
Interview with Gilbert Rose

Date:

Interviewed by John Arcand

Tape One: Side A

- 0.2 John:** You got to tell us your name first of all, where you were born, who your parents were, and where they come from and all of that stuff.
- 1.1 Gilbert:** Well my name is Gilbert Rose and I was born in 1928 on the 18th day of April. I will be 73 in April. My dad's name was Boniface Rose, my mother's name was Bertha Landrey. And my grandfather's name on my dad's side was William Whitford and my grandmother was Julia Desjarlais. On my mother's side my grandfather was Joseph Landrey and my grandmother was Marie Louise Falcon. Her mom and dad was Gregor Falcon and Marie Modoure. On that side our great grandfather like Pierre, well he fought in the Red River Rebellion, in Winnipeg.
- 2.5 John:** He did?
- 2.6 Gilbert:** Yeah, I have pictures. Of the Rebellion when they were fighting hey.
- 2.7 John:** Oh, the Battle of Seven Oaks?
- 2.7 Gilbert:** Yeah, the Battle of Seven Oaks. And he was a song writer and a poet. He fought with Cuthbert Grant and he married Cuthbert Grant's sister, Marie Grant and then from there they homesteaded just outside of Winnipeg there and even Gregor homesteaded there and Joseph Landrey homesteaded there. I've got all the maps here.
- 3.4 John:** What about the Rose's, at that time?
- 3.5 Gilbert:** The Rose's came to Saskatchewan from Idaho I think. They homesteaded here oh about ten miles South from us here. And our great grandfather on that side, even your grandmother's dad, your grandmother's dad's dad name was Johnaston Rose and our great-grandfather's name was Ernie, Ernie Rose. He left here in 1902 or 1907, or something like that to go to the Yukon for the Gold Rush days and they mushed from Edmonton to the Yukon it took them eighteen months and I have got that in writing and then when they come back apparently the land was sold for taxes somehow and they lost their land. And our grandfather was scalped for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Yukon for years and years. Then when he came back, he come up to Lethbridge and he started a hunting company there and he was doing real good they said. I've got his copy of his will and he had an old '58, '38 Chevy car and fifty some dollars in the bank and he was doing good. *Laughter.* You see
- 5.6 John:** Well, that was a little bit of money in them days so.
- 5.6 Gilbert:** Yeah, he had a heart attack hey. And he is buried there. If you guys ever want to look up your great grandfather, that is where he is buried, in Lethbridge, I even got pictures of the graves there too. Yeah I have got lots of stuff

here but it takes days to look into these things hey. So they had tough times, like I even went and got the grand titles of the maps that they bought here, the Rose's, yeah I've got them too. Rick there, how he got to meet our grandmother I guess this land that he bought was in between two reserves. Thunderchild, they got a piece of land there and Moosemin, by Iffly here hey. That was just across the road for grandfather to go and sneak, *laughter*. You see and he had these two kids with grandma and he wanted give them our name hey, like otherwise we should have been Whitford's instead of Rose's hey. That is where the Rose comes in hey.

7.1 John: How many of your dad's like brother's and sister's how many siblings did he have?

7.2 Gilbert: He only had one sister and that is your grandmother, Mrs. L____. And one half brother Pete Cardinal. That is the only two that he had hey and he never seen his dad, they never seen their dad and he came up here to look for his family after he came back from the Yukon but somebody told him we were up in Wasika hey. And we were right here on the Road Allowance here, living right here on the road allowance, two miles from here, that's where we were raised.

7.9 John: I was going to ask you, remember I think about 1949 when the lose of Metis, 3000 of them were shipped up to Green lake up there to start a farm, where you aware of that situation?

8.2 Gilbert: No, no anything that happens in the north we don't here about down here.

8.4 John: Yeah, I know but lots of people in Labret got shipped to Fort Qu'Appelle.

8.5 Gilbert: No, no we weren't aware of that at all. That is something that we weren't...

8.6 John: You lived in the Road Allowance for how long?

8.7 Gilbert: Oh, for years and years, heck oh it must be well that I can remember from 1934 to at least '45. '34 to '45. And then we moved to Lloydminster and the we would come back hey and then in '45 we rented a piece of land here in Cochin you see and then in '47 we moved up here. And then in '53 I bought this place but on the Whitford side there was only two girls supposed to be. At the time of the Rebellion, with Big Bear when he was in Sounding Lake when he bought there, there was only two girls supposed to be and when my great grandmother Julia Desjarlais here, mom used to tell me that they scattered here, Indians scattered here hey. Some went north and some went to Willowfeild, Indians and Half-breeds hey. And some came to the north and she used to tell us hey, she told us this story of how she brought these two kids two girls, one died on the road and she used to travel at night and she had a little black and her name was Babe. It only weighed about eight hundred pounds, a beautiful little black bear hey and I remember we used to ride that pony all over and she ended up giving it to her daughter Julia hey. And like from there she come she hid at Port Debt and into Onion lake somewhere where they had the Hudson's Bay company in there, well she worked there to raise her two daughters or something there and worked for McDonald and that is why we couldn't figure out the family history here for a long time. Because everybody called her McDonald hey you see but she wasn't a Mrs. McDonald, she was a Mrs. William Whitford the second, junior, that is who she was. But on the baptism, now John, there is the two boys there, there is John, they used to call him _____

ands then there is Elie and then there is Dan, Dan died in jail, supposed to have. Now I have got a list right here of Whitford's, there is a hundred and fifty of them in Saskatchewan, families. But the thing is I have known the Whitford's from Belgany, Ervan Whitford and all them guys and Tony and I never knew we were related to them that is the thing and all this time they were my dad's first cousins you see. We knew Mrs. ___ Bouchin Edlin, she was a Bridget hey, George Bridget's daughter, no George Bridges sister, that is who she was and she used to call our grandmother Julia, ___ you know. My sister in laws hey and I used to wonder what in the how they were related hey but John when years ago when we were kids, you didn't dare go and ask your mother and your dad what is your kookum's name you know, that is your kookum and boy you got a slap in the side of your head, go and play you know. We didn't know our dad's name or our mother's name you know because it is your mom and your dad and that is the way you were raised and the same with your grandparents. That is how come it is so hard to find family trees. And all at once you find them and there you are and you know, all your relations, you have been with your relations all these years and you didn't know them and it is a shame, it is a shame that you didn't know them and who knows you could have married into your own family for God's sake you know, this was a bad thing that the people did years ago you know and...

13.8 John: But I think...

13.9 Gilbert: But it was respect you know that's what it was, it was just respect.

14.0 John: But I think years ago it lots of cousins married first cousins and...

14.1 Gilbert: Oh, yeah, oh yes they did but, the thing is I guess they would stop you because they knew the parents knew but they would not tell you who you were related to, this is the thing hey. Like Ervin Whitford, heck he has been a friend of mine since 1941 when we lived up in Belginy, we moved up there one summer hey cause you know, you had to go wherever there was a little bit of work hey. And after you are done, in our family we had a tough time, I remember in '34 my sister Nancy was born and we were living on the reserve, just off the road allowance there and that spring we moved back on road allowance there and my dad got 21 boils on his neck, Irene was a baby then again, a year after or so, he couldn't work, he couldn't even lay on his back. And my mother had twenty boils on her chest so she couldn't nurse this girl and, my brother Johnny, Charlie he hunted birds to make soup and strain it to feed that baby. That is how we pulled through, oh when I think about it John, Oh it is tough, it was tough, how people lived and survived so if anybody ever tells you that a Metis can't survive, they are lying. Cause they were good survivors. But you know, sometimes all we would find to eat is bannock hey and we didn't have an uncle that year and there was a white guy that lived about a half a mile from us and his name was Ted Marion and they were poor, like everybody was poor hey and we got a cow from them to milk and boy it was just like having ___ you know we had cream and we had milk for with our bannock and brought these little kids up hey and you know, you wouldn't believe how, I must have been about eight years old and mom sent me to Cochin to go and get a package of tobacco and I went and I went to the store and this lady asked me how my parents were because she heard about it hey about these boils like hey. So I told her my dad had so many and my mother, so that store keeper Mrs. Richard's gave me two pounds of raisins, he said you tell them to eat these raisins, he said in a weeks time they won't have any boils. That is how they got healed with them, raisins. It is in your blood hey, it is in your blood and if your blood is not good, you are supposed to get these boils hey and raisins cleans out your blood you see.

He said tell them to eat as many as they can he said, John you would not believe it cleared them right up but then by that time, mom had no milk hey, you know to nurse the baby, so when this neighbor lent us a cow to milk oh boy that sure was a treat you know. We runned it all over the reserve, we lived tight on the reserve there, we were just like one of them I mean that is the way they treated us and your granddad and them too you know they were always close with us hey, they weren't too far away from us because dad and your granddad was just like two willows hey, always working together hey. And but these Natives they would come out and if you had nothing they would go home and get a hundred pounds of flour and lard and tea and whatever you could, they could spare you hey, a big piece of bacon and said here, feed your kids hey. We seen that if a lot of times it wasn't for the Natives we would be really hungry you know I telling you, but they were real one hundred percent Native people, they were hard workers, that is the ones I knew. There was no such thing as welfare, everybody, when I was ten years old I was hauling wood to Meota and we got two dollars a load, a full load and if you were a good salesman that was, you had to run from house to house. A lot of times there was a hundred loads going from Jackfish lake and stormy, them days we didn't have this weather we are having now, we had weather forty below, fifty below, I went across that lake at fifty-three below. There was only two teams, I and Fred Coby. When we got there they asked us if we were crazy and I said why, what is the matter, don't you know that it is fifty three below, we didn't notice it. But you came on the road and you walk behind. We hauled wood to Cochic John, a dollar and a half a chord for green wood and you didn't get cash you had to take it and trade, and get groceries. Let me tell you boy, you didn't buy much groceries. But I will tell you one thing, it was good times. We went to a dance at least three or four times a week. Somebody would come around with a team of saddle horses and say oh they are going to have a dance up there on the reserve are Wrights, or Delore's or Rapley's. Nolan's, oh yeah heck Nolan's. Even in Cochin there was a few white people there, they hauled? out all their furniture and we would have a real dance.

21.3 John: Did you ever know them Oblette's?

21.3 Gilbert: Oh yeah.

21.4 John: They were supposed to be some pretty good jiggers at one time.

21.4 Gilbert: They were, they were, just this family that I knew, there was only two boys I think. There was only John and Lewie, that is the old people hey. Lewie was married to a Nolan lady and that is where the Clapette's come from. You know Paul and them and all of those guys hey, like one of son in laws is a Clapette, Marcel.

21.9 John: Oh, from Cochin here, oh yeah.

21.9 Gilbert: Yeah, and uh but them boys oh they could sure dance, that Robert, oh I am telling you and Clarence lives in Regina. The younger guys I don't know, there is a Victor and Roy I think, Bobby, those I don't know, yeah Raymond there. Oh John if you would have seen Raymond dance.

22.5 John: Well, which is the old fellow that is here now? Can he still dance?

22.6 Gilbert: He is still a pretty good dancer but not as good as his brothers. Oh no, Robert and Raymond they are the ones that Robert boy, I'll tell you he could dance

and Raymond. But I will tell you they died so young like Raymond got run over here buy a ?denhome? one winter and um they were the greatest people we ever met I would say, good hearted people and they were as poor as church mice, I shouldn't say this on here but we were just as poor and they didn't matter what they had but when you stopped it was on the table Johnny to share and like you are supposed to. Even if it was just like potatoes or bannock or something and they had such a big family, and happy. People were so happy years ago, there was no what it is now, people are flying now, they are in a hurry, they haven't got time for you they haven't got time to visit. We had neighbors here a half a mile apart hey, you could walk to the neighbor and go and visit and they would come and visit you and things like that, it was good times and nobody had anything and yet nobody worried about a bill either, There was no power bill and no nothing but we lived pretty tough life and as the boys grew up in forty two I guess my brother Pete got called to the army and then from there well then it wasn't too bad.

24.5 John: You were too young?

24.5 Gilbert: I was too young, I just turned sixteen when the war was over, but I was ready, I was ready and I was so small and stunted then I guess. Even if I would have went and lied about my age I would have only looked like I was twelve years old. But I went out and thrashed when I was fourteen and I field bits for six teams. I was a story that I always tell that I will never forget and it was about this William Falcon, Gregor's son hey and he used to have these fits and there was a Native that used to stay with him and his name was Joe Bear we were all sleeping in this tent hey, I was sleeping at the edge and dad and William and Joe Bear and on the other side was uncle Pete Cardinal and them guys and all at once this William Falcon got a fit hey and when he had a fit he had no teeth hey because they had to pull his teeth out or else he would chew his tongue hey. he got this fit and he kind of jumped up like he was trying to get up and of course dad knew what was happening and I didn't he pushed him over on top of Joe Bear and when Joe Bear was on his back sleeping just a snoring and all of a sudden Joe Bear fell on him all at once William fell on there and just jumping like that hey and you should have heard the noise John, oh my god you know, this poor Joe Bear just got scared and didn't know what was happening you know this guy on top of him and he was slobbering and everything oh my we laughed here all night and that was my first year thrashing and I never ever forgot that you know. We went down south here too by the road allowance, there is a road allowance here too by that fence over there just over the hill here hey, there was these LaPlante that used to live here, Loie LaPlante was his name, he was a, he used to raise race horses and they moved to Montana it was 1937 I think. And Francis was one of the boys and he had a kid with my auntie Leona and when they moved there I remembered so well, there was fourteen wagon teams because there e was this Philip King was there son in law hey and you know they load up everything they had in saddle horses and they moved to Browning, Montana and that is where they all died. We went and visited Francis there in '61 I think it was and they had a big ranch there and he's gone too now you know, they were pretty nice people and the remains is still there like the part of the Logs is still there and you know, crazy things happened to me in them days you know and like my dad was digging a well and of course when you are kids you are nosey and you want to go and see how deep it is and he said you had better get back because you are going to fall in. He no more said that and I slipped and right on top of his back, boy he grabbed me and threw me right out of the hole boy, I'm telling you I don't know if I touched the ground all the way to the house I was so scared. *Laughter.* Oh we laughed and another time, my brother Ernice and Charlie they were milking the cows or watering them or something, I remember I had this little red coat and

they said you had better stay away from the barn, he said that cow will chase you if he sees red, of course I didn't believe no such thing, and I was about half ways to the barn and that cow come after me boy I just made it to the house again, boy. Things like that I can remember so well that happened to me and the only thing I would like is to find out more about our relatives you know, especially on the, I would like to get some pictures on the Whitford side because I think that would be a very nice thing for us to have that you know. There is two places that we can get them it is just that I haven't got like the energy to go and visit these people hey, like there is a Mrs. Myo in Sweet Grass, Robert Myo's mother I went to a funeral up there and Robert introduced me to his mother and she was John's daughter. And she said you come and visit me I want to show you some pictures and that was two years ago and I haven't got here yet you know and I am losing ground here because if I don't act soon, it will be too late. And this woman in Onion Lake and I just found about that this fall from Wally Falcon hey and he was telling me talk about a nice picture of your grandfather he said, Leon Whitford he said he said he was an old cowboy to you know.

- 30.9 John:** Tell me a little bit about your great grandmother I guess. She got away from Custer?
- 31.1 Gilbert:** That is where she ended hey.
- 31.2 John:** Did she get captured from there?
- 31.3 Gilbert:** Oh, no. She got away from that the fight up there in ___ lake but she got away she got to....
- 31.5 John:** Word is she got captured by the Sioux.
- 31.6 Gilbert:** No, no. She traveled by night and hid in the day time hey and she managed to get to this Frog Lake. or Onion Lake or something like that hey. Fort Pit hey or something like that yeah Fort Pit that is where she came to and that is how she got a job from the Hudson's Bay Company hey.
- 32.1 John:** And where was she? Where did she come from?
- 32.2 Gilbert:** They were with Big Bear hey, they were traveling with Big Bear. William Whitford and his wife, they were traveling with Big Bear and they camped at sounding lake and that is when these guys tried to get Big Bear to take treaty and he wouldn't. And then while this was happening the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Army or something came and started shooting hey, this is what happened, yeah this is what happened. So that is why the people scattered, you see Big Bear took off to Montana, Rocky Boy. You see and some of the people went west through St. Paul and in there and some people came North and some went East to Willowfield there. Willowfeild years ago in 1941, Willowfield was just willows as far as you could see, so it was a good hiding place hey.
- 33.2 John:** Where is that at?
- 33.3 Gilbert:** Just a little ways from down Ginny over there, that is where Pichard still lives. George Pichard, that is where he still lives in Willowfeild, that is what they call it hey, there is nothing ther, no town but just a little Metis settlement they used to have there.
- 33.6 John:** Oh I suppose it is the same thing as ____ there hey?

- 33.7 Gilbert:** Yeah, the same thing. it is just they got together there and that is where they stayed and kind of helped each other ther and to live like and all they were living on was digging ___ and selling willow post and selling things like that hey but even the time we were there in 1940, '41 they had dances every week and there was a fight every week at the dance, the same guys every time, brother in laws. Richard and ___ Bouchane and they wouldn't quit because they would beat them every time and he would take up his brother in law again the next time, it was just to put on a shop or something. Here you very seldom seen a fight years ago John, we used to go to the reserve here and they used to have a round dance and then they would switch over to a fiddle dance, they'd have a round dance and switch over to a fiddle dance and I tell you they had nothing but fun to go to here although you were poor but it didn't seem to matter. Today, we are not rich but we have a house and furniture, in them days you didn't have anything like that, everything was made out of rails, bare floor or just a sawed roof, that is what you lived in. The summer time you lived in a tent but it was a tough go I tell you, I remember cutting brush will my dad d up at Robin Hood ther and we thought we were making real good money, we got three dollars an acre and the bush was thick hey, but not real big anything six or seven inches we had to leave for stumps hey but we would cut that five acres in three days, four of us. thin ax, just cut it in rows hey and fifteen dollars so dad would give each of us boys a dollar, Chad, Ernie , and myself then he bought groceries with the rest of it but them days you bought lots for fifteen dollars. I went to Cochin its, three miles from the road allowance here to Cochin with a dollar and I could bring ten different things, you got sugar, a pound, tea, lard was only five cents, butter was only five cents, eggs were only ten cents a dozen. But you got lost because everything was bulk so for a dollar you bought ten different things, that was the difference there and today I don't know what a pound of tea is...
- 37.0 John:** I don't know, I don't know if you could even buy ten different items with a hundred bucks.
- 37.1. Gilbert:** I would say that you would have one heck of a time. Because when we were fishing here the other day, I told Melvin I am going to take \$100 and get some meat so we go to town and before we even bought the meat, like she bought coffee and a few other things, it was \$77 before we bought the meat even hey, by the time we bought the meat, a little bit of meat, \$140. It is just unbelievable the way things go hey but it is, I don't know what is going ton happen to us here or what but I know one thing, like we both draw on old age pension John and we have one heck of a time to live. Our power here is a \$191 a month, a month.
- 38.1 John:** Why is it so high?
- 38.1 Gilbert:** We are on farm rate hey. Although we don't farm, our telephone is \$100, I am on a package, that \$78 package but then your rental and everything runs on that by the time you pay that and a little bit of gas, a little bit of groceries, you got nothing, I need a storm door in the worst way. I have been after the Metis society here and no, they got no money, you can't get no help no where. Years ago you didn't have to worry about that although it was twice as cold and three times as cold as it is now. You took lumber or you took an ax and you used rails, I have seen them kid of doors, you use the rails flat and you nail them together, made a door. Them done as a storm door, oh yeah different things like that I have seen hey. Oh your grandfather John, was one of the best axman that I have seen, he could cut out anything, I have seen him cut out cutters in a day and he would be dragging it. He would just go in the bush and get two rails with bends on them and

in no time he had them all he drilled and everything, if he didn't have them drilled, he had a couple of irons burning, burn the holes in the wood hey and here come here and grab that hey. Yeah, they made their own hey and that is why I can remember a lot of these things and I figure while I still can remember all these things were built that is why I am trying to build all these sleighs and things like deer racks and things hey. And so at least the great grandchildren will see these things hey, you know.

40.3 John: Okay I am going to ask you, what about the scrip, did any of your relatives have a scrip somewhere?

40.4 Gilbert: Joe Laffrandrey. and Greg ____ in Winnipeg, those were the scrips. I think I have got it in that package there where the map hey. And that is the only ones, now these other ones I never r heard whether it was scrip, like Joseph Landrey his land was right where North Battleford was and from there they moved to triple lakes and that is by south of ____ by the reserve hey and from there he moved out here, about a half a mile form here and this land was all open for the settlers and he used to go and pick up these settlers with the democrat and take them to show them these lands and he would help them plow., like he had to plow fifteen acres....

Tape One Side A ends at 41.8

Tape One: Side B

0.1 Gilbert: Plow, hey they had to plow fifteen acres and but after two years they were gone, they couldn't make it hey, there was nothing there hey. My dad he homesteaded this here about a mile from here where that trailer is here, well that was my dad's land and he homesteaded that and he had to break ten acres or fifteen acres a year hey. He traded that land for a team of horses and fifty dollars, now that is something, when you think of these things John, today that land is worth forty thousand dollars. I often wonder what happened to our people here, like you take you and me we are thinking of the future, we would like to have a little something even if we are Metis and we have been poor all of our lives we would still like to have something. But then at that time why didn't they think ahead a little bit you know because the white guys that stuck to it made it big and these guys could have done the same thing by staying in one place and raising a few cows, a few chickens and making a big garden and farm a little bit and they could have raised there families there and all the land was all around them hey, all the open land was all around them, they didn't have to this land that we are sitting on was one time a \$160, I could have bought it for \$160, I was too young because you couldn't do anything until you were 21 and then I paid \$600 for it. But there was only fifteen acres broke on this, now there is 130, I broke it all up hey, you know, I had a tough go there, I used to work in town, I worked as a cement finisher for 15 years, I would get home at two o'clock in the morning boy my hands were so sore John I could barely hold my steering wheel. I would get up again be in town at seven o'clock. On weekends I would start my tractor, an old 1530 and we would plow, we would plow Sunday at noon and then we would take our kids down to the lake for a swim hey. She would stay on the farm here while I was working in town and I had to pay for my room in town, no vehicle, hitch hike you know, I don't know how many times I walked from North Battleford to home here, I am one of the worst hitch hikers there is. I couldn't catch a ride, on a Saturday there was thousands and thousands of cars passing me and I could not catch a ride, I

would I would walk al the way home, 26 miles, plenty of time John. And the winter time, we only had one horse here an I lent it to my brother Pete because he only had one hey a lot of times I used to walk to Cochin to go and get groceries on a gunny sack on my back hey, no road, deep snow banks boy I will tell you. Our family grew up and we never ever had much problems, never hardly seen a doctor I think except when our baby left here and that is the problem I think we could sure thank the good lord that we had a good life. You know, if I had a chance to do it over again I would gladly do it.

4.4 John: Yeah but there is a lot of short cuts that a guy could have taken.

4.4 Gilbert: Oh yeah.

4.4 John: You know now what you didn't know then.

4.5 Gilbert: You had better believe it, you better believe it you know. But you had neighbors all over so that helped a lot hey, catch a ride. You know we were just talking here the other day, my daughter Marie's birthday is on the 8th here, tomorrow and she was born in 1955, 1955 when we went and picked her up in the hospitals, the baby, coming home just south of Cochin there, you couldn't see over the snow banks, they had that open with a cat, that is how much snow ther was. On the 8th of December, it was open with cats already it was just like a tunnel driving through by __ market garden there, all the way to Cochin there. And we had a little '52 Chevy I think it was or something and so much snow hey, and got into the distributor, it just started to buck when we go to Cochin, it just stopped as we got to Cochin. That was in December already.

5.9 John: You were saying about cutting wood for the, you guys trap too?

6.0 Gilbert: Yeah, we done lots of trapping. We had hounds and them days a good coyote was worth \$45. I remember going to Biota with my dad in the toboggan there was so much snow, you couldn't drive. We went with the toboggan and one horse see he made a big sixteen foot toboggan with rails and he made the sides and we went to darts, Joe Darts door, he was buying the coyotes, we got \$45 a piece for these coyotes, let me tell you we had a load. But I was the break man because at the back he put an iron like so that you could slip it in there between the rails so that you could step on when you were going down the hill, so it wouldn't hit the horse hey, so I was the break man there and we loaded up flour there and groceries you wouldn't believe how much we loaded up on there. And in 1949 there was so much snow here that we hauled hay south of Murray Lake here from where dad used to live and a big toboggan, dad made a big toboggan, 16 feet long and 8n feet wide out of rails and that is where we put our horses on. Like you put a pole and it is the only way we could haul hay the thing would stay on top hey and we could load up a pretty big load of hay and it would float on top of, the horses would go through but the toboggan would hey and we saved our ____ like that, there was four feet of snow that winter, four feet of snow Johnny, there was floods all over.

8.2 John: And your mother had a garden and all of that stuff?

8.3 Gilbert: Oh yeah. She always had a garden we always had a grade, that is for sure but to wash clothes, we would carry our clothes to some slew make a fire there and we'd have gophers and with our sling shots we were deadly hey, partridges, rabbits and she would take a kettle down ther and when we would kill something she would cook it and she would wash our clothes along the slew and dry them on

willows and us kids we would fold them all up and after we would take them home and that is how people done it years ago hey.

9.0 John: Did you go to School?

9.1 Gilbert: Two years, the third year I quit I went threw school, I went in one door and out the other. *Laughter.* That was through the war hey and we couldn't get a teacher to stay long enough, every time we got a teacher they got called to the army so I just barley took my grade three.

9.5 John: Can you read though?

9.6 Gilbert: I can read, yeah I can read the bible. But I can't write, I can't spell, that is where my problem is that is why I had to work like a slave all of my life because I could have got good jobs but I couldn't writes, oh I missed a lot of ___ jobs hey.

9.9 John: The Metis people that you can remember, did they dress in kind of a similar way?

10.1 Gilbert: The similar way to what it is now except for not as fancy. The ones I can remember is just ordinary big coveralls, overalls and a smock you know and sweaters and stuff like that and moccasins.

10.5 John: And what kind of languages did they speak?

10.6 Gilbert: French. And Cree, mixed. It was always mixed and a little bit of English. You know when I went to school John, you wouldn't believe I couldn't talk a word of English I could say yes, no, please. It was all French and today I can't talk French. *Laughter.*

11.0 John: And what about church?

11.1 Gilbert: Oh I never missed that hey, every Sunday, three miles there you know for years we didn't have a horse, all of our horses died. In 1934 we had nine head and every one of them died in with _____. I think three years, we all walked to Cochin, three miles, carried out lunch and we would go to church, never miss church, oh no that is something that you didn't do. Even in the later years when we did have horses, even after we were married, Sunday, that was your big day. You went to church and after church there was a long creek ther and everybody camped ther e I mean stopped for dinner and everybody visited there and played ball ther and something like that you know.

12.1 John: Oh, what about the Metis now that you can remember, was there any discrimination because you were Metis?

12.3 Gilbert: No, no, there wasn't John. That I cannot say there was because the Metis, they were with the Indians you know what I mean, they were together so and didn't matter where you drove with your team you would see a tent, somebody working for a farmer so there was no discrimination what so ever because we worked out lots. Ther thing is when you seen this camp you drove in ther and they would ask you it didn't matter if you were a Metis or and Indian they would ask you to stop for dinner or supper or whatever hey. The worst thing you knew you were camping right there and they said you know we still, got so much to do why don't you help us and we will give you a few dollars and this is how they helped

each other hey as far as I can remember I can never say that the Metis was never discriminated, not in this area and this was a lot of Metis in this country that I can remember. Most of my family don't remember, like on my mothers' side her uncles like there was Marshall Falcon, William Folcan, they lived here, there were our neighbors, we used to visit them all the time and like their nephews like Bruce Falcon and all them guys they don't remember them and I said I still remember my grandmother you know, I said and I will never forget her because she played some dirty tricks in me. John, you know, I think there was more discrimination from my grandmother's side like from her to my family than anything else. Like all of my mother's sister s and stuff like that, they didn't associate with us and I don't know that because my dad was Metis or what it was but they were Metis too, so what the heck you know. But we were always the black sheep of the family, there was one time and this is true, my grandmother asked me to go cut a load of wood for her, now my uncles were sitting in the house, Lewie and Dalphi, Dalphis was the fiddle player. I went and cut his load of wood, she said I will pay you really good and I was just starting to sneak a smoke here and ther you know, and I thought boy I can get 25 cents, that is two packages of tobacco hey and you got the papers at the same time hey. Anyway I went and got his load of wood, chopped it into snowflakes, didn't take me very long either so I went in and boy she had me working ther and she put bannock and lard on the table for me to eat you know, so I ate and when I was going to leave she gave me a pound of lard, oh man did that hurt my feelings, she gave me a pound of lard. Anyway that is fine I thought Mary Louise I'll get you before you die. I was on my way home and there was a blind man on the reserve and they used to call him ____ I don't know what it meant. Anyway I met him, I said here is a pound of lard and I said and I said I am giving it to you, oh ____ _ (Cree) thank you you know, I give it to him and come home and she said how much did grandma give you I said don't even talk about it, I'll get that old sucker I said, boy I just about got a good lickin by saying that. She said what now, I said she gave me a pound of lard I said after I cut all that, I had to walk to Cochin three miles hey, and I got this pound of lard and I give it o old _____. She said why didn't you bring it home? I said I was ashamed to bring it home.

17.2 to 19.1: Silence

19.2 to 45.6: Tape One Side B repeats Tape One Side A

Tape One Side B ends at 45.6

Tape Two: Side A

0.2 Gilbert: I was kind of a, I guess you would call noseey little guy you know, always curious about things you know, they even named me after Greg War here hey, his Cree name ____, because when someone was cooking I had to go over there and turn it hey and I guess that is what he used to do, and they would say get ____ out of here you _____. Oh your grandmother, I used to get her so mad hey, anyway talking about my grandmother here, a few days after I kind of forgot about what she did to me so I went and visited her again and said grandma I said, where does cows, I said where does chickens get their little chicks? Oh they sit on them she says and they hatch them out, I said well can anybody hatch them out? She said oh yeah for sure, she said I will give you a dozen eggs she said, you sit on them she said, tonight and you will see, you'll have chickens in the morning. Like a stupid kid she gave me this dozen eggs and I brought them home and I didn't show them to mom you know because I wanted to get these chickens hey. So anyway I cut this big cardboard box in my bedroom hey and we were sleeping in

the kitchen, me and my brother, we were kind of closed off. So I cut two big holes in it for my feet to go through hey so I put the eggs on ther e and took my clothes off and sat on these eggs and guess what happened? *Laughter.* They smashed all over, no running water, no nothing, in the winter time yet, I am trying to hatch eggs. I thought grandma you got me again, so I had to go outside and wash myself, it is a good thing that everybody was sleeping hey I sneaked out in cold ther and washed myself in snow and the eggs there and took everything and because I and my brother Earnest we used to make fires, I took this paper and these broken eggs and I put them in the stove, the heater stove so that nobody would see me and because I didn't want anybody to laugh at me. That was fine. So a few days after again, back to Cochin to visit my grandmother again and she had this ways of holding a cigarette in her mouth on the side like that and she would never laugh out loud it was always just like that... she said did you hatch any chicks and I looked at her and she just started laughing inside hey oh that got me mad. Anyway I said, I broke the eggs I told her. Oh you sat too heavy she told me. *Laughter.* I said well how does cows and horses get there little colts and their little calves? Oh she said, they find them in the bush. Oh, do you think that I cold find one? Oh yeah, sure you look in the bush. I come home John and I walked through every bush and I kept looking for two days looking for this calf and this colt. *Laughter.* I thought to myself Mary Louise you got me again. *Laughter.* So anyway, again, you know I just couldn't learn, the treatment I'd get from her and she was just getting a kick out of it hey. I thought to myself I am going to ask you something this time, I will puzzle you. I said grandma who did the Metis come from? She said, well grandson, it is a long story, she said. Well why is it so long, I said. Well she said, years ago the Metis was with the Indians all the time, we were always with the Indians up east there you know and they had lots of horses she said and they hobbled them she said and then she never said no more. Well I said what has that got to do with the Metis? Well, she said, you wouldn't understand but maybe some day you will, she said if they would have hobbled their daughters instead of their horses, there wouldn't be no Metis today, she said you know. *Laughter.* So it didn't dawn on me, I didn't know nothing about you know life hey. I thought boy I got you this time, you couldn't tell me, you couldn't tell me where the Metis come from but I was the one that didn't understand hey because when she said if they would have hobbled their daughters instead of their horses, there wouldn't be no Metis. So anyway I thought I got you, you know it took me quit a few years to figure that out John, until I was about 16 years old and I thought to myself I had better carry a jackknife here just in case I meet that old ____ in a place that hobbles along. *Laughter.* So you know, after we got married, we were in ____ for a along time and when we moved here she wanted to come and stay with us. Somehow she loved me but in her heart she couldn't be nice to us kids hey. Anyway she come and stayed with us for about a month and she had no place to stay so finally she got a house in town and we took her back there and she loved two of my daughters hey, my oldest ones hey so when she was dieing there, mom come home there and said you had better go and see grandma she said, I don't think she is going to make it. I thought Mary Louise I got you this time I said, you had better believe it, I was still thinking about that pound of lard you know, that hurt me bad. SO I went and seen her in the hospital, she said how is my girls? I said grandma they didn't go to school today I said, we had nothing to eat I said, I lied to her hey, and I said I didn't get p[paid, I don't get paid until tomorrow, so they couldn't go to school because we had no lunches. And so she said hand me my purse she said, so I handed her purse and she pulls out a fifty dollar bill and gave it to me and she said you buy some stuff for the kids she said. Oh, okay give her a kiss and that night she died and I though oh I got you Mary Louise at the end. *Laughter.* That is what I do about my grandmother's you know, she has done all

kinds of tricks to me and me trying to hatch out about a dozen chicks out of a dozen eggs and...

- 8.8 **John:** Tell me about your wife and her people and her people and when you got married and all of that stuff.
- 8.9 **Gilbert:** Oh we got married in...
- 8.9 **John:** Who was she fist?
- 9.0 **Gilbert:** Oh, she was a Howard, Lavigna Howard from Frenchman's Butte???
- 9.1 **John:** Yeah but her parents?
- 9.1 **Gilbert:** Her parents, her dad comes from uh Kansas city. Her grandparents moved right after the Rebellion ther in Frog Lake and he used to tell us stories like they were so scared of the Indians when they were moving north and these Indians were going South. Blood Indians and Sioux Indians but he said they didn't bother us so they come and homestead there south of Frenchman's Butte hey. Her dad married a Dillan, (**Gilbert's Wife tells her family history**) a Dumont from Duck Lake and he had one child and he is in a nursing home in town here, he is eighty years old, my half brother here and his wife Georgeina Dumont from Duck Lake is related to Gabriel. My grandmother on my mother's side was also from Duck Lake, she was a Gardipy, her name was Virginia and I met her years ago when she was a little old lady and she used to smoke a little corn cob pipe, a pretty nice old lady and I never met her husband, I never knew him, like he passed away home many years before that.
- 11.2 **Gilbert:** Do you know this guy? This is John Arcand, that is Marcel Clapet, my son in law and that is Gloria.
- 11.4 **Gilbert:** Her granddad, like her mother's dad was a House, Bob Hause from Empress, Alberta and her grandmother was a Gardipy hey from, well they lived up in Frog Lake, they homesteaded up ther and the bank took everything and they moved up to Allie, Alberta and that is how we got to know them hey. There was some Gardipy's up in Deersland yet, that is some of her relations ther hey. Like on my side to I am related to Gardipy's, oh yeah we are related to them Gardipy's in Duck Lake hey and I told her one time...
- 12.3 **John:** Well your mom was.
- 12.4 **Gilbert:** Yeah my mom was and I told her one time, I said you know I said for all we know we could e related I said, that is why are kids are so stupid I said.
Laughter . I still got some of the stuff that her great grandparents brought from Kansas.
- 12.8 **John:** What have you got?
- 12.8 **Gilbert:** I have got a post drill ther about six feet high, a big Post drill like that you drill holes for ice, yeah I got that and I got the ____ that they brought from there. And we got the piano, or the organ the her grandmother brought from Kansas.
- 13.2 **John:** Really?

13.2 Gilbert: Yeah, that was in 1885 I think, 1886 something like that when they first come up here. I met her in Lloydminster in '47 and we got married in '53 and then we moved up to, well we lived in Lloydminster for about four years and then we moved up here in '52 I guess it was and we bought this quarter land here and we have been here ever since. We raised our family here you now but a lot of the

14.0 John: You had five kids?

14.0 Gilbert: Eight, yeah I had five girls and three boys. And you take...

14.3 John: Where is Judy?

14.3 Gilbert: She's in Mayfair, yeah she is in Mayfair. And ther is Marie and Evelyn yet, the oldest one she lives up in Hatterly, just about 14 miles from here a little town, they farm up there. And then ther is Karen of course our baby ther and that is my family up there. And uh, we had we raised our family I would say just about as anybody could John, like just what little we had you know, we didn't have much little gobblins and stuff like that hey and I never did stop working I mean like just about day and night, my wife never had to go out and work that is one thing hey for a living, and but I learned a lot from the old people you know and they take like the Falcons there they used to tell me what to do and that helped out a lot like when I first moved up here they were living here hey and that was my mother's uncles like hey. And you know how to survive hey and put groceries ahead always and think quantities hey and stuff like that hey and see like my grandfather there Greg Walton, I got a picture of him taken with his with Georgie Wright, that was Albert Wright's uncle but see Georgie Wright's daughters was married to his sons to William and Marshal they were married to so they used to live on the reserve here. He is buried right here in Cochin yeah and his wife but we can't find the grave. That Leonard Lalonde ther got a bunch of money from the Metis there and he went there and he leveled off everything and just put a few crosses here and ther and didn't put any names on them hey. Terrible and that wasn't supposed to be like that hey, he should have called the families to come and identify the graves and we were going to clean them up but he didn't do that. We done a lot of fishing here years ago and you see the Metis had the domestic license hey and that was good because you could go and fish any time you wanted hey and you couldn't hunt anytime you wanted to but nobody cared, that game warden used to went around on saddle horses, that is how they traveled and ther was very few of them hey and there was good fish in this lake I'll tell you yeah there was good fish. I seen when I was a kid and dad went and pulled the net there, I seen these Ukrainians from Whitco come up here and tried to put in a net and you know what they did? They cut a hole a hundred yards long and dropped there net in there and that is how they got their fish. Oh there used to be a lot of fish John oh but you know.

18.0 John: Sounds like there still is.

18.0 Gilbert: There still is in this lake her there is a lot of fish but we only had our Metis cards one year and they took it away from us you know I mean that was nice, we went and got net in ____ and got some nice big jacks and we just fished until we got enough fish for the winter and filleted a bunch of jacks and they took that Metis right away again. That is just too bad that Saskatchewan has to do that because Alberta got their card, they can hunt and fish anytime they want to, so does Ontario hey, but here I don't know what is going on, it is just terrible.

18.8 John: Well anyway I guess that is all.

Tape Two Side A ends at 19.0
