Crow Regimentation

Cliff Shaw

Past Pres. S.N.H.S.

While the following observation is not my own I can readily vouch for the facts as the observer was my mother Mrs. Walter Shaw of Bulyea.

Out home was on the edge of the village, approximately 50 miles Northwest of Regina, and was separated from the farm fields a few hundred yards to the West by No. 20 highway.

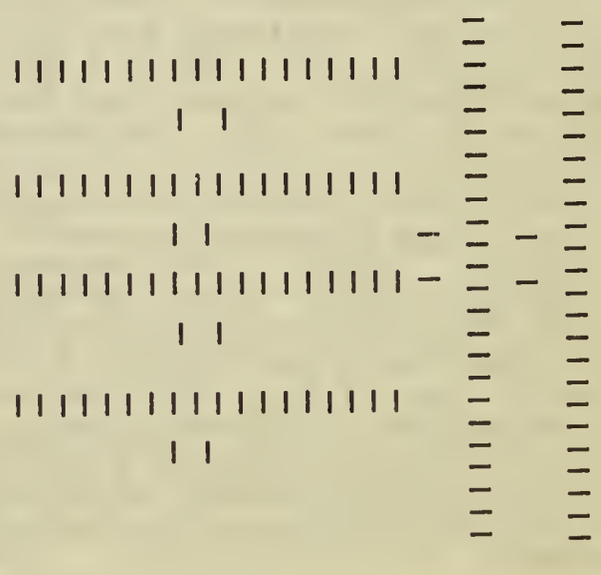
One morning in late fall my mother was upstairs doing her housework and as she glanced out the west window was amazed to see hundreds of crows lined up in six lines on the nearby stubble field. (See diagram)

They appeared as though formed into regiments and with the exception of what would appear to have been the leaders every crow stood along a line as straight as if it had been drawn by a ruler.

But I'll let my mother tell the story as she wrote relating it to me.

"At the start the leaders were in a group as though making plans for their flight. When the gathering of leaders dispersed each walked up and down the rows giving orders to their regiment, as it were. It seemed to me their were two or three leaders assigned to each row. Judging from the way they left the ground there would be 20 leaders, as near as I can remember.

On the take off the two leaders of each row went first. The first rows followed, not in a group but one after another just like soldiers keeping in step.

About one or two minutes later the third and fourth rows to the rear of the first two lines followed their leaders and the fifth and sixth, extending East and west at a right angle to the other lines, followed likewise.

It may have been in the early afternoon or late noon. I was cleaning the West upstairs window when I noticed them. The lines were perfectly straight and all the leaders were gathered in a group. They were sure making some noise. The fields was in stubble and there was a slight skiff of snow on the ground. It surely was a wonderful sight and I only wish you could have seen them."