

# Community feels little fear of mysterious light on road

By SHIRLEY VOLTNER

I first heard about the Prague Light in 1976, two years after moving to this farm.

My husband's sister, her husband and I had been discussing unexplainable phenomena. "Like the Prague Light," my brother-in-law said.

"What Prague Light?" I asked.

"Well, you must have seen it," he replied, and then went on to explain the "must" of the thing.

After listening to their matter-of-fact information my curiosity was fueled.

The district we live in is called Prague, in the county of Beaver, south of the town of Viking, Alberta. Our farm is north of a parish hall, church and cemetery. To witness the light you approach it from the north. My brother-in-law thought I must have seen it, since I had often travelled south from town toward the cemetery.

Once the light was brought to my atten-

tion, I looked for it and sure enough eight times out of 10 it was there. Before it had never entered my head to question it. We live in a well populated farming area and seeing a light on a road that runs straight for miles I had probably assumed it was an oncoming car.

There was never a feeling of alarm at seeing the light. I figured it had been there a lot longer than I and hadn't given me any trouble so my new knowledge would not affect anything.

However, the explanation that it was "just there" will never satisfy my curiosity. Time after time I have stopped at our approach to watch it. For brief periods it could well be an oncoming vehicle, but if I watch long enough it is clear the light is not consistent. At times it is brighter than others. It fades in and out sometimes fades out altogether. There are times when it is soft and more even but the next time it is brighter and almost restless.

On one occasion I decided to see if the light was by the cemetery. It isn't, although from here it looks as though it could well be. As I drove south it seemed to remain the same distance ahead of me. After about three miles it faded out and although I waited for considerable time, it did not reappear.

One thing which fills me with wonder is the lack of fear and apprehension it creates. The opposite seems true. For myself there is a feeling akin to disappointment when the light is not there. One of my daughters, who enjoys jogging on the country roads at night, says she feels safe when it is there.

For the most part people just accept it as "the Prague Light." It is there, and since it has been there for as long as the locals remember and no one has ever discovered its source, I doubt that I will be any more successful than anyone else in solving this mystery. ■