

MYSTERY HELICOPTERS AND ANIMAL MUTILATIONS:

EXPLORING A CONNECTION

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EXPLORING A CONNECTION

Any investigation which intends to probe the systematic occurrence of livestock mutilations must include within its purview certain aspects which may or may not be related directly to the mutilation acts themselves, but their occurrence in apparent conjunction with the mutilations has been persistent enough to supercede "coincidence".

The importance of one specific element of the problem will shortly be revealed in the course of any thorough investigation into the mutilations. We refer to the appearance of unmarked and otherwise unidentified helicopters within a spatial and temporal proximity of mutilation sites.

These "mystery helicopters" are almost always without identifying markings, or markings may appear to have been painted over or covered with something. The craft are frequently reported flying at abnormal, unsafe or illegal altitudes. The mystery choppers may shy away if witnesses or law officers try to approach. On the other hand, there are several accounts of aggressive behavior on the part of the helicopter occupants, with witnesses chased, "buzzed", hovered-over or even fired upon.

At times these helicopters may dramatically appear very near mutilation sites - perhaps even hovering over or landing in the same pasture where a mutilated carcass was found. They may be observed shortly before or after mutilations occur - or within days of a mutilation. There are not always hard and fast rules to determine the difference between an "ordinary" or "normal" helicopter sighting and that of a mystery helicopter, but some of the factors mentioned here should be taken into consideration.

The preponderance of evidence - though some of it may reasonably be deemed circumstantial - suggests that once we learn something substantial regarding these unidentified helicopters, we will have gained a more accurate perspective on the mutilations themselves. It is the opinion of Project Stigma that investigations must be conducted to determine the nature and intent of the mystery helicopters and their bearing on the mutilations problem (and rustling/helicopter incidents in the Midwest in 1973-1974).

(continued)

We do not claim that the helicopter enigma is the most crucial or important aspect of the mutilation problem, nor are we necessarily advocating more of an emphasis on the helicopters than on the mutilations themselves. Our intention is merely to stress that the helicopter element is an important part of the problem and deserves scrutiny.

In this report we are providing a brief catalog of typical "mystery helicopter" accounts. For the sake of brevity we will not mention it in every case, but these events occurred in the general (or specific) vicinity of animal mutilation sites. A more extensive and detailed catalog, recognizing 200 or more mystery helicopter accounts, will be published in a newsletter shortly.

This information is taken from newsclippings, interviews and investigators' reports. We hope any factual errors are minor and we will appreciate corrections from anyone with knowledge of specific cases.

We especially encourage all investigators to submit helicopter reports to us for inclusion in our catalog. We are certain that there are incidents about which we are unaware, and many on which we have few details. Further information will aid in a more meaningful analysis of the "mystery helicopter" problem.

---1971---

August

Date unknown
COLORADO - Lake Co.
An "Army-colored" helicopter sprayed a herd of sheep with what appeared to be bullets, killing 40 sheep. UPI reported that an Army investigation found no bullet holes in the carcasses but did find that the sheep were "blistered".

---1973---

April

17th, Tuesday, early AM
IOWA - Davis Co.
Mystery helicopter observed.

---1973--- (cont.)

(April or May)

Date unknown
IOWA - Audubon Co.
A deputy spotted a helicopter hovering over a farm. The witness turned off his lights and the lights on the chopper went out. Three recent hog-rustling incidents had been reported in the area. Craig Owen lost 59 pigs and Owen noted how "selective" the rustlers had been. They took only the very best pigs out of a herd of 200. During mid-1973 both rustlings and mystery helicopter sightings were reported across a wide area of southern Iowa.

---1973--- (cont.)

May

Date unknown
ILLINOIS - Jersey Co.
A "white, unmarked cargo-type helicopter" lifts up from a field containing cattle. A farmer near by missed a cow a day or two earlier.

Summer months

Date unknown
MINNESOTA - Lincoln Co.
Two or three reports of low-flying helicopters circling cattle in fields. One classic mutilation occurred in the area in May. Other carcasses were found; unconfirmed whether mutilated.

September

9th, Sunday
MISSOURI - St. Francois Co.
A man watched an "Army-type helicopter" flying low over his farm, upsetting cattle. The witness observed through field glasses as the chopper flew over several times. There were no markings or numbers, except for a "large white spot" near the tail area.

September or October

Date unknown
MISSOURI - St. Louis Co.
Near Pond, James Hagler had 5 pigs stolen. Hagler observed a helicopter over his property three times during this period. On the third occasion Hagler was fired upon by the chopper occupants; Hagler fired back; then someone on the ground fired at Hagler. Law officers searched but found nothing. After they left, Hagler was fired upon again. A second search was again fruitless. Mrs. Hagler thought there was somehow more to all of this than just mere "pig rustling".

---1974---

July

15th, Monday, 5:00 PM
IOWA - Pottawattamie Co.
Twenty shots were fired from a black twin-engine plane and a white helicopter at Robert Smith as he cultivated a cornfield on a tractor. No markings were noticed on either craft. Smith watched a figure brace himself on the door of the helicopter as he fired. Both aircraft had been seen over the area on several occasions "all spring".

August

Throughout month
NEBRASKA - Knox Co.
At least seven mutilations and numerous unidentified helicopter sightings throughout the county.

September

14th, Saturday, 9:30 PM
NEBRASKA - Cedar Co.
Gerry Hochstein and Gerry Lammers saw a helicopter which they followed for 3 miles until it appeared to land on the Rudy Wesseln farm. The Wesseln farm is just south of the Kleinschmidt property, on which a mutilated calf was found on 9-16-74.

November

13th, Wednesday night
NEBRASKA - Madison Co.
The deafening "popping sound" of what appeared to be a helicopter was heard over the Douglas Werkmeister property, and red and white lights were seen as the craft hovered. A mutilated cow had been examined on the farm Wednesday morning. The apparent helicopter circled over other area farms on Wednesday night.

---1975---

February

Early to mid February
TEXAS - Wood Co.

Near Winnsboro, Mrs. A. D. Cruse said her family heard an "awfully loud" low-flying helicopter around 10:30 one night. A cow of theirs was found mutilated the next morning.

6th, Thursday, 8:00 AM
TEXAS - Smith Co.

A trooper was advised by a motorist that he saw a small black helicopter on the ground in the process of lifting off, near Owentown, NE of Tyler.

6th, Thursday, 8:00 AM
TEXAS - Smith Co.

An unidentified caller reported to the sheriff's office that a helicopter was seen along Highway 271 north of Tyler. Something was hanging under the chopper and the witness thought it looked like a calf. The report was classified as "unfounded" but is of interest in view of another report (above) in the same area at the same time.

6th, Thursday, 10:30 PM
TEXAS - Smith Co.

Winona cattleman Billy Joe Davis had suffered three mutilations and patrolled his property at night. He saw a helicopter with a bright blinking light on the sides and a constant white light underneath. The craft flew away as Davis approached.

7th, Friday, 10:30 PM
TEXAS - Smith Co.

Billy Joe Davis experienced a helicopter sighting identical to the one of the previous night, at the same time.

8th, Saturday
TEXAS - Gregg Co.

Helicopters seen along the Sabine River bottoms. A mutilated cow was found in the area on 2-9-75.

---1975--- (cont.)

February (cont.)

24th, Monday, near midnight
TEXAS - Kaufman Co.

Two deputies - Carl Hall and Alton Ashworth - each responded to separate reports of unidentified helicopters on the ground. When each drove up they saw the chopper on the ground but the craft quickly took off. Numerous helicopter sightings and mutilations occurred in Kaufman and surrounding counties in February.

25th, Tuesday
TEXAS - Bexar Co.

Stanley Jasik was a quarter-mile away when he saw a silver helicopter land in a field. Jasik also spotted a dead cow in the area. The owner examined the carcass the next day and found it mutilated.

April

6th, Sunday, 8:00 AM
KANSAS - Marshall Co.

SW of Marysville, farmer Art Seematter saw a helicopter go over his property before finding a mutilated cow on the farm that day.

May

29th, Thursday night
COLORADO - Elbert Co.

Daryl Evans of Elizabeth heard a helicopter over his property on the same night that a heifer of his was mutilated.

July

17th, Thursday night
COLORADO - El Paso Co.

A helicopter chased three girls on horseback and later hovered over the ranch house on the property. After seeing the brilliant light on the craft, one of many witnesses remarked that "once you see that bright light, you'll never forget it".

---1975--- (cont.)

July (cont.)

27th, Sunday
COLORADO - Elbert Co.
In the Elizabeth area, two girls reported that they were on foot when chased by a helicopter that departed only when a man on horseback appeared. The chopper in this incident was reportedly photographed and tentatively identified as an "Army Bell Ranger".

August

8th, Friday
COLORADO - Douglas Co.
Near Franktown, a helicopter chased a rancher who had ridden out on a trail bike to check his cattle.

21st, Thursday, early AM
NEBRASKA - Kimball Co.
An unidentified helicopter was chased by several law officers. Sheriff Taylor saw the chopper at 2:00 AM 10 miles south of Bushnell. The helicopter was seen flying at an altitude of 100-150 feet and at one point hovered over a SAC missile installation near Bushnell.

Throughout August
COLORADO - Gunnison Co.
During this "mutilation period", at least a half-dozen mystery helicopter sightings are made, including one by the authors of this report (8-21-75).

Summer, date unknown
COLORADO - Douglas Co.
A helicopter landed 300 feet from a house in the Franktown area. The craft was described as being the size of a "police helicopter". It was "solid metal" and "Army green" with "no bubble" and no markings. A woman witness was almost "frightened to death".

---1975--- (cont.)

September

1st, 2nd and 3rd (Mon.-Wed.)
COLORADO - Sedgwick Co.
Sightings of unidentified helicopters flying "underneath radar" on each night. Sedgwick County's first mutilation was discovered on 9-2-75.

2nd, Tuesday morning
COLORADO - Teller Co.
A small blue helicopter was seen NE of Cripple Creek around 8:00 AM, then was reported hovering over cattle west of Cripple Creek an hour later. Shortly after that, a helicopter was seen NW of Cripple Creek. In the 3rd sighting, photos were taken which revealed a blue helicopter with a plain white spot on the side.

Weekend of September 6-7
COLORADO - Logan Co.
Two cattle mutilations and at least ten mystery helicopter reports during this period.

12th, Friday
TEXAS - Dallas Co.
Mrs. Nancy Hing saw and heard a helicopter (an "old beat-up thing") flying low and "circling" the Balch Springs area east of Dallas. On 9-13-75 a twin-engine airplane was seen circling a pasture where a mutilated carcass was found on the following week. At least one other mutilation was reported in the area.

19th, Friday night
COLORADO - Pueblo Co.
A family reported that a helicopter chased them as they drove in their truck north of Boone. A second helicopter appeared and the 2 craft flew off quickly.

---1975--- (cont.)

September (cont.)

22nd, Monday night

COLORADO - Crowley & Pueblo Counties
Two auxiliary policemen found a man "frantic" after he had called for help on his CB, reporting that a helicopter had run his pickup off a dirt road. One policeman fired a shot from a 30-30 at the helicopter, which was still hovering nearby. Deputies from 3 counties, guards at the Pueblo Army depot and State Policemen chased the helicopter west to the Pueblo airport before it turned to the north and disappeared. The chopper made a noise "like the whistling of air coming from a tire". On this same night, a state patrolman saw 2 helicopters set down in the prairie east of Boone. A ranch family saw 3 choppers together north of Boone. One was shining a bright spotlight on the ground.

Late September

MONTANA - Judith Basin Co.

A grey helicopter was seen between 3:00 and 3:30 PM and a green helicopter was spotted between 4:30 and 5:00 PM in the same area. Both were unmarked. Two choppers were seen together later in the area. A cow was seen alive at 3:30 PM and found dead and mutilated at 4:00 PM.

October

6th, Monday, 8:00 PM

COLORADO - Costilla Co.

A helicopter with red & green blinking lights landed on a mountain SE of San Luis. A mutilated cow was discovered in the same area on 10-7-75.

9th, Thursday night

COLORADO - Costilla Co.

Deputies witnessed a helicopter land and remain on the ground for 3 minutes. Two "fresh" mutilations were discovered on this date. Mystery helicopters and mutilations were reported throughout the fall in Costilla and adjoining Alamosa County.

---1975--- (cont.)

October (cont.)

21st, Tuesday, 10:00 AM

NEW MEXICO - Union Co.

Five helicopters buzzed a cattle herd on the Kennann Ranch near Seneca. On this same morning a family near Felt, in adjoining Cimarron Co., Oklahoma reported that seven helicopters flew low over their home.

27th, Monday evening

NEW MEXICO - Union Co.

Five helicopters "milled around" over the Heinmann Ranch. Three helicopters were seen in another sighting and there were several reports of "single" helicopters.

October, dates unknown

WYOMING - Uinta Co.

Numerous low-flying helicopters reported over and near mutilation sites. In this county a law officer, while driving a pickup truck, was chased (at 90 mph) and harrassed by a helicopter which finally landed in front of him on the road. He opened fire with a shotgun and the chopper flew away.

November

Between Oct. 30 and Nov. 13

NEW MEXICO - Union, Quay Counties

At least 30 sightings of unidentified helicopters and 4 cattle mutilations were reported during this period. It was reported that the Federal Aviation Administration was launching an investigation into the helicopter reports. However, the FAA office in Albuquerque and the regional office in Fort Worth both deny that they now possess any information on this subject. In 1975 a National Guard helicopter was dispatched to NE New Mexico in an attempt to chase down the mystery helicopters - all to no avail.

---1975--- (cont.)

November (cont.)

Throughout November
MONTANA - Cascade, Chouteau,
Teton, Judith Basin and Pondera
Counties.

Between August 1975 and May 1976,
approximately 130 reports of uniden-
tified helicopters and/or UFOs were
logged. Numerous mutilations were
reported during this period, as well.
These Montana overflights by unknown
helicopters (and nocturnal lights from
objects which were thought to be heli-
copters) often occurred over missile
sites. This was occurring at about
the same time (Fall 1975) as similar
phenomena over military bases in Michi-
gan and Maine.

---1976---

April

19th, Monday
COLORADO - El Paso Co.
A helicopter was reported flying NE of
Yoder where a mutilated bull calf was
discovered the next day.

September

26th, Sunday night
KANSAS - Pawnee Co.
A helicopter was heard flying low over
a pasture after dark. One mutilated car-
cass was discovered in the area on the
27th and one on the 28th. Both were sus-
pected to have occurred on Sunday night.

---1977---

January

17th, Monday night
ARIZONA - Cochise Co.
Albert Thomas saw a helicopter lift up
and fly around his property before discov-
ering a mutilation the next day.

July

17th, Sunday, early AM
TEXAS - Johnson Co.
Fixed-wing craft and helicopter reported
the night before mutilation discovered.

---1978---

January

Early January
NEBRASKA - Perkins Co.
Two helicopters flew over a ranch.
Bull found mutilated the next day.

June

Early June
COLORADO - Las Animas Co.
On two occasions a cowboy "runs
off" a low-flying black helicop-
ter. At least two mutilations oc-
curred in June in Huerfano Co.,
which adjoins Las Animas Co. (and
the area of the sightings) on the
north.

Fall - Likely October

SOUTH DAKOTA - Yankton Co.
A lady in a farmhouse was awakened
by a barking dog and looked out to
see a "stock truck" backed up to a
gate. The truck left when she turned
on an outside light. The witness
then heard the "distinct sound of
a helicopter" nearby, and she could
hear her cattle running around in
the pasture. Authorities investi-
gated but found nothing. In this
case there were no cattle missing,
butchered or mutilated.

November

13th, Monday, early AM
NEW MEXICO - Rio Arriba Co.
On the property of the Santa Clara
Indian Pueblo, two cows were muti-
lated within a day or two, inclu-
ding one on the night of the 12th-
13th, during bad, rainy weather.
A pueblo resident reported hear-
ing a helicopter early on the 13th.