

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: CAROLINE HENRY #1  
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: REGINA,  
SASKATCHEWAN  
INTERVIEW LOCATION: REGINA,  
SASKATCHEWAN  
TRIBE/NATION:  
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: AUGUST 15, 1982  
INTERVIEWER: MARGARET JEFFERSON  
INTERPRETER:  
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI  
SOURCE: GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE  
TAPE NUMBER: #IH-SD.77  
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC #187  
PAGES: 32  
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Margaret: I'm speaking with Caroline Henry of Regina.  
Caroline, can you just tell me a little about your mother and  
father?

Caroline: Well, to start out with it's, I used to, my dad used  
to work out, you know, to try and make a living, pay the taxes  
and stuff like that. And I stayed home, I had to do all the  
farm work, do the plowing with horses. And I get everything in  
order. And my mother she, well she was a hard working woman  
too.

Margaret: What did she do?

Caroline: Oh she used to, like picking stones, and dig the big  
stones out, you know. And when I quite the summer follow we  
had our house burnt down. And that's quite a few years ago.  
So we didn't have no house we lived in a grainery, it was cold.  
Hardly have any covers. Used to make fire for the night with  
the wood stoves.

Margaret: How did your house burn down?

Caroline: I don't know it was whether we didn't have, there was no such a thing of having these brick chimineys that's the type, and I guess they were overheated and we didn't know it was windy and the woman is washing outside and I was hauling water from the slough. That burnt down we couldn't do nothing there was only two of us, we burnt all the clothes were all burnt, we hardly saved anything.

Margaret: Was this during the summer or...

Caroline: Yeah it was in the summer. So mom and I we had to have a new house so, but that first year we stayed in the grainery. My sister used to go to school.

Margaret: Where was that, in what town?

Caroline: It was in that, well we were about two miles from Deer Lake School that's the school we went to, and that's twelve miles north of Balcarres. We were only just the half ways of Balcarres and Ituna, we were right in the center of it. So we either go that way or Balcarres, we used to get oatmeal in Balcarres. And then them days was they were digging seneca root and they were good price. How we got our new house, we bought the logs, how we got the new house is so by digging seneca root and we got good price. And we saved, our mama saved all that money and dad came home and he says, and he stayed home that summer so we have a carpenter, but, you know, to help around there to make our house. Well we got the two floorings and we paid up on all the shingles and all that through by digging seneca root. That was, I tell you it's really hard times.

Margaret: How long did it take?

Caroline: Oh we start the year before and then we start the next year our first thing was pretty, daddy was home he done the farming and I helped mother digging, we used to go from morning to night.

Margaret: About how old were you?

Caroline: Oh I was about fourteen, fifteen. Fifteen years old. I tell you I used to work hard.

Margaret: Where did you sell?

Caroline: Oh you sell either it was over at the Ituna. Just (inaudible). We used to take bags and bags, sometimes we used to get twenty-six dollars a bag, you know, that's dry. We had that and dried and washed really good. We got our house built by seneca roots.

Margaret: How long would it take to fill the bag?

Caroline: Oh it takes quite a bit.

Margaret: Twenty-six dollars that's quite a bit of money then.

Caroline: Yeah, well the, now they are around two or three dollars a pound now. When we were selling it was a dollar a pound. So takes quite a bit.

Margaret: And after you built your house you...

Caroline: And I start to work out. I worked for (?) people about six months west of where we lived. And I worked there, you know, during summer and winter. And whatever I get well I used to work at this fifteen dollars a month I used to work for.

Margaret: What kind of work did you do?

Caroline: Oh I used to do the house work, in the winter I never used to milk cows but in the summer it was close to the house, well grandma used to milk about five to seven cows morning and night.

Margaret: What time would you start in the morning?

Caroline: We used to get up at half past five, used to start to work at six.

Margaret: And then you'd go until...

Caroline: Until about eleven o'clock at night.

Margaret: And how was it working for this family?

Caroline: Oh they were pretty good they were just like our own family. They were Jewish people and I used to talk Jewish myself. I could hardly remember now.

Margaret: What language did your family speak?

Caroline: Canadian French.

Margaret: Your mom and dad...

Caroline: Yeah. My dad used to talk Soto to us. And my mother used to talk French, partly French and English and Cree. We used to talk mixed. And when I was small I never used to talk, I used to talk a little Cree and French. When I went to school I didn't know nothing not a bit of English, it was hard on me.

Margaret: How old were you when you went to school?

Caroline: Nine.

Margaret: And what school was that?

Caroline: Deer Lake School it was the public school.

Margaret: Public school. So what language did they speak, English?

Caroline: English.

Margaret: How did you manage?

Caroline: Oh I managed, there was quite a few of us that was Metis in school there. It was hard on us.

Margaret: How were the teachers at the school?

Caroline: Well the teachers were kind of rough with us but, you know, once we got along. We had to learn and that we had to learn something. (laughs)

Margaret: How long did you go to school?

Caroline: Just in the winter I used to go to school, in the summer I had to stay home go out and work. So then I did start to work out I just quit school all together.

Margaret: But did you get a chance to learn how to read and write?

Caroline: Yes I, I learn enough to read and write. And I used to practise like we used to play school at home, both my sisters went to school.

Margaret: Now what is the mixture of your father and mother? They're Metis right?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: What kind of Metis are they?

Caroline: Well, I think my dad is, his father was partly French, you know, like he just start talk Cree. And my grandmother she was, I think she was, she's the (?) before she got married, and she, I think (?) is from west I'm not sure, but their grandmother was from way up in Alberta some place and she talks Soto. And so does my grandmother used to talk Soto.

Margaret: Did you ever, do you remember your grandparents?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: What did they used to tell you any stories when they were younger?

Caroline: No, I didn't get to know that on my dad's side. But my grandmother's side she was a Swampy Cree. And they were the ones that they, she was the one that used to tell us how these other Indians used to fight one another, kill one another. She was a little girl then and she says it was hard. They had to at night like they used to go sleep oh early, you can see

daylight yet and they had to go to sleep early on account of somebody will tackle through the night.

Margaret: Where was this at?

Caroline: Oh that was around towards the States or someplace. Used to fight quite a bit. And my grandfather was like that too. My grandfather was, his I think his dad married his mother she was, I think she was, I think she was, I don't know what she was but anyway I think she was an Indian woman herself, but she married this Scotch. And that's where my grandfather comes from that's the reason now that he's got the name... He's, when they were, he change his name or something when they going to have those scripts, you know. He change his name to (?), nobody know that but his right name is Donaldson, Scotch. Because, well he wanted to get this script.

Margaret: This was your grandfather?

Caroline: Yeah my grandfather. Anyways so he got his, he got a place just over oh about a mile away from our place where we, my dad build a house.

Margaret: Where was this at?

Caroline: That's north of Balcarres.

Margaret: And what was this script land?

Caroline: Yeah I think it's a script land.

Margaret: How much did he get?

Caroline: I don't know what he got, he never, that was, tell me that much, you know.

Margaret: Sell it later or did he keep it?

Caroline: No he sold the land, because he used to drink so much. He had a quite a bit of horses and cattle. He had a 100 head of cattle and I think it was the same maybe more, in horses he had fifty head. They were all running around all over, you know, there was no fence in them days. So I'd have to look for them that's the reason why my mother she said they had to have hired men to keep the cattle.

Margaret: Well, were there many people that were doing that changing their names?

Caroline: No. He was the only one I think that I know.

Margaret: Nobody ever found out?

Caroline: No.

Margaret: Well, did he go by that name?

Caroline: He call himself mostly he says he was there, but... And then this, when this, this sister, he had a sister. I used to write letters to my, we had an aunt like, you know, from my grandfather, and he says he asked grandfather to go down and visit. He says I can always pay your way back he says, come over and visit us. And when his father died she took all that and grandfather didn't know whether he should get some money from there, because he had this other name, you know, everybody knows his other name so he couldn't get nobody to write anything. He couldn't get his will then. So anyway however his sister got this, her name was Caroline. Anyway the, now there was lately here they want, it was on the papers, my niece seen it and she says if there was any Donaldsons' from years back like, you know, Donaldsons' would get the, I think Caroline died and now there's so much money in their will like, you kow, and they find out that Basil Donaldson was down here in Saskatchewan; so they want to find that out and my sister, my neice never told anything to her mother and dad otherwise we'd had our foot in it, you know, right away. But anyway I don't know whether their going to get that or not, she never looked for anything like that because if it is it's between her and Ireland, you see. I'm the oldest and she's the second oldest and we get some money from there, Scotland.

Margaret: But no one else said...

Caroline: No one ever said, but she says if she can get some witnesses like, you know, that he was Donaldson so he could get some, he can get the whatever the will is left.

Margaret: So she never made a will?

Caroline: No. No my grandfather well he said everything was what he's coming to he give to my mother. And before my mother died, she died a year ago, and she says you two, she says, she was sitting out there. You two says you'll be well to do, she says, if you get that money. She was the one that told us this. And she says, the papers that I had, she says, that your grandfather somebody stole those papers.

Margaret: They didn't find out who stole them?

Caroline: No.

Margaret: So is that what you need the papers to prove?

Caroline: Yeah to prove. So I don't know I, this so many, well you see my dad and mother were well known in that Tellgmat district there, and therefore the people are dying off and this and this, but the young people notice that they've been in there for years and years back. So they might lible to get that.

Margaret: When did you find out about that?

Caroline: That was a year ago, a year ago before my mother passed away, she passed away a year on the seventh of March.

Margaret: How old was she?

Caroline: She was eighty-six. Of course she was older than that, but the way how she asked she sent for her baptism card. When, them days they didn't know how old they were and this and that, you know, they didn't have no registration or, you know, register with anything like that. Now they are, they have that.

Margaret: So what religion were your family?

Caroline: R.C.

Margaret: And (inaudible)? Where did your parents go to church and all the others?

Caroline: This was in a (?) house church inside the reserve, we were just a mile away from and that's where we used to go to church.

Margaret: So, why didn't you go to, you went to a public school.

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: Did you go to (inaudible) is that your parents preference or...

Caroline: Pardon.

Margaret: Why didn't you go to a Catholic school?

Caroline: Well, this was the closest school we can get. It was only two miles.

Margaret: Did you used to walk back and forth?

Caroline: Yeah. Summer and winter we used to walk. Sometimes it was stormy dad would take us up.

Margaret: Were your parents strong Catholics?

Caroline: Yeah. They were religious and strict with us. We can't go to the dances all by ourselves and I was about oh nineteen I couldn't even go to a dance all by myself.

Margaret: Who would take you?

Caroline: My dad or my mom.

Margaret: Oh. (laughs)

Caroline: Well in a way I always say I was the black sheep in the family.

Margaret: Yeah. (laughs)

Caroline: And I was the one that used to do everything. And when my mother passed away I didn't get nothing, my sister got it all.

Margaret: Well, it was, was it like that with just the Catholic children or is that all everyone was like that?

Caroline: Well I don't know, well now days to tell you the truth that the parents were our parents and other girlfriends of mine their mom and dad were strict. We had to listen to our, you know, our parents. Now days today like I just seen a woman down there, well Piapot Reserve there she's a white woman and she was helping us there too, you know, and this boy here, I don't know old, twelve or thirteen I don't know how old he was and he was calling his mother names. Oh my goodness, I just about, I don't know what, it's like I forgot, it's just like I went to sleep when I heard him swearing at his mother. If I was to say that to my mom well I think I'd, I don't know I guess I would have been pancake.

Margaret: What did you do for social activities when you were young besides going to dances?

Caroline: Well, we, I used to do quite a bit of sewing, you know, stuff like that at home. And I had to look after the horses, you know, and clean the barn and everything. If I have to go up in the saddle come and do some work inside the house, you know, sewing, washing the floors.

Margaret: Well how did you feel as you were growing up?

Caroline: Oh I just wish I get out and get a job instead of, you know, instead of staying home. It wasn't always to haul snow in the winter, haul snow make our water. Oh I don't know it's just hard for me, you know. So I sooner worked out. And there's places I, them days they didn't pay enough for, the (?) they had to give five dollars to the person that, and then whatever they going to give you the farmers whatever they going to give you to pay you for working for them. That's how it was and I was working for three dollars a month. Mind you (inaudible).

Margaret: Who paid you the farmers?

Caroline: The farmer would give me three dollars a month. And then use it how they suppose to give you five dollars, but they didn't make an application the farmers (inaudible).

Margaret: Oh you had to apply for it?

Caroline: Yeah. And the other place I was getting ten dollars a month the other Jewish people, but this was German people I got three dollars a month from. So I didn't like that I couldn't even buy a pair of shoes for that month, so I told dad about it so he come and got me and he took me home. And I started to work in the other place for ten dollars a month. So

I even work I was married and I had to teach the children and I was working for twenty-five dollars a month with my baby.

Margaret: What kind of work were you doing then?

Caroline: Well, I had to do the cooking for three men. And I had to milk cows.

Margaret: And your babies were they young or...

Caroline: Oh yeah my baby was about five months old.

Margaret: And what did you do with it?

Caroline: Well, I had my other girl, the other... (break in tape) ...she would come out and she'd stayed and helped me.

Margaret: And what kind of work did your husband do?

Caroline: He was, he was working out into, he used to do like sawing, do the harvesting that's out. When I got home I stayed where I was working and so he stayed where he was working.

Margaret: Where was it, outside?

Caroline: Outside, that's, he was working around Balcarres here and me I was working near Ituna.

Margaret: So when did you get to see each other?

Caroline: We used to, I used to go maybe two weeks. But I got home first before he did, stayed home. And I had to do my preserving too. (laughs) So well, saskatoons, and raspberries, and strawberries there was lots them days, but now this year, now days they don't get very much that. If it's a good crop in saskatoons or something, I never see the raspberries in about three, four years. And I used to have jars and jars of that when I was out in, going around Balcarres. And we had to do a lot of preserving for the winter.

Margaret: What did you do for, did your husband do any type of hunting?

Caroline: He wasn't a hunter at all.

Margaret: How did you get your meat and stuff?

Caroline: I, we used to, well dad made our arrangements with that, like it helped sometimes my husband used to go and help them too. Like when their killing and all that and he'd, other meat that was I guess other meat that's about two, three months old like, you know, so he get that. And the sausages that we couldn't sell my dad used to make arrangements at, give two, three loads of wood, you know, that would burn to he butcher and then he'd get so much meat and stuff like that.

Margaret: The butcher couldn't sell the meat?

Caroline: No the butcher couldn't sell them because all the farmers used to do their butchering, you know. Now days I think, now I think they got to have a license or something for butchering. The farmers used to have a lot of meat. My husband used to go and work for farmers and they give him big chunks of meat and stuff like that.

Margaret: How did you store your meat?

Caroline: Well we used to have a storeroom. You know, had a little (inaudible) something, you know, that store there.

Margaret: And did it keep just cold?

Caroline: Well they frozen. And you wouldn't buy any meat for March or anything like that because, meats getting soft we've got to use it all up.

Margaret: Yeah. How did your, how did you cook your meat? Did you use spices and things?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: Smoke it or anything?

Caroline: We never smoked it. Sometimes we used to dry enough dry meat, you see. But we never smoked our meat, you know. Sometimes we used to can it, can the meat. Well we used to do a lot of canning, meat canning and we used to do (?).

Margaret: How were the other Metis families around, were they...

Caroline: Oh they were, municipality they had relief like, you know. We had to get the relief there too for last few years. Then my dad had to, I remember I had to borrow my cousin's team, I had to put a team in there to get my relief like, you know. Like these making roads, grated road like, you know, highways and we had to, I had to put a team in there for a couple of weeks so I could get my relief for, well from December. Some of them start in November, November and January, and February, and March, April and May; so we get the relief all through there. You get so much you don't get money or anything like that you just get a slip from the (?).

Margaret: Oh, and what does...

(END OF SIDE A)

Margaret: So you just received relief during the winter?

Caroline: Yeah. And in the summer we had to look after ourselves. That's when we used to chop pickets and chop wood.

1,000 pickets at three cents a picket so we used to scrape up some money in there. Oh it was really hard.

Margaret: Well were there times when the family had to go without any food?

Caroline: Quite a few times. I still try to feed my babies before I ever take off a piece of bread or something.

Margaret: Well, how did you manage when (inaudible)?

Caroline: Well woman name of, couple cows, you know, we used to make cheese and mom used to make pork, used to leave them some milk in, there was quite a bit of milk.

Margaret: Well was it mostly in the winter time that it was like that?

Caroline: It was in the summer it was the worse.

Margaret: Oh.

Caroline: In the winter we used to apply for our relief and in the fall.

Margaret: Oh couldn't you look to the gardens?

Caroline: Well we used to do quite a bit of garden like potatoes and all the vegetables we can get ahold of. I used to have a good crop of potatoes all the time. Just live on potatoes, well we didn't get no meat we didn't get any that's all there's to it. (laughs) But my dad was the one that used to, and he used to give us, he used to tell me he says, bring the little sleigh and then ice to go with (inaudible). I used to get (inaudible).

Margaret: Your children do they remember much when they were growing up?

Caroline: Oh they remember. I just asked them when I was in Winnipeg this last while and my oldest daughter she died in '72, '67 she died, I was down there in Winnipeg. Oh that was hard. And then I kind of forget things I come back to Saskatchewan and she died a month (inaudible) to Winnipeg to Regina and (inaudible). And here a month after my son passed away in P.A. He had committed suicide (inaudible). But hearing things after what happened I believe it that there was a fellow seen everything what went on. And there was, them guards was let go after that.

Margaret: When was that?

Caroline: That was the time when that pen was burnt, the library was burnt. That was in '70 in November, end of November.

Margaret: And nothing ever came out of that?

Caroline: No, no nothing said. (inaudible) sixth of December they said (inaudible), but I don't believe it.

Margaret: Oh. What, where did they find him in his cell?

Caroline: In a cell they said that he was, he hung himself they said. (inaudible) they were only two minutes earlier that guards that wanted to see to the boy that somebody is committing suicide (inaudible). If they were two minutes earlier they would have saved him, but I guess they have killed my poor son.

Margaret: Why did they treat him badly?

Caroline: Oh they treat, to tell you the truth it's not even funny. They would look at those files two of my sons there was a wolf and a brass and a swan, just the two of them are living my son Victor and that (?), the other ones are dead. See they transported them here and there and two girls wherever they transfer them they'd just beat them up on a train or something like that, and this fellow got over and they said he had... And he says, his (?) he just happened to be his friend, he says, those, I think he says I'm going to die. So these priests beat me up the guards (inaudible) he was only (inaudible). Just wanted the whether the wolf boy or the brass boy, and the same thing that take another one he says, Saskatchewan one now. Poor Saskatchewan they beat, I don't know, he just died up there. My son he died in P.A.

Margaret: What did he (inaudible)?

Caroline: Oh yes he used to write all the time.

Margaret: But did he ever complain about the guards?

Caroline: No he never complains, same thing as right now. The son that's over at Stony Mountain like he got there last Thursday and I don't know what happened, he didn't tell me when he phones he never tells me, never tells me in the letters or anything that his eight toes are broken. And he says, Mom, he says, I went to a operation on toes, he says, there's no feeling there I couldn't even move them. How is that that his boys have his toes broken? There's something that's in that, you know, they just hit him with the stick or iron.

Margaret: They broke his toes?

Caroline: Yeah. Where I'm going now in Stoney Mountain I'm going to ask all this and I'm going to make a report too.

Margaret: That's too bad.

Caroline: Yeah. And he says he couldn't walk very good.

Margaret: Are they, do you know are the guards like that to everyone?

Caroline: Oh, you can say that again. Even these city police boy they're rough.

Margaret: What do you remember about the depression? You were married?

Caroline: In 1933, yes we had hard times.

Margaret: Where were you married?

Caroline: In Lebret. And I went back and we stayed and helped my mother and dad, I didn't like staying there so I (inaudible) a little one room place. My husband and me we stay there for the winter and got married in the, in June. We stayed with the old people for somewhere in the fall we moved out of there.

Margaret: It was just the one room what log house?

Caroline: A log house yeah.

Margaret: as it warm in the winter time?

Caroline: Oh yeah it was warm. Just that one stove going it was in the kitchen.

Margaret: And do you remember anything else, any other families that had difficult times?

Caroline: Oh yes there's all people they had just as hard times as we did.

Margaret: Could you get relief during depression?

Caroline: Eh?

Margaret: Could you get relief at that time?

Caroline: Yes we had relief, just so much. And my husband had to go and cut some scrubs on the highway over they're going to fix the road. That was his work just clean up the, you know, beside the near the bush like (inaudible).

Margaret: So during those years was that the most difficult time for your family?

Caroline: Yes. Since I, well him and I had, we didn't agree with one another so we parted.

Margaret: And what about during the war?

Caroline: During the war we, we were, we were in Regina Beach, we moved and we had four children so moved out there and I done a lot of washing for the people in Regina Beach. I stayed at my, his aunt's place. I tell you I never done so much working, Monday is to wash clothes twenty-five cents a hour.

Margaret: How did you wash it on?

Caroline: With a washboard. Yeah. And my aunt looked after my babies, she was about two months old, born in April and I was over there the end of May, done all the work up in Regina Beach. I used to go out in the evening and take my, and people began to know I was the one that used to wash clothes. They tell one another oh take them over to Mrs. Henry, so the people used to come down there and I wash their clothes. I had different line, oh I had clotheslines all over the place.

Margaret: Did you have to iron them too?

Caroline: Well I used to iron the butcher and the Red & White Store iron and wash, wash and iron.

Margaret: And then you received twenty-five cents a hour, is that what you were getting?

Caroline: Yeah. Well I used to, you know, make up for that too, if I had to go up and wash their clothes that's twenty-five a cents a hour. I wash their clothing it was my washing and I use my laundry and the suds and stuff like that I used to charge. Oh I used to charge between, by rights I used to make between \$25. a day.

Margaret: Oh, so much for that!

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: That was during the, what year is this?

Caroline: That was in 1940, lets see in the '40s something like that.

Margaret: So if it was any of your family members that were...

Caroline: When I used to ask them do they remember when we were in Regina Beach, well just here and there they'd remember. I used to ask them, gee, I says, you know, I says, when I was small I remember when my sister Deana hauling those (inaudible). And I stayed at grandma's with two babies and I wanted to go see the babies and I wouldn't come back to grannies, I wanted to be with the baby. (laughs) Well I used to ask them quite a few question except they'd remember that, they don't remember. And my other family, like Ilene and Chuck up there they used to remember. They got good memory, you know, they remember everything. I don't know how I saw them remembers.

Margaret: Well did any of your sons or, join the army or anything?

Caroline: Well, they were small. They never was on the farm, but my son Chuck he used to work in the garage, you know, he used to know quite a bit about trucks and so the other two boys

(inaudible).

Margaret: So none of them ever had to be in the, go overseas or anything?

Caroline: No.

Margaret: And your brothers or anything?

Caroline: My brother was only one brother I had he went overseas.

Margaret: How did he like it over there?

Caroline: He said he liked it. He says when they got lost I guess they were running free five of them got lost and he was with the five. And one of the boys got really lost all by himself and he says he laid down, he was so tired and he says that he seen a great big snakes about eight feet long, he says, and his head was just like fist like that. He looked up he's sitting about this high and he says he looked up towards him and I wouldn't make a move, he says, I was scared whether that jump at me, he says. He was close by me, he says, no more than about eight feet away from me, he says. And he just turn right around and he went the other way, he says. I kept on looking and he went out of sight, he says, boy I didn't know whether I'd run into some more or some like that, he says. So he stayed like that for quite awhile and he didn't move, he went to the place he was going into he Coolies and stuff like that. But he find his, and the next day he found them my brother and the others.

Margaret: How long were they all gone for?

Caroline: They were there for five days he says, nothing to eat.

Margaret: They went without food?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: There was nothing in the bush?

Caroline: Nothing at all. And he says they, the deers are only about that high. So anyway they said they killed one and they barbequed that, that's how they survived.

Margaret: What about water?

Caroline: Well I don't know how the water was, I didn't ask my brother that that much, you know. He was telling us about this there was all other people asking this and that and I couldn't get to ask him, what'd you do for your drinks?

Margaret: Well, who find them?

Caroline: I think they, they went right in the open and whether

they had this talkies, you know, and he said they seen five in that certain place and he says they were dressed that way and then they says maybe that's our gang.

Margaret: Yeah. So they had uniforms on?

Caroline: Yeah they had their uniform on so they'd run into them, so they were all glad to see one of them. Boy he says, I stood in that, he says, I stood in that place, he says, where we get meet, he says, I was scared (inaudible), he says, I wouldn't leave my patrol. Next thing my cup is empty, he says, I pour some more.

Margaret: Oh yeah, scared when he was lost.

Caroline: Oh my, he says, I didn't know, I never even think about anything else in there, he says, I was thinking about home will I ever get home now and all that stuff. But anyway he managed. That's why I always say he would have got killed if our Lord would take out, you know, but the Lord helped him. And then when he got here got into a drunk, party up some brother here, brother-in-law.

Margaret: Must have been quite young when he was over there in Korea?

Caroline: Yeah. Around twenty, well his late twenties. He was twenty-eight when he got killed. And my sister he was in Regina here, she used to come to Regina and meet her friends and some how the machine at the wrong turn start to, he was killed in that Arcola line there. Well it branches out this way into a station that one over there said they didn't get here, he was killed before that. Yeah that's just that I was always with, because he used to either (?) or send a letter that he's going to come to Regina. We used to meet her here and...

Margaret: Was this the one that's (?)?

Caroline: No that was the one that was the nurse, she was Mrs. Russell. No I just, there's only one sister-in-law.

Margaret: Well when you were younger did you ever have to go up to say a doctor or anything?

Caroline: Yes I used to see the doctor.

Margaret: Well, how far was he? Did you go to him or did he come to you?

Caroline: Oh, I used to go to him. And used to have old heart trouble, this Bud wasn't (inaudible). And I had blood poisoning in this lung here, just a pin, I want to put this diaper on in the morning and I was going uptown the same time, I said, wait I'll put a pin on her and then you can put her to sleep. And just a little stab and I went out like that and never thought nothing of it, you see, and then a day or two

after my thumb started to swell up.

Margaret: And did you, you had to go see the doctor?

Caroline: Yeah, I see the doctor and get this thing taken off that. Oh when they put the needle OH! That was the thing that took my nail out and put some stuff in there.

Margaret: Well how did you, how did you pay for the doctor? Were you able to pay him?

Caroline: Well, them days when your on, unless getting relief you don't have to pay the doctor.

Margaret: Oh. So does this happened during the winter then?

Caroline: Yeah. I used to chop greenwood by the loads for my mother and dad. Mom and I used to go out and chop wood, greenwood like (inaudible).

Margaret: During the winter?

Caroline: Yeah. So that's how hard I worked. And the (?) I told that to my daughters, you know, these young ones, you know, and they don't believe me. (laughs) They don't know anything about that now. Yeah I don't know how to swing the axe anymore since I moved in Regina, I moved in Regina in '54 so I don't know how to swing the axe anymore. I used to split wood myself over here in Regina, used to chop wood. (laughs) That was the last time I ever swung the axe, and I had to have a good axe too, little dull axes.

Margaret: How about as you were growing up did you, did, how did the people the white neighbors in the area treat the Metis people?

Caroline: Oh they used to treat them good. We got along just like all in one.

Margaret: And at school with young kids?

Caroline: Oh they kids were like all in one, we used to slap one another and that was it, there nothing to it. And our neighbors at (?) they were Bush people and mama and dad (inaudible) all in one. Got along so good. And Mrs. (?) she was, I think she died not so very long ago too and she was, whether she was 100 I don't know, but she says on that was on New Year's Day she says, I wonder how Caroline and Mrs. (?) getting along. She says, we were down before that if we'd have known that that she was pretty sick mom and I, it was on New Year's Day, we could have went down there, you know, took out a car to see her. She was asking if she remember she asked about us. And I felt so bad, at least she asked about us.

Margaret: Well, as you were growing up what kind of advice did your mother use to tell you?

Caroline: Oh, well she used to tell me, she used to say well, she says, the things (inaudible) she says, you begin to growing up now, she says, and your, your healthy what you going to do? Oh I says, I going to work out. And I says, I don't even (inaudible) save up my money put it in the bank or something. That's all I used to think of. Now I had over \$1,500. now and I'm working here I still got that much. I bought a bedroom myself, so I paid \$309. just for a bed yet and I used to get those beds in our time in our, when I was young we used to pay a dollar for those beds. Now when you get that little (inaudible) deep freeze a small one I can get one here. I don't know they are Two hundred and something.

Margaret: But what did your mom tell you about when you get married and have children and that? Did she ever try to talk to you about that?

Caroline: Well, before I got married she used to talk to me so much, you know. And in fact I didn't want to get married. Then she wanted me to get married (inaudible). So I got married. I didn't like, in our days well it's the same (inaudible). You know, it will hurt people (inaudible). I was brought up strict, so I got married for them. (inaudible). In fact I didn't want to marry him.

Margaret: He was Metis was he?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: So you married him because your parents wanted you to?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: Did you...

Caroline: Well we get along good that's one thing I can say about him that he never slapped me or anything like that, I had a good husband. I don't know what was the slap was it was a push or else, you know, (inaudible). We used to have toga parties at the time, but that was nothing. Now there's another guy (inaudible). And I got seven, eight children from him four boys and four girls. My husband and I parted, see running around with my, run around guy.

Margaret: Was the airforce (inaudible)?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: And how did you meet your other husband?

Caroline: I know him before I, before I got married with this guy. And this one was married, so anyway him and his wife didn't get along so I married him. (inaudible) husband and wife. So lot of this farm work like we used to go and work for people, you know, on the spring time we used to move out from where we used to live on the reserve, and I didn't belong

to the reserve well I wasn't married with him.

Margaret: So he was Treaty was he?

Caroline: Yeah he was Treaty. And then when he wanted to bring the boys in the chief didn't want.

Margaret: Were you ever actually married to him?

Caroline: No.

Margaret: No. So you didn't take his name?

Caroline: No. Well, he put this the boys in his name and so was the girls, but Irene didn't want. She says I'm going to be a Henry don't put my name on Ash. So she still carries her right name.

Margaret: Well, so then the children then are under his name?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: Entitled to...

Caroline: No. No they got to be voted in. So when he died, when he got into an accident he died, and I had to send somebody...

(END OF SIDE B)  
(END OF TAPE)

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT:	CAROLINE HENRY #2
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:	REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN
INTERVIEW LOCATION:	REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN
TRIBE/NATION:	
LANGUAGE:	ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW:	AUGUST 25, 1982
INTERVIEWER:	MARGARET JEFFERSON
INTERPRETER:	
TRANSCRIBER:	HEATHER YAWORSKI
SOURCE:	GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
TAPE NUMBER:	#IH-SD.78
DISK:	TRANSCRIPT DISC #188
PAGES:	6
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Caroline: ...that was that epileptic or seizure or something, drinking too much.

Margaret: What did you have much close contact with the people on the reserve, or did you...

Caroline: Oh yes I know the people on that reserve. I know these other reserves too.

Margaret: When you were younger when you went to the dances what kind of dances did you dance?

Caroline: Oh we used to have those (?), square dancing.

Margaret: Square dancing.

Caroline: Quite a bit of square dances and the old time waltz, schottischt.

Margaret: The schottischt. (laughs) And who used to play the music?

Caroline: Oh there used to be a lot of violin players and a lot of guitar players. Now what the music what we have now it's nothing compared to our music, you know. I used to like the old time better than this today. Oh I can dance that too, you know, I was the great one-steps. (laughs) Here about four or five years ago when I was down to the Fort I used to go to that (?) used to dance. That's the young people (laughs), yeah I used to dance quite a bit five years ago. Ever since I, I dance here my sister had her fiftith anniversary, she got married in 1932. She had her fiftith anniversary here on about a month ago on the eighteenth of last, this month. And I'm telling you she, eighteenth of July she, here in July she had, eighteenth of July she had, and it was the first time I ever danced it was a waltz, oh I just was one of those fancy dances wear a thing like that, you know, they had nothing but waltzes and stuff like that. They had a (?) between the young people, was pretty good to watch the people. Yeah it's nothing like the old times on the dances.

Margaret: Why do you think they, or do you think that the family like when you were growing up were closer together than they are now?

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: Why?

Caroline: Like my sister, you know, she, if she could phone without paying she'd phone me ever morning or else every night. That's how close we are now, we didn't care one another at one time. And she's got her own place and I got my place in Regina so...

Margaret: Everybody has gone their own way.

Caroline: Yeah. And now she's at least little thing I appreciate her if I'm sick well she'd come right over. See there's just the two of us now, she said, we got to look after one another. And she's a diabetic and I'm not, you know, I can use sugar and stuff like that but I don't know I use honey for my tea, and I don't sugar that much. Oh I like sweet stuff like that, you know, but it's my vegetables and meat and so on. And mom was always on a, like she used to be on a diet all the time she never used sugar. And whenever I, they told me when I went in Winnipeg they told me that sugar is bad for you and so is salt, so I quit salt and I quit sugar forty years. And yet ever since that I don't use sugar in my tea, I like my salt I used to put a lot of salt and when I used to boil potatoes and stuff like that.

Margaret: What did your mom and dad or grandparents every tell you any fairy tales or anything when you were younger?

Caroline: Oh my grandmother used to tell us all these, how they used to like in the olden days how they used to go about things like they used to, when their travelling they used to walk at the back and there's their bedding and stuff like that. Some kind of a little wagon they make, you know, and they used to travel so much, so far. When it's coming like supper time getting kind of dusk like, you know, they all have, make their camps. They used to have camps with their hides, yeah they used little tepees or whatever they are. Actually they used to have our bedding and robes they make for summer, you know, so they used to cover with that. How in the heck would you cover with that, you know, I used to ask her. We have a tan enough and soft enough just like your covering with a mattress. So I don't know how they...

Margaret: Well were they travelling to?

Caroline: Oh well they travelled like one place they'd travel when they got tired of this camp here they'd travel to another place.

Margaret: Just like Gypsies. (laughs)

Caroline: Yeah.

Margaret: (inaudible).

Caroline: Yeah. So they were all over states and whether this is a fairy tale I don't know, but grandmother, is that right grandmother? Yes, she says, that's true, she says. That's

what they, like they took some fish I guess they want to eat fish or something, they seen fish going around in the creek so they got some fish anyway and they boil them or something. They boil them. And in the morning there was no noise that they were camped, you know, the, like their tepees oh they can see snakes going into the river. And that was the people that was eating that snake, that fish turned to snakes. (telephone rings) That was just a fairy tale, and I asked my grandmother two, three times she says, yes that's right. What did she do with their thing, they all went to the... And then says, what did you do with their things? We says, we couldn't know nothing and we didn't like to take anything.

Margaret: So the people that ate the fish turned into snakes?

Caroline: Yeah. And that's funny I thought, you know, fairy tale, but my grandmother says it's true.

Margaret: Well didn't your grandmother eat the fish too?

Caroline: NO, she was in the other camp. And if they seen any fish they wouldn't take anything like that. It was such a (?) that's why I don't prefer to eat any (?) fish. (laughs) I got the white fish in there, you know, I bought some last Thursday that farm market on Albert Street. Now it's, I always figure (inaudible). I hope nothing. (laughs)

Margaret: Or you'll turn to snake. (laughs)

Caroline: Great big monster be crawling around. (laughs)

(END OF SIDE A)

(END OF TAPE)