

Matter 13

Summary

Mysterious Atmospheric Effect in Platte County

Account by:	Brad Cassidy, 48. Reporter.
Source:	<i>Platte County Record-Times.</i>
Location:	Sunrise, Wyoming, United States.
Event:	22 Sep 1983.
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Report

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Residents of Hartville were surprised and confused Thursday morning following a freak atmospheric effect.

A series of ten lines appeared overnight on the slopes leading to Sunrise. Each close to 25 yards in

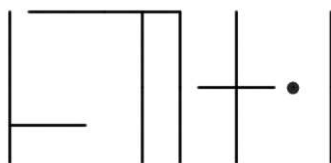
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length, they were formed from the bodies of hundreds of dead chickens.

Meteorologists speculate that a mini-tornado picked the chickens up from a broiler house and deposited them when the tornado touched down.

The tornado must have travelled for quite some distance. No local broiler house has reported to date any missing chickens and the birds are white, which is not typical for chickens in Platte County.

Further mystery surrounds the lines themselves. They are arranged in groups, almost as if they were letters. This pencil sketch shows the layout as seen roadside.



Similar marks and circular patterns have appeared flattened into crops in England. They are typically dismissed as pranks intended to fool the gullible.

As far as this reporter can ascertain, none of the English symbols have involved the death of several hundred chickens. This suggests that the Sunrise marks are an entirely different phenomenon.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the tornado as it passed by or who might have other information regarding the mystery.

The remains of the chickens were incinerated Friday to protect public health.

Notes

No photographs of the lines of dead chickens have been made public.

Sunrise is an abandoned mining town. In 1986, it was revealed to be a rich source of artefacts from the Clovis culture, dating to around 13,000 years ago.

[Update May 31 2022]

Archaeologists have discovered that the Sunrise excavation site known as Powars II was a red ochre quarry. Red ochre was used by the Clovis culture for a variety of ritual purposes.