

EAGLE, Crestone, CO - April 2000 CR: W. Jones

STRANGER THAN FICTION

by Christopher O'Brien

After a quiet uneventful Southern Colorado winter, eight unusual aerial sightings have been forwarded to this investigator. Here is a sampling.

Colorado Reports: On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at 3pm, Alamosa County resident "Chuck" was driving southbound on Hwy 285, just north of Antonito, when he witnessed "a metallic sphere at about the 1:00 position and about 30 degrees up. It did not move in any extraordinary ways but it sure didn't look like any airplane I've seen."

Montrose, CO investigator Davina Ryszka is investigating the following report "which is similar to a report that took place a few months ago in the same area."

On Tuesday, March 7th, 2000, between 9-10pm, near the town of Olathe, CO, a mother driving on a back road had an encounter with a low-flying aerial craft. The craft/object exhibited a very bright white light and had red and green lights on its sides." The woman reported to Ryszka that whatever-it was "seemed to be confrontational." As the object approached her car head on, at first the witness thought it was a low-flying airplane. "The witness slammed on the brakes to try to avoid what seemed would be an inevitable crash" and the craft stopped right in front of her car. When she tried to move, it moved. When she attempted to turn the car around and go back the way she came, it moved in front of her car. At this point she was "really frightened especially because she had a small baby in a car seat ..."

Finally, she managed to get in front of the object and it "ended up behind her and she could see it in the rear view mirror. Then for a time it was not visible at all and she was relieved that maybe it was gone." Suddenly, a bright light came on directly above her illuminating her car and the surrounding area "and she drove quickly on to Olathe," understandably shaken by her experience.

BBC News reports on USA spy program

The European Parliament is investigating allegations that the US uses electronic surveillance to spy on companies in the EU. The Echelon system, originally set up during the Cold War, is capable of intercepting private telephone conversations, faxes and e-mails worldwide.

A committee of the European Parliament heard allegations that the system is being used to help American firms win commercial contracts at the expense of European rivals. A report commissioned by the European Parliament also alleged the UK was helping the US to spy on its European partners. Both the US and the UK have denied the allegations.

"US intelligence agencies are not tasked to engage in industrial espionage or obtain trade secrets for the benefit of any US company or companies", State Department spokesman James Rubin said. UK Prime Minister Tony Blair denied that Echelon had been used against Britain's partners in Europe. He said there were strict rules governing such issues and they were always applied.

The French Justice Minister, Elisabeth Guigou, said Echelon had apparently been diverted to keep watch on commercial rivals, prompting French companies to encrypt sensitive information. The Belgian Foreign Minister, Louis Michel, said the alleged spying was unacceptable.

The report, compiled by independent Scottish investigative journalist Duncan Campbell, includes allegations that sensitive commercial information gathered through Echelon meant the French company Thomson lost a radar contract in Brazil, and the European Airbus consortium lost out to the US's Boeing in competition for a \$6 billion dollar aircraft contract. He named Microsoft, IBM and a certain large American microchip maker as providing product features which allowed for the interception of information.

Echelon's existence was recently confirmed by the US Government through the declassification of secret documents of the US National Security Agency (NSA).

Who done it?

Ten mutilated calves were discovered the weekend of March 18-19, 2000 in a remote area of Central Oregon; near the spot where 14 similarly disfigured cattle were found in March 1999.

A rancher discovered four of

his calves mutilated, and a recreation vehicle user reported six other strangely slain calves the following day.

The discoveries were within a couple of miles of where 14 mutilated cattle and a pig with its legs cut off were found last year. Recently, our shadowy cattle surgeons have been visiting less traditional pastures and Oregon State authorities suspect human involvement in perpetrating these latest crimes.

Kimball Lewis, [Oregon] state humane agent, said the investigation may lead to a cattle production company that is using the public land off U.S. 20 between Bend and Brothers as a dumping ground. [Or] it could turn out to be youngsters choosing to be cruel to animals. It has been almost a full year with no "official" unusual livestock deaths reported in the San Luis Valley

Random Factoid

George Magazine, December 1996: John Kennedy Jr. comments on cattle mutilations:

[When John F. Kennedy Jr. was 17, he spent the summer working on a Wyoming cattle ranch. While there, he experienced the cattle mutilation phenomenon first-hand.] "I witnessed something so diabolical it could only have come from outer space or Washington, D.C. Here's what [we] found, [a] cow had been mutilated and completely drained of blood. Its udder and reproductive organs has all been removed and the wounds cauterized ... There was no blood or footprints on the muddy ground, nor any visible mortal wound ... The mystery was never solved ... Among the local folks familiar with this periodic phenomenon, the consensus held that it was either the work of UFOs or the government. 'Who else,' they said, "would do something this weird or dumb?" "