

UNSCRIBED RECORDED CONVERSATION OF CALUMET FARM NIGHT WATCHMAN,  
ALTON STONE ON 19 NOVEMBER 1990.

TD: This is Tom Dixon and today's date is November the 19th, 1990 and I'm at the farm of Calumet Farm near Lexington and I'm going to be discussing the 1975 stallion ALYDAR and also representing the farm is Susan McGee and I'm going to be talking to Alton Stone. Alton, if you would just give me your full name and your address.

AS: It's Alton Dewain Stone, Route 1, Willisburg, KY 40078.

TD: Thank you and your date of birth?

AS: 11-7-58

TD: Happened close to your birthday then didn't it? You understand we are recording your conversation, our conversation?

AS: Yes, sir.

TD: And doing so with your permission?

AS: Yes, sir.

TD: Now, we are going to talk about the events of November 13th 1990 and if you could, it's my understanding that you were filling in for the nightman, that ordinarily you are the day man.

AS: Yes sir.

TD: Could you just kinda describe your routine for me beginning about oh 9 or 9:30 and just kinda bring me up to when you found the horse.

AS: Okay, I was patrolling the whole area at the time and I come up here (to the stallion barn) just like 9:30, check the horses, did all of the other routines I normally go through. I come back like at 10:05 and double check myself just for the safety.

TD: Is that kinda a ordinary routine or did you have some reason to come back?

AS: I just come back on my own just to check. Then I found ALYDAR standing there sweating.

TD: Could you describe the door for me?

AS: I didn't look at the door at all.

TD: His door was still closed?

AS: Yes, he was standing there facing me, wringing wet of sweat. So I immediately got on the radio and hollered for Sandy to come to the stallion barn.

TD: Sandy, is Sandy who?

AS: Sandy Hatfield.

TD: She's what, your broodmare manager?

SM: She's actually Alton's supervisor through the day.

TD: Okay I'm sorry go ahead. I just want to identify these people, so your first call was to Sandy.

AS: Yes and at the same time I was walking to the phone to call Lynda Rhodes, our veterinarian.

SM: Both of them live on the farm.

TD: That was going to be my next question. So you came in the office here to use it or do you have a phone.....

AS: We have a phone in the back (of the stallion barn).

SM: It's in the barn.

TD: When you saw him standing there, did you try to open the door or did you just immediately went to call Sandy and Lynda?

AS: I just immediately went to call, done nothing.

TD: Can you remember what you said when you called Sandy?

AS: Oh, shit.

(Laughter)

TD: I assume she and Lynda came on up here?

AS: Yes, they were right here. I walked in and caught him and when I first saw him I didn't even notice the leg. I just seen the sweat and I thought maybe it was colic or something. So, I went on and caught him when they came in and that's when I discovered the leg like that.

TD: Did you all have any difficulty opening the door?

AS: No, sir.

TD: When did you notice that he had apparently had kicked the door?

AS: Just shortly after we hocked onto him, I mean, it was just obvious all out of place, cause I was coming out with the vet and I kinda looked down and seen a piece of the roller laying out on the floor and I said something's wrong.

TD: When you saw him in the stall was he standing free or did he have that leg in between the door and the wall?

AS: It was standing facing me, at the stall door.

TD: So it would just be guessing if he ever had his leg in between the door, the stall door and the wall. I mean, did anybody actually ever see it in there?

AS: No sir.

TD: I'm just trying to figure out how, if he might have got it in there in the excitement trying to get it out, snapped it. But you never did see it?

AS: Never did see it, no.

TD: And this would have been 10:15 or 10:20.

AS: 10:20

SM: There were scrapes on the wall, right by that door, where you came in.

TD: I arrived just about shortly after that. You mentioned about the horse acting colicky, you gave me the time, you told me about the routine.....

SM: The horse was never colicky, the horse was sweating and he didn't know what it was. He just knew something was wrong.

TD: I'm putting words in Alton's mouth, when he saw the horse standing there sweating he thought possibly he was colicky.

SM: Yes, he didn't know what was wrong. The horse was just standing there, making no movement at this time.

TD: Okay, I stand corrected. And you told me who you called first. Did you stay with the horse waiting on Lynda and Sandy?

AS: Yes.

TD: And I assume they are here within.....

SM: Seconds

AS: A couple of minutes.

TD: I noticed, I think the next morning, I think it was the left eye that was closed. Do you have any idea how that might have happened? I know he went down that night after they put the cast on him and I'm wondering if he hit his eye when he went down with that cast?

AS: I didn't really notice.

TD: That's about all I had. Is there anything I haven't asked you that you think is important?

AS: No, sir.

TD: I don't know of anything you could add to it. Susan, is there anything.....

SM: There's nothing, you arrived shortly after I did. We were here about 10:30. We were here as quickly ..(inaudible)

TD: That's it then, you don't have anything else to add?

AS: No, sir.

TD: Okay, we appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.