

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: ISABELLE BEADS
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: 218 - 27th STREET WEST
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
INTERVIEW LOCATION: 218 - 27TH STREET WEST
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
TRIBE/NATION: METIS
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 04/18/84
INTERVIEWER: JUDY M. THIBODEAU
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI
SOURCE: SASKATOON NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOC.
& BATOUCHE CENTENARY CORP.
TAPE NUMBER: #IH-SD.02
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC #146
PAGES: 11
RESTRICTIONS: THIS MATERIAL IS THE
PROPERTY OF THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES, AND
SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING, REPRODUCTION, QUOTATION,
CITATION AND ALL OTHER RESEARCH PURPOSES, INCLUDING
BROADCASTING RIGHTS WHERE APPLICABLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
REGULATIONS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN OR WHICH MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY
THE GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES OR ITS
SUCCESSORS FOR THE USE OF MATERIALS IN ITS POSSESSION: SUBJECT,
HOWEVER TO SUCH RESTRICTIONS AS MAY BE SPECIFIED BELOW.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Isabelle Beads does not elaborate when responding to the interviewer's questions. Consequently this interview does not require indexing.

Judy: Today is April 18, 1984, and I am speaking to Mrs. Isabelle Beads. Mrs. Beads, could you tell me about the house that you grew up in? Could you tell me what it was like?

Isabelle: I don't know what kind of house we had. An old house, no floor in it.

Judy: Did it have any electricity?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: How about running water?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: Where was the house at?

Isabelle: Meadow Lake, north of Meadow Lake, across the river. Oh, we didn't have no water running, nothing.

Judy: How about furniture, what did you have for furniture?

Isabelle: Not very much. Just beds I guess, that's all.

Judy: What do you remember about your mother and father?

Isabelle: Father died. I don't remember him.

Judy: You don't remember too much about him?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: How about your mother?

Isabelle: I don't know. He was doing good, I guess, working for us, went down just to drink, drink lots.

Judy: What do you remember about your mother?

Isabelle: Well, used to work, I guess making a living when Daddy used to leave them. Running around I guess when Dad's drinking. We was poor, well making out a living. Mom couldn't send us to school. We never went to school, me and my sisters.

Judy: So you never had any schooling at all?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: How old were you when your mother and father died?

Isabelle: Oh, I was married already.

Judy: Oh, you were married already. At what age did you get married at?

Isabelle: Nineteen, I guess.

Judy: And you have how many children now?

Isabelle: Five.

Judy: Do you remember ever hearing the words "road allowance"?

Isabelle: Oh yeah, yeah.

Judy: Could you tell me what that means?

Isabelle: No, I don't really know.

Judy: But you did hear about it?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: What do you remember your chores at home being when you lived in Meadow Lake?

Isabelle: Well, we didn't like it. Just played around I guess, like my brother and sisters.

Judy: Are there any other family members that you remember really good?

Isabelle: No, no.

Judy: Do you remember what type of work your father used to do?

Isabelle: No, I didn't remember that what my father used to do.

Judy: Did your family ever own any livestock?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: Have you ever had any jobs? Just that one part-time here, the rest of the time you were a homemaker?

Isabelle: Home... yeah.

Judy: What do you remember about the town of Meadow Lake when you were growing up?

Isabelle: Well, I guess my sister used to work at, my step-sister used to work there in a restaurant, I guess she used to work there. My brother used to stook. My sister used to tell me that.

Judy: Do you remember if there was any discrimination? Your family got along good with the other people?

Isabelle: Yeah. Yeah that's what I've been telling today, young boys how they drink, smoking marijuana, how they get hurt. You used to, you would never see that before.

Judy: What language do you remember being taught?

Isabelle: French.

Judy: And then you learned English later?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: How old were you when you learned English?

Isabelle: I guess fifteen. My sister used to show off how to talk English.

Judy: What do you first remember realizing that you were Metis?

Isabelle: Well, when I come here to Saskatoon they ask me who I am and the kids said I was a Metis.

Judy: When did you move to Saskatoon?

Isabelle: I don't know how many years I moved to Saskatoon, when my mom died and my dad died. I used to stay in Meadow..., P.A. and I move here.

Judy: Do you remember anything about your grandparents?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: Do you remember the people in Meadow Lake ever getting together, the Metis people, and celebrating holidays?

Isabelle: That's what my sister used to say. They used to do that.

Judy: How about New Year's, did they used to celebrate New Year's?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Do you remember how they used to?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: What would they do?

Isabelle: Well, they invite you and you make big supper, they invite you for supper, dinner.

Judy: And you'd go around visiting other people's homes?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: How about Christmas?

Isabelle: Christmas too.

Judy: Any other holidays, like Easter, or...?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Did your family used to go to church a lot?

Isabelle: Oh yeah.

Judy: To the Catholic Church?

Isabelle: Yeah, we belong to the Catholic Church. I guess my

mom used to go -- doesn't matter how far, we used to walk to church.

Judy: Do you remember your mother dressing in Metis style clothing, like the long dresses?

Isabelle: Oh yeah. I got my mother this picture how she was dressed up, I'll bring it, I might go to Meadow Lake for Easter and I'll show you it. I'll bring it because my son has got it. I guess how they dress up long dresses, and here the color.

Judy: Do you remember your dad ever wearing a Metis sash?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: He used to wear one of those?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Do you remember what it looked like?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: No, just big piece of leather belt with beadwork on it?

Isabelle: Yeah. Oh yeah some, one of my aunties knows how to do beadwork.

Judy: Your aunt did the beadwork on it?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Did your mom and dad know how to jig?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Do you know how to jig?

Isabelle: Not me. (laughs) No. My daddy used to, my mom.

Judy: Did they jig a lot at the dances?

Isabelle: Yeah. My grandpa, my granny, my mom, my dad.

Judy: Did you have any fiddle players in the family?

Isabelle: Yeah, my dad, my brothers. They were good for that.

Judy: Did they ever play any old Metis songs?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Do you remember any of the names of them?

Isabelle: No, no way.

Judy: But they used to play that type of music?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Did anybody in your family believe in practise the Indian medicine?

Isabelle: Oh, no way, not my kids. I do.

Judy: You do? Can you give me any examples of Indian medicine, how it works?

Isabelle: Well, my daddy used to use that, hunting. I don't know how they sample it, I can't, they never show us.

Judy: Did they ever show you how if someone was sick in your family how they would mix roots and so on?

Isabelle: Yeah, my grandmother was a Saulteaux, used to give my mom medicine. And you boil that in the water, you use that.

Judy: Do you still do Indian medicine here in the city?

Isabelle: No. No, I wish I could because sometimes I'm sick. I wish I could use that.

Judy: Did you used to do it in Meadow Lake?

Isabelle: Yep. Yeah, we never see the doctor because my mom used to use Indian medicine.

Judy: When you were young did the white kids in town, did they ever call you names and so on because you were Metis?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Was it only the children, or did you have any problems with the older people?

Isabelle: No, just the children used to come up and call us names.

Judy: When you moved to the city did you feel comfortable when you went into the stores?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: No. Why is that?

Isabelle: Yeah, feel a stranger. I don't know, because we never went out. My dad he never let us go any place. Before when we grow up we used to see people, we used to run away -- we was scared.

Judy: You were very shy then?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Can you tell me about the times that you had to deal with welfare or unemployment?

Isabelle: Ah, that welfare makes me mad, yeah. I wish I could work, I wish I could read, then they don't help me much. Because me and my husband we parted because he drinks too much.

Judy: They give you a lot of problems though?

Isabelle: Yeah. They wanted me to work, they want my daughter to work. Well, my daughter can't work yet. She doesn't want to, she wants to finish school.

Judy: Did the priest ever come and visit your parents' home?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Do you remember what he used to talk about?

Isabelle: No, I don't remember what he used to talk about.

Judy: Do you think that the Catholic Church has helped Metis people face their problems?

Isabelle: I guess so, yeah. A lot.

Judy: You never attended school?

Isabelle: No. I wish I could. I tell you, I wouldn't bother with welfare.

Judy: Do you remember who your parents used to vote for?

Isabelle: Liberal.

Judy: Liberal?

Isabelle: Real strong, my mom and dad.

Judy: Do you remember if any politicians visited your mom and dad's house?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: No, they never came by?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: Do you think the church was ever involved in politics?

Isabelle: I don't know.

Judy: Do you vote the same way as your parents did?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Do you get involved, do you go out to the campaign; or do you just go down and vote?

Isabelle: Yeah, just... Sometime they come and pick me up.

Judy: Do you remember your mom or dad or perhaps even you being involved in the early Metis Society?

Isabelle: No.

Judy: No, in the 1930s you never were?

Isabelle: One of my nephews is working for the... in Big River.

Judy: Today?

Isabelle: Yeah, for the Metis Society. I used to have a card, I don't know where it is -- I lost it. They say I (inaudible) Society.

Judy: You belong to the organization there?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Do you remember any of these names during your mom and dad saying them; Joe LaRocque?

Isabelle: Oh yeah, yeah.

Judy: Was he involved in that Metis Society?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: What other things do you remember about him?

Isabelle: I don't know. They say he belong to the Metis Society.

Judy: How about Joe Ross?

Isabelle: I don't know him.

Judy: Tom Major?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Was he involved with the Metis Society also?

Isabelle: I guess so.

Judy: Joe McKenzie?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: He was involved with that?

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: How about Sol Pritchard?

Isabelle: I don't know him.

Judy: Sometimes they called him Sam Pritchard.

Isabelle: Could be.

Judy: Do you remember hearing anything about the Metis Society in those days?

Isabelle: No. Just now I heard them, my nephew he used to tell us what happened.

Judy: So you don't know too much background about where you were born at and...

Isabelle: No.

Judy: Well I would like to thank you very much for giving us this interview.

Isabelle: Yeah.

Judy: Thank you.

(END OF SIDE A)

(END OF TAPE)