Robison, Anderson, and Welsh Interview Part 2 (Transcribed by Joseph Fauchon)

- **0.2** Cheryl: Let's talk about, you were talking about mudding shacks.
- **0.2 Billie:** Yeah.
- **0.2 Cheryl:** Did you guys, when you were young, you obviously lived in a...
- **0.3 Norma:** Yeah.
- **0.2 Cheryl:** ...shack with mud plaster. How did you? Who did that? Did you guys all pitch in and do that or was it?
- **0.5 Pauline:** Dad, well, Dad would...
- **0.5 Billie:** My aunt used to mix...
- **0.5 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **0.5 Billie:** ...mix the mud feet.
- **0.5 Pauline:** Every, everybody used to do it.
- **0.6 Billie:** Yeah. Yeah it always [???].
- **0.6** Norma: Yeah.
- **0.6 Pauline:** And then they used to whitewash it.
- **0.6 Billie:** Yeah.
- **0.6 Pauline:** With some, something.
- **O.7 Billie:** And then we had what? Half-Breed plywood? [Ladies Laughing] Just cardboard boxes we used to line our house with.
- **O.8** Pauline: Well they'd go uh, to build, to build a house, they'd go out and chop down trees and you know. You know what, everything would just fit...
- **0.9 Billie:** Yeah.
- **0.8 Pauline:** ...into place.
- **1.0 Norma:** I remember every summertime, they would redo parts of the house where uh, you know...
- **1.1 Pauline:** Plaster.
- **1.1 Norma:** ...plaster would wear off and stuff.
- **1.1 Pauline:** [???]
- **1.1 Norma:** But, I, it just absolutely amazing because most of the time we didn't have windows on our house and we, we didn't have a furnace obviously and because Dad used to get up in the morning and light the little pot bellied stove before we'd get out of bed.
- **1.5 Pauline:** He used to keep the fire going all night and uh...
- **1.5 Billie:** The horses and cows used to stick their heads in our window.
- **1.6** Norma: But what, and I, I can't ever remember being...
- **1.6 Pauline:** No never cold.
- **1.6 Norma:** ...cold.
- **1.6 Billie:** Or hungry. [Cough]
- **1.7 Norma:** We go and we'd come in and we were soaking wet from the snow and stuff and we'd sit in front of the stove and put our feet on the oven door and that, that wood stove was such a marvellous...
- **1.9 Pauline:** We'd wear, we'd wear Dad's big underwear and...

- **1.9 Norma:** Hahaha. I don't ever remember being cold in spite of, you know, the fur, the stove going out and stuff.
- **2.1 Cheryl:** Uh huh. I heard that, with, uh, like pl, mud plaster houses at the bottom where they would have, uh, they would build up the dirt.
- **2.3 Norma:** Uh huh.
- 2.3 Pauline: Uh huh.
- **2.3** Cheryl: So the water would run off.
- 2.3 Norma: Yeah
- **2.3 Cheryl:** And that's where people would plant flowers and have flowerbeds.
- **2.4 Norma:** Oh yeah.
- **2.4 Cheryl:** Did your Mom ever...
- **2.4 Norma:** We never did that. No.
- **2.4 Cheryl:** ...do that?
- **2.4 Billie:** No, but in the winter we, banked our house with snow eh.
- **2.5 Pauline:** Well we, our house was kind of like this little house, kind of like there's a ditch and then our house was here. And we'd go out our door and we'd go down the hill.
- **2.7 Billie:** Yeah. There was a, it was straight.
- **2.7 Pauline:** Yeah, so it was pretty protective, like, you know...
- **2.8 Norma:** Yeah.
- **2.7 Pauline:** ...in the wintertime.
- **2.8** Billie: Slide down the hill.
- **2.8 Pauline:** I don't remember being hot either in the summertime, in that little mud shack. We only had two rooms.
- **2.9 Norma:** And what we had, four beds, and there'd be three kids this way and three the other way and we were always sleeping in one bed. [Ladies Laughing] Three or four beds and...
- **3.2 Pauline:** To iron our clothes and the wash our clothes we used those irons you'd heat on the stove. And when it's ninety above outside and you got a fire going trying to do your ironing. Well that was...
- **3.4 Billie:** Or making bread.
- **3.4 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **3.4 Norma:** But, I'm telling you I never saw such beautiful, white...
- **3.5 Pauline:** Clothes.
- **3.4 Norma:** ...starchy clothes...
- **3.5 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **3.4 Norma:** ...that ironed to perfection.
- **3.5 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **3.6 Norma:** Because we did in those days...
- **3.6 Pauline:** Even in the wintertime, I, I don't know if this was just a habit, you still hung your clothes outside. And we'd bring them in frozen and make a big line across the kitchen and hang them there...
- 3.8 Billie: Uh huh.
- **3.6 Pauline:** ...to dry.
- **3.9 Cheryl:** Uh huh.

- **3.9 Pauline:** But I don't remember. Here you can't hang your clothes outside.
- **4.0 Norma:** No, which is such a shame...
- **4.0 Pauline:** There's no, no place to put a clothesline. Yeah.
- **4.0 Norma:** ...you know...
- **4.0 Billie:** I don't think they allow you to.
- **4.0 Norma:** ...they don't if for the sake of keeping your area beautiful or something like that.
- **4.1 Cheryl:** Really?
- **4.1 Pauline:** What's wrong with nice, beautiful white clothes?
- **4.2 Norma:** A lot of areas don't allow clothes lines. You know and that's terrible, I think.
- **4.3 Cheryl:** What types of clothes did you wear when you were growing up?
- **4.4 Pauline:** Everybody else's. Hahaha.
- **4.4 Billie:** We had to wear dresses, like I can't remember when...
- **4.4 Pauline:** To go to school we had.
- **4.4 Billie:** ...we had to start wearing slacks.
- **4.5 Pauline:** We had to wear dresses to school.
- **4.5** Billie: Yeah.
- **4.5 Norma:** But it was always...
- **4.5 Pauline:** Homemade.
- **4.5 Norma:** ...hand me downs or homemade, yeah.
- **4.6 Cheryl:** Uh huh. So who, were there seamstresses in your, that were quite well known in your fa?
- 4.6 Pauline: Yeah.
- **4.6** Cheryl: ...in your family or?
- **4.7 Pauline:** Grandma and my aunts could sew and...
- **4.7 Norma:** My Mom could too.
- **4.7 Pauline:** ...my Mom could sew but she never had the time ,they did because of all the kids she had.
- **4.8 Norma:** Oh I remember Mom made you and I two plaid skirts...
- **4.8 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **4.8 Norma:** ...this one time. And she did it all by hand. Absolutely perfect.
- **4.9** Billie: Quilts were all done by hand.
- **5.0 Norma:** Yeah.
- **5.0 Pauline:** And they were warm.
- **5.0 Norma:** Yeah. So Mom could make, you know, she could make things but we had a lot of hand me downs and stuff like that. Even shoes and boots were, would be hand me downs.
- **5.2 Billie:** Used to wear this big fleece lined panties, come to your knees. Suffer in winter. Hahaha.
- **5.3 Norma:** Yeah, your panties came down to your knees and there'd be elastic around them.
- **5.4** Pauline: When Norma grew out of her clothes then they'd be mine.
- **5.5 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- **5.5 Norma:** I used to hide my cigarette butts in...

- **5.5 Billie:** Yeah.
- **5.5 Norma:** ...inside of the plastic. Hahaha.
- **5.7 Pauline:** Well try to find, something to hold your stockings up when you had...
- **5.8 Billie:** My God, sealer rings.
- **5.8 Norma:** Yeah.
- **5.8 Pauline:** I, no wonder I have problems with my legs because they used to be just red from the sealer ring or whatever you had on your legs trying to hold your stockings up.
- **6.0 Norma:** But we were survivors. We could improvise, you know, and, and oh never be stuck for something.
- **6.1 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- **6.1 Norma:** You always found a way...
- **6.2 Pauline:** To make a meal, you know, to make a meal you could have barely anything in the house and you'd find a ways to make enough for everybody.
- **6.3 Norma:** Yeah.
- **6.3 Pauline:** And to this day or not up till not too long ago, when I cooked it, I was making, I was stuck because that's how you got used to that. And when you just cooked for you it's so different. Right?
- **6.5** Norma: Yeah. I have a hard time cooking for myself.
- **6.6 Pauline:** Used to want to make a big pile of food all the time. It stays with you.
- **6.7 Norma:** Well like we all had big families too, so.
- **6.8 Cheryl:** What are some of the meals that you would cook, when you made these big meals?
- **6.9 Norma:** Then?
- **6.9 Cheryl:** Yeah, then.
- **7.0 Pauline:** Macaroni.
- **7.0 Billie:** Potatoes.
- **7.1 Norma:** Used to by uh, Bologna and Spam or else we'd have rabbit or duck. Chickens.
- **7.1 Pauline:** Fish.
- **7.1 Norma:** Fish.
- **7.2 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **7.2 Norma:** We were never stuck for any food. We made marvellous chicken, err fish soup. I used to love fish soup.
- **7.3 Billie:** One thing I would say about my Dad, like he was a good provider.
- **7.4 ChervI**: Yeah?
- **7.4 Billie:** You know he always worked somewhere. Sometimes they'd pay him with meat or yeah.
- **7.5** Pauline: Eggs or milk.
- **7.5** Billie: Eggs or milk.
- **7.6 Cheryl:** So do you remember how to actually make this fish, fish soup you were talking about?
- **7.7 Ladies**: Oh yeah.
- **7.7 Cheryl:** Yeah? Do you still make it?

- **7.7 Norma:** I haven't made it for years, you know, but...
- **7.8** Pauline: I, I made it one year and I forgot to take the bones out of the fish. I put the potatoes and everything in it and I'm going to have a bowl of this soup and all those, it was full of bones.
- **7.9 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- **7.9 Billie:** Forgot to take the bones out.
- **8.0 Pauline:** Disaster. So I never tried since.
- **8.1 Norma:** Well you cook the fish first. You either...
- 8.1 Pauline: Yeah.
- **8.1 Norma:** ...roast it in the oven or you, you cook it and then you, you...
- **8.2 Pauline:** Take the bones.
- **8.1 Norma:** ...take the meat off and put it in your soup.
- **8.2 Pauline:** I, I did I just threw the whole thing in the pot. Potatoes and everything.
- **8.3 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- **8.3 Norma:** Yeah. And of course there was always Bannock and Bangs.
- **8.4 Billie:** Crushed Chokecherries.
- **8.4 Norma:** Crushed Chokecherries, Saskatoons [???] pie, you know, it was...
- **8.5 Pauline:** And our favourite pie, our favourite cake was Matrimonial cake.
- **8.4 Norma:** Yeah. We still, Pauline makes Matrimonial cake.
- **8.6 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **8.6 Norma:** Billie does too.
- **8.7 Billie:** But I don't eat it anymore so.
- **8.7 Norma:** And I would; it's still my favourite my cake, I think.
- 8.8 Billie: Yeah.
- **8.8 Cheryl:** And that's one that your mom used to make as well?
- **8.9 Pauline:** Yeah. She used to make this Chris, every Christmas that's what we had. She would make three great big layers of Christmas cake and she'd decorate them with little, uh, silver...
- **9.0 Norma:** Yeah.
- **8.9 Pauline:** ...candies all around them.
- **9.1 Norma:** And she'd make uh, Christmas pudding too...
- 9.2 Cheryl: Uh huh.
- **9.1 Norma:** ...from...
- **9.2 Billie:** And we always had chicken; I don't remember having turkey.
- **9.3 Norma:** And New Years it was boulets.
- **9.3 Pauline:** Boulets soup.
- **9.4 Norma:** It was boulets soup, bannock and it was marvellous. In fact we just had a big dinner here last Sunday like, with our family. And we had boulets soup and bannock and bangs and Saskatoon pie...
- **9.7 Cheryl:** Yumm.
- **9.4 Norma:** ...Matrimonial cake, the whole bit.
- **9.7 Pauline:** It was good.

9.8 Billie: Some of my bannock and Norma's bangs went to BC

9.9 Norma: Yeah.9.9 Cheryl: Hahaha.

10.0 Pauline: They became history.

10.0 Billie: Yeah.

10.3 Cheryl: Well we talked a little bit about, earlier about uh, uh, singing and dances. Who were the known fiddle players in the community or musician?

10.5 Billie: Oh yeah. **10.5 Norma:** Yeah.

10.5 Cheryl: Who were they? Do you remember?

10.5 Pauline: Uh, well we lived up on the Métis farm, Leo Des...

10.6 Billie: Desjarlais.

10.5 Pauline: ...Desjarlais played the fiddle.

10.7 Billie: Uncle Albert did.10.7 Pauline: Uncle Albert and uh...10.7 Billie: Albert Desjarlais.

10.7 Pauline: ...yeah, we used to have a lot of, a lot of men could play the fiddle.

10.7 Norma: Who was it? Was it Cliff's mom that played the fiddle?

10.8 Billie: Yeah.

10.7 Norma: ...when we used to go there for dances once in a while. Clifford Laroque's mother.

10.9 Cheryl: Huh?

10.9 Norma: She used to play the violin and she could dance, that woman.

10.9 Billie: What was Mook's name?

11.0 Pauline: Uh, Edmond?
11.0 Norma: Blondeau? Uh...

11.0 Billie: Edward?11.0 Pauline: Peter?

11.1 Norma: Edward Blondeau, wasn't it?11.1 Pauline: I don't know, who took it.

11.1 Norma: Florence's husband.

11.2 Billie: We just know lots of people by their nicknames.

11.2 Pauline: Yeah.

11.2 Norma: Yeah. You know, and like...

11.3 Billie: Everybody had a nickname. Everybody.

11.4 Pauline: Like even the streets, the places that people lived on there were called Jack Rabbit Street and Little Chicago and we used to have names...

11.6 Billie: Seplaco Avenue.11.6 Norma: Seplaco Avenue.

11.4 Pauline: ...used to have names. And everybody had a nickname in Lebret. When people talk and they say their real names you don't know who they're talking about until they mention their nickname.

11.7 Cheryl: Uh huh.

11.7 Pauline: But what was his nickname? Curly?

11.8 Cheryl: So how were, how was somebody usually given a nickname?

11.8 Billie: Well Grandpa gave me, gave us all nicknames.

11.8 Pauline: The big people in the family like, grandparents that would give...

11.9 Norma: Yeah.

11.8 Pauline: ...your nicknames that everybody learned.

12.0 Norma: I think it was mostly grandparents.

12.0 Pauline: Yeah.

12.0 Norma: Or maybe somebody had a little quirk or something and they would give that person a name. And uh, an absolutely outrageous names that we only can know what they mean or anything...

12.3 Cheryl: Hahaha.

12.0 Norma: ...you know.

12.3 Pauline: And we had friends when we, like us kids wanted to have a party or something we had kids, they'd play guitar and we'd all sing...

12.4 Norma: Yeah.

12.3 Pauline: ...you know, have fun and uh, dance and have fun. We had a little wee radio. It was about this big and the battery was about this big.

12.6 Cheryl: Hahaha. **12.6 Billie:** Hahaha.

12.6 Pauline: And every time our battery died we'd have to walk to Lebret and go carry this battery all the way home.

12.7 Billie: To get it charged.

12.7 Pauline: Yeah.

12.7 Norma: You see, we never had a radio. I don't remember having a radio until around the Métis farm. Whether we had one before that or not, I don't know.

12.9 Billie: I thought that we had a gramophone?

12.9 Norma: That we had a gramophone, yeah. But I remember...

13.0 Billie: Uncle Dozzy gave us records.

12.9 Norma: ...yeah, but I remember when Frank came home on his first [???]...

13.0 Billie: Yeah.

12.9 Norma: ...he brought a radio and...

13.1 Billie: Bought a radio.

12.9 Norma: ...radio. And that was in the forties, you know? Probably 1946-47. But we did have this gramophone and we had to crank it. Change the needle once in a while and records were that thick and...

13.4 Pauline: And if you didn't have needles you used to turn it with your finger. I was, that was my job while everybody sat and ate. [Ladies Laughing] I had to turn this thing until everybody was finished.

13.6 Norma: But uh, and we had, and we sang songs, like you know, it was...

- **13.7 Pauline:** Mom, Mom used to sing lots. She, she was, every time you did something like whether it was scrubbing floors, washing dishes or what, she used to sing.
- **13.9 Billie:** I never sang when I washed dishes.
- **14.0 Norma:** She had this little quirk. Mom used to always have her, she'd always stick her tongue out, just like this when she was doing work, you know, and I have a little great granddaughter who does that. [Ladies Laughing] She's only thirteen months old but she, every time she does something she sticks her tongue out. [Ladies Laughing]
- **14.3 Cheryl:** Isn't it funny how some guirks like that...
- **14.3 Billie:** Yeah.
- **14.3 Cheryl:** ...you know, get passed on and they don't even know it?
- **14.4 Norma:** I just didn't think I'd ever see it and one day I noticed her and I said oh my God my mother should see this. There she was with her little tongue hanging out.
- 14.6 Cheryl: Uh, you just mentioned about a woman that was playing the fiddle. Was that, I haven't heard that very often, that there was very many women that played. Uh, was that something in the community that, was she well known in the community because...
- **14.8 Billie:** Yeah.
- **14.6 Cheryl:** ...she was a woman that played the fiddle?
- **14.8 Norma:** Yeah, well everybody knew everybody.
- **14.8 Billie:** Mrs. Laroque.
- **14.8 Pauline:** Yeah. **14.9 Billie:** [???]
- **14.9 Norma:** Laroque he uh, like one of the families they were Laroques...
- **15.0 Pauline:** Majors.
- **15.0** Billie: Majors and Boyers.
- **14.9 Norma:** ...Majors and Blondeaus. And you know all of us. Uh, she used to play the fiddle. He would be an interesting person to talk to as well. You know I, our brother Frank remembers a lot of the stuff that went on but I don't know if any other woman at that time who, who could play the fiddle.
- **15.6 Billie:** My brother he used to do stooking and all that stuff.
- **15.7 Norma:** Yeah, I remember stooking on the Métis farm too. You just, picking up the sheaves and putting, making little homes like little teepees. And I remember there being a lot of mice and you'd pick one up.
- **16.0 Billie:** And we used to play hide and seek.
- **16.0 Cheryl:** So was that something that all the kids did then?
- **16.0 Pauline:** Uh huh.
- **16.0 Norma:** Yeah.
- **16.0 Billie:** Yeah. All the farmers made stooks.
- **16.1 Norma:** All the kids were out there making stooks.
- **16.1 Cheryl:** But that was the, the children's' job, the kids' job was to do that?
- 16.2 Ladies: Yeah.

- **16.2 Pauline:** If we wanted to...
- **16.2 Norma:** Yeah.
- **16.2 Pauline:** ...but it used to be fun so.
- **16.2 Norma:** I enjoyed doing that, it was...
- **16.3 Pauline:** Mom al, the women also used to do it. It was a family thing.
- **16.4 Cheryl:** Uh huh. What about uh, like the garden on the farm? Was that just for use on the farm? Or did you sell some of that as well? Or?
- **16.6 Norma:** No. It was...
- **16.6 Pauline:** It just was the families that lived on our farm, like potatoes and carrots and...
- **16.6 Billie:** There used to be about how many families? Twelve?
- **16.6 Pauline:** ...twelve families maybe.
- **16.7 Norma:** Yeah.
- **16.7 Pauline:** And all the kids, nobody had anything less than what eight kids? Everybody had a huge...
- **16.8 Norma:** Big family, Yeah.
- 16.8 Pauline: Yeah.
- **16.9 Norma:** So there was a lot of people there in spite of just having that many and you know that many families.
- **17.1 Cheryl:** And you had cattle and all sorts of livestock. What about horses? Did you have a lot of horses?
- **17.2 Pauline:** Oh yeah.
- **17.2 Norma:** Yeah. We had horses.
- **17.2 Pauline:** On the farm, on the Métis farm.
- **17.3 Norma:** Well we always had horses...
- **17.3 Pauline:** No.
- **17.3 Norma:** ...even before we moved to the Métis farm. We had horses and we had cows.
- **17.4 Cheryl:** Uh huh. Was there a lot of horse racing? Like did people race their horses?
- **17.4 Norma:** No.
- **17.4 Cheryl:** ...or anything like that?
- **17.5 Norma:** We didn't do that kind of thing. You know now they have Métis Days and they do chuck wagon racing and stuff like that, I guess. They were just workhorses, I guess.
- **17.7 Cheryl:** Uh huh. What about uh, uh scrip? Did anybody ever talk, did you ever hear anything about scrip?
- **18.1 Norma:** Uh huh. I heard a lot about scrip but I, like, I don't remember anything like that in, in my time anyway. That was before my time anyway.
- **18.2 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- **18.2 Norma:** Like uh, I know Grandpa Welsh, well Norbert Welsh had scrip. I even, I even got a document where he uh, signs it.
- **18.5 Billie:** Well what's, what's a scrip?
- **18.5 Norma:** Well that was...
- **18.5 Pauline:** Piece of land.
- **18.5 Norma:** ...it was just a piece of paper they gave you for your land.

- **18.6 Billie:** Oh.
- **18.6 Norma:** And it was a promise of payment.
- **18.7 Cheryl:** Yeah. Yeah and it could be either uh, money scrip or land scrip and they would give it to you and then you would have that quarter, that section of land or whatever.
- **18.8 Norma:** Yeah and see Grandpa Welsh had lots of land at that time and as far as I know he lost it all because they never ever got paid. That's cause you know, most people never got paid a thing for...
- **19.2 Cheryl:** Yeah.
- **18.9 Norma:** ...their land at that time.
- **19.2 Cheryl:** What about uh, stories of uh, like 1885 or Louis Riel? Like you talk a little bit about what you learned in school. But what about, what did you learn from your parents or from people in the community about that?
- 19.4 Billie: Nothing.19.4 Cheryl: Anything?
- **19.4 Billie:** I don't remember hearing about Louis Riel till my kids went to school.
- **19.5 Pauline:** Till I went to school.
- **19.5 Billie:** No. I never, we never took anything about Louis Riel in school.
- **19.6 Pauline:** Well I, we did, I did. That's when they said he was a traitor and they hung him because he was a traitor and then, then the Indians were...
- **19.7 Billie:** Well that's in the book, yeah.
- **19.6 Pauline:** ...yeah it's in the book. But that's when I heard of Louis Riel.
- **19.8 Cheryl:** But nobody in the community ever talked about it or what happened after 1885 or anything?
- **19.9 Pauline:** No.
- **19.9 Cheryl:** No? What about stories of uh, like your great grandfather Norbert Welsh? Did you ever hear any stories about, about him or his wife or?
- **20.1 Norma:** Just what we read.
- **20.1 Cheryl:** Just what you read?
- **20.1 Pauline:** In that book. Yeah.
- **20.2 Norma:** Cause I remember old Mr. Adams asking me about him one time.
- **20.2 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- **20.2 Norma:** Cause that was years ago. Uh, he uh, I was introduced to him and he said, oh he said are you a relative of the Norbert Welsh that used to own that store in Lebret? Hahaha...
- **20.5 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **20.2 Norma:** ...and I said yeah that was my great grandfather. But other than that I have never heard of...
- **20.6 Billie:** And I remember his second wife she lived in Lebret. Right across from the hotel.
- **20.6 Norma:** Yeah, that was uh, what was her name?

20.7 Billie: She was a McDougall.

20.7 Norma: Yeah. You know I remember that store but I don't remember her...

20.8 Billie: Yeah.

20.7 Norma: ...in particular. But uh, no I never heard anything till.

[Transcriber was shut off and now numbers do not match. Will start with where numbers are now]

21.5 Billie: Well he died in 1932 and that was the year I was born eh, so.

21.6 Cheryl: Uh huh.

21.7 Billie: We never heard any stories about him. I didn't...

21.7 Pauline: Not until they wrote the book.

21.7 Billie: ...even know there was a book about him. Which I learned from my kids.

21.8 Norma: I don't think there was anything in history books about him anyway. You know, that's when I learned about it, is when the kids, the kids from when they were in the orphanage for some how or other got a hold of...

22.0 Cheryl: Huh?

21.8 Norma: ...but the book they first got a hold of was called *Poison Arrow* or something like that.

22.2 Billie: It wasn't all about him though was it?

22.2 Norma: I don't know. I never read it, like, I went to the library one time to get it but it's just a reference book. You can't take it out so if you want to read it you'd have to stay there and, but that's the first time I heard about it and that's, when did I come back from BC? In 1970. It's when I heard about it and of course I read the book but it doesn't really tell you anything. You know it tells you about his, some of the things he did and some of the things going on at that time but...

22.8 Billie: It doesn't even talk about his wife or his kids.

22.2 Norma: ...No he doesn't mention his kids or his wives...

22.9 Cheryl: No?

22.2 Norma: ...in the book.

22.9 Cheryl: What I found interesting uh, and why I wanted to know if you ladies knew anything is, makes reference in the book uh, to his wife and it says that she took her hunting party and so he makes it sound as if she had uh, a hunting party of her own.

23.2 Billie: Uh huh.

23.2 Cheryl: And that was very uncommon, so I was wondering if there was any, if...

23.3 Norma: I didn't even know that. I must have missed that.

23.2 Cheryl: ...if you knew anything about that or?

23.3 Norma: That was in *The Last Buffalo Hunter?*

23.3 Cheryl: Yeah. Yeah. You know and that's quite significant because it says a lot about, about, you know, women's roles in the communities so.

23.4 Norma: That must have been Cecile Boyer then.

23.4 Cheryl: Yeah.23.4 Norma: Yeah.23.5 Cheryl: Yeah.

23.5 Norma: I'll have to read the book again.

23.6 Cheryl: Uh huh.

23.6 Billie: Yeah, me too.

23.6 Norma: It's actually a long time since I read it. So. Hi. Hi. No I don't uh, remember reading that. But mind you we heard a lot about it now, eh cause...

23.9 Cheryl: Uh huh.

23.6 Norma: ...we're talking about it more and...

24.0 Billie: Yeah, they were learn that in the school now.

23.9 Norma: ...we're learning more history.

24.0 Billie: Yeah, in university or something like that.

24.1 Pauline: The university, they do now.

24.2 Norma: Well I think, I got just about all my grandchildren got a book.

24.2 Billie: Yeah.

24.2 Norma: The Last Buffalo Hunter.

24.4 Cheryl: So do you make it? Do you, you said that you uh, you know, periodically go to Lebret. Is there, do you go to the cemetery? Or...

24.5 Billie: Yeah.

24.4 Cheryl: ...uh just to visit friends and relatives? Or?

24.6 Pauline: Well...

24.6 Billie: We usually go to the ceme, we usually go to the cemetery.

24.6 Norma: And we have relatives there and like, just, I like to just look around and glance at the Stations of the Cross...

24.7 Cheryl: Uh huh.

24.6 Norma: ...or the church. Uh, I used to like the cross at the Seminary, which is no longer there. But uh, but I like going down there because I feel at peace when I'm down there. Like, it just...

25.0 Billie: Feel at home.

24.6 Norma: ...just like I'm coming home.25.0 Pauline: Our family is down there.

25.1 Cheryl: Uh huh. **25.1 Norma:** Yeah.

25.1 Pauline: Grandparents and...

25.2 Norma: And that's where, like, if, if we go tomorrow. There Norbert Welsh's grave is there and Cecile Boyer's, all his kids. And that why I say, he never mentions, I did, at least I didn't read where he mentioned any kids in his, in the book but...

25.5 Billie: They all died that bunch of kids he had there. **25.2 Norma:** ...yeah. There's about five or six kids that died.

25.5 Billie: Yeah.

25.6 Norma: From twelve and under.

- **25.6 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- **25.6 Norma:** You know, and I'm assuming it was, it's smallpox, you know? It doesn't say of course how they died but I remember in the book he, he says something about smallpox. Was it the Europeans that brought the smallpox?
- **25.9 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- **25.9 Norma:** But uh, and uh, yeah I guess all of our relatives. I guess all of them are there.
- **26.0 Cheryl:** Right. There's uh, probably a lot that have the same names as well though. Uh...
- 26.2 Billie: Yeah.26.2 Norma: Uh huh.
- **26.0 Cheryl:** ...that's one thing I've noticed from uh, reading Billie's first interview, was that there was repetition of names like François Xavier and, and even Norbert uh. Are there, are others that you know of that are, are names that are, have been passed down in your family?
- **26.5 Norma:** Joey, I guess would be one of them.
- **26.5 Billie:** Frank.
- **26.5 Norma:** Like Dad, Dad's name was Joseph [???] and his dad's name was François Xavier. That's what we call him. He was born in St. Francis Xavier in Winn, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. And so that name was, his son was François Xavier. Then my brother Frank but he's not called Xavier though is he?
- **26.9 Pauline:** No.
- **26.9 Norma:** Just Lawrence Frank. But Joseph, Joey's name is...
- **27.0 Billie:** But all the boys are named Joseph.
- **27.1 Norma:** Every one of them is.
- **27.1 Billie:** And all the girls were named Mary.
- **27.1 Norma:** We were all named Mary. Yeah.
- **27.2 Pauline:** I wasn't.
- **27.2 Billie:** No I wasn't either but [???]
- **27.2 Norma:** Well I've got Mary on my baptism certificate. But I don't have it on my birth certificate.
- **27.3 Cheryl:** That was common though? With at baptisms...
- **27.3 Pauline:** Yeah.
- 27.3 Norma: Yeah.
- **27.3 Cheryl:** ...that everybody would be named, you know...
- **27.4 Norma:** Yeah. Mary and Joseph.
- **27.3 Cheryl:** ...yeah. I think that's probably a lot of the reason uh, people got nicknames as well...
- **27.5 Billie:** Yeah.
- **27.3 Cheryl:** ...was because there was...
- **27.6 Billie:** You could tell them apart.
- **27.3 Cheryl:** ...such repetition in names.
- **27.6 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **27.6 Norma:** Yeah, there's Norbert and Norbert and...

- **27.7 Pauline:** Joseph and Joseph. Like in, in Mom's family like, there was, her brother was Paul, my brother's Paul and my name is Pauline, so my brother calls me Paul. [Ladies Laughing]
- **28.1 Billie:** We call her other things.
- 28.1 Pauline: Yeah...28.2 Cheryl: Hahaha.
- **28.1 Pauline:** We don't want to mention them.
- **28.1 Billie:** We can't say on camera.
- **28.2 Pauline:** Yeah a lot of people have the same names.
- 28.3 Billie: Yeah.
- **28.3 Pauline:** It makes it confusing too, when you go looking for your history. Like you know...
- 28.3 Billie: Yeah.
- **28.3 Pauline:** ...who is this?
- **28.3 Billie:** Well my name is Emma Lee.
- **28.4 Pauline:** Yeah. And some of them were married a couple of times and had different wives and that gets all confusing, you know, trying to... But getting there.
- **28.6 Cheryl:** And you mentioned earlier about uh, uh your grandmother being a midwife.
- 28.7 Pauline: Uh huh.
- **28.7 Cheryl:** Like, what about, was there anybody else in the community that was uh, either midwife or was known as a traditional healer? Or that had, that practised medicines?
- **28.9 Pauline:** Well they, like, Mom used to go picking medicine. I don't know what it was. But she made her own medicine.
- **29.1 Billie:** Oh that was her cold stuff.
- **29.1 Pauline:** Yeah. Yeah.
- **29.1 Billie:** Used to call it... [???]
- **29.2 Norma:** That was, what do you call that?
- 29.2 Pauline: And like uh, when...
- **29.2 Billie**: [???] **29.2 Norma**: [???]
- **29.2 Pauline:** ...one when, a woman like on a Métis farm or somebody who's having a baby, everybody, every woman would be there practically.
- **29.4 Norma:** Yeah. It wasn't just one.
- **29.4 Pauline:** No.
- **29.4 Norma:** Although my grand, my grandmothers, both of them...
- **29.5** Billie: Well Mom did too.
- 29.5 Norma: Yeah.29.5 Pauline: Yeah.
- **29.5** Billie: Delivered lots of babies.
- **29.5 Norma:** Well me, my mother only had sixteen pregnancies so I guess she would know a little bit about it, you know? She could have been a doc, an obstetrician.
- **29.7 Pauline:** Well that's what my daughter and my granddaughter wants to do, she's uh, Wendy like she, she works with healthy babies

and uh, she goes with every, every woman that, to have her baby. Like, and she, I call her Doctor Wendy because she could do it herself now. But that's what she wants to do and my granddaughter in BC is going to university to take nursing because that's what she'd like to do, is be a midwife.

- **30.3 Cheryl:** Uh huh.
- **30.3 Norma:** I think that's coming back. [???]
- 30.3 Cheryl: Uh huh.
- **30.4 Pauline:** Well they do it in some provinces. I don't know about Saskatchewan.
- **30.5 Norma:** I guess they're legalizing it. Well some places.
- **30.6 Cheryl:** Do you remember any other uh, like, medicinal treatments for like, colds or you know, that type of thing? Remember taking anything when you were young?
- **30.7 Billie:** Well that's, colds were like, they had mint tea.
- **30.8 Pauline**: [???] **30.8 Billie**: [???]
- **30.9 Norma:** We used to have a mixture of uh, molasses and sulphur.
- **30.9 Billie:** Yeah. That was for...
- **31.0 Pauline:** For colds. **30.9 Billie:** ...scabies.
- **31.0 Pauline:** For colds. We used to eat it.
- **31.1 Billie:** Yeah. When it was, we ate it when we had... [???]
- **31.1 Pauline:** Oh really?
- **31.1 Billie:** Yeah.
- **31.1 Pauline:** Did we have that?
- **31.2 Billie:** Oh yeah. When we were at the farm. We had to stay home from school for weeks.
- **31.3 Norma:** Well I remember being quarantined but that...
- **31.3 Billie:** Yeah.
- **31.3 Norma:** ...was for measles and chickenpox and stuff. That's when they quarantined you. And there was also cod liver oil we had to take. But we took that in wintertime.
- 31.5 Chervi: Uh huh.
- **31.5 Norma:** But of course it's not a traditional medicine.
- **31.5 Billie**: I don't remember ever taking any homemade medi, medicine, except for the colds.
- **31.5 Norma**: Yeah, I can't remember anything either except those. And I don't know of any one person who practised, well, traditional medicine come to think of it.
- **31.9 Cheryl:** So was there a doctor near by then?
- **32.0 Norma:** [???] in Fort Qu'Appelle was where there were doctors.
- **32.0 Billie:** Yeah.
- **32.1 Norma:** But you only went to the doctor in those days when, when you were half dead.
- **32.1 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- **32.1 Billie:** Yeah.
- **32.2 Pauline**: By the time you got there...

- 32.2 Norma: Yeah.
- **32.2 Pauline:** Cause you'd have to go in a wagon, horse and wagon.
- **32.3 Norma:** But we were, we were hardly ever sick, you know...
- **32.3 Pauline:** No. **32.3 Billie:** Yeah.
- **32.3 Norma:** ...cause I think that we ate good food.
- **32.4 Billie:** [???] we ate.
- **32.4 Norma:** It was not contaminated at that time, you know?
- **32.5 Cheryl:** Yeah, it was a healthy lifestyle.
- 32.5 Norma: Yeah.
 32.5 Pauline: Yeah.
- 32.7 [Background voices]
- **32.7 Cheryl:** Uh, what about when uh, like we talked about hunting a little bit. What about when there was restrictions placed on hunting? Do you remember that?
- **32.7 Norma:** Well I think we were gone by that time. Cause when did we leave?
- **33.0 Billie:** And my Dad never did any kind, any of that stuff.
- **33.1 Pauline:** My brothers were the ones that did that. I remember Uncle [???] duck hunting and uh...
- **33.3 Billie:** Deer hunting and stuff like that.
- **33.1 Pauline:** ...fishing.
- **33.3 Norma:** Yeah. But I suppose, I don't know, but then I would have left. We would probably have moved away from the area by then. Cause I don't remember when restrictions came on.
- **33.7 Cheryl:** Uh, what about uh, other people in the community? Did they identify as, as Métis? Or did they call themselves Michifs? Or, or do you remember?
- **34.0 Pauline:** Michif.
- **34.0 Norma:** Yeah. I think in...
- 34.1 Pauline: Michifs.
- **34.0 Norma:** ...those days they called themselves Mi, Michif.
- **34.1 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **34.1 Norma:** I don't know if they've changed that or Half-Breed.
- 34.1 Billie: Yeah.
- **34.1 Norma:** Yeah, we used to be...
- **34.2 Cheryl:** So was there? I'm sorry, go ahead.
- **34.1 Norma:** ...we used to be called Half-Breed. Well not by anybody in particular because nobody was ever prejudiced against us as far as I can remember. But that's what, at one time I thought I was a Half-Breed. Cause that term was used quite a bit I think.
- **34.6 Cheryl:** So what about the term Métis then? When do you remember first hearing that?
- **34.7 Norma:** It was always there but you know there was a lot of the Half-Breed stuff too.
- **34.7 Billie:** I don't remember that till the Métis Society and them.
- **34.8 Norma:** Métis?

- **34.8 Pauline:** Well we were brought up to be strong Métis because our parents were, you know, strong Métis but we didn't know the term Métis then. But we always knew it...
- **35.0 Billie:** Métis is French, I think. Isn't it?
- **35.1 Norma:** It's a combination...
- **35.1 Pauline:** The government made that name up.
- **35.1 Norma:** ...Metis is. It's a combination of French and...
- **35.2 Pauline:** Cree.
- **35.1 Norma:** ...Cree and so on.
- **35.3 Cheryl:** So what about the Michif language then? Was there a lot of that spoken in the community?
- **35.4 Pauline:** Oh yeah.
- **35.4 Billie:** Yeah.
- **35.4 Cheryl:** Or was it mostly Cree? **35.4 Pauline:** No, Michif language...
- **35.4 Norma:** Michif.
- **35.4 Pauline:** ...all our relatives spoke Michif. Michif.
- **35.5 Norma:** And some French.
- **35.5 Pauline:** Oh yeah. Well Michif was French, English and Cree.
- **35.6 Norma:** Something like that.
- **35.6 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **35.6 Cheryl:** Uh huh. You were saying that when there was a French person around, your dad would talk French to them?
- 35.7 Pauline: Yeah.
- **35.7 Norma:** Yeah.
- **35.7 Cheryl:** Uh...
- **35.8 Norma:** And our Mom.
- **35.7 Cheryl:** ...and that was, that was the same then? Uh, if they were around a Cree person were they just talking Cree to that person?
- **35.8 Pauline:** Yeah. Yeah.
- **35.9 Cheryl:** What about Saulteaux? Do you know if anyone knew Saulteaux?
- **36.0 Billie:** [Cough] I don't.
- **36.0 Norma:** Not that I can remember.
- **36.1 Cheryl:** Uh, do you ever remember hearing stories in Michif? Other than like your, you were saying your grandmother used to tell stories in Cree. But what about stories in Michif?
- **36.3 Pauline:** Well she was, she was talking...
- **36.4 Cheryl:** Oh she was. Okay.
- **36.3 Pauline:** ...in Michif when she told them. It was just that we didn't know what she was talking about. [Ladies Laughing] Yeah it was always just in Michif.
- **36.5** Billie: I remember French.
- 36.5 Cheryl: Uh huh.
- **36.6 Billie:** Yeah, just French.
- **36.6 Norma:** She spoke; well Grandma Welsh spoke French mostly.
- **36.7 Pauline:** She was very French, yeah.
- **36.7 Billie:** Yeah.

- **37.0 Outside voice:** Do you know if Caroline's home?
- **37.1 Billie:** Yeah. She come in about an hour ago.
- 37.1 Outside voice: Oh.
- **37.2 Billie:** I think a lot of them were brought up to be just ashamed of heritage. I really do. I think that's why they never spoke about it.
- **37.4 Cheryl:** But you were never brought up that way?
- 37.4 Pauline: No.
- **37.5 Norma:** I don't remember ever being ashamed of...
- **37.5 Pauline:** No.
- **37.5 Norma:** ...of who I was or...
- **37.5 Pauline:** Our mother made sure of that.
- **37.6 Norma:** I don't, I don't remember other people being ashamed either but I mean that's not to say they weren't.
- **37.6 Billie:** But it was there. It was there.
- **37.7 Pauline:** It was, yeah, I think it's there with our younger people now. I think...
- **37.8 Billie:** Use to call them dirty Half-Breeds and stuff like that.
- **37.9 Norma:** I guess I just never heard that part of it.
- **37.9 Cheryl:** But because of the influence of your mother you just didn't, maybe you just didn't see it. She didn't let you see it.
- 38.0 Pauline: She knew...
- **38.0 Norma:** No, it wasn't that. She just always said you're as good as anybody else. And that was the way we took it. I was never ashamed of who I was.
- **38.3 Cheryl:** What about uh, you talked a little before about the church. Uh, was that, did that play a big role in your, in your life? Was your, your family very religious?
- **38.5 Pauline:** Very.
- **38.5 Norma:** Yeah, absolutely.
- **38.5 Pauline:** Catholic.
- **38.6 Norma:** We had spent about half of our life at home and half in the church.
- **38.6 Pauline:** And like after praying in the church, we'd go home and say Rosary and that at night.
- **38.7 Norma:** Yeah, that was the same thing every night.
- **38.8 Pauline:** And it didn't matter where you went, people were, would say Rosary.
- **38.8 Billie:** When we went to school we prayed at home, before breakfast and after, you know, after, before and after meals. At school you did the same thing. Before and after recess.
- **39.0 Pauline:** Yeah, we took Catechism in...
- **39.0 Billie:** I prayed forty, prayed at least forty times a day.
- **39.1 Pauline:** And then we'd go to church at, uh, Benediction they called it. Certain time of the year. What time of year was that thing at?
- **39.2 Billie:** October.
- **39.3 Pauline:** Benediction. So after school at three thirty when we got out, we had to go to church before we went home.
- **39.4 Norma:** And there was Lent. You know, all, all...

- **39.5 Pauline:** Fasting. No meat on Fridays always in our house. And uh, my parents were very strong Catholic people.
- **39.7 Billie:** I don't think we ever learned to love God. We were learnt to fear him.
- **39.7 Norma:** Yeah.
- **39.8 Billie:** Somebody was always throwing the fear of the Lord into us, you know? If you don't do this or that God will punish you and stuff like that.
- **39.9 Pauline:** And you'll go to hell and...
- **40.0 Billie:** Yeah.
- **39.9 Pauline:**that's what you were taught in school. You know? But at home we were taught God was caring, sharing and loving like it's...
- **40.1 Cheryl:** Uh huh. Do you remember uh, when you mentioned Lent? I've heard stories about uh, that you weren't allowed at, allowed to uh, people weren't allowed to play the fiddle or anything during Lent. Do you ever remember that?
- **40.4 Norma:** Uh huh.
- **40.4 Billie:** You couldn't dance.
- **40.5 Cheryl:** You couldn't dance?
- **40.5 Pauline:** You couldn't do anything.
- **40.6 Norma:** It was a terrible sin to do that.
- **40.7 Pauline:** And nobody did either. Everybody followed that. Catholic.
- **40.8 Billie:** Use to tell us if you danced at night your legs would fall off. [Ladies Laughing] Part of mine did. [Ladies Laughing]
- **41.0 Norma:** Oh dear. Yeah, you had to follow the rules. That's for sure. But I, in spite of all that like I, in spite of all the fear of God and stuff I, I really, truly believe it gave us a good start.
- **41.3 Pauline:** Yeah.
- **41.4 Norma:** It taught us that being respect. All those things that you don't see very much anymore.
- **41.7 Cheryl:** What about in the home? Was it always Crucifixes in the home?
- **41.8 Billie:** Oh yeah.
- 41.8 Pauline: Yeah.
- **41.7 Cheryl:** Or religious picture of things?
- **41.8 Pauline:** Crucifixes, Rosaries.
- **41.9 Norma:** We said the Rosary every night. Everybody had a Rosary and a prayer book.
- **41.9 Pauline:** We used to get a Rosary in our First Communion and our prayer book when we made our First Communion. Then we'd come together to get them blessed. If you prayed without blessing them, if you use them it didn't count because they weren't blessed. So you have to get them blessed by the priest. And then there was Commun, First Communion. Then there was Confirmation. We went through the whole bit.
- **42.5 Cheryl:** What about funerals? What were funerals like? Do you remember?
- **42.6 Pauline:** Pretty sad.

- **42.7 Norma:** You know, I can honestly say I don't remember very many funerals.
- **42.7 Pauline:** Well...
- **42.8 Norma:** The only one that sticks in my mind is my Mom's.
- **42.7 Pauline:** ...yeah, and in, in those days you weren't in a funeral home, you were in the home.
- **42.8 Norma:** Yeah.
- **42.8 Pauline:** You know?
- **42.9 Billie:** They had wakes...
- **42.9 Pauline:** Your mother, your parents or grandparents...
- **42.9 Billie:** ...in the home.
- **42.9 Pauline:** ...died they'd have the wake right in your home.
- **43.0 Norma:** Well a relative would always dress the body and...
- **43.1 Pauline:** Yeah, yeah.
- **43.0 Norma:** ...and fix up the coffin with, you know, white sheets and stuff like that.
- **43.2 Pauline:** We'd all go there and uh, pay our respects and pray...
- **43.2 Norma:** Yeah.
- **43.2 Pauline:** ...and uh...
- **43.2 Billie:** For three days.
- **43.2 Pauline:** ...yeah. And then the, then would be the, the burial like, you know, after three days.
- **43.4 Norma:** Uh, I don't think...
- **43.4 Pauline:** It was hard. To see people, like, grand, our Grandma too. We, I can remember there must have been at least thirty people in our home waiting for her to die because she was dying right? I don't think she was sick.
- **43.6 Norma:** No...
- **43.6 Pauline:** Grandma Welsh.
- **43.6 Norma:** ...no she died of old age.
- **43.7 Pauline:** Yeah. And she died...
- **43.7 Norma:** She died a beautiful death.
- **43.7 Pauline:** ...when we were there. Yeah. And uh, she was put in her coffin right away and everybody paid their respects and uh, you know, it was uh...
- **43.9 Norma:** See our mother was the first one to die in her family. And so I don't remember going to funerals before that.
- **44.1 Pauline:** I think we went to funerals but we didn't stay. Like with the families stayed...
- **44.2 ChervI:** Uh huh.
- **44.1 Pauline:** ...like we, we didn't go to the home and see all that stuff. Like that's the first time like, Norma said, when our mom died. That's the first time and I remember our grandparents after that being there in the house and uh...
- **44.4 Norma:** Yeah, I don't know, it just, I guess the most horrible thing that I have ever known and probably the worst thing that ever happened in my whole life.
- **44.6 Pauline:** Yeah.

- **44.6 Norma:** You know, in spite of all the bad things I've gone through...
- 44.7 Pauline: That was the worst. Losing your mother.44.9 Cheryl: What about weddings? What were they like?
- **44.9 Billie:** Oh those were fun.
- **45.0 Pauline:** They were, people used to, used to have uh, well they'd get married in the church and then their parties used to be in, in the house.
- **45.1 Norma:** Yeah.
- **45.1 Pauline:** The suppers. And like the house wouldn't be any bigger than this and there'd be a hundred people in it. [Ladies Laughing] By the time it came to your turn to eat, there not, never used to be any food left.
- **45.2 Cheryl:** Hahaha.
- **45.2 Norma:** But they were, they were fun.
- **45.2 Pauline:** They were fun.
- **45.3 Norma:** Yeah.
- **45.3 Pauline:** And like everybody could go. The whole family, you know, it was nothing.
- **45.3 Billie:** Yeah. Remember Uncle Frank got married and went in a rack?
- **45.4 Pauline:** Yeah. **45.4 Cheryl:** Huh?
- **45.4 Billie:** A rack. You know what a rack is?
- **45.5 Pauline:** All hay and that or in the wagon, you know, people didn't have cars.
- **45.6 Cheryl:** So did they decorate their horses? I heard that...
- **45.6 Billie:** Yeah.
- **45.6 Cheryl:** ...they used to do this.
- **45.6 Norma:** They had a special harness for, for the horse for the celebration.
- **45.7 Pauline:** Yeah, and they'd make the horses, decorate the horses up. Braid, them, tails and their manes.
- **45.8 Norma:** Billie is that clock right? Excuse me.
- **45.9 Billie:** I don't think so. That one up there might be.
- **46.0 Pauline:** It's twenty-five after three.
- **46.0 Norma:** Ahh.
- **46.0 Cheryl:** Do you have to get going?
- **46.1 Norma:** I have to go pick up... [???] Oh my gosh. I was supposed to be there at three. So hi-ho I must go.
- **46.1 Cheryl:** Okay.

[Tape ends here]