



Mystery Stalks The Prairie

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Chapter 9

Egg-Shaped Craft with Arms

As UFO sightings were publicized by the news media in Montana, there was bound to be a number of honest mistakes by individuals who mistook an extremely bright star for a UFO (unidentified flying object).

A report of six UFOs near Raynesford turned out to be Venus, Mars and a constellation of stars. What two Great Falls girls thought was a UFO was believed to be a beacon light. A sighting near Fairfield was believed to be another planet. But not all sightings could be explained that easily. In fact, most reports defied explanation.

There was the case of the UFO that paced a B-52. It was reported to Sheriff Pete Howard at his office in Choteau. He said a Montana Fish and Game Department employee told of watching a UFO fly above a B-52 as the plane was flying over Freezeout Lake where the man worked. The man said he first saw the B-52 and then noticed another light flying directly over the plane. Using his rifle scope to get a better look, he noted that the strange object seemed to be pacing the B-52. In a short time the UFO climbed out of sight. The B-52 was flying in an easterly direction, he told officers.

The same evening, the Cascade County Sheriff's Office had a first hand account of a UFO sighting when Captain Wolverton and Deputy Anderson saw one as they were returning to Great Falls from Missoula. If either of the two men had blinked his eyes, he might have missed seeing the strange object as it was traveling so rapidly it was within their range of vision only an estimated four seconds. The dull orange or tan object passed within a quarter of a mile of the front of their car at an elevation of about 500 feet. It was traveling from north to south-southeast. The two officers said it was impossible for them to determine its size or shape in the brief time they saw it.

A couple of nights earlier, Malmstrom notified the sheriff's office that two UFOs had been sighted south of Moore in the Lewistown area. The objects appeared as a bright white light with a whitish beam descending toward the ground.



Moore near Lewistown, southeast of Great Falls, where two bright white lights with white beams going to the ground were reported by Malmstrom AFB to the Cascade County Sheriff's Office in Great Falls, Montana in December 1975.

About this same time, the Cascade County Sheriff's Office learned that a woman at Stockett had observed a UFO hovering in the sky for a period of from one to two hours. She said it appeared to be a flashing red and white light. Apparently UFOs come in different colors as reports have varied in this respect. Law officers at Chester reported seeing a UFO that had green and blue lights ten miles southwest of that community.

A Great Falls man, traveling on the freeway by Ulm, said he and his friends saw a UFO with a red light and a green light. The object appeared stationary. A state official, while traveling one evening, reported seeing UFOs near Fort Benton and north of Carter. He said both of them cast a bluish light.

Perhaps one of the most unusual descriptions of a UFO was given to Teton County Sheriff Pete Howard by a ranch couple in that area. They had an excellent opportunity to get a description of the craft as it was about five-eighths of a mile from their house and they watched it through field glasses. They also had the advantage of daylight, since it happened about 4:30 p.m.

They described the craft as egg-shaped with the large end on the ground. It had one light which had a dull glow and then became brighter. They described the light as yellowish gold or light orange. The most unusual part of the description was the fact the object had two appendages which came out of it, one on each side. The two arms made a continual motion like a breast stroke. The craft remained stationary for five minutes. then the appendages retracted into the craft and it went straight up and out of sight.

The possible connection between UFOs and cattle mutilations again came to the forefront when a Simms rancher reported that his wife and children had seen a UFO land near the place where he had left a dead calf. He later discovered that the carcass had been mutilated after he placed it there.

There were actually two UFO landings at the ranch - one on December 8 and one the following night. The second incident was the same night that Captain Wolverton and Deputy Anderson sighted a UFO as they were traveling home and the same night that the B-52 was paced by a UFO. The rancher was reluctant at first to talk about the incidents for fear people would think he was "silly." A little later, realizing the seriousness of the situation, he gave officers a full report and encouraged his wife to tell them about the extraordinary happening, too.

The calf died about five days earlier. The rancher had dragged it down into a brush area near the Sun River about a half mile from the house. The area was inaccessible by road except by going through the ranch house yard.

On the evening of December 8, about 6 or 6:30 p.m., the rancher's wife and children saw a UFO land in the area where the calf's body was. They said it descended from the air, stayed down a short time and then took off in a westerly direction toward Augusta. The woman described the object as a large white light with a red light on top. When it ascended, she said it appeared to roll on its side,

as the red light was no longer on top, but on the side. As it left, it was flying at a low level.

The object, or one like it, returned at almost the exact hour the next evening. This time it stayed only about one minute and instead of heading west, it flew east.

Captain Wolverton and two other deputies, after interviewing the woman, examined the dead calf. The bag area had been removed and the cut marks around the wound were consistent with those found in earlier cases that pathologists had verified were made with a very sharp instrument. Samples of the hide were sent to a laboratory for analysis.

The rancher verified that there were no marks on the calf when he had last observed it two days before the first landing. He told the officers that he planned to go home from work early, load all his weapons and wait for the *thing* to shoot it down.

Three deputies returned to the house the evening of December 10, 1975, with photographic equipment so that they would be prepared to get pictures should the UFO make a third landing. They were disappointed because nothing happened.

About ten days later another report of a UFO landing came in from the Lewistown area. An Air Force missile crew, traveling between Roy and Fergus northeast of Lewistown late at night, said they saw an object on the ground that was glowing and pulsating. They reported watching it for five to ten minutes. The Fergus County Sheriff's Office at Lewistown was notified and a deputy went out to investigate, but he was unable to find anything.

A couple of nights earlier, the Air Force had some hectic moments when an unidentified flying object was sighted over Fairfield and was tracked on radar for about an hour and a half. the oblong-shaped object was first locked in on radar at 8,000 feet. A little later, it was fluctuating between 9,000 and 18,000 feet. A commercial airlines plane flying in the vicinity was contacted by NORAD to see if visual contact could be made, but the pilot was unable to see it.

Within a short time, the radar contact was lost, but law officers working in the area could still see the object. Radar contact was again made, locking the object in at 14,100 feet as it moved very slowly in a northwesterly direction. The object was also located by radar equipment at Havre. Air Force officials said the object was in the Power-Fairfield area, but they could not pinpoint it any better.

At one point during the tracking, when the UFO was in the Dutton area, radar showed the object suddenly ascending vertically from 14,750 feet to 44,400 feet at 850 knots or approximately 1,000 miles per hour and then stopping suddenly. The maneuver startled military officials and law officers.

waking his son and a friend who had been sleeping with him. The boys told the rancher, who went outside, but was unable to see anything unusual.

On the same day - and in fact, the same hour that Captain Wolverton saw his second UFO - a Great Falls man had an unusual experience at his ranch west of Augusta. The man reported that he was outside when he happened to notice out of the corner of his eye a strange object in the sky. He described it as pear-shaped, about the size of a very large light bulb, and was a very bright incandescent color, almost like a ball of fire. He said it was traveling about 60 to 70 feet off the ground in a west to east direction.

The object appeared to burn out directly over his yard. *At the end, pieces seemed to fall off the tail of it and burn up and the whole thing appeared to burn up in the manner that I visualized a large ball from a Roman candle,* the man told authorities.

He said his first reaction was that it was a meteor, but as he thought about it, he decided it would have been dropping to the ground, which this object did not do. He commented that it was odd that the object, while in flight, seemed to maintain the same altitude at all times while he observed it, which was over a distance of approximately 100 yards. A few seconds after the object burned up, the man heard a sonic boom a distance away.

To be continued in **Chapter 10 - One Big One, Four Little Ones**

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