbad veterinarian M. C. Reynolds revealed that, in his opinion, the horses died of "acute toxic hepatitis" (An experienced mutilation investigator has pointed out that severe liver deterioration has been noted in other mutilated carcasses, the suggestion being that this could have occurred in the Eddy County horses and was mistaken for hepatitis). Beyond that, Dr. Reynolds did not offer an explanation for the mutilation of the horses.

A confidential source informs us that at least one other mutilation occurred in Eddy County around the first of the year. Also, there have been sightings of unidentified helicopters in the areas of the mutilations. Then, in May, a "makeshift altar" - containing deer and dog skulls, rocks, glass and cheap jewelry - was found along a street two miles north of Carlsbad. Then, in June 1979, the Artesia, NM DAILY PRESS reported that Sheriff Granger's office was investigating the discovery of three mutilated goats and a dozen dead hens in the general area of the January horse mutilations.

In August 1979, Project Stigma interviewed John Neill, who is currently ranching and is no longer associated with the Eddy County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Neill is a disgruntled and frustrated ex-mutilation investigator. Though he was un-

aware of the goat and hen deaths in June, he expressed no confidence in the outcome of any future investigations in Eddy County. At the invitation of U.S. Senator Harrison Schmitt, Neill attended the Albuquerque mutilation conference in April, to his dismay and disappointment: "I've never been made a part of or exposed to such idiocy in my life. The whole reason for (the conference), and you can quote me on this, was to get a damn grant for a couple of ol' boys that needed a job and got themselves a fifty-thousand-dollar grant. Nobody asked to see the photographs that I had with me in my briefcase. They didn't ask to see the mare that I've had veterinarians look at. Photographs (of the mare) had been taken consecutively for 130-140 days and the mare hadn't decomposed - they didn't ask to see anything." Regarding the January mutilations, Neill says, "It was something that defies my imagination".
Sources: Carlsbad, NM, CURRENT ARGUS (Jan. 23, 24, 25, 1979); Artesia, NM, DAILY PRESS (Jan. 24, 25, 29, 1979 and June 19, 1979)

Torrance County - The first 1979 mute here involved a still-warm freshly-mutilated 6-month-old steer found on the morning of Monday, January 29th. The penis had been removed and the intestines were removed through a hole in the scrotum. The ears were "beveled out...with precision" (see Huerfano Co., Colo. - the mutilation of "Fools' Gold") Circular hairless patches were found on both sides of the animal; the hair appeared "rubbed off" rather than pulled out, and there were small lacerations within the patches. The jugular vein had been punctured in two places, the neck was broken (leading to the oft-repeated speculation in New Mexico that mutilated carcasses are dropped from the air), and there was no blood in the heart and little elsewhere in the body. In May, State Patrolman Gabe Valdez announced that two common drugs had been identified in samples taken from the carcass: Chlorpromazine (a "widely-distributed" tranquillizer) and a common blood-clotting agent. Valdez told the Santa Fe NEW MEXICAN: "We know this stuff is made here, and it isn't from outer space. Whoever is doing it is highly sophisticated, and they have a lot of resources. They're well-organized". The second Torrance County mutilation was

that of a five-year-old cow around the first of April. Sheriff Bobby Chavez reported clamp marks on the hind legs and he suggested the animal may have been deftly dropped in the corner of the corral where it was found. Also inside the corral, 25 feet away, were tripod tracks or markings.

Sources: Unsigned report, dated 1/31/79, to Senator Harrison Schmitt and aide John Ryan, obtained from the FBI under a Freedom of Information Act request; TORRANCE COUNTY CITIZEN (Estancia, NM), 2/1/79; THE NEW MEXICAN (Santa Fe), 5/2/79.

Taos County - On January 12, a 5-year-old heifer was discovered near Ranchitos - less than a quarter-mile from the site of a controversial UFO sighting and residue-dropping in July of 1978. One eye, the tongue, anus and reproductive organs were removed. It used to be thought that most or all mutilations occurred in warm or moderate weather, but this carcass was found frozen in the grip of a Taos winter. State Policeman Gabe Valdez stated that the animal had been "definitely tranquilized" and then the blood was pumped out and the parts removed.

Source: THE TAOS (NM) NEWS, 1/18/79

Guadalupe County - (Adjoining Torrance Co. on the east) - A cow, which was expected to give birth in three weeks, was found dead, with the udder neatly sliced off, near Dilia. It was also revealed that a similar mutilation had occurred in the nearby Dahlia area in the fall of 1978. Around the time of the Dilia mutilation - and 2½ miles away - barbed wire fences around several tracks of grazing land were "cut and torn down".

Sources: SANTA ROSA (NM) NEWS, 5/3/79; Richard Caudell

Rio Arriba County - Animal Mutilations Probe Director David Perkins investigated two reported mutilations in the Regina area (southern R.A. County, though Regina is just across the line in Sandoval County) and he learned that perhaps 12 others had occurred nearby in the last year or so. The two mutilations were uncovered by campers Bob Moench and Frank Murphy. They took photos which Perkins later described as appearing "classic". One of the animals was ap-

parently killed on April, 20, the date of the Albuquerque mutilation conference. Then, on Tuesday, July 3, rancher Charlie Schmitz found one of his cows mutilated north of Regina. The anus, udder and genitals were missing.

Sources: RIO GRANDE SUN (Española, NM), 7/12/79; David Perkins.

Santa Fe County - At the Santa Clara Pueblo, near Los Alamos, AMP Director David Perkins visited the office of the Tribal Police on Friday, May 11th. He inspected their log-book which cited numerous reports of "unidentified aircraft" in Nov. and Dec., 1978. That night, a mutilation occurred on Santa Clara land and, though tribal authorities tried to keep the matter quiet, Gail Olson of the RIO GRANDE SUN was tipped off about it. Even then, Tribal Police Chief Roger Naranjo said the cow in question died giving birth, and he asked that no one come out to look at it. But, investigators did "boldly go" to the site on May 13 and again on the 14th. The rectum and genitals were neatly excised from the pregnant cow and a one-inch hole had been cut in the side of the still-attached udder. The calf was visible inside the mother. The cow lay on its left side, with its face in a running creek (see photo, this issue). The carcass was scratched and branches of a tree just above the site were broken. Hair from the cow's tail marked a trail from the tree to the creek.

David Perkins reports that a light meter belonging to a photographer would not work at the site, but functioned perfectly a mile away. The brakes went out on the investigators' car as they drove from the scene. At that time, an unmarked, twin-engined airplane circled low over the departing car three times. Additionally, Perkins uncovered a report of a large UFO seen in Santa Clara Canyon by two tribal policemen in early April, 1979.

Sources: David Perkins; RIO GRANDE SUN (Española, NM), 5/17/79; "Mute Wave In New Mexico" by Tom Clark in BOULDER MONTHLY - July 1979.

LATE NEWS: A controversial mutilation was reported in July near Truchas, in SE Rio Arriba Co. (Credit: Neil Bockman).

KANSAS

Atchison County - The new year heralded a mini-wave of mutilations here, with three cases in January (1 cow, 2 sows) and one in March (calf). According to the ATCHISON GLOBE (3/15/79), "Officers said they are convinced that the mutilations are the work of humans and not done by animals". The Atchison County Sheriff's Office has not been responsive to Project Stigma requests for further details. Source: Steve Hicks.

Harper County - In February an 850-lb. heifer was found dead northeast of Harper. One eye and hind portions were cut out. A large amount of blood was found in a nearby creek, and tracks from a four-wheel-drive vehicle were noted at the scene. Butchering for meat? Quite possibly. A very similar case transpired near White City in Morris Co. in March.

Sources: Steve Hicks; Larry Teager; Harper, Kansas, ADVOCATE, 2/22/79; Anthony, Kansas, REPUBLICAN, 2/28/79; Herington, Kansas TIMES, 3/22/79.

Clark County - Since May 14, 1978, three mutilated cows were found in this county adjoining Oklahoma. The second occurred in June 1978 and the latest in April 1979. Sheriff Loftis Messer is convinced he has identified the culprits: cats. He's not sure what kind but if it's a bobcat, it's "a large one". All of this resulted from plaster casts of tracks found at the latest site, plus hair from the cow found in one of the tracks and the print of a cat's paw on a piece of the cow's hide. Messer admitted that he did not believe that the cats actually killed the cows, but that "they apparently died from other causes and the cat happened to be in the neighborhood at the time". In the three mutilations, the "teats and ovaries" of the cows were "cleanly and neatly removed", with no blood in evidence. As in many mute cases, water was nearby. In each incident, the victimized cow was either about to drink from a tank or a pond - or had just done so. The sheriff thinks the cows sought water to relieve a disorder of the stomach or similar area, with this ailment having most likely been the

actual cause of death.

Sources: Steve Hicks; CLARK COUNTY CLIPPER (Ashland, Kansas), 4/26/79) and Ron Morrison, editor of the CLIPPER.

NEBRASKA

Madison County - Norfolk-area farmer Harry Miller heard a "commotion" in his pasture around 5:30 AM on Saturday, July 14, 1979. Miller investigated to find his cows scattered and badly frightened and upset. He found that a 3-month-old heifer had been killed; one ear was cut off and the intestines were "neatly cut out" and left laying at the site. Source: Carol Werkmeister of the Study on Animal Mutilations (SAM) - Route 2, Box 67 - Madison, Nebraska 68748; NORFOLK (Nebraska) DAILY NEWS, 7/17/79.

Pierce County - On Tuesday, July 17th, two mutilated calves - each missing genitals, one ear, both eyes and an oval patch of hide from the hip - were discovered near Osmond. Sheriff Bill House said, "...this is probably related to the one in Madison County. These animals have the same identical marks and clean cuts. It has to be a bunch of weirdos". Sources: Carol Werkmeister; NORFOLK DAILY NEWS, 7/19/79.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Shannon County - Investigators at a Project Stigma/Animal Mutilation Probe conference in mid-April pondered the relative lack of mute reports from the Western Dakotas and NW Nebraska. On that weekend, a mutilation was discovered on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in SW South Dakota. The first mute on the reservation had actually occurred in mid-March, near Kyle. A cow was found with the udder and genitals removed and a few days later an identical case occurred in the same area (tongue also gone on this one). A helicopter had been heard but not seen and a series of skid-like tracks were found in the snow near one mute site. The third mute, then, occurred on that mid-April weekend near the town of Pine Ridge. Sources: Lucius Farish (U.F.O. Newsclipping Service); Tribal Police Captain Robert Ecoffey.

REVIEWS

UFO TERMS - by Robert Stevenson Somerville - published by UFO Schools, Inc.; P.O. Box 21; Warren, Michigan 48090 - \$8.00 (includes postage, handling). -----

In this volume, where the language of ufology is concerned, no stone is left un-termed. Somerville scattershoots through virtually every facet of UFO research. He includes material on mutilations and Project Stigma, while cautioning that not everyone is convinced that mutilations occur, much less that they are linked to UFOs. The author objectively presents arguments for and against the reality of mutilations and the UFO connection. The author directs his book to those "who do not have the time or inclination to follow the many developments in Ufology, but would like to obtain a basic understanding of the subject". Somerville's research has been extensive and intensive. UFO TERMS breaks no new speculative ground, but it will prove useful to the armchair browser as well as to the serious researcher desiring to "bone up" on basic ufological concepts. The encyclopedia array of data reminds one of the richness, complexity and confusion inherent in our groping for understanding of the UFO phenomenon and all its tangential aspects. There is a lot of information in the book of potential interest to mutilation researchers - though not necessarily identified as such. UFO TERMS is especially recommended for the beginner; but there is no reason why veteran researchers should not plan to include it in their library.

MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION - by Jacques Vallee - \$6.95 plus \$1.00 handling from: And/Or Book Conspiracy; P.O. Box 2246; Berkeley, California 94702. -----

MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION is concerned with what Dr. Vallee feels may be the nature of the UFO phenomenon and he deems it likely that the "classic" animal mutilations are indeed linked with the total UFO-picture, a picture fraught with, deception, fabrication and manipulation. We can sympathize. In STIGMATA #2, we expressed the opinion that the mutilators "are accomplished and adroit enough at what they are doing that they possess a high capability for deception; that they can make us believe just about anything about them". Vallee

suggests that the "manipulators" may be strictly human. We have already detected some confusion among readers of MOD over whether Vallee intends to suggest that these humans have created and originated the phenomenon itself or have merely been manipulating the belief in and the reaction toward UFOs. Vallee seems to be thinking the latter when he writes: "It is not the phenomenon itself, but the belief it has created, which is manipulated by human groups with their own objectives". He really doesn't tell us what the ultimate source of UFOs may be, stating, "...we still need to discover the source (of UFOs)...". In fact, Vallee seems to suggest the existence of deception on the part of both the UFO-intelligence itself and the humans who are manipulating the beliefs when he writes:

I think UFOs are perpetrating a deception by presenting their so-called "occupants" as being messengers from outer space, and I suspect there are groups of people on earth exploiting this deception.

An exquisite double-barreled deception to jolt the most jaded of paranoids.

Vallee proposes that the UFO phenomenon acts upon humanity as a "control system". Beyond that, what could be the reason for this scenario of deception, not on the part of the phenomenon itself but on the part of the proposed human manipulators? We can speculate on the possibilities, which include both benevolent and malevolent intentions.

First, by promoting the idea of extraterrestrial (or even "ultraterrestrial" or other-dimensional) visitors and/or intervention, the "hu-mind" (mankind's collective unconscious) is presented with a sublime chord-striking mystery which tantalizes and titillates but remains forever beyond our firm grasp. But in reaching for an understanding of the phenomenon we are continually stimulating our sense of wonder and our desire for empathy with something beyond ourselves. It may be that the "manipulators" realize that the existence of and our awareness of such mysteries is beneficial or even necessary for the health and stability of mankind and

the hu-mind in this age of unprecedented stress and anxiety. On the other hand, the motives of the manipulators could be quite different. Perhaps the ever-present expectation of non-terrestrial intervention suggests to us that we really do not have to "save" ourselves; we do not need to come up with any solutions of our own to insure the survival of our species on this planet. The ufonauts or skymen or whatever will be here to save us - they may be our only hope. This fine-tuning of our vulnerability and susceptibility could lead to our undoing by paving the way for a tyrannical force which will provide us with our "needs" and assume domination. The manipulation could be good or bad; Vallee seems to suspect the latter. He especially feels that the proliferation of UFO and contactee-oriented cults may be designed to allow creeping irrationality to make inroads on our culture, politics and social-psyche. Dr. J. Allen Hynek reviewed MOD for SECOND LOOK (Washington, D.C.; May 1979). Hynek, who collaborated with Vallee on THE EDGE OF REALITY (Vallee is critical of Hynek in MOD and the favor is returned, with Hynek suggesting that Vallee may be the manipulatee), suggests that Vallee may be over-emphasizing the role and impact of UFO and contactee-oriented cults, and that Vallee emphasizes the beliefs in UFOs while ignoring many crucial aspects of the phenomenon itself.

In light of all the above, Vallee is convinced that the mutilations play a crucial role, though he's uncertain whether the UFO/mutilation link has been deceitfully simulated to throw investigators off track or whether the mutilations "are in fact the 'next step' in the unfolding of a process directly related to the UFOs". He devotes two chapters to the mutes. No two chapters in the world could ever hope to encompass this phenomenon which has been slam-dunked into our midst, but Vallee touches upon some of the more pertinent aspects of the mute mystery. However, he doesn't mention the Bigfoot-hairoid-ape-like-creature element (which, according to Ed Sanders' speculation, could fit very well into Vallee's scenario). And, regarding the sightings of unmarked helicopters over and near mutilation sites, Vallee graciously admits that "the helicopter theory cannot be completely disproved" (an unfortunately superficial understatement). The sheriffs' reports pictured on page 175

of MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION, by the way, are from the files of Project Stigma.

Vallee is cautious throughout MOD, hedging his bets with a liberal use of such terms as "suppose" or "it may be" or "what if..", so it would be hard to say exactly where he stands. Actually, we find little fault with this approach. If Vallee were to state "it is" so-and-so or "I am convinced that..." or even "I believe...", this would imply belief on his part and he realizes that belief is unnecessary, undesirable and unsupportable. He is speculating, although that is not always clearly stated. Perhaps at this point he doesn't know what to believe, anyway. He may have come to realize that he cannot truly believe anything. Maybe that is precisely where he should be - and maybe that's where the rest of us should be. The sky's the limit or, as John Keel (whose role and impact in ufology is as momentous, if not more so, than Vallee's) would say, "Everything's up for grabs". Jacques Vallee possesses one of the keenest minds to have looked into UFOs indepth. All of his books are crucial, seminal and, like MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION, highly recommended.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

We are, as always, very interested in seeking out details regarding the occurrence of what appear to be classic mutilations in countries other than the U.S. For instance, we have learned of an outbreak of mutilations in May in Panama. In the Canary Islands (Spanish possessions, off the NW coast of Africa) a series of mysterious animal deaths have occurred. At least some of these resulted in the removal of blood and hearts from dogs and goats.

Then, a series of cattle mutilations occurred in Alberta, Canada (including an attack on a \$45,000 Simmental bull). The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is concerned and is investigating. More details will be forthcoming, hopefully.
Sources: Danny Liska, Fernando Cerda Guardia, Neal Mednick.



Above: Animal Mutilation Probe Director David Perkins examines mutilated carcass; Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico; May, 1979.



Below: Clark County, Kansas; April, 1979. Sheriff Loftis Messer believes mutilation to be the result of a cat attack.

Credit: Above: David Perkins. Below: Ron Morrison, CLARK COUNTY CLIPPER.

Mark Acuff of THE NEW MEXICO INDEPENDENT of Albuquerque must surely be recently-arrived from some other-worldly realm. Otherwise, it would be hard to imagine how anyone so ill-informed could be a journalist. In early May, he authored an editorial on the April mutilation conference, sponsored by Senator Harrison Schmitt. Acuff variously describes the gathering as a "sideshow", "hysterical event", "exquisite farce" and "the strangest collection of weirdos ever assembled in New Mexico". The shaken editor was aghast that the conference "was actually called and chaired by a United States senator" and that "most of the people there took it quite seriously". Project Stigma's Tom Adams got up to announce the availability of a paper that he and Gary Massey were presenting regarding the appearance of unidentified helicopters at or near mutilation sites. The preliminary report represented only a few of the 200-plus helicopter/mute cases in our files, most of which will be included in an upcoming special report. The mounting evidence for this copter/mute connection is overwhelming. Yet, rather than addressing himself to the data, Acuff whines that, "The notion that thousands of such (copter/mute) incidents have been undertaken by unmarked helicopters is several levels beyond preposterous".

Some relatively bizarre material was presented at the conference. Elsewhere in this issue, we mentioned the speculation that it may have been intended that way, to perhaps provoke reactions precisely like that of Acuff's.

We have never claimed that the helicopters and their occupants are doing the mutilations, only that they have been present at the scene of hundreds of mutilations (not "thousands") for purposes and reasons not yet understood. To question the existence of the helicopter/mute link or to doubt the very occurrence of classic mutilations is, for a journalist, to be incomprehensibly out of touch with "reality". We must note that being "opinionated" and informed do not necessarily go hand-in-hand.

At the same time, we are reminded of Elbert Hubbard's definition of the function of an editor: to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to see that the chaff gets published.

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LETTERS

Dear Subscribers:

Being a participant at the conference on the topic of livestock mutilations on April 20, 1979 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I felt that there was a lot of apprehension among individual investigators and law enforcement officials about getting up and giving their presentation, especially those that were more knowledgeable about the subject. There was also concern among both these groups of individuals about the Federal Bureau of Investigation's involvement. It was common knowledge among both of these groups that the FBI involvement was not sincere in its approach to the subject.

First of all, anyone that has done any in-depth research into the mutilations knows that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in this subject matter back in 1975. Federal agents were all over the country checking into the mutilations from various angles, some agents were even joining cult groups as members to check their activities, others were looking into the narcotic traffic for clues. A special effort was made to channel all the information from various law enforcement agencies to these agents. When the FBI entered the picture again at the conference, pretending that this was the first time that they were getting involved, it was obvious to those that had prior knowledge about their involvement to begin with. The main question behind this activity is still to be answered. But the emphasis was on the data that had been gathered by independent investigators to be channeled into a computer.

After the conference, the FBI supposedly backed out and stated they had no jurisdiction in the matter. But a certain "retiring" FBI agent, Ken Rommel, was to head the "official" investigation into the mutilations in the State of New Mexico. It has come to my attention that Ken Rommel does not want independent investigators involved with this project. He feels that they should not be allowed certain information that is to be gathered.

Furthermore, after my presentation at the conference, Carl Whiteside, Deputy Director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, called me to the side as I was walking out and told me, in a threatening voice, that I had no right to make the statements that I did at the conference concerning the way the CBI had handled law enforcement reports and samples submitted to Fort Collins. I, in turn, told him that I was only making true statements that can be backed up by journalists and law enforcement officials which I had been in contact with.

Not too many are familiar with the fact that Carl Whiteside was the "focal point" starting back in early 1975 for mutilation material from law enforcement officials across the nation, not just in Colorado. He has also gathered a tremendous amount of material on the unmarked choppers sighted in these areas of mutilations.

There are numerous things that have happened in this mutilation phenomenon (some of which are beyond present scientific explanation) that has not reached the public, but I feel that "Stigmata" is doing an excellent job in trying to get some of it before the public, especially when the funding is coming out of their own back pocket. I suggest that those that are seriously interested in this phenomenon help in any way the work that Tom and his staff are doing.

Please be advised that some of the more blatant statements coming from some UFO organizations is because they do not have enough data about these mutilations. Suggest reading Vallee's book, MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION.

Sincerely,

Tommy Roy Blann; 1002 Edmonds Ln., #152; Lewisville, TX 75067

(continued)

LETTERS (Continued)

I would like to tell Bill Damm, Sheriff of Custer County, Miles City, Montana that if he would have looked closely at the animals that died on his ranch as he was growing up, as all farmers and ranchers I know do, and have always done, he might know the difference between what predators do and a cut with a sharp instrument. I have helped with butchering many animals in my lifetime and know what a knife cut looks like. Whenever we lost an animal we inspected it closely to find cause of death and hopefully to prevent it happening again. This is true today as well as 35 years ago. I have photos of a calf we lost this spring and know a coyote or dog did the damage. Edges of the wound are rough with some stringing of flesh, though smoother than some people think, and there was a big puddle of blood in the deep wound. The flesh is bright red as opposed to mutilation victim's flesh, even when found soon after death and mutilation.

We have seen many cases of predator mutilation and not once have we seen the eyes, genitals, udder or ears touched. Whole shoulders have been eaten out overnight, feasting has been through the belly hide to the intestines or liver and other organs and in the hind quarter deep into the meat of the thigh. I will admit we may have different predators than other areas of the country and that I can believe a vulture or other bird may go for the eyes but some of the statements I find hard to swallow.

Sincerely,

Carol Werkmeister (Study on Animal Mutilations)
Route 2 - Box 67; Madison, Nebraska 68748

MICRO-REVIEW --- THE NIGHT MUTILATORS by Gene Duplantier.
(Available from Saucerian Press; Box 2228; Clarksburg, WV 26301)
TNM contains glaring errors of omission & commission; a carelessly-concocted effort to make a fast buck, seemingly. Not recommended, except to diehard memorabilia collectors.

STIGMATA SUPPLEMENT NUMBER ONE - JANUARY 1980

PUBLISHED BY PROJECT STIGMA - P.O. BOX 1094 - PARIS, TEXAS 75460 USA

1. STIGMATA will be a quarterly publication in 1980, beginning with the next issue, No. 8 (Spring 1980).

2. Price increase: STIGMATA No. 8 will be priced at \$1.00 each, as announced, but the next three 1980 issues will cost \$1.50 each.

A one-year subscription to the four 1980 issues (#8, 9, 10 & 11) is now \$5.00.

Those who have already paid their dollar for No. 8 may subscribe to issues 9, 10 & 11 for \$4.00.

Back issues of editions 4, 5, 6 & 7 are still available @ \$1.00 each.

Order from Project Stigma at the address listed above. We ask that foreign subscribers remit in U.S. funds or International Money Order.

3. HELICOPTER REPORT: We regret the delay in the publication of this report, which we announced several months ago. The report is still in preparation and will appear in the first half of 1980. It will consist primarily of a catalog of unidentified helicopter accounts in the vicinity of mutilation events. A decision had to be made whether to complete preparation of the helicopter report right away or to proceed with the publication of STIGMATA No. 8, and we have opted for the latter. The final word on the publication of this mystery helicopter report will appear in No. 8 - honest. Apparently these choppers are yet to be "grounded": Two cattle mutilations occurred in Western Nebraska this year and an unmarked helicopter was seen in the area of both sites.

4. LETTERS FROM READERS are of great interest to us. We hope to publish several in the next and subsequent editions, but we would like to see more of your comments and opinions. If you write to us be sure to specify whether your letter or parts thereof is for publication and whether you want us to withhold your name and address.

OCCURRENCES, RUMOURS AND THINGS-IN-THE-WORKS: Many readers are aware that, since the publication of STIGMATA No. 7, most of the interest in the mutilation phenomenon has been emanating from, and directed toward, the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, where at least 30 livestock mutilations have been reported. With few exceptions, the classic mutilations have been a phenomenon of the 1970's and of the continental United States. Now, with the decade on the wane, an interesting new perspective has been added with the advent of the Alberta (and Sask.) mute wave. We will inevitably be intrigued by whatever developments await us in the Eighties. ----- Things have been relatively quiet in the U.S. as the outbreak developed in Canada. There was a considerable mute onslaught in Arkansas this year (see STIGMATA No. 7) but they have apparently ceased in that state for the moment. Otherwise, there have been scattered reports in late 1979 from Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and, most recently, in Iowa and Illinois. We'll update these in STIGMATA No. 8. ----- Did mutilations occur in the 1880's, in 1910 and in 1911?? We have very few details at present but we hope to learn more and report on them in the near future. ----- Among items that are rumored to be in the works, however tentatively: an anthology of commentary on the mutilation phenomenon; a bibliography of published materials; a fund for research and investigation; an in-depth documentary by a Colorado TV station, a program which may or may not be circulated to other TV stations around the country. ----- We wish we had a dollar (no, make that an ounce of gold) for every writer we've heard of within the past few years who promised (or threatened) to turn out a serious book on mutilations. ----- Project Stigma ripped off by OMNI?? Details later.

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