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SASKATCHEWAN  
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INTERVIEWER: CAROL PEARLSTONE  
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born Carlton, Saskatchewan. Father was ferryman and farmer.
- Pierre was in a sanatorium for treatment of tuberculosis but on recovery worked at farming and woodcutting.
- Work as farmer and woodcutter.
- Talks about his children's education and his own lack of schooling.
- What his grandfather told him about the Riel Rebellion of 1885.
- The Metis in World War I and II.

Pierre: (translated) My father had a homestead and he was a ferryman at the same time. We weren't rich but we made not a bad living. From Carlton then we went to Bonne Madon. We moved to Bonne Madon when I was twelve years old. We moved to Bonne Madon because the summer before, myself and my younger brother had gone to work for a bachelor up there and then the bachelor said he would rent his land to us and when we told our dad that, he didn't want to let us go by ourselves so then all of us moved out there.

Carol: How much land did your father have?

Pierre: (translated) A river lot. 160 acres. His land was right by where the Gabriel bridge is today. Two miles long and ten chains wide, 160 acres.

Carol: Were both your parents Metis?

Pierre: (translated) Both of my parents were Metis and my mother died when I was three years old. My father remarried to another Metis. There were three kids when my mother died and there were six or seven more with my second mother.

Carol: What about your grandparents?

Pierre: (translated) My grandfather was supposed to be a Frenchman from Winnipeg and my grandmother was an Indian Metis.

Carol: Why did they come here from Winnipeg?

Pierre: (translated) It was the time when the prairie was an appealing thing. Everybody wanted to come to the prairies. They used to talk about, that it was, they would have a better life if they came here. The buffalo was, you know, they talked about the buffalo so they just came because of the circumstances.

Carol: And what was your occupation?

Pierre: (translated) When I first left home I worked wages, taking any job I could find, and then I went into partnership with my brother, and we worked together all of our life, until my brother died. So we decided to buy a homestead in Meadow Lake. Hard times came (Depression) and couldn't make a go of it on the homestead. So I took a contract to cut pulpwood. That was 1938, 1939, just after I came out of the San. Someone else was cutting firewood and I'd buy it from the cutters at \$3.00 a load - firewood - then I would haul it to town for \$10.00. I would make about two loads a day. And then we took another contract for ties for the railroad and my brother got

killed. A railroad tie fell on his head. That is when we decided on Green Lake. We worked eight winters there with Clark outfit, the rest of year on farm. Got \$15.00 for every thousand ties. I used my horses but I couldn't work. I hired my nephews to help me. They were good workers. The other Metis there turned against me because I was trying to advance, they were bucking me all the time. (translated) Then we decided to go back to Meadow Lake and rented some more land. Then I stayed there, had seven kids with my first wife and she had been married already, she had a son too. When we went to Leoville, I retired there. Got pension and welfare - \$9.00 a month. Then it was increased to \$27.00. With the pension it was \$109.00, with wife. But each time the pension went up a dollar, the welfare came down a dollar. Back to \$9.00 a month. (laughs) From Leoville we moved here to the old folks' home. We're free, so we like it here.

I have no education, nothing. (English) When I was supposed to go to school, I was crippled. Then when I was all right, I was too old to go to school, and was old enough to work. My grandfather taught me how to write. To work with lumber, I had to learn to work with numbers. I learned myself. But after I quit all that, I let everything go, so I forgot again.

Carol: Can you tell me how you managed during the Depression?

Pierre: Well, I'll tell you. The hard times, I was at the San already. That is the hard time. And then the time I went out so my brother, he had that big job so he hired men; and then from there, I lived with my brother. So, then, we took them with horse when we hauled that. And then in the winter time, I drive one team but I didn't have to do nothing, just drive my horses. I had my own horses. When I get home first, my sister-in-law, she would feed my horses and put them in the barn for me. That is all I had to do. Because, I don't eat and I won't sleep all the time, nothing to do. So then when I go out, fresh air, I eat lots and again all right. So then when it come to the spring, I was loading my own load.

Carol: Since you didn't have any education at all, were you interested in sending your kids to school?

Pierre: (translated) Yes, in fact some of them did quite well. Some of them finished their grade 12. The oldest one was too interested in the work part. He was working at the time at the saw mill and the teacher came to me one day when he was in grade 6 and said, "You might as well keep him home. It is a sin to send him to school because all he talks about is wanting to work at the saw mill." So, the oldest one quit after grade 6 or while he was doing his grade 6. I am very happy that some of them finished their grade 12 and I wished that the oldest one had done the same. I wished I would have had the chance to

go to school. To me, education is very important today. Especially to find work because you can't get a job of any kind if you are not educated. And the machines are very complicated. You have to be educated to be able to operate them.

Carol: What do you remember about the First World War?

Pierre: (translated) About the Rebellion, my grandfather and another one that I called my grandfather but not really my grandfather were in the Rebellion and I remember hearing many of the Metis men were put into jail at this time therefore this made it very, very hard for the women who were left without their husbands. My father was six years old at the time of the Rebellion. But I remember my grandfather talking about it.

Carol: Why did the Rebellion take place?

Pierre: (translated) From what I remember, the Metis talking, the Metis way of talking, they were fighting for their rights

but they didn't know what their rights were. (laughter)

Carol: Do you think it was a just fight then?

Pierre: (translated) One thing they did get from the Rebellion was that they were given scrips and my father got one because he was the oldest and that is one thing that they did achieve by the Rebellion. They didn't really know what it meant then. They were given pieces of land but they didn't know where their land was, so it was kind of a useless thing. They weren't told, it wasn't explained to them what they did get by a scrip and where the land was or anything. To them, they sometimes... because they didn't understand too much, the meaning of how much land they were getting or how to go about getting it. My father traded his scrip for a wagon because he had two horses and no wagon. So he traded and got a wagon for his piece of land. He was a freighter, my dad was, so he figured a wagon was more valuable than his land.

Carol: Scrip was money though, wasn't it? Instead of land?

Pierre: (translated) Yeah, but at that time, land wasn't worth nothing at that time. They didn't know what land was at that time. But after, they got homesteads. That is how my father got his piece of land after. Another fellow got a pair of harness instead of the scrip money because he needed that for freighting also. There were a few Metis people who were smarter than the others and they used to argue with each other

what their rights were and they didn't come to an understanding and that is one of the reasons that they didn't get much out of the Riel Rebellion. Because the Metis themselves could not agree on what their rights were and therefore they just lost everything because of that.

Translator: I asked him the reason why some of the halfbreeds were more educated than others and he said, for example, his grandfather was a French guy and yet he was in the halfbreed gang. And then there was Dumont. Riel was educated. Whenever they come up with an idea, because the majority were not educated, they bucked against the ideas of the educated group. They just figured they were running the show, I guess.

Carol: Did you hear this from your parents or your grandparents or...?

Pierre: Just what I am saying, I got that from my grandfather. My grandfather, that is the way he told it to me.

Carol: Did your grandfather know Dumont?

Pierre: Mostly because my dad, that is his godfather.

Carol: Do you remember him talking about him?

Pierre: My dad used to talk about him. (translated) I didn't really hear too much about his character but when things were

not going too well, Dumont ran away. He had a little grey horse and he wanted Riel to run away with him and Riel said, "No, if I run away, my people will be mistreated." So he refused to go with Dumont.

Carol: That was after they were defeated though. It was either...

Pierre: (translated) Riel wouldn't have been hung or killed if he had gone with Dumont at the time that Dumont asked him to go. He went to France to see the King and when he came back, he would visit this grandchild of his. That is what I remember. My father was Gabriel's godchild so he would come and visit him.

Carol: Do you think the Metis had a good reason for fighting and stuff?

Pierre: Well, now I think in one way, they have no reason to attack the people, what they had. I don't know what ideas they had. (translated) They were kind of foolish to attack a bigger group of people, what I know now. (English) But the Indians, they told them, "You guys fight this time with us and we'll take them at night when they are sleeping. We'll knife them."

Carol: The Indians said they would attack the white guys?

Pierre: At night, yeah. You see, when they rest at night, we'll take them. So they will be sleeping and we'll get them that way. But Riel didn't want it that way. "No," he says. "We'll go fair play. That won't be fair to do that." So they didn't.

Carol: What do you remember about the First World War and the Second World War?

Pierre: (translated) I was about 11 or 12 or something like that and I just couldn't understand why these men were getting picked up. Many of them didn't know why they were going. In fact, there was one fellow going around to dances and things like that, and he'd tell them, "I'll hire you." And they would sign up or whatever, and then ask him, "What for?" and he said, "For doing nothing." And naturally, he'd make them drink a little bit and then he'd get them to sign these papers. So a lot got involved in going to war and they didn't know why they were going or where they were going.

Carol: What about the Second War?

Pierre: Second War, I had a brother-in-law that went and he went and signed for that. The first time he went to sign he was too young; they wouldn't take him. So, he went another way, he went and signed and he put himself two years older and he went in. (translated) I don't know why, he probably thought that the war would be easier than working. The laborers at that time worked very hard in those days. It was very hard to make a living.

Carol: Did the people around here get told why the war was being fought and everything?

Pierre: (translated) I wasn't educated, I didn't know the reason for the war because I couldn't read and that. And maybe they did explain it, but I probably wouldn't have understood the reason behind it.

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(End of Interview)

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BELOW.

Victoria: The old Metis Society like the Saskatchewan Metis Society in the '30s and '40s there, what did they do for the people? Did they help them get relief or housing?

Joseph: Oh no. They didn't, they didn't, they didn't help. We never got any help around any stuff like that. We never got any help. The only help that we give 'em is go to... (inaudible) back to go to the meetings in Saskatoon, but to get help, to get anything fixed really we didn't get anything from the government.

Victoria: What did the white people in your area think about the Metis Society back then?

Joseph: Oh they, they were sure laughing at the people, you know. They figure that, that never work. But some of them guys, some of them white people, they were right in it to help us, you know. You try to get ahead, but a lot of them, they didn't care. They didn't want nothing to do with it.

Victoria: Do you remember the name Joe LaRocque?

Joseph: Yeah.

Victoria: What do you remember about him?

Joseph: Well, I don't remember too much. I just remember to see him, that's all, but I never remember...

Victoria: Where did you meet him at?

Joseph: I met him at Meadow Lake, I think. There was a meeting in Meadow Lake, I met him there.

Victoria: A Metis Society meeting?

Joseph: (inaudible) I'm pretty sure. It was some kind of a meeting. I went with Sam and I'm pretty sure that's the place we met him, or in Battleford anyway. I just couldn't say.

Victoria: Sam Landy you mean that was, eh?

Joseph: Yeah.

Victoria: Do you remember Joe Ross?

Joseph: No. I heard of his name though. I never... I don't...

Victoria: How about Tom Major?

Joseph: No, I don't remember, I don't remember, I don't never hear, first time I ever heard.

Victoria: Solomon Pritchard?

Joseph: Yeah. I heard of his name, that one too, but I never met him.

Victoria: You didn't meet him, eh. What about Joe McKenzie?

Joseph: I think we did meet Joe McKenzie, yeah.

Victoria: Do you remember where you met him at?

Joseph: No, I don't remember that, (inaudible) meet him. You know, you met so many of them guys, you know, you goin' to... you don't know where they're at. Either Meadow Lake or Battleford, I met them.

Victoria: How long were you involved in that Metis Society in the '30s and '40s?

Joseph: Oh, about 10 years, I guess... 5 years, 5 or 10, well, we'll say 10 years.

Victoria: What all did you do during that time?

Joseph: Well, we never do much. We try to make always pretty scrimp to make 5 cents. It was hard times and stuff like that

them days. You had a hell of a time to collect a few dollars them guys, they could go to Saskatoon to go the meetings there. I don't know, they used to go the meetings and they used to have...

Victoria: What were the meetings for then?

Joseph: Well, they try to get the government to help us to start a Metis Society, but we never progressed too much.

Victoria: About how many would you say was involved in your local here in those days?

Joseph: Well, them days we'll say about 30 I guess.

Victoria: About 30 people. Were they all the Metis from around here?

Joseph: Not Arcanes. No, there was no Arcane mixed up in that. You know they were, them Arcanes, they were slow. In fact, they didn't... the Metis Society, they didn't believe in that. I don't know they were kind of pushy or proud, or anything like that. When they seen the people they were getting stuff though, you should have seen them getting in there now, even some white people, they were half-breeds, no half-breed in them. They tried to claim they were a half-breed just to get the stuff free.

Victoria: So what really happened after awhile there? You said you were in it for about 10 years and then...

Joseph: They kind of forgotten that, you know, the Metis Society... The meantime and it's... what... too long... I bet you it's about 20 years after that, they start all over again, you know.

Victoria: Were you involved the second time again?

Joseph: Oh yeah, with the neighbors.

Victoria: What did you do this time?

Joseph: Oh, I run around for the Metis here. Me and Ernest, we were just about on top, you know. We done everything to help the Metis Society, you know. Cripes Almighty! we made a lot of miles.

Victoria: Ernest is your brother, is he?

Joseph: Yeah. Ernest is an old man. He put up a lot of his own time, wreck even a brand new truck. Tried to set up the Metis Society, and he was fighting against the Metis Indians, stuff like that, you know. They didn't want to help them.

Victoria: They didn't want to be Metis?

Joseph: No. Hell! we had a hell of a time.

Victoria: And where all did you travel?

Joseph: Oh, all over. I drove practically all over, we drove all over. We drove... me, especially me, now I drove Meadow Lake, Green Lake, Glaslyn, all over, I went all over.

Victoria: What year was that in, Joe?

Joseph: That's, geez I don't know what year. We used to drive every year. We used to do that every year except the last two, three years. About three, four years now, I never go much. I never go to hardly anyplace since I've been sick, but before that I was...

Victoria: Would that be in the '70s?

Joseph: Yeah.

Victoria: Probably in about the '70s, '75...

Joseph: '75, '76 yeah, something like that.

Victoria: Did you know Josephine Pambrun then?

Joseph: Yeah, oh yeah.

Victoria: Was she...

Joseph: Yeah.

Victoria: ...helping out too?

Joseph: She's from Meadow Lake. I used to go and see him. (laughs) I even run, the time that election here, Jim and them, I went, oh, I went all over Canoe Lake, James Bay, Green Lake...

Victoria: Up north, eh?

Joseph: ...up north there, for Jim there, you know. But I made out good too, you know, That's what I said, I didn't go for them high-class people; I went with the guy that could... middle-class people that I knew they were (inaudible, background noise). You know, I always got good outrage with them.

Victoria: What do you think they've accomplished so far with the Metis Society? This time around I should say.

Joseph: Well, they were doing real good. I think they accomplished housing anyway, know a lot of people they got good houses a nice place to live on. But since the Conservatives started taking over things sure changed that housing quite a bit. You know, that you don't know what the hell you're at, you go an' kicked outta them houses or not, you don't know. Finally, I got some stiff letters from Conservatives already, you know. They would ever raise my rent and everything.

Victoria: What do you think has been the most important thing in your life, Joe?

Joseph: Well, I like the Metis Society. I really enjoyed that, you know, that go around and talk to people and try to help people. We did help quite a few poor people around, you know, and I really enjoy that. I really like that. I still can go in the summertime if anything that is going on I'm going to try to get interested just to get out of the house. Once I get in the car I can drive, you know.

Victoria: What kind of a person do you think you are, Joe? What kind of a person do you see yourself as?

Joseph: (laughs) Well, I don't know, I don't know. I must be not bad because I haven't got a bad friend nowheres.

Victoria: Oh, that's the main thing.

Joseph: I don't know, I don't think I got an enemy to say that anybody that actually that I don't like or he doesn't like me. Oh, there's a lot of people, they talk, but when it comes to brass tacks at least they come and see me to get my help anyway. But I've got nothing against nobody. I don't give a hell what the other guy does, how much money he makes, if he needs money I always help them.

Victoria: What kind of life do you say you've had, what type of life? Do you think it's interesting, satisfying or...

Joseph: Oh, not bad. I had... my life I really enjoyed it. You know, I had a good life to say I was working all the time.

Victoria: Do you think it was interesting?

Joseph: Yeah. Sure as hell. And I had different jobs. I didn't have only the highways, I had pretty well steady job. I work on the water shores for so many years. And in the winter time I used to go up north and fish.

Victoria: Do you think your life was very different from your grandparents'?

Joseph: Oh yeah.

Victoria: How do you think it was different?

Joseph: Well, I'll tell you, I was more civilized, I guess, try to be civilized. And them guys, they didn't care, them guys, you know, they never got any... To say that my relations, them, they were different people altogether. They didn't care if they farm or not. They wouldn't... so long they live.

Victoria: They didn't really get excited about it, eh?

Joseph: Yeah.

Victoria: What about from your parents'? Do you think it was very different from your parents', from your mother's and father's?

Joseph: Well, I don't know. Pretty hard to face, you know that... like my dad there, I don't know, to say, "I hate you," is all right, but he, my dad, he didn't care. That fellow, I sometime, I've often wondered when... if he was care for us or he didn't care. Sometime we didn't see him for two, three weeks.

Victoria: Why do you think he did them sort of things, Joe?

Joseph: I don't know. I guess... I don't know. What the hell... You know them old people, some of them guys, you know, they didn't care. They liked to go around, move around, and they didn't stay in one place.

Victoria: Do you think maybe it was because of responsibility they had?

Joseph: Yeah, they didn't like them. Like them Arcanes there, you know, they used to move every so long. They'd stay one year, maybe a couple of years in one place, they'd move, move to a different flock. You know, they didn't move only one family, the whole shooting match, you know, 15 families and like that. First... when they first moved from Duck Lake, they moved to Maidstone -- Maidstone, was a hell of a pile of them there. Then after that, they moved to Jackson Lake where we used to live, around the lake there. There was about 10 families there too, you know, them Arcanes, there's about the same outfit. And after that they tried to buy farms and they were scattered quite a bit that time. Still now, there's not much Arcanes out in the country.

Victoria: What has mattered most to you in your life, Joe? Is it your family or the things that you did, your religion?

Joseph: Well, I'll tell you. My religion, well, I used to go to church but I never was a, I was a relig... religion, I used to go to church but I'm not, I wasn't that religious anyway, you know. But the family, I'm saying a word of my mother. My mother's one of the best, you know that, if it wasn't... if there wasn't my Mother I wouldn't stick around here. I think I'd pull the... I'd go away.

Victoria: What do you think about economic security? Like for when you're old, Joe, what do you think is going to happen?

Joseph: Well, I don't know. The shape I am, I never know. (laughs) The shape I am, I never know what the hell's gonna happen. Maybe I live the next 10 years: maybe I won't live that long.

Victoria: What do you think are this, your native community here around here, what do you think are their worst problems?

Joseph: Well, I'll tell you. There's, oh there's all kinds of problems with them guys. You know, the more you feed them, like, the worse they get. You know, you never could satisfy them, you know. You know them guys, they're hard to please. Don't matter how good you are to them, they always something complain about. Mostly now, they got the nice houses and mostly they all moved to town. There's only about 30 Arnesseys still in the farm, but him, he's different. What he's got, he didn't get it from the Metis Society. George always had a bunch of cattle around home there. But like this odd breeds, they still out in the country but mostly they're in town, you know. They get the new houses. But now again, see, where the problem is, if the Conservative comes in over... over... over all of them guys, they go and chase out of them house. Only...

Victoria: So you think they're worried then, eh?

Joseph: Oh yeah, they're worried over that, sure. And I'll tell you, another couple of years that the Metis guys, they'll be moving out of them house.

Victoria: What do you think can be done about it?

Joseph: Well, the only way... I don't know that. If that, if... I don't know a guy should have meetings over that, talk about for leader take there Jim Sinclair but no use to talk anything to Jim anymore, because that's his last year too, you know. He's going to quit the Metis Society. So I don't know, I don't know a guy... what the hell to say, who to... a fellow's got to hang on for another year just to see what the score.

Victoria: I was going to say, what can you do about it, but...

Joseph: Well, if there was a pure Liberal would come in. You know, the Liberals they were good with the, like to try to help the poor people. Maybe there's some ways they were no good, but like building them houses and stuff like that. You know, they were good but since Conservatives started butting in there... I got two, three letters here alreeeady that... Any my rent going up (inaudible) at \$75. If they keep going up, how the hell can I pay? Victoria: How much will it be then?

Joseph: \$275 a month, I couldn't do it.

Victoria: You're just on pension now?

Joseph: Yeah.

Victoria: That's bad.

Joseph: Yes, you can say that again. \$500 and you pay \$200 for your house -- that's what I paid for my payments for the house. It is a... I put my lots for down payment. That's the biggest mistake I ever done, to get a new house. But I didn't think... Everything sounds good, you know, oh, about

this new housing, you know. So I signed my lots to the housing for down payment. I don't know what the... I don't know, I never really see anybody anymore, you know. I never seen a Metis worker over two years now.

Victoria: So you don't really know what's going to happen.

Joseph: I don't know what the score is.

Victoria: What was it like? Was it fun or bad to grow up in a large family, Joe?

Joseph: Oh, we never had... I never got no trouble with them, no way. We all got along really good, because I never was, after I was 14 years old I never was home much anyway.

Victoria: And you enjoyed working in politics, eh, with the Metis Society?

Joseph: Yeah. I still got the... That was nice. You meet people and talk people, and some of them, they were pretty nice to talk with and lot of them guys, there was quite an argument with them guys. I think some of them Metis Society guys they loved a short meetin'.

Victoria: Do you think it would have been different if you would have been born white?

Joseph: Oh no, I don't think...

Victoria: Or maybe a Treaty Indian?

Joseph: I don't know. Well, the (inaudible) I got more relation in the reserve than I do on the outside.

Victoria: So your relations...

Joseph: Oh yeah. All them Ahenakews, that's all my cousins, every one of them, first cousin in Sandy Lake.

Victoria: Do you visit much with them?

Joseph: Oh yeah, they visit me. The Indian chief there, what you call him (inaudible) he come up two, three times (inaudible) me and him, he didn't even say good-bye or hello or nothing one time he come and visit because he start to argue with me. Oh no...

Victoria: If you had a chance, Joe, to be born all over again would you have wanted your life to be any different?

Joseph: No. I think... well, I done... I think I would keep on the same way but I would do it a little different.

Victoria: How would you make it different?

Joseph: Well, I would save more money anyway now. I wasted a lot of money, I didn't save. If I made a dollar, I give it away. I never could keep a dollar. Help people there (inaudible), you know. Lots of time I used to come to town and buy stuff for people that I didn't even know, give them money.

Victoria: So you would have saved more money. What else would you have done?

Joseph: Well, I think I would have had a better home, I guess. And I would have a better vehicle because the money I made all went in the farm too, you know, I never got a bloody cent back. I have quite a bit of (inaudible) in the farm there, I'm suppose to get some back but I never did get anything. Oh, it's no use to say anything because it would be just a bunch of argument. This way I get along and I didn't need it anyway.

Victoria: Is there anything else you would have changed, like your wife or your family?

Joseph: Well, (inaudible) she's said... she's said he wasn't much fun. She was young kid. He was nothing but... He didn't have much money. He was just a drunkard and he never care for us. If you care for us you'd be home today.

Victoria: What do you see about the future, Joe? What do you think is going to happen in the future? Is it going to be better for your kids or for us?

Joseph: Well, I hope. You know, if the people, they would smarten up and stick together, you know, them half-breeds, you know, they had a nice thing going that Metis Society. If they would stick up together, and instead of fighting amongst themselves whose going to steal that extra dollar there, you know, everything would have been all right. If...

Victoria: You figure money is the bad point, eh?

Joseph: Oh yeah, 'cause there they were fighting over that few dollars and the one who was going to be on top of that, that one done this. You know, that time... did you not... you know, that it's a... remember that time you used to run Batoche there, how nice it used to be. Stuff, how much we used to have left over, and we had money left over. We paid for the power, we paid for everything there, you know. Now, how much in the hole they were, them guys since that. They don't go ahead a bit at all. You know, they should let them old people do the work they'd like to do, things like taxes. And Tony and them, Tony and...

Victoria: You think the older ones should organize Batoche, eh?

Joseph: Oh yeah, you're God damn right.

Victoria: Do you miss it out there? Do you miss working out there?

Joseph: Oh yeah. In a way, I didn't miss... I didn't like working with... I could have worked, but I didn't want to work with them, the other guys. I liked to work with the...

Victoria: The old crew, eh.

Joseph: ...the old crew, like Harry Vandale, Dexter and all them guys. You would've... one of the best, you know. You know, they look after the stuff good. We used to have quite a time there, you know, and people, man! you know, there was people there... I was told that people there less and less every year that Metis Society there. You know, they don't, they don't cooperate like we used to do. No way.

Victoria: What do you think about the community around here? Do you think it's going to get better in the future?

Joseph: Well, I hope. If there's anybody that... if there's anybody that... Ernest, soon as he knew the... soon as we quit little... that's what I mean, Ernest from Metis Society everything dies out. We got to keep push them all the time, otherwise... like Ernest, he didn't do much for the last two,

three years, the Metis Society goes haywire. The people they don't, they don't go anyplace.

Victoria: What do you think it will be like for your grandchildren? Do you think they'll still have a Metis Society or...

Joseph: Well, I hope if everything goes right. I hope they go to Metis Society.

Victoria: By then maybe some land claims or something.

Joseph: Yeah.

Victoria: Free hunting?

Joseph: Be still Conservative and they give us free hunting already. (both laugh)

Victoria: Do you think native people have a better future, like in the towns, or would they be better off in the north?

Joseph: Well I'll tell you one thing. It's good for them, the Metis people, in towns 'cause they don't have to work. They can get juiced, live there, and they live like kings, you know. That that's the biggest racket the government, he ever done in his life, to have them Indians and Metis Society to

stick up in the reserve, er... in the... in the towns, you know. Oh boy, something wicked down there. Out in (inaudible) Lake guys there, healthy guys they're getting juiced (inaudible) don't have to work. You know, some of them guys, they get \$1,500. a month sitting on their ass. And they talk about Indians. Sure Indian, that's another bad thing -- what the hell they doin' chase all them Indians off the grounds, they don't go and stay on the reserve. Oh that piss me off. Every God damn one of them go to town, go to Regina, go to Saskatoon, go to P.A. That's all you see in the beer parlour. You go to the beer parlour, there's nothing but half-breeds and Indians filled up with the beer parlours. Yeah.

Victoria: Do you think it's the, like the Metis Society now has changed a lot from the first one that they had?

Joseph: Well, I don't know how much they changed 'cause we never used to have meetings like used to have either. You don't know what the heck's going on. I've never been to a meeting the last four years. I don't know what the ... how the Metis Society's doing or anything. They used to have them meetings in town with Jim. I don't know, I never heard anymore, anymore what the score is.

Victoria: Well, I guess that finishes our interview, Joe, and I thank you very much.

Joseph: You bet you.

Victoria: I'll get back up to see you again.

Joseph: Yeah.

(END OF SIDE A)  
(END OF TAPE)