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Cindy: I'm speaking with Roger Henry from Roblin, Manitoba.
Mr. Henry, where were you born?

Roger: Saskatchewan.

Cindy: Do you know approximately which place or...

Roger: No.

Cindy: How large was your family?

Roger: What you say?

Cindy: How large was your family approximately, how many kids were in it?

Roger: Twelve.

Cindy: What was your home like?

Roger: My home it was a tent.

Cindy: A tent.

Roger: Yeah.

Cindy: How big was the tent?

Roger: (laughs)

Cindy: Did your dad have his own land when you were younger?

Roger: Not after, not after I was raised, not right away.

Cindy: How old were you when...

Roger: I was about, I say I was, no... I was just a kid yet, I don't remember when daddy took his homestead in Saskatchewan. That was, we're two miles from Dubuc.

Cindy: How long did he live in Dubuc for?

Roger: And I was about fourteen when we move to Manitoba.

Cindy: What kind of things did you do on the farm?

Roger: Well, we was farming, raise cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks. That's all I can remember.

Cindy: What was your home like on the homestead, your house?

Roger: We have a log house and a stairs, there was a stairs.

Cindy: An upstairs too?

Roger: Yeah. You see them farm houses.

Cindy: Yeah. What kind of furniture did you have? Was it homemade or...

Roger: Homemade furniture, dad made it. Beds and benches, we didn't have no chairs they used benches.

Cindy: Besides did your dad just make his living from the farm or did he have anything like? Like did he go hunting, or...

Roger: No, not dad.

Cindy: Did your mom have a garden?

Roger: Yes.

Cindy: Did they consider themselves poor?

Roger: We was yes.

Cindy: They considered hemselves that they were poorer than the other ones?

Roger: Yeah. And we was there and everything die out from us. We had twelve horses and dad keep (inaudible)soil they were whole horses that's the little team he had when we got there, and then on the land he didn't want to use that little team so he had to go to big horses. And all out good horses they die out, there's only that little team we had again. And he didn't, we had about twenty-four ducks. We went a little picnic we come home just one duck he was walking around, somebody killed the rest.

Cindy: Did you go to school?

Roger: No.

Cindy: Was it far or, like the school that...

Roger: No. We had a little school, German settlers and mommy didn't want us to go because we get licking from the little Germans over there. Because we not, you know...

Cindy: When you were younger what was your, like what was your entertainment? Did you have dances, or...

Roger: Yes.

Cindy: What kind of dances were they?

Roger: Oh well the old square dance them days, and waltz.

Cindy: And what?

Roger: Waltz.

Cindy: What's that?

Roger: Well,...

Cindy: Oh watzes, yeah, yeah. Was your parents very religious?

Roger: Yes. Yes they were Catholic.

Cindy: Did, what was the priest like that you had? Do you remember or...

Roger: Yeah we had Father Baze. Baze was his name, yeah. And he talk our own language too.

Cindy: Was it, that strange for a priest to be able to do that?

Roger: Yes.

Cindy: Well did you, was there any discrimination like racism where you first lived when you younger with your parents? Were you sort of like outcasts?

Roger: No.

Cindy: Everyone was the same?

Roger: Yeah, yeah. Them days people if they were raised, oh not like today -- no way.

Cindy: How old were you when world war one started?

Roger: Now, we move dad sold the land and we move in Manitoba.

Cindy: What year was that do you remember?

Roger: 1918. We move Manitoba because we was, lets see (inaudible). You know, the boys they were grown and they were open here for homesteads that's why dad moved here.

Cindy: They were opening homesteads up there?

Roger: Yes. And he took homestead.

Cindy: Was, did the municipality in Dubuc tell you to move, or did you just move?

Roger: No, we just move. Sell the land and we move.

Cindy: How much money did, do you know much money your dad got for the land?

Roger: No. No I don't know. What I know he kind of trade the land for horses, wagons, things like that to our neighbor. And that's the horses we brought here then to farm.

Cindy: So your dad bought a home up in Boggy Creek area?

Roger: Yeah. And after we got here and again our horses they died, because this different, different area it was all the grass there was a fire and it was disease on that old grass. And all our horses they die out again. So we had to start buying just much we can.

Cindy: Did your dad go to world, was your dad in world war one?

Roger: No.

Cindy: Any of your family?

Roger: No.

Cindy: How did you get along with depression in the 1930s, 1930s depression?

Roger: Well went through it. We went through it just because, well we were making our living just with moose meat, and the jumper and elk.

Cindy: You were married at this time were you?

Roger: Well 1918 I was two years after I took my homestead, I was eighteen. Took my homestead.

Cindy: How did, what did you do like during the depression to get food for the family?

Roger: Digging seneca roots, and get meat from...

Cindy: How did you get the meat?

Roger: Well, take the gun and go and shoot one.

Cindy: Did you work in any way through the depression or was there...

Roger: Yeah, we had little job there a dollar a day.

Cindy: How much were seneca roots at that time to bring them back and sell them?

Roger: About fifteen cents a pound.

Cindy: Was that really expensive then?

Roger: No, no that's, you know.

Cindy: Your family didn't have to move in any way or...

Roger: Eh?

Cindy: Did you move from homestead to another during the depression, or from one place to another?

Roger: I done it.

Cindy: You did?

Roger: Yes.

Cindy: Where did you go?

Roger: I took my homestead and leave it go because it was

just (inaudible) and (inaudible); then I bought my brother he was losing his homestead, dead, and I bought his place. That's the place on the Shell there.

Cindy: Were you able to receive relief during the depression?

Roger: You mean...

Cindy: Money from the government.

Roger: What we got out to the welfare, we had \$3. a month and in the springtime we had to go and work on the road half, we get half and we give it to the road the other half.

Cindy: The municipality?

Roger: Yes. That's organized we had organize.

Cindy: What was the \$3. for that you got through welfare?

Roger: Well we got kids...

Cindy: What did they give you this for?

Roger: Well, they give kids shoes, you know, them shoes maybe \$2., \$1. a pair but what was no money just them things like that.

Cindy: What did you use for transportation then to get around?

Roger: We use horses.

Cindy: During that time what was your entertainment, what did you do during your free time? Like during the depression.

Roger: Well we tried to raise things, we plow, and we sell but we had frost every spring.

Cindy: This was during the '30s?

Roger: Yes. That time we just opened the land down Sandclair, Bogggy Creek. And freeze every spring. Yeah.

Cindy: So nothing really grew?

Roger: No, no.

Cindy: What did you do like in your free time? When you had at nights and... Was there any dances or...

Roger: Oh, well there's sometimes there would be a little party there, yeah, house parties.

Cindy: Did you have lots of fun?

Roger: Oh, well yes.

Cindy: How often would they be?

Roger: Maybe twice a month or, you know.

Cindy: How old were you when world war two started?

Roger: Anyway I was not in age, in the first place I got married I was twenty and we had kids.

Cindy: So you were...

Roger: So I was out.

Cindy: Oh, you couldn't go to war if you had...

Roger: No, no if you're married no.

Cindy: Unless you...

Roger: Yeah.

Cindy: ...you had signed on?

Roger: Yeah.

Cindy: Where did you live at this time, still at Boggy Creek?

Roger: Yes.

Cindy: How did you make your living during the second world war?

Roger: Well, just as I said...

Cindy: The same way?

Roger: The same way all the time.

Cindy: Were there any family members like in the second world war, any of your kids or...

Roger: No.

Cindy: Any relatives?

Roger: No.

Cindy: Was there a lot of jobs?

Roger: No.

Cindy: Would like if you went to look for a job what...

Roger: Well, the way they do if you want somebody the

government you pay \$5. to you like, you know, if you going to work for me and I give you \$5. that's \$10. a month you get. That's the way they used to get someone.

Cindy: Was that very, a very high wage then?

Roger: No.

Cindy: About your grandparents, or your parents what, do you know wher they originally came from?

Roger: My parents they came from the States.

Cindy: Did they tell you any stories or anything about...

Roger: No.

Cindy: They didn't... Thank you very much for this interview, Mr. Henry.

(END OF SIDE A)

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