

# FOR CORNS



Here Wes's granddaughter, Tayah Vanstone, holds one very amazing whitetail shed that was found back in 1986. The main beam on this impressive antler is 22 5/8 and the tine lengths are as follows: G-1 4 6/8, G-2 10 2/8, G-3 11 3/8, G-4 8 4/8, and G-5 goes six inches even. This shed also carries great mass with all circumferences going over five solid inches. This big Manitoba chunk of bone not counting the abnormal points scores 86 1/8 inches. With those extra points, it scores 90 6/8 inches. See another photo of this shed on page 14.

This story starts with the terrible corn crop disaster in southern Manitoba back in 1985. Hundreds of acres in the Pembina Valley had been rendered useless, but before the producers could collect their insurance money, the corn had to be destroyed. It didn't long before I realized that this was a terrible waste because it would provide great winter feed for our Manitoba whitetails. The winters are tough and this would sure help to pull them through. Now if I could only convince the Minister of Agriculture and of course Manitoba Crop Insurance. My phone calls worked and the producers were told they could leave the corn standing for the deer herds.

In February of 1986, my wife, Elaine, and I decided to check out one of these cornfields near Miami, Manitoba, as it was polluted with deer sign. We had never looked for sheds before, but after my friend John Wee, a wildlife photographer from Montreal, told us that looking for sheds is great fun, we decided to try it and off we went. Lo and behold, I found a tremendous whitetail shed, and I still regret that we didn't have a camera with us that day. John was right: it was fun and also very addicting.

Elaine and I hadn't gone very far in that 30-acre patch when we soon spotted another giant shed lying in front of us. I was sure it was the match for the one we had already found. Reaching its side, it was yet another left side. As we kept searching the field, we found a few smaller ones but couldn't find the missing right

# AKES



*Wes Vanstone with the shoulder mount of the mega sheds he picked up in that province back in 1986. Although this mount was done many years ago, it is a constant reminder to this veteran hunter of that magic day he and his wife, Elaine, found the left antler of this magnificent whitetail. Bucks like this are few and far between and in a class of their own. Here are some of the magic numbers on this cornfield buck. Main beams run 25 5/8 and 26 5/8 with brow-tines of 7 and 6 3/8 inches. Longest G-2 is a whopping 13 inches, G-3 is 11 6/8, and G-4s are again excellent at over 7 inches. There is only one G-5 that goes 1 4/8 inches. This buck grew over 41 inches of circumferences, which is way above normal. It grossed well over 205 inches, and after deductions still netted 199 3/8 non-typical points.*

*The province of Manitoba keeps producing amazing Boone and Crockett whitetails year after year.*

antlers. Back then very few people looked for sheds, so we always wondered what had happened to them. One thing for sure, the gene pool was strong back then as both these sheds were quite similar in appearance.

Four long years went by with the big sheds in my collection, and all thoughts of ever finding the match had faded

into the many sunsets across the Pembina Valley. Then, in 1990, Randy Bruce shot the second largest non-typical in Manitoba. Since I was an official scorer, his father Jack asked me to measure it. While I worked on the numbers, I told him about the big sheds Elaine and I had found back in 1986. Jack looked at me and stated, "One of them seems to fit the

description of the right antler I found that same year." Lo and behold, Jack said he had found his shed on the Sand Ridge Road, which was very close to where we had found the left.

By now I was at full attention and asked Jack, "Whatever happened to it?"

"It's in the pump house."

One look at this beautiful creation and I knew it was the missing side. Now the next words out of Jack's mouth were glorious indeed, "Take it if you want."

I couldn't wait to put the two sheds together and score them up. The 9x7 had an estimated inside spread of 18 6/8 with main beams reaching 25 5/8 and 26 5/8 inches. Longest brow-tine is 7 inches, G-2 goes 13, G-3 11 6/8, G-4 7 5/8, and only one G-5 at 1 4/8 inches. Circumferences are all over five solid inches. The rack has a net typical score of 185. Adding the abnormal points, the final score on this Miami, Manitoba monster is 199 3/8 non-typical points. The whole adventure was quite a journey and it was amazing to match them up after four long years. The king buck is now proudly mounted on my wall, reminding me that shed hunting is indeed fun.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I was pretty excited when I heard the story of these big sheds from Manitoba. After saving the cornfields so they wouldn't be destroyed, Wes certainly deserved to find



Here is a photo of the second big shed that Wes and Elaine found in the cornfield. This image was taken in 2012 and photographed in one of the fields where Wes and Elaine found the antlers back in 1986. Wes still regrets not having a camera with him that wonderful day when these two big left antlers came into his world.

these amazing mahogany antlers. It is incredible what one person's determination did to change the minds of the Manitoba government and Manitoba Crop Insurance. Wildlife always needs a helping hand and they sure found that in Wes Vanstone. See the big buck that Wes took in 2011 on page 68. 🍀

**Wes Vanstone stands beside his two Monster Manitoba Whitetails.**  
The buck pictured on the right is the mount of the Boone and Crockett sheds he found in 1986.  
See the full story on his other big whitetail (left) that is featured on page 68.

