

**Robison, Anderson, and Welsh Interview  
(Transcribed by Joseph Fauchon)**

- 0.5 Cheryl:** I didn't put microphones on you cause I don't have enough. I only have two microphones on me. Worse than no microphones at all. So... [Ladies laughing] So we'll start if uh...each of you give me your full name and where you were born. Billie do you want to start?
- 0.9 Billie:** My name is Marie Robinson.
- 1.0 Cheryl:** [???] You'll have to speak up louder. [Ladies laughing]
- 1.1 Billie:** My name's Marie Robinson.
- 1.1 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 1.1 Billie:** Born in Lebret, I guess. I was born on... a reserve someplace. Haha. My husband [???] to school there. [Cough] What else?
- 1.6 Cheryl:** Okay. Uh Pauline, where were you born?
- 1.7 Pauline:** Uh, I was born in the hills in Lebret. In the hills there. I think. Billie would know. Haha. But anyway we...we lived in Lebret until I think I was uh fifteen or sixteen probably we moved to Fort Qu'Appelle. We went to school in uh...we lived on a Métis farm for I think I was about five when we moved up there. I think I was eleven or twelve or something but that was uh when we lived on the farm; that was the best years of our lives I think, cause we had our mother and we had all kinds of friends and family live up there. Like it was just a nice Métis community. We all got along up there. While we had our little battles with our neighbours but we all uh ended up playing together. It was tough enough but we played baseball and, and in the winter time we, we'd skate on the slough. And uh also in the winter time they, we would go to school and they had this great big van. Uh what would you call it? A great... it's uh, I don't know, like sleigh. And we'd all uh meet at the corner of our house there to get them to pick us up there, to go to school, and uh they'd put, keep the horses in Lebret somewhere in a barn. And then we just hooked to our big sleigh, go home after school. It was quite nice up there and then we moved off and that was kind of rough. When we moved off we left to move back to the road allowance.
- 3.5 Billie:** It's hard when our father died.
- 3.5 Pauline:** Yeah and we moved in and we went up the hill we, I can remember our furniture being sitting outside because...
- 3.7 Billie:** We had furniture? Hahaha.
- 3.7 Pauline:** Well yeah, but what ever you want to call it, but it was beds and stuff and a stove and the main bed springs. Because the house we were supposed to move in, they uh, it was occupied when these people didn't move, wouldn't move out so, there was this little shack there. Mud shack and there was only one room. That's where we moved into. And before winter, Dad then, some of the neighbours, Métis neighbours around there, um built on another room on to that little shack and that's where we lived. Two room shack.

- 4.4 Billie:** But you know we lived there. I don't remember being cramped, I don't remember being hungry or cold. We were just, I think that's why we're so close now, really a close family.
- 4.7 Pauline:** Well there was six of us in one bed. [Ladies laughing] Talking about uh... [Ladies laughing] We didn't need blankets to keep warm. You'd get a foot in the mouth or a knee to the back or something. Until, we were really close family, to this day we still are.
- 5.0 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 5.0 Pauline:** Every Sunday, mostly it was Sunday, we get together and play cards and uh just lots of fun. With your family all the time. And we, we stay in touch like regarding Métis friends and that, that we've made from Lebret. We go up there once in a while and visit our mom's grave and uh just visit some of our relations and it's nice to go back to your home. I feel I can go home.
- 5.6 Cheryl:** What about you Norma? Where were you born?
- 5.7 Norma:** I was born in Lebret as well, probably up in the same hills as Pauline. [Ladies laughing] And uh, like we lived up in the hills, I think we lived on somebody's farm. I don't know if we were renting it or we were, my Dad was just working there or what. But we, our neighbours were few and far between at that time. See they'd have to go hitch up the horses and the wagon and you know there were times we'd all, we'd go visiting other people of our family. You know and we were, we'd go to the lake, my mom would make uh salads and cook all kinds of goodies and we'd all go down to the lake have a nice picnic. But uh, Mission Lake there, usually down by the Seminary but uh, we'd go. And I agree with Pauline like when we lived at the Métis farm it was, it was a lot of fun. And uh, after we moved from there it was just...no longer fun.
- 6.9 Billie:** Especially, especially after Mom died.
- 6.9 Norma:** Yeah.
- 6.9 Billie:** She died in 1950. She was only thirty-nine years old and she had sixteen kids; it was hard. But we always, whatever we did we always tried to have fun. [Cough] We always had something to eat, whether it was bannock and grease. Tea [???
- 7.4 Pauline:** We'd come home from school and my Mom wasn't there no more.
- 7.5 Billie:** We had to learn to make bannock and ...
- 7.6 Pauline:** Well we learnt how when we were two.
- 7.6 Norma:** We always did things. So we made bread and stuff when we were very young.
- 7.7 Pauline:** Oh yeah, we always helped mom do stuff like that.
- 7.8 Norma:** Yeah.
- 7.8 Cheryl:** What was your mother's name?
- 7.8 Pauline:** Mary. Mary Welsh. She was an Amyotte before she, she married my dad.
- 7.9 Cheryl:** Okay. So was her family from...
- 7.9 Billie:** Yeah.
- 7.9 Cheryl:** The area then or were they from...

- 8.0 Pauline:** Well Grandpa, her mom's dad was from North Dakota, was born in North Dakota. I know we had all on our family tree, but I can't remember. Was he born...
- 8.2 Norma:** He was born in Turtle Mountain.
- 8.3 Pauline:** Then he came here, I guess, and uh...
- 8.3 Billie:** We all lived together like...
- 8.3 Norma:** Yeah.
- 8.3 Billie:** ...a little community and there was...
- 8.4 Pauline:** Well we lived up there...
- 8.4 Billie:** We had about ten families up there.
- 8.5 Pauline:** Like there was already a Métis community on their own lots that when we moved up the hill there. But uh yeah we had fun. We lived quite a ways away but we'd get together once a month with all the Métis kids up there. We'd have ball games and uh roast potatoes. Make a big fire and roast potatoes and stuff like that. You know? I just, you know it's just so sad now. I just wish that my kids could a had...
- 8.9 Billie:** Yeah.
- 8.9 Pauline:** ...stuff like that you know.
- 9.0 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 9.0 Norma:** I consider it the best days of my whole life. Up until my mother died. It was, we were just happy. We did grow gardens, we picked berries...
- 9.1 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 9.0 Norma:** ...and you know. Us kids always had to make our own games up and...
- 9.3 Pauline:** Our own rules.
- 9.0 Norma:** ...we always had fun. It was just great doing that.
- 9.4 Pauline:** I can remember in the summer time when preparing for winter. We'd uh pick berries. We'd all go pick berries. The whole family would and Mom would can them. She'd have to can them; we didn't have a fridge or a deep freeze.
- 9.6 Cheryl:** Just going to move the camera a little bit so I can get some close ups of you. What about uh...what was your father's name?
- 9.9 Pauline:** Joe Amyotte...
- 9.9 Cheryl:** Joe or Joel?
- 9.9 Pauline:** ...I mean Joe Welsh.
- 9.9 Cheryl:** Okay. And uh what about his parents, like your Grandparents? What were their names?
- 10.0 Billie:** Veronica and Francelle FX. [Do not know if spelling is correct]
- 10.1 Cheryl:** Okay.
- 10.1 Billie:** And like our Grandparents didn't speak English. They spoke French most of the time. Once in a while they spoke Cree. But we never did learn the language.
- 10.4 Pauline:** Well, we were actually...
- 10.4 Billie:** We learnt how to swear, that's about it.

- 10.4 Pauline:** ...but my Dad's uh parents, like he...when Dad was about six or around there somewhere he went to live with Peter Blondeau and his wife eh. Cause they weren't able to have kids and to me he was more my, they were more my Grandparents than my Dad's parents. We each saw more of them, like you know just about every Christmas.
- 10.9 Norma:** Actually it was uh [???] wife was Dad's aunt.
- 10.9 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 11.0 Cheryl:** So it was an extended family then?
- 11.0 Pauline:** Yeah my Dad's mom and...
- 11.1 Billie:** No your Dad's dad and her were brother and sister. She was a Welsh.
- 11.2 Pauline:** Oh, she was?
- 11.2 Pauline:** I know she's related to Grandma. She was a...
- 11.3 Billie:** I'm still learning.
- 11.3 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- 11.3 Norma:** She was Dad's aunt.
- 11.4 Pauline:** Yeah. So we seen more of them then we did, mind you we used to see my Dad's mom and dad, but not as often as them.
- 11.6 Norma:** While we were living up on the farm we didn't see them that much but they lived up on the hill about what, half a mile from us?
- 11.7 Billie:** But we never did get close to Grandpa Welsh. [???] We didn't get close like the other Grandpas.
- 11.9 Pauline:** Well everybody then was Grandma or Grandpa; it didn't matter who they were. We had another Grandma that was, what's her name? Kohkum [???]
- 12.0 Billie:** Yeah. Uh huh.
- 12.1 Pauline:** She's just a little tiny woman. You know and every, she was everybody's Kohkum.
- 12.1 Billie:** We lived in her house when you were born.
- 12.2 Norma:** Yeah. Gee. I remembered that. [Ladies Laughing]
- 12.2 Norma:** See we called everybody Auntie and Uncle.
- 12.2 Billie:** Yeah. Just out of respect, I think, we called everybody that.
- 12.3 Pauline:** I still do.
- 12.3 Norma:** And that was one of the big things, as we were growing up, is respect. One of the most major things was have respect... for people.
- 12.5 Pauline:** We, we never had our Mom for very long but she sure, you know, she sure taught us a lot while, while she was there in the fourteen years I knew my mom. Like she really taught us a lot like to care and share for other people, respect. Uh all those things that nowadays I don't know about that. It's just scary.
- 12.9 Cheryl:** Uh huh. Your uh, in the [???] tree that was done with Billie, she mentioned that your Mom uh, could read and write...
- 13.0 Pauline:** Uh huh.
- 12.9 Cheryl:** ...and that she wrote letters for people in the community?

- 13.1 Pauline:** Yeah. Mom was very smart.
- 13.1 Billie:** We moved to the Métis farm and she's the only one who could read and write so, she did everybody's Christmas cards, everybody's letters.
- 13.2 Cheryl:** So where would she have gone to school then?
- 13.3 Billie:** She went to school in Lebret. I believe she went to grade eight, didn't she?
- 13.4 Norma:** I'm not sure.
- 13.4 Pauline:** I'm not sure either but I know my, I know Mom was very smart...
- 13.4 Norma:** Yeah.
- 13.4 Pauline:** ...she was, she was really smart. Yeah.
- 13.5 Norma:** She was life smart too. Which at that time I think was more important than an education.
- 13.6 Billie:** An education.
- 13.7 Norma:** I think girls just in her era, just became a certain age, they got married and had big families.
- 13.8 Pauline:** I think Mom was fifteen when she got married.
- 13.8 Norma:** Uhhuh.
- 13.9 Pauline:** Yeah. So when I, when I look at what she went through, like, the things she had to do for all of us kids like wash clothes and she used the tub and a washboard. She never had any of this stuff now. I can't even hardly go downstairs and throw clothes in my washing machine. [Ladies laughing] It just, it just amazes me...
- 13.9 Billie:** How she had to haul water, too.
- 13.9 Pauline:** ...what she had to go, yeah we had to haul water. We had to uh...
- 14.4 Billie:** We used to like winter cause we melted snow and we didn't have to haul water.
- 14.5 Norma:** Yeah, but you know it was fun. We used to go out into the bush and get our wood for winter. You know, we take the horse and the harness and go down and we'd hook a bunch of trees onto him and uh, we'd go and saw the wood and then chop it. Whatever we had to do but, we had to haul water from the sloughs or dams or the well.
- 14.9 Pauline:** Wells. We'd get water from the wells about, I don't know how far it was. It was far when you had to carry it in a pail. [Ladies laughing]
- 15.0 Cheryl:** How many uh, children were there in your family?
- 15.0 Billie:** Fifteen.
- 15.0 Cheryl:** Fifteen?
- 15.1 Billie:** Yeah.
- 15.1 Cheryl:** And how many boys and how many girls?
- 15.1 Pauline:** There was six boys and...
- 15.1 Billie:** Eight girls.
- 15.1 Pauline:** ...eight girls.
- 15.2 Norma:** No there was nine girls. The one...
- 15.2 Pauline:** Yeah one died.

- 15.2 Norma:** ...The one sister died when she was only about eighteen months old.
- 15.3 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 15.3 Norma:** And she died of double pneumonia.
- 15.4 Billie:** So like and our two, we had two brothers that was older than us. And when they grew up they left home so then all the chores fell on us eh.
- 15.5 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 15.5 Billie:** I think we were all doing chores.
- 15.6 Norma:** I didn't mind doing chores. That's one thing, you know, I just...we knew it had to be done and Mom didn't ever have to tell us more than once. And half the time she didn't have to tell us, we just knew...
- 15.8 Pauline:** Just knew we had...
- 15.6 Norma:** It had to be done and that was it.
- 15.8 Pauline:** ...if we wanted to keep warm we'd go out and saw wood. Like I remember sittin' on the wood while she sawed it. And I remember her killing a chicken one time. [Ladies laughing]
- 16.0 Billie:** She had her eyes closed.
- 16.0 Pauline:** She had her eyes closed and the chicken was hoppin' around like with his head cut off and oh. She was just screaming, that chicken was... [Ladies Laughing] Poor thing.
- 16.2 Norma:** Of course there was trapping rabbits and ice fishing and just other fishing too in the summer time.
- 16.4 Cheryl:** And did you, did you do that with your Dad? Or did you...?
- 16.4 Pauline:** We just did it ourselves most of the time. We knew what to do and we did it. That was great; I really enjoyed that part of my life. That was, it was heaven compared to now.
- 16.7 Pauline:** Which is just sad now. I just feel sad for the kids nowadays cause they, they don't know what they missed out on not havin' that kind of a life, eh.
- 16.9 Norma:** Of course there was school and stopping off at Grandma's on the way home and having some bannock and jam...
- 17.0 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 16.9 Norma:** ...or whatever she had.
- 17.1 Cheryl:** Uhuh. Was this your Mom's...?
- 17.1 Norma:** My Mom's mother.
- 17.2 Pauline:** She lived on the way going to school. But in the wintertime when we moved, after we moved off the farm, we lived up in the hills where the Seminary was up there. And we'd slide down the hill right across the lake so it wasn't so far. But in the summertime we had to walk all the way around the lake. Quite a big difference. But we had fun.
- 17.6 Norma:** But it was still fun.
- 17.6 Pauline:** Yeah. Used to get a piece of cardboard and go slidin' down the hill. We'd be halfway to school by the time we got there. [Ladies laughing] Oh it was fun. We used to have so much fun.

- 17.8 Cheryl:** And you mentioned uh, that you used to play baseball with the other kids.
- 17.9 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 17.9 Cheryl:** What other kind, what other kind of games did you play?
- 17.9 Pauline:** Uh...
- 17.9 Norma:** [???] [Ladies laughing]
- 18.1 Norma:** Oh, we used to play uh, Red Rover, Red Rover and what one where you threw the ball over the, over the house?
- 18.2 Billie:** That'd be over the shanty.
- 18.2 Pauline:** Shanty. Yeah over the shanty.
- 18.2 Norma:** Yeah.
- 18.2 Billie:** And that other one was, what uh, where a bunch of us used to be, had a leader, used to go and hide all these people. It was like called...
- 18.4 Norma:** Oh yeah. You know I can't remember the name of it. But we used to, we played pick up stick. In the wintertime we'd make angels out in the snow. And in the wintertime you couldn't keep us in the house. We were always outside.
- 18.7 Pauline:** Out in the bush there'd be ten feet of snow and we'd jump out the trees into the snow bank.
- 18.7 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- 18.8 Norma:** And uh, we'd always be soakin' wet when we came back in cause that's the only way we come in, is when we were so wet that we had to go in and dry our clothes but we stayed outside.
- 19.0 Pauline:** But when you got up in the morning and put your clothes on they were still wet. [Ladies laughing] Go to school.
- 19.1 Norma:** And we were living in this little shack up in the hills there and this is after we left the Métis farm and we had a horse, we'd call him Prince, and he, of course, there was a barn there too that he used to go in. But he used to come in the morning and poke his head in our windows. [Ladies laughing] Because we never had on our windows, cause it was always broken. So we always had cardboard up there or old blankets.
- 19.5 Billie:** [???] from the Seminary.
- 19.6 Norma:** Yeah.
- 19.6 Pauline:** Well nobody would use the door, they just used the windows. [Ladies laughing] The windows were always open. The door was always closed. I don't know how, why the door was closed.
- 19.7 Billie:** To keep the flies out.
- 19.8 Pauline:** But to have a bath you had to nail the blankets to the window so nobody would come in while you were sittin' in the tub.
- 19.9 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- 19.9 Norma:** And I can also remember the times when, when if you saw a stranger or one happened to walk by, you invited him in and gave him tea or cake or whatever you had. And because nobody was afraid of strangers in those days; you didn't have to be.
- 20.2 Pauline:** Never locked our doors. You know, people used to come and visit New Years, like, Christmas and New Years was so good, like

- we never got presents, you know. We always got candy and stuff like, you know, Mom made sure we got something but...
- 20.5 Billie:** Well we got homemade presents.
- 20.5 Pauline:** Yeah, she made little hankies and uh we'd have, Dad would make uh, toys for the boys out of wood, you know, and cans.
- 20.6 Pauline:** Spools of thread, you know, then we learned how to do that ourselves so we used to make our own in the summertime.
- 20.8 Norma:** It was very uh...
- 20.8 Pauline:** It was, it was nice, like, we celebrated, we didn't celebrate Santa Claus. We celebrated the birth of Jesus. That's what we celebrated. And uh...
- 21.0 Norma:** New Years was a nice time because you'd hitch up the sleigh and then everybody be going to Grandma's and you'd stop at other people's houses along the way and.
- 21.1 Pauline:** When they'd come to our house, Mom would put on the boulets soup and the bannock and people would come. They'd bring homemade wine and... [Ladies Laughing].
- 21.3 Norma:** Was it as good as Billie's?
- 21.4 Pauline:** I don't know. [Ladies Laughing] Oh goodness sakes I wouldn't even try Billie's. [Ladies Laughing]
- 21.5 Billie:** [???) passed out. [Ladies Laughing]
- 21.5 Pauline:** She made some beer, was it beer or wine?
- 21.6 Billie:** Yeah it was beer.
- 21.6 Pauline:** Oh my goodness you wouldn't believe how gross it was. She had raisins and oh gross. Put that in a big tub and she put it under our bed at night. [Ladies Laughing] And she'd pull it out once in a while to take a look at it. Oh.
- 21.9 Billie:** Where else was I supposed to put it?
- 21.9 Pauline:** I don't know. But anyway the priests, the brothers from the Seminary used to come up and it just smelled like this stuff and oh my goodness.
- 22.1 Norma:** Yeah, brothers used to take us uh, every summer they'd take us on a picnic and give us boat rides and of course there was catechism before all that.
- 22.3 Pauline:** We had cat, catechism for two months on our summer holidays. Then at the last day of catechism they'd uh, put on this great big barbeque with hotdogs and...
- 22.5 Norma:** Homemade ice cream.
- 22.5 Pauline:** Homemade ice cream. Yeah. Take us out on the boat. This one time we went out on the boat ourselves and got stuck out there. Somebody had to swim and get us.
- 22.7 Billie:** How did we get stuck?
- 22.7 Pauline:** I don't know.
- 22.7 Norma:** We were stuck in weeds or something. I can't remember.
- 22.7 Pauline:** Oh. Well we rowed out there but nobody knew how to get us back in. Cause we were all screaming and yelling out there and uh, once Martin pushed us in he jumped on the boat and pushed us.



- 23.0 Norma:** But you know, the church was a big part of our lives too. We went to church every Sunday. We'd go to Benediction. There was always a reason, I think almost every day of the week, that we had to go to church. We were all in the choir. We always sang in the choir. Uh once we were old enough to do that. Our Dad sang in the choir for years. That was very nice.
- 23.4 Pauline:** Dad had a nice voice, he could sing.
- 23.5 Norma:** I used to really enjoy midnight mass because like just, it seemed to be just about always we had to walk to the church anyway from the Métis farm or where ever else we lived. It would snow, you know, when we were walking to mass it would snow.
- 23.8 Pauline:** Well I remember walking to the church but I don't remember mass cause I used to fall asleep in church. [Ladies Laughing] You know we were poor, but a lot of, everybody was like us. Nobody else, like all the Métis people were the same as we were. We were poor but we had fun. Even though we had to go quite a ways to see our friends, like, we all got together and we did things. Went sliding in the wintertime, skating, you know, we always found fun stuff to do. And we didn't need anything. I don't know what we used for a baseball and a bat when we played baseball. I think we made one out of a sock or something. [Ladies Laughing]
- 24.6 Norma:** Well the Seminary used to give us baseball bats and stuff.
- 24.7 Pauline:** But we had fun. You know, we didn't have nothing but we had fun.
- 24.8 Norma:** We had love.
- 24.8 Billie:** A lot of it.
- 24.8 Pauline:** Sharing and caring.
- 24.9 Norma:** And we always ate. We never starved. We always had something to eat.
- 25.0 Cheryl:** Uhhuh.
- 25.0 Pauline:** And the thing is, other kids used to want to come home with us. We always had room for other people's kids. Like if relatives, they all wanted to come to our place.
- 25.1 Norma:** Well they'd always, everybody liked Mom.
- 25.2 Pauline:** She was like a big kid too, you know, and she...
- 25.2 Norma:** She liked to play around with the kids too.
- 25.3 Pauline:** At Halloween she'd make toffee. That stretch stuff you had to stretch.
- 25.4 Norma:** Yeah it was pull toffee.
- 25.4 Pauline:** From one end of the kitchen to the other.
- 25.5 Cheryl:** At Halloween?
- 25.5 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 25.5 Cheryl:** So what else, what else did you do on Halloween then?
- 25.5 Pauline:** Well she, she used to have things for all the kids on the farm. They all used to come to our place.
- 25.6 Cheryl:** Yeah.
- 25.6 Pauline:** There'd be benches set around in our...
- 25.7 Billie:** Oh we used to go from house to house.

- 25.7 Pauline:** Yeah and uh...
- 25.7 Billie:** We never got candies. I remember getting...
- 25.7 Norma:** Apples.
- 25.8 Billie:** ...apples. Yeah and stuff like that.
- 25.8 Norma:** Mostly it was apples, oranges and stuff like that. Some kids would knock over toilets and that kind of thing but. [Ladies Laughing]
- 26.0 Pauline:** Some kids? [Ladies Laughing]
- 26.0 Norma:** I never did.
- 26.0 Pauline:** Come on. [Ladies Laughing] Billie?
- 26.1 Norma:** But like we never lived that close to Grandma and Grandpa Welsh. Like they did live in the valley at one time and then they moved to Fort Qu'Appelle. So we didn't see them that often. Although we used to go and see them once in a while.
- 26.3 Pauline:** Yeah. Or I remember hitching up the old horse, me and Norma and the buggy and going to Fort Qu'Appelle to visit Grandma and Grandpa.
- 26.5 Billie:** Grandma Welsh was always there when Mom had a baby.
- 26.5 Norma:** Yeah, she was uh, I guess you could call her the uh, what are they called again?
- 26.6 Pauline:** Midwife.
- 26.6 Cheryl:** Midwife.
- 26.6 Norma:** Midwife and a so was our, her Mom was too. But she...
- 26.7 Billie:** She used tell us stories in Cree. We never understood one word she said; they used to sit there and listen to her.
- 26.8 Norma:** We were always fascinated by her stories and we never even knew what she was talking about.
- 26.9 Pauline:** She'd talk and talk and talk and then she'd know we couldn't understand her and she'd turn around and look at us. She'd be busy with the stove and she'd just laugh because she knew [Cheryl Laughing] that these guys were lost.
- 27.1 Billie:** She'd have a baby under one arm and she'd stir the soup and tell us a story.
- 27.1 Norma:** And then of course there was the stories about Rugaroos.
- 27.2 Billie:** Yeah.
- 27.2 Norma:** That was always a big thing. Used to scare the crap out of me whenever I'd hear one. Cause after somebody'd tell you a story, yeah, every little sound you heard would be "Oh my God" you know.
- 27.5 Pauline:** Well there's some people in Lebret that still say there's a Rugaroo out there.
- 27.5 Norma:** Oh yeah. Clifford always believes in...
- 27.6 Pauline:** So does Joey. I think our brother Joey talks about them. The Rugaroo in Lebret.
- 27.7 Cheryl:** So what's the story of the Rugaroo in Lebret then? Like I've heard a bunch of different stories but what's this one?
- 27.8 Pauline:** Well this guy he lives uh, just about a mile out of Lebret. He lives in the hills. And he flies at night.
- 28.0 Norma:** And his clothes line was twenty feet high.

- 28.1 Pauline:** Yeah. And he was sliding on the clothes line or something [Ladies Laughing] He was hanging and going down. But anyway he was a Rugaroo and he changed to something at night. We don't know.
- 28.3 Norma:** Yeah something with hair, a hairy thing anyway.
- 28.4 Pauline:** Yeah but it was scary anyway.
- 28.4 Norma:** Somebody would always prove it by bringing a puff of fur or something like that. You know, dog hair or whatever it was. Hahaha. "See here it is! I grabbed it from the Rugaroo!" Hahaha. But it was pretty scary.
- 28.7 Pauline:** But when we went to school like it, it wasn't so bad. You know, like everybody was, we went to school with white kids.
- 28.9 Billie:** [???
- 28.9 Pauline:** Everybody was, like they treated us okay.
- 28.9 Norma:** Oh yeah.
- 28.9 Pauline:** Like uh...
- 29.0 Norma:** I never felt...
- 28.9 Pauline:** ...the thing we learnt was uh, Louis Riel was uh...
- 29.1 Norma:** Was a criminal.
- 29.1 Pauline:** Yeah and uh, Indians were savages.
- 29.2 Norma:** But I mean all the history books at that time were ...
- 29.2 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 29.2 Norma:** ...about that because they were all written by the Americans. But yeah and we began to believe that because we used to, Indians used to come down in the valley quite often.
- 29.4 Pauline:** The chiefs.
- 29.4 Norma:** You know, we'd have confession in the sum, in the summertime in June I think it was hey. And we'd have communion...
- 29.4 Billie:** We celebrated Corpus Christi.
- 29.5 Pauline:** Use to, we use to climb up that little hill to that little church in Lebret in June every year.
- 29.7 Norma:** Yeah. And it was marvellous; I loved it.
- 29.7 Pauline:** Next day the priest would say mass up there.
- 29.8 Billie:** Yeah. But the Indians used to bring their kids to the Indian school.
- 29.8 Norma:** Yeah.
- 29.9 Billie:** You know they used to pitch their tents in the coulee there. Of course we were scared to walk by there.
- 29.9 Norma:** We were always afraid of them after, after listen...
- 30.0 Pauline:** Yeah learning that they were...
- 30.0 Norma:** ...reading the history and the history books.
- 30.1 Pauline:** And then uh...
- 30.1 Norma:** We got scared them.
- 30.1 Pauline:** They said, I don't know who, who started this but they said if you look at an Indian in the eye, he'll, he'll turn your nose inside out.
- 30.2 Norma:** It was Uncle Eric said that to you, wasn't it?

- 30.2 Pauline:** So when all these tents, had to go through all these tents to get to school, right. So as soon as I got there I closed my eyes and...
- 30.4 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- 30.2 Pauline:** ...tried to watch so I wouldn't look, have to look at anybody in the eye but, I, when I get through I thought well nothing happened like their, their okay these people. They...
- 30.6 Norma:** But Dad always visited them like he knew them. He knew the chiefs.
- 30.7 Pauline:** Oh they used to be dressed so...
- 30.7 Billie:** Dad was the Indian agent at one time.
- 30.7 Norma:** They were marvellous people actually.
- 30.7 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 30.8 Billie:** Use to spend a lot of time out on the reserves.
- 30.8 Norma:** Yeah.
- 30.8 Pauline:** He was building a house out there, Dad right on the reserve at one time?
- 30.9 Billie:** They were building roads, yeah.
- 30.9 Pauline:** That's when you were born out there.
- 30.9 Billie:** Yeah.
- 31.0 Norma:** Yeah.
- 31.0 Billie:** Call me Pasqua. [Ladies Laughing] Some of the people from there still call me Pasqua.
- 31.1 Pauline:** You got a lot of names.
- 31.1 Billie:** Yeah.
- 31.2 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- 31.2 Billie:** Yeah. We won't mention it.
- 31.2 Billie:** Hahaha.
- 31.3 Pauline:** No it was, we had our bad times but then we were like most of the time we were pretty happy. We, like there was enough of us in our family to, you never ran out of anybody to play with or have fun or to fight with or whatever. But, you know, we kept uh, and then when we moved to Fort Qu'Appelle. I think we lived there for a year and then, and our younger brothers and sisters, Dad decided to put them in the orphanage. So that was another, after losing our Mom that was another low point in our lives. And I think Billie and I, Norma you were in Regina right then? Well when did you go to Regina?
- 32.0 Norma:** I went with Uncle Norbert and Dad to...
- 32.0 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 32.0 Norma:** ...take the kids there. That's how we came back from White Fox.
- 32.1 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 32.1 Norma:** You and I were in White Fox. And we came back and I went to Dad and Uncle Norbert.
- 32.2 Pauline:** After they took the kids, Billie and I never had a place to live. We were homeless the four of us. For a couple years until I got old enough to get a job at the hospital. Then I had to lie about, I lied to them about that, that I was old enough to work there and I wasn't

but when they found out I was, I was old enough by the time they found out.

**32.6 Cheryl:** So how many of the kids went to the orphanage then?

**32.7 Billie:** It must have been nine.

**32.7 Pauline:** Eight.

**32.7 Billie:** Nine. Or was it eight?

**32.7 Norma:** Yeah, eight.

**32.7 Pauline:** Eight. Yeah.

**32.7 Billie:** Eight.

**32.7 Pauline:** And they were...

**32.8 Billie:** Well Madeline [???

**32.7 Pauline:** ...they were in there for, what seven, eight years?

**32.9 Norma:** Some of them...some of them left sooner...

**32.9 Billie:** Yeah.

**32.9 Pauline:** ...than that.

**32.9 Norma:** Yeah.

**33.0 Cheryl:** That must have been really hard, the separation.

**33.0 Pauline:** Oh that was hard. It was so hard on them, oh my goodness.

**33.1 Norma:** It was a heartbreaking...

**33.1 Pauline:** Yeah.

**33.1 Norma:** Cec was only two or three.

**33.1 Pauline:** Three.

**33.1 Billie:** She would have been four.

**33.1 Norma:** She was four, yeah.

**33.2 Pauline:** I don't know what ever possessed Dad to do that.

**33.2 Billie:** Grandpa, Grandpa Welsh.

**33.3 Pauline:** I think he had cause, I think there was a couple people down in Fort Qu'Appelle telling him to do this. And he just went ahead and did it.

**33.4 Billie:** Well the last, the last few wee years that Dad was at home he drank a lot.

**33.6 Pauline:** I don't, I don't remember Dad being here.

**33.6 Norma:** Well he drank a lot after Mom died.

**33.7 Billie:** Yeah.

**33.7 Pauline:** Did he?

**33.7 Billie:** Yeah.

**33.8 Cheryl:** So did you get to see the, once the kids went into the orphanage did you get re, like stay in contact with them or?

**33.8 Billie:** Yeah we went to visit them once in a while.

**33.8 Pauline:** At Christmas time we went up and then we went up to uh, Madeline's. She's the oldest one there, to her graduation uh, and uh, [Cough] but if I'd a known those kids were being treated the way they were treated, I'd a been up there a lot sooner, I'll tell you. Yeah. There's no way.

**34.1 Norma:** But they still say it, probably the best thing that could of happened to them because...

**34.2 Pauline:** Yeah. They got their education.

- 34.2 Billie:** Yeah.
- 34.2 Norma:** And at that point...
- 34.2 Billie:** They had discipline I think.
- 34.3 Norma:** Yeah.
- 34.3 Pauline:** They're all uh, doing well now, you know. I think, I think one brother I'm concerned about is Joey because he, I think he felt it the most.
- 34.5 Norma:** But I think we had too many people interfering in our lives at that time...
- 34.5 Billie:** Yeah.
- 34.5 Norma:** ...because you know they were afraid we were all gonna go wild and, you know, all this kind of thing.
- 34.6 Pauline:** Social Services, they'd send somebody down there to talk to us and have you got boyfriends? Are you having sex? Are you this? Are you that? Like, you know, didn't even dawn on us.
- 34.9 Norma:** I kicked them out.
- 34.9 Billie:** They never helped us financially. Like us, we looked after the kids and we had no clothes. We had nothing.
- 35.0 Pauline:** I don't even know what happened to the Family Allowance. I don't know uh.
- 35.1 Norma:** It went to the orphanage after...
- 35.1 Billie:** Yeah.
- 35.1 Norma:** ...after they went but I remember this welfare guy coming down and talking to us. That's when he was asking about boyfriends and stuff.
- 35.3 Pauline:** He asked me if I was a virgin and our Mom was upstairs. He said if I was young, he said I'd take you out myself and he asked me if I was a virgin. She came flying down the stairs and told him to get out and oh my goodness. [Ladies Laughing] I was shocked after hearing that. What was this guy talking about?
- 35.6 Norma:** Well at that time I didn't even know, I didn't even know what a virgin was. However, [Ladies Laughing] I knew what he was doing...
- 35.7 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 35.6 Norma:** ...you know.
- 35.8 Pauline:** It, it, like it wouldn't have been so bad but they weren't helping us one bit whatsoever so why were they butting in, like.
- 35.9 Norma:** Yeah.
- 35.9 Pauline:** And I think well why, you know, if I'd have know anything about Social Services, you're darn right I would have never helped.
- 36.0 Norma:** Yeah. But we didn't know any different.
- 36.1 Pauline:** No.
- 36.1 Norma:** And when Dad, Mom died, Dad might of well as died then too because he just fell apart and could never, he could never focus.
- 36.3 Pauline:** For the longest time we didn't know where Dad was. Months. And when our oldest, our oldest brother came down, he was in the army yet then, he came down and he found out Dad was in uh, in the [???) wing at the general hospital.

- 36.6 Billie:** Well I knew he was there.
- 36.6 Pauline:** I don't know how long he was there. I, I didn't know...
- 36.6 Billie:** Used to go and visit him.
- 36.7 Pauline:** We didn't know. I didn't know.
- 36.7 Norma:** Well I knew he was there but I nev, I don't know if that was where I was at that time. But...
- 36.9 Cheryl:** So it sounds like it was, you know the three of you that really tried to hold the family together...
- 36.9 Pauline:** Yeah. Yeah.
- 36.9 Cheryl:** ...for a period of time.
- 37.1 Norma:** But we failed. I, I shouldn't say we failed but like I said there was too much interference...
- 37.1 Cheryl:** Yeah.
- 37.2 Norma:** ...from other people
- 37.2 Pauline:** And, and like, we were young too, you know.
- 37.2 Billie:** We had no clothes, like.
- 37.2 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 37.2 Norma:** I was fifteen uh, when Mom died. Well going on sixteen. And uh, there was nine kids younger than I was. So Pauline and I are close in age like, we're only a year or so apart but uh, we had lives to live ourselves.
- 37.5 Pauline:** We all took turns. [???] Yeah. But I, I don't know. I can't say we didn't do, I think we did a good job.
- 37.6 Billie:** Oh yeah.
- 37.6 Norma:** Oh yeah.
- 37.6 Pauline:** Being so young and being, have, taking over the responsibility of our mother, like that's a pretty big, big deal and I think...
- 37.8 Cheryl:** Well yeah, you were still going through, you know...
- 37.8 Pauline:** Yeah. Yeah.
- 37.8 Cheryl:** ...that mourning because your mother just passed away.
- 37.9 Norma:** And she died at childbirth.
- 38.0 Billie:** Well the other thing that was scary too, like we had a few uncles that used to molest the children. So that was what scared me.
- 38.2 Norma:** Yeah, but Dad's sister eventually adopted our baby sister uh...
- 38.3 Cheryl:** The one that was born when your...
- 38.3 Norma:** Yeah.
- 38.3 Pauline:** Yeah, right from the hospital so we, we, we didn't, we used to go to Fort and visit her once in a while.
- 38.5 Norma:** But she's...
- 38.5 Pauline:** She finally, finally came and found us in Regina like uh, Dad and Auntie, like who adopted her, moved to Regina. She came and found us, all of us and now she, she was here on Sunday. She's family.
- 38.7 Billie:** Celebrated her birthday.
- 38.7 Pauline:** Yeah. You know, she's our baby sister.

- 38.9 Norma:** But like, we didn't know how, I just found out recently that my Grandpa, my mother's dad, who was supposedly born in Bel, Belcourt uh, the reserve in North Dakota, he had four sisters, that we never ever knew them. And where they are, I have no idea.
- 39.3 Pauline:** Yeah. We don't know.
- 39.3 Billie:** They must be in the States.
- 39.4 Norma:** Yeah.
- 39.4 Cheryl:** Yeah, there's lots of Amyottes down in...
- 39.4 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 39.4 Cheryl:** ...Turtle Mountain.
- 39.5 Norma:** And in those days, like, nobody thought of asking about uh, you know, where they came from...
- 39.5 Billie:** Yeah.
- 39.5 Norma:** ...or anything like that. So I, my son was working on the family tree, well and my niece too and uh, they worked on one. We finally got, we got back to the fourteenth century actually. So.
- 39.8 Pauline:** Must have been Homosapiens then. [Ladies Laughing]
- 39.9 Norma:** We... [???] [Ladies Laughing]
- 40.0 Pauline:** See how much we love each other.
- 40.0 Cheryl:** Yeah. [Ladies Laughing] When you were uh, you mentioned a little bit before about gardening and that type of thing. Was there community gardens?
- 40.2 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 40.0 Cheryl:** Or was, did you each have your own?
- 40.2 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 40.0 Cheryl:** Did you plant...
- 40.3 Pauline:** Out at the Métis farm it was a community gardens, but all the kids would get together during the summer holidays and that's what we'd do. We'd weed the gardens and, but they used to pay us. I can remember...
- 40.4 Billie:** Throw potatoes at us.
- 40.3 Pauline:** I got a check for twenty-five cents and I couldn't believe it. That was lots of money in those days. Boy I could...
- 40.6 Billie:** Never paid me.
- 40.3 Pauline:** ...buy a whole big bag full of jawbreakers. That big. Yeah.
- 40.7 Norma:** You could buy a ton of jawbreakers for that.
- 40.7 Cheryl:** And that was for weeding the gardens?
- 40.8 Pauline:** Yeah. They, I could, they paid us.
- 40.8 Cheryl:** So how did, how did your family end up on the Métis farm? Did you like, was there uh, was there some type of selection process? Or did you...
- 40.9 Billie:** Yeah. I think the Oblate Fathers...
- 40.8 Cheryl:** ...you know, were you working there?
- 41.0 Billie:** The Oblate Fathers started the Métis farm, I think that's how it was picked.
- 41.0 Norma:** Yeah. Some of us...
- 41.1 Billie:** Who was a good Catholic. Hahaha.



- 41.0 Norma:** ...some of us went to the Métis farm in Lebret, some went to Green Lake...
- 41.2 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 41.0 Norma:** ...and where there's two other ones in Saskatchewan. I can't remember exactly.
- 41.2 Pauline:** I think Maple Creek.
- 41.3 Norma:** Is one in Maple Creek? I don't know.
- 41.3 Pauline:** Some were around there. I forget too.
- 41.4 Norma:** But uh, anyway we were chosen to go there and we had cows, we had a team of horses.
- 41.5 Pauline:** When we moved up there we, yeah.
- 41.5 Norma:** When we moved up there and it was all part of, you know, the community and all that kind of stuff. And my Dad looked after the pigs.
- 41.7 Pauline:** And the bees.
- 41.7 Norma:** And yeah, he could look after bees. And uh, he eventually developed...
- 41.8 Pauline:** An allergy.
- 41.8 Billie:** Emphysema?
- 41.9 Norma:** What did you call it?
- 41.9 Billie:** Emphysema.
- 42.0 Norma:** Emphysema. Yeah, and he was told it was because of...
- 42.0 Cheryl:** The fumes from the pigs?
- 42.0 Billie:** Yeah, yeah. We had seven thousand pigs.
- 42.1 Norma:** And of course also working out on the farm, on the land, which was pretty dusty at times and uh, he had to quit work. He couldn't work anymore.
- 42.3 Pauline:** Well his face was so swollen in his eyes that he didn't even look like my Dad. Like, you know?
- 42.4 Norma:** And he had uh, they never gave us anything. They just told us we had to leave and that was...
- 42.5 Cheryl:** As soon, as soon as he couldn't work anymore?
- 42.6 Pauline:** Yeah, see and when we went up there we had horses and cows, a cow I don't know if we had more than one cow.
- 42.6 Billie:** Yeah, we had two, three.
- 42.7 Pauline:** But when we left, like, we didn't even have a house to live in.
- 42.7 Norma:** We just got told we had to move and that was it.
- 42.8 Cheryl:** And what were some of the families that were up there at that time?
- 42.9 Pauline:** Blondeaus.
- 42.9 Norma:** Blondeaus, Desjarlais.
- 42.9 Pauline:** Friesens, [???], Pelletiers, uh.
- 43.0 Norma:** [???], uh Morins.
- 43.1 Cheryl:** And these were families that were all living on the farm?
- 43.2 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 43.2 Norma:** Yeah.

- 43.2 Pauline:** Well some would move off and new ones would move in. But they were all people we knew.
- 43.3 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 43.4 Norma:** But we used to have quite a lot of fun up there too because they had a little, a hall where, where we could hold functions and stuff and there'd be square dances and you know, uh...
- 43.5 Billie:** Weddings.
- 43.4 Norma:** ...potlucks and stuff.
- 43.6 Pauline:** Bingos and would you believe that's the last time I won at a bingo. I won a pair of socks. [Ladies Laughing] I was twenty-seven years old.
- 43.8 Billie:** I won some shaving cream.
- 43.8 Pauline:** Then my Dad used to say le Michif, le Michif. I don't know, they were having meetings there or what? But they always go there, get together. It's a nice place to go because we could all get together you know?
- 44.0 Norma:** But that was a good part before we moved to the farm too, is there'd always be somebody having a, a party at their house. And everybody would go, all the neighbours up on the hill would go and there'd be square dancing and jigging and food and I remember uh, everybody putting their jackets in the bedroom...
- 44.4 Billie:** Yeah.
- 44.0 Norma:** ...and then the whole family would go, not just Mom and Dad.
- 44.5 Cheryl:** Uhhuh.
- 44.5 Pauline:** The kids.
- 44.5 Norma:** The kids would be sleeping and they were laying on top of the coats and everywhere and that. [Ladies Laughing]
- 44.6 Pauline:** Under the coats.
- 44.6 Norma:** But it was just, ah, people were such marvellous dancers.
- 44.7 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 44.7 Norma:** In those days and you know some of these women were big women and just like, light as a feather on their feet. And always somebody, there's always somebody to play the violin.
- 44.9 Billie:** Yeah.
- 44.7 Norma:** It was just, and we'd be out in the hills, us kids and with some of the neighbour kids and we'd sit on the hill and sing. Sometimes...
- 45.1 Cheryl:** What songs would you sing? Do you remember?
- 45.2 Norma:** Uh...
- 45.2 Pauline:** Beautiful Brown Eyes.
- 45.2 Norma:** My Happiness, uh just I can't remember all of them but...
- 45.3 Pauline:** Hank Snow songs, Hank Williams songs...
- 45.3 Norma:** Yeah, and uh, Whispering Hope.
- 45.4 Billie:** Yeah.
- 45.4 Norma:** You know, just beautiful songs that...
- 45.5 Pauline:** Row, Row Your Boat. Used to sing it in two parts.
- 45.5 Norma:** Yeah we used to sing all those.

- 45.6 Pauline:** Yeah. We used to harmonize.
- 45.6 Norma:** Yeah.
- 45.6 Pauline:** People used to get us to sing for them.
- 45.6 Norma:** Yeah. We would uh, you could hear us across the valley, you know, singing.
- 45.7 Pauline:** That's how loud we were. [Ladies Laughing]
- 45.8 Norma:** Well when you're singing at night...
- 45.8 Pauline:** Yeah, it carries.
- 45.8 Norma:** ...it carries better.
- 45.9 Pauline:** We used to lay down on a night when the Northern Lights would come. We used to lay on our backs and watch some of them. It looked like it was that close to us.
- 46.0 Norma:** Uhhuh.
- 46.0 Pauline:** And that's another thing; we were told that if we whistled they'd come down and choke us.
- 46.1 Billie:** Yeah. [Ladies Laughing]
- 46.2 Norma:** Imagine like the things people used to make up about those. You know, and they still haven't really figured out about the Northern Lights. Where they come from. They have a lot of theories but I don't think...
- 46.4 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 46.4 Pauline:** They were just beautiful. Scary too.
- 46.5 Norma:** Now if I see them I have to stop and watch them because they're so fascinating.
- 46.6 Cheryl:** So when you were singing, did you sing just in English? Or like you said, you were singing in church in the choir, did you sing in....
- 46.7 Pauline:** We used to sing in Latin or French. Yeah we used to learn songs in Latin.
- 46.7 Norma:** Latin and French. Although I you know I could never speak it. I couldn't even speak Michif.
- 46.8 Billie:** I don't remember saying what I was singing.
- 46.9 Cheryl:** But you could sing the songs?
- 46.9 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 46.9 Norma:** But to Mom and, and Dad who didn't speak Michif to us.
- 47.0 Pauline:** They used to talk to each other...
- 47.0 Norma:** Yeah.
- 47.0 Pauline:** ...if they didn't want us to know what they were saying.
- 47.1 Billie:** Yeah, they used to talk French to us.
- 47.1 Pauline:** They would talk English. Mom would talk in French. Dad, Dad...
- 47.1 Norma:** Dad would speak French fluently actually.
- 47.1 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 47.2 Cheryl:** So why do you think that they didn't teach you then?
- 47.2 Norma:** I don't know. I think that it, everybody started to speaking English. Maybe it was from school or whatever...
- 47.3 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 47.2 Norma:** ...you know?

- 47.4 Billie:** Well I don't know why they taught us, like when I had kids, I didn't want them to bring them up the way I was brought up. You know? And that was such a mistake. You know?
- 47.5 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 47.5 Billie:** I think a lot of parents did that.
- 47.6 Pauline:** I would give anything for my kids if we could...
- 47.6 Billie:** Yeah.
- 47.6 Pauline:** ...go back home. I'd let them grow up the way I did. Like, they would uh, really learn to appreciate a little bit more.
- 47.8 Norma:** But you know Billie can understand most of it. She can say words that are this long.
- 47.9 Pauline:** Hahaha.
- 47.9 Norma:** And now when I hear them, I just kill myself laughing. They sound so funny.
- 48.0 Pauline:** Well when she says them, like then it all comes back to me. Like, some of the words eh, I don't think I'd wanna say them with this camera in my face.
- 48.2 Norma:** Well I couldn't say those tongue twisters she says.
- 48.2 Pauline:** Roll me up.
- 48.2 Billie:** Well I can say a lot of words but I can't form a sentence. Like, I can't have a conversation.
- 48.3 Norma:** Well I can understand a lot of the words, you know, and you can get a pretty good idea what a person's talking about.
- 48.4 Cheryl:** Uh huh. Well I guess growing up when they were talk, if they were talking to each other...
- 48.4 Billie:** Uh huh.
- 48.4 Cheryl:** ...you'd kind of pick up what they were saying eventually, so...
- 48.5 Billie:** The catchy words I guess are the ones I caught on to. But it sure is a [???] language.
- 48.6 Norma:** A neat language too...
- 48.7 Pauline:** Well yeah, because like, it's a, our language is a unique. Like, you know, because we, there's three different languages in one sentence.
- 48.8 Norma:** Yeah.
- 48.8 Pauline:** Like there's French, Cree and English...
- 48.9 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 48.8 Pauline:** ...in one sentence. And I think that's a, like who else can do that? Only the Métis can.
- 49.0 Billie:** Hahaha.
- 49.0 Norma:** You're trilingual.
- 49.0 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 49.2 Norma:** But uh, it was a good life.
- 49.3 Cheryl:** So how many years then were you on the farm?
- 49.4 Billie:** I think we were out there for...
- 49.4 Norma:** Eight years.
- 49.5 Billie:** Eight years. Yeah. Something like that.

- 49.5 Pauline:** That was, I must have been four or five when we moved up there huh?
- 49.6 Billie:** Yeah.
- 49.6 Pauline:** I think I was eleven...
- 49.7 Norma:** And then we, we moved off in 1948. That I remember, because that's the year Cec was born.
- 49.7 Billie:** That was a sad, a sad time.
- 49.8 Norma:** I had to move, we moved in the summertime I think and Mom was pregnant. No. Yeah.
- 49.9 Billie:** Yeah she was.
- 49.9 Norma:** She was pregnant with Cec. The second youngest sister. So we had to move up to the hill in this little one room shack. Of course we pitched a tent. Didn't we? Where some of us slept or something.
- 50.1 Pauline:** I don't remember.
- 50.1 Norma:** While they built the house.
- 50.2 Pauline:** I don't remember a tent. I think we all...
- 50.2 Norma:** Well Billie's the one that told me that.
- 50.2 Pauline:** Oh. I don't know. Could be.
- 50.3 Norma:** That uh...
- 50.3 Pauline:** All I can remember is our mattresses and that's...
- 50.4 Billie:** Well that was when we moved up to the Métis farm.
- 50.4 Norma:** Oh, up to the Métis farm.
- 50.4 Pauline:** Yeah. We lived in tents cause the houses weren't finished. And I remember uh, the women cooking in the big, when we moved up to the Métis farm they were cooking in this great big granary. I thought we slept in that too because I didn't remember that until she said that, that we all had tents, until the houses were finished. Then I remembered the tents after she said that.
- 50.8 Norma:** Well we always had tents anyway because a lot of times in the summertime when Dad would be working on the road, on the highway, we'd all go with him. We'd live in the tent.
- 51.0 Pauline:** See I don't remember that.
- 51.0 Billie:** If it wasn't...
- 51.1 Norma:** Well it had to be in the summertime July and August.
- 51.1 Pauline:** I remember once living in a tent and I don't know where we were but I remember Dad was sitting outside, there was a fire, Mom was cooking something in a big pot outside, and we were running around singing Le [???]. [Ladies Laughing] That was a game or something we used to play too. Don't ask me what it was but...
- 51.5 Norma:** Oh well no...
- 51.5 Billie:** Oh that was like one potato, two potato.
- 51.6 Pauline:** [???] we'd run the fire saying that. Dad would be sitting there on a stump.
- 51.7 Norma:** [???].
- 51.7 Billie:** [???] was a pot they used to cook in.
- 51.8 Norma:** Well Le [???] is a pail.
- 51.8 Billie:** Yeah. So pot pail. [Ladies Laughing]

- 51.9 Cheryl:** You mentioned that your Dad, that you'd go when he was building the, when they were building the roads. Uh, is that the road that goes along the valley past...
- 52.1 Billie:** Past Katepwa.
- 51.9 Cheryl:** ...past Katepwa.
- 52.1 Billie:** Yeah, on the south side.
- 52.1 Cheryl:** So was there a group of Métis that built...
- 52.2 Billie:** Yeah. Yeah.
- 52.1 Cheryl:** ...there was a group of Métis that built that road.
- 52.2 Billie:** That was on the south side of Katepwa Lake.
- 52.2 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- 52.3 Billie:** Yeah.
- 52.3 Norma:** I think some of Mom's brothers were involved in that. Uncle Albert wasn't he?
- 52.3 Billie:** Uncle Pat.
- 52.3 Norma:** Uncle Pat, yeah.
- 52.4 Billie:** I remember we were, we used to kill gophers and roast them...
- 52.5 Pauline:** Eeewyuck.
- 52.4 Billie:** ...or squirrels.
- 52.6 Norma:** She remembers that. We don't.
- 52.6 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- 52.6 Norma:** Or maybe it's selective remembering.
- 52.7 Billie:** I was in tent house on the bed and I put some crumbs beside the bed and two squirrels came walking. I hit them on the head with my stick and they were running around, jumping all over. [Ladies Laughing] I ran out of the tent. Grandma Welsh cooking squirrels for us outside.
- 53.0 Pauline:** I don't remember that.
- 53.0 Norma:** They were good. I remember ice fishing in the wintertime. We'd fish on Mission Lake and my, my second oldest brother used to go out every morning and set his snares for the rabbits, you know? And I remember my Grandpa knew about all this and where he set his snares and everything. So I guess, one, I don't know if he did this in the morning or the night before but anyway he put a fish in my brother's rabbit snare. [Ladies Laughing]
- 53.6 Billie:** Yeah, we were in school I think. Checked his snares after school.
- 53.7 Norma:** He just couldn't believe, you know, he had a fish in this snare.
- 53.7 Pauline:** I remember growing up setting snares with my brother Ernie and I caught a snare and I started crying because I thought I killed the Easter Bunny.
- 53.9 Billie:** Paul you caught a rabbit?
- 53.9 Pauline:** Oh poor little thing was just frozen like oh, I just about died when I seen that. I couldn't believe I did such an awful thing. [Ladies Laughing].
- 54.0 Norma:** Well we had to eat. [Ladies Laughing]

54.1 **Billie:** We had to eat the Easter Bunny.  
54.1 **Norma:** Yeah.  
54.1 **Pauline:** And I used to just be amazed at how when I watched Mom uh, skin the rabbit, the whole thing would come off.  
54.3 **Norma:** Oh I could do that too. I used to skin rabbit.  
54.3 **Billie:** With her eyes closed.  
54.4 **Pauline:** With your eyes closed. Yeah, I know how you used to kill chickens. I sure wouldn't want to watch you do a rabbit.  
54.6 **Norma:** I didn't have to cut a rabbit's head off though.  
54.6 **Cheryl:** What about uh, did you guys go like picking berries or...  
54.6 **Pauline:** Oh yeah. In the summer time.  
54.6 **Norma:** Yeah.  
54.6 **Billie:** Oh yeah.  
54.6 **Cheryl:** ...hazelnuts or that kind of thing?  
54.7 **Pauline:** Yeah.  
54.7 **Billie:** [Cough]  
54.7 **Pauline:** We picked berries in, to prepare for winter.  
54.8 **Billie:** Yeah.  
54.8 **Cheryl:** Uh huh, did the whole, was it the whole family that went or...  
54.8 **Pauline:** Yeah.  
54.8 **Cheryl:** ...was it more than one family or?  
54.9 **Pauline:** Well a whole, yeah. The, all, all of the kids up on the Métis farm, we all used to go berry picking.  
55.0 **Norma:** Everybody in uh...  
55.0 **Pauline:** Yeah.  
55.0 **Norma:** ...around you know, up in the hill and everywhere picked berries in the summertime. And in those days too we used to be able to get wild raspberries.  
55.1 **Billie:** Yeah.  
55.1 **Pauline:** In our back yard.  
55.2 **Norma:** There was always enough for a few jars of fruit.  
55.2 **Cheryl:** Uh huh.  
55.2 **Norma:** But, you know you have to go far and wide to find them any, anymore.  
55.3 **Cheryl:** Uh huh.  
55.3 **Norma:** And the lilies, you know, the Tiger Lilies.  
55.4 **Billie:** There's lots up where we used to live now.  
55.4 **Norma:** What? Tiger Lilies? Or raspberries?  
55.5 **Pauline:** Oh really?  
55.5 **Norma:** Well I, I didn't know that because the last time I was up there, there weren't any.  
55.6 **Pauline:** We used to find uh, Lady...  
55.7 **Norma:** Logan Berries.  
55.6 **Pauline:** ...Slippers. Beautiful little flowers.  
55.7 **Cheryl:** You don't see those much at all.  
55.8 **Pauline:** No. You know, I'd like to go up there. We could say remember we picked them and we'd take them to the Seminary.

55.9 **Norma:** I was watching a video on uh, Canadian rivers.

56.0 **Billie:** Uh huh.

56.0 **Norma:** And they were showing in BC, it was showing this patch of Lady...

56.0 **Billie:** Yeah.

56.0 **Norma:** Slippers. Ah they were so beautiful.

56.0 **Pauline:** But...

56.0 **Norma:** No more.

56.0 **Pauline:** ...they smell bad but they're pretty.

56.1 **Norma:** And the Bells, Daisies.

56.2 **Pauline:** Everything, we used to be able to pick flowers.

56.2 **Billie:** Yeah, but wherever, wherever we lived, we had to have lived on somebody's farm but my dad always had cattle, horses...

56.4 **Cheryl:** Yeah.

56.2 **Billie:** ...chickens. Mom always had chickens.

56.5 **Norma:** We used to, to churn our own butter and you know, separate the milk and I think that was one of the, the jobs I really never liked and I don't think any did, washing the separator.

56.7 **Pauline:** Well I used to make my butter right up until 1960 something and then I couldn't buy any more cream off this farmer. Used to get this really thick stuff and then it would go sour unless you'd shake it till...

56.9 **Norma:** Yeah, used to just put it in a jar and shake it till it...

57.0 **Pauline:** Yeah.

56.9 **Norma:** ...turned cause...

57.0 **Pauline:** That's how we used to make butter.

57.1 **Norma:** And of course when we milked the cows we would set milk fights, you know, squirt people around and stuff.

57.2 **Pauline:** Hahaha.

57.2 **Norma:** That was fun.

57.2 **Pauline:** Used to get this bull, he had this little, or Dad had this little bull and he'd be loose in the yard and we be on this big rack, you know, where you haul hay and I don't know. And we'd tip it over the side and the bull would come running along, we'd run back and tip the thing over the other side and he'd come running home. Oh my goodness I was scared of that thing.

57.6 **Norma:** Well we had to make him angry first.

57.7 **Pauline:** My recollection is when I fell head first in the barrel.

57.8 **Norma:** Oh yeah.

57.8 **Pauline:** I don't remember how I got out.

57.8 **Billie:** Frank picked you out.

57.9 **Pauline:** You wouldn't.

57.9 **Billie:** No. It was too...[Ladies Laughing]...far away you'd have drowned by the time I got there.

58.0 **Norma:** Pauline fell in a rain barrel uh, a rain barrel head first one time. This is when we were just very young and she blames Billie and I...

58.1 **Cheryl:** Hahaha.



**58.0 Norma:** ...for pushing her in there.

**58.1 Billie:** We were about two or three years old.

**58.1 Norma:** But uh, she fell in there head first, my brother Frank took her out. I don't know what she was doing looking in the rain barrel.

**58.3 Pauline:** I think I was trying to get a drink of water, you know?

**58.4 Cheryl:** Hahaha.

**58.4 Pauline:** I must have been... Yeah.

**58.5 Cheryl:** What about, did you guys go digging Seneca root or...

**58.5 Pauline:** Oh yeah.

**58.5 Cheryl:** And did you sell it?

**58.6 Pauline:** No we used to, sometimes it, cause we used to be so hungry after school. We had so far to walk home and we'd go up the hill and these, I don't know, they're wild turnips or something. Weren't they? We used to pick them. I used to eat them. Oh wow they were strong.

**58.9 Norma:** But we used to, I used to...

**58.9 Pauline:** If you, if you were hungry, you'd eat anything, you know? Not anything but they used to, we'd also used to...

**59.0 Billie:** I guess I was never hungry, cause I never ate any.

**59.0 Norma:** But Seneca roots are good.

**59.0 Pauline:** Yeah.

**59.0 Norma:** Like you know, they're, they're very tasty.

**59.1 Cheryl:** So did you cook them? Or...

**59.1 Norma:** No. Just...

**59.1 Cheryl:** ...eat them raw?

**59.1 Norma:** ...eat them raw.

**59.2 Pauline:** We just would dig them up on the way from school, on the way home and eat them. And [???].

**59.3 Cheryl:** What is that?

**59.3 Norma:** [???] is...

**59.3 Pauline:** Oats.

**59.3 Billie:** ...oats. Oat husks.

**59.3 Norma:** ...husks.

**59.4 Pauline:** They were...

**59.4 Norma:** You can eat the outer edge of them and of course inside there are millions of...

**59.4 Pauline:** ...seeds...

**59.4 Norma:** ...seeds.

**59.4 Pauline:** ...and worms.

**59.6 Cheryl:** Hahaha.

**59.6 Pauline:** Remember we were eating one and we seen this worm crawl...

**59.6 Norma:** Ewww. It's a good thing I wasn't there.

**59.7 Billie:** Yeah.

**59.7 Pauline:** She was terrified of worms.

**59.8 Norma:** We be eating all kinds of berries on the way home. Our mouths used to just be...

**59.9 Pauline:** Rose petals even we used to eat.

**59.9 Billie:** Oh yeah. Rose petals were good.

**59.9 Norma:** They ate uh, choke cherries. And your mouth would get all...

**60.0 Pauline:** Black. [Ladies Laughing]

**59.9 Norma:** ...what ever you'd call it.

**60.1 Billie:** It would get coated with them and we'd uh...

**60.1 Norma:** And we could barely open your mouth after that. And your teeth and lips would all be all purple. Now I can't eat chokecherries that way any more.

**60.2 Pauline:** No, I cant.

**60.3 Norma:** You know, and but we still go and pick...

**60.3 Pauline:** Berries.

**60.3 Norma:** Saskatoons, choke cherries...

**60.4 Pauline:** Choke cherries.

**60.3 Norma:** ...whatever we can find. [???] Cherries. We didn't go last year because well this year there, wasn't any.

**60.6 Pauline:** Last year there wasn't any. The year before there was so many.

**60.6 Norma:** Yeah.

**60.6 Pauline:** The trees were just bending over with Saskatoons on them.

**60.7 Cheryl:** Uh huh.

**60.7 Billie:** But we all went out to Maria Campbell's, picked Saskatoons there.

**60.8 Norma:** Yeah, we went out to Maria's one time and I think we picked about fifty pails of her Saskatoons. Well the family, these guys, and a couple of my brothers, Joey, my brother was staying there at their homestead there for a couple years.

**61.1 Pauline:** So if I run out of berries I know where to come for some.

**61.1 Cheryl:** Yeah. Hahaha.

**61.2 Norma:** But that was all a part of our lives and growing up in the valley and it changed so much, you know? It was, we had so much freedom.

**61.4 Pauline:** Yep.

**61.4 Norma:** And so much space.

**61.5 Pauline:** And you weren't afraid to go anywhere.

**61.5 Norma:** No.

**61.5 Pauline:** You could go walk...

**61.6 Norma:** Oh and that was a big part of us. We'd climb trees all the time.

**61.6 Pauline:** Swing down off the branches and...

**61.7 Norma:** It was uh...

**61.7 Billie:** We were just like monkeys.

**61.7 Norma:** ...it was a life that nobody else will ever experience, you know? Other than our era. Which is a shame. Hitching the wagon.

**62.0 Billie:** Well I think a lot of people still live like that.

**62.1 Norma:** Oh yeah probably. But I might do that too if I didn't have so many grandchildren and want to be close to them.

- 62.3 Pauline:** Say, if I were to move, I build myself a little mud shack somewhere and live in it.
- 62.3 Norma:** I actually thought of one time...
- 62.4 Pauline:** To me that's, that's what the life.
- 62.4 Norma:** You know when the Seminary was still standing, I was thinking wouldn't that be just a marvellous place to have a family reunion?
- 62.6 Billie:** Yeah.
- 62.6 Norma:** You know, cause Billie and Pauline worked at the Seminary as well. But they used to bring us food from down there, the priest and the brothers would come up the hill and...
- 62.7 Pauline:** Then our, our baseball team was called, we used to, the kids that lived up on the hill used to play the Métis kids that lived at the bottom of the hill. And our name was the Seminary Crap Eaters. [Ladies Laughing] Because they used to bring all their left over food to us. [Ladies Laughing]
- 63.0 Cheryl:** What's that?
- 63.0 Pauline:** Mind you it was good. Yeah, it was good food, you know?
- 63.1 Billie:** Yeah.
- 63.1 Cheryl:** Yeah?
- 63.1 Billie:** Bring stew.
- 63.1 Pauline:** Pudding and pork and beans and...

[Tape ends here]