

William Van Wyck, farmer, 6 miles south of Carman, Manitoba, 2 east
204-745-3069 (personal interview 8/28/76)

We were combining along and came to this spot about, oh I guess it was about 25 feet in diameter where the corn seemed to be swirled away as if it had been caught in--it was quite dry--and the corn leaves were swirled away and sort of trampled down a little bit, eh? You know what I mean? It was noticeable but then you get off and you look closer and you could see burnt marks on the stalks up, say, 6 inches or 8 inches from the ground. The stalks--go up 6 inches and then they were burnt for a little bit, 3 or 4 inches. It was easy to see. Then, I guess, we noticed the tracks. Really odd tracks, I've never seen anything like them in my life. They were round-- I guess maybe 5 inches in diameter, almost a perfect circle as I remember it. You see, it had rained a few days before, so these showed up real well, and they sunk in the ground about an inch, these tracks. They were approximately 5 to 6 inches in diameter but there were little marks, like claw marks, I can't remember exactly but there either 4 or 5 claw marks to each one of these. It was just a round pad mark and there were little claw marks (very thin) about this size . . . and they were sunk in the ground about an inch, something quite heavy, but they didn't look like they were machines. They looked like some kind of an animal because these claw marks would go away from the spot but they didn't follow a pattern like an animal^{would}, a fox or rabbit or ~~something~~ or anything has got a pattern (to say it walks) but this didn't have a pattern. It was just helter skelter and yon. It didn't have a pattern, and wherever these claw marks seemed to be, there were cobs picked off the corn. The ears were picked right out of the husks. You wouldn't notice it unless you went and grabbed the husks and there's nothing in it. You know how the husk is dry in the fall. The husk was hanging there and there was no ear inside it. It was gone! This is what was really weird, as far as we were concerned. . . .

Q. Do you know how much of this was done?

A. ~~How many ears were gone?~~

Van Wyck--3

A. Yeah, those burnt marks. You know, you see that after. You get up and look. The ~~xxx~~ burnt really wasn't that significant. Like you wouldn't see it if you were just flying over it or driving by it. You wouldn't see that burnt until you got looking close, and then it was obvious.

Q. Was it like it had, sort of had a match to it, browned.

A. Well, it was hotter than that. It was more like a blow torch.

Q. It hadn't burned all the way through, though?

A. Oh no, oh no. I hadn't burned all the way through. It was quite carboned on the outside. The stalks were definitely carboned and burned or something.

Q. Was it uniform~~xxxx~~ all the way around the stalks? Or just one one side?

A. You're getting too technical (laughing). I--I don't know. I'd say it was sort of uniform. I wasn't definitely just on one side of the stalk, I remember that.

Q. Were all the stalks ~~x~~ in the circle, were they all that way?

A. No, not all of them. I didn't⁺ a complete circle black. I⁺ was just sort of a here and there kind of thing, you know.

Q. But you didn't⁺ see that burn outside of the circle area?

A. Well, that's where it was. It was within the circumference of the circle. All the corn wasn't⁺ burned in there. I⁺ was around the circumference of the circle, that's where it was burned. It was just around the area, around the outside.

Q. Just around the outside?

A. Well, yes it was. Just the outside.

Q. When was this?

A. Last fall. When was it (to his son and father, standing nearby) Last October, eh? It was in David's field and the sad part of it was he didn't even see it himself. We work together, him and I and our neighbor, and it was the neighbor who was combining and actually saw it and got off the combine and was looking. at this and I drove up and he was studying this thing and another chap was hauling grain--here, Mr Pratt, this is my father and my son Dave (etc.)

Q. What's your first name Sir?

A. Ed.

Q. Ed, David and William. And this was on your field out there (to Dave)

(Dave) A. Yes. There's corn out there now.

(~~xxxx~~) Q. How far back in the field was it?

(Wm.) A. I couldn't even take you to the spot now. . . . I⁺ would be about 10 rod off the road and 10 rod in from the corner, roughly about the spot.

Q. What did you say when I asked when this happened?

A. Around the middle of October, I guess.

Q. Who was the other guy with you?

A. The guy who was combining actually saw it first, a neighbor I combine together with. He stopped, got out and looked and I didn't know. There's always something breaking and he just stood there looking, you know, so drive up the field and I stand there looking--

Q. Is this Mr. Coates?

A. Yeah.

Q. What's his first name?

A. Murray.

Q. Who was the other guy (hauling grain)?

A. Ivan Stokes. He was hauling grain with me. He came down and looked too

Q. You haven't see any of these lights have you?

A. I haven't, no.

David: I haven't, either.

Wm: There's been lots of sightings, though (laughing). Poe People in Rone seen them, just 3 miles west of here. Mostly lights.

Q. X You've had another crop (in the field) this year?

A. Yeah.

Q. No aftereffects of any kind?

A. N't as far as we know. If we see a spot this fall, we'll let you know.

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