

Cattle mutilated in strange rites

By JIM BRIGANCE
Associated Press Writer

Investigators worked with few clues Tuesday in the wake of another outbreak of cattle mutilations in Texas.

The series of gory killings and mutilations apparently at night is without precedent for most cattle owners and investigators.

"The problem is we don't have any idea who could be doing this. If we were dealing with thefts then we'd start looking among the known thieves. This is different," said Slim

Hulen, investigator for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

A 750-pound Charolais bull was found in Anderson County Sunday in a pine grove. The bull's testicles, penis, rectum, ears and tongue were missing. The hide on one shoulder had been peeled back. All blood had been drained from the carcass in an unexplained manner.

A large cow was found Monday near Tyler on the Ashby Ranch. The cow's vulva and tongue were missing. The cow was seven months pregnant. No blood was found

around the carcass. Its fetus had been removed.

Last month a registered Angus cow was found in Hopkins County, its head and sex organs missing. "The uterus had been removed and was lying up on top of the cow. There's no much question about it. There's no doubt in my mind at all," Hulen said, "but the cow was mutilated by a human being. It's possible she was drained of her blood while she was still alive." A bull was found Tuesday on the Bill Lowrey ranch

near Tyler, its sex organs removed along with the ears and tongue.

"We don't have anything to go on at all. Some of these incidents in other counties, and one of the four cases I've investigated, are cattle that died and varamints got on to them. But not in others," Hulen said. Hopkins County Sheriff Paul Jones said he is stepping up his probe in light of what he feels are the acts of an occult Satanist's group.

"We found out this much, a part

of the ceremonial rite is drinking the blood of the animal while it is warm and often decapitating whatever is killed. Sometimes they take it with them, that is, the head, and sometimes leaving it behind with the eyes and tongue removed," Jones said.

At least 14 previous similar mutilations have been reported in Jones, Stephens, Brown and Young counties in Texas. Others have occurred in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

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'Epitaph' on campus, nostalgia freaks lose

TOMBSTONE, Ariz. (AP)—The Tombstone Epitaph, which has chronicled this legendary town's news in Old Western style since the days of Wyatt Earp, is headed for academia.

The weekly paper won't be changing its format, but its 3,400 worldwide subscribers will have to look elsewhere for Old West nostalgia.

Harold A. Love, a Detroit lawyer who has owned the 94-year-old paper since 1965, said Tuesday he is donating the Epitaph to the University of Arizona Journalism Department, effective Feb. 28.

George Ridge Jr., journalism department head, said students will publish the Epitaph as a laboratory newspaper on a bi-weekly basis beginning March 7.

Ridge said students will publish the newspaper without advertising in March, April and May with distribution limited to the Tombstone area. He said that by then, he should be able to gauge the paper as a teaching tool.

The Epitaph, first published May 1, 1880 by John Clum, at the height of the silver rush here, still pub-

lishes front-page columns with headlines like "Random Shots — from the Epitaph's Twelve Bore," and "Only In Tombstone." And these columns are written in the journalistic style of the Old West.

About 3,400 of the newspaper's 4,000 steady readers are Western history buffs who receive the Epitaph by mail.

That varied readership will be the No. 1 problem the students will have to deal with, Love says.

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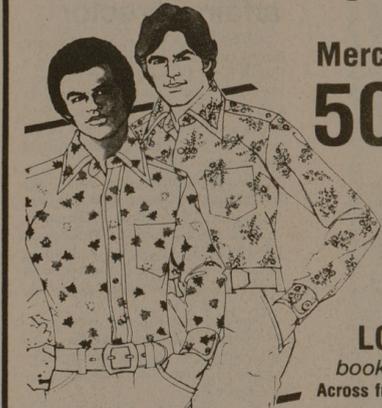
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