

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

- 0.2 Cheryl:** We did so, uh, but uh, if you maybe want to start and I'll just ask you what you remember most about growing up in the valley and you know, growing up with your sisters and, and brothers.
- 0.4 Lawrence:** Uh, well, I know them, I rem, remember most I think is uh, when we went to the reserve that time. And uh, I, you weren't here yet. Cause we came from up, we lived up on top the hill on this side of the valley and we went by horse and wagon and we had a cow tied behind the wagon. So we were moving somewhere. And that's my first memory. And uh, we went down the lake on the north side of Echo Lake and we crossed the road to go to uh, uh, Pasqua Reserve. And uh, I remember there was Nicky and I and Ernie but I don't remember if Billie was there or not. I think she was. I think she was a...
- 1.3 Billie:** Yeah
- 0.4 Lawrence:** ...baby. And I'd remember this, they had a cow tied behind the wagon and we were going to the reserve. Cause I guess my Dad worked on the reserve, eh. And we spent the summer there. So that's my kind of first memory of the and uh, what made it and uh, really uh, [???] is uh, Strong Eagle was chief of the reserve that time. And he had a big speech on the side of the hill. And he looked like uh, you know, this uh, guy that was like, almost like a god. You know, because he was a, a charismatic man.
- 2.2 Cheryl:** Do you remember what...
- 2.2 Lawrence:** Hey?
- 2.2 Cheryl:** ...about what year that would have been?
- 2.2 Lawrence:** I imagine that've been around 1931-1932. Back in there some time.
- 2.3 Billie:** All I, I remember being out there once.
- 2.4 Lawrence:** Out at the reserve?
- 2.4 Billie:** Yeah.
- 2.4 Lawrence:** That might have been later on though.
- 2.5 Billie:** Yeah.
- 2.5 Lawrence:** Because...
- 2.5 Norma:** We went out there quite a bit. Didn't we? In the summer time?
- 2.5 Lawrence:** Well...
- 2.5 Norma:** When Dad worked?
- 2.5 Lawrence:** ...that's the only time I remember going out there. Uh...
- 2.6 Norma:** Well I remember camping in, in different reserves.
- 2.6 Lawrence:** Yeah.
- 2.7 Pauline:** Maybe they weren't reserves.
- 2.7 Norma:** Maybe not. Hahaha.
- 2.7 Pauline:** What was Dad doing on the reserve? Building houses? Or?
- 2.8 Lawrence:** [???] somebody said uh, uh, Buzz said he was an agent.

2.8 **Norma:** Yeah. Indian agent.

2.9 **Lawrence:** Indian agent.

2.9 **Norma:** Yeah.

2.9 **Lawrence:** So I remember living in a tent on, on the reserve.

2.9 **Billie:** [???] he did build roads.

3.0 **Lawrence:** Yeah, well that's, that's when they were er, what they called the PFRA. I don't...

3.1 **Norma:** Yeah.

3.0 **Lawrence:** ...know what it stands for.

3.1 **Norma:** Prairie Farmer Association...

3.1 **Lawrence:** Dad's crew...

3.1 **Cheryl:** [???]

3.1 **Norma:** [???]

3.1 **Lawrence:** ...that's who sponsored the, the building of the road on the north side of, or the south side of Katepwa Lake.

3.2 **Norma:** Oh.

3.2 **Lawrence:** That's where we were.

3.2 **Norma:** Yeah.

3.2 **Lawrence:** That's where they were building the road there.

3.3 **Norma:** Cause the PFRA was, sta, stationed there in, in Indian Head or wasn't it close to there?

3.4 **Lawrence:** I imagine yeah.

3.4 **Norma:** Yeah.

3.4 **Billie:** Yeah.

3.4 **Lawrence:** So that's where the road building came in and we camped there for the summer. While we were, were [???] right on, right on the lakeshore, we camped.

3.6 **Billie:** Well we, we camped pretty, pretty well all the time, you know?

3.7 **Lawrence:** Oh yeah.

3.7 **Billie:** [???] Unless it was winter.

3.7 **Lawrence:** Well when the biggest part of the camping was when we went picking berries.

3.8 **Billie:** Yeah.

3.8 **Lawrence:** Because it was the entire family thing. The whole family went, when we went picking berries. Every, every year that happened.

4.0 **Cheryl:** Uh huh.

4.0 **Lawrence:** So I mean that's when I remember camping most. Down at Katepwa Lake and uh, on the reserve and uh, at MacDonald's Bay...

4.1 **Norma:** Uh huh.

4.0 **Lawrence:** ...was where we went to pick berries.

4.1 **Norma:** Yeah.

4.2 **Cheryl:** And where's MacDonald's Bay?

4.2 **Lawrence:** It's uh...

4.2 **Billie:** It's on Katepwa Lake.

4.2 **Lawrence:** ...no, it's on...

4.3 **Norma:** [???] Lake.

4.2 **Lawrence:** ...Mission Lake.

- 4.3 **Norma:** Uh, Mission Lake, yeah sorry.
- 4.3 **Lawrence:** It's just on this side of Fort Qu'Appelle but, on, on the south side of the lake about maybe three or four kilometres.
- 4.4 **Billie:** Where is that?
- 4.5 **Norma:** MacDonald's Bay.
- 4.5 **Lawrence:** [???
- 4.5 **Norma:** I don't think MacDonald's Bay [???
- 4.5 **Billie:** Oh yeah [???
- 4.6 **Lawrence:** Not anymore. There's a, uh, some kind of a...
- 4.6 **Norma:** Some kind of scouts or something like that there.
- 4.6 **Lawrence:** There's a mission there. Uh...
- 4.7 **Billie:** Yeah, right.
- 4.6 **Lawrence:** ...[???. Some mission.
- 4.7 **Norma:** Some Christian...
- 4.7 **Lawrence:** But that's where we used to camp to pick berries.
- 4.8 **Norma:** Yeah, at MacDonald's Bay.
- 4.8 **Lawrence:** Uh, but I remember camping during, uh, harvest time.
- 4.9 **[???** Uh huh.
- 5.0 **Lawrence:** Remember camping during harvest time and Dad went out to harvest...
- 5.1 **Norma:** Yeah. He did a lot of that for farmers.
- 5.1 **Lawrence:** No I, in fact I, I was on the threshing crew at Car, Carlos. Uh, and I picked sheaves [???] in a machine this time. I was, I, I drove it, I must been about seven or eight years old and I was driving a team of horses and pitching sheaves into the machine. Cause when I first started it was old steam engine. Old steam engine.
- 5.5 **Cheryl:** And this would be for other farmers?
- 5.6 **Billie:** Yeah.
- 5.6 **Lawrence:** Well it...
- 5.6 **Cheryl:** It be like hired for [???
- 5.6 **Lawrence:** Yeah, well mostly cargos, but he went around and he took his equipment around and [???] he'd thresh for everybody [???] up top the hill. And Dad was uh, he run the threshing machine and steam engine. But I remember that [???], he said one time we lived in the big old house ah, you know, when you go past Invercal school, and on the right hand side. [Someone says, "Oh ya."] There's a big two story house there? That's where we lived when, one year when they were threshing out there.
- 6.7 **Pauline:** We were on the move all the time then eh?
- 6.7 **Norma:** We were nomadic.
- 6.7 **Lawrence:** Well see, Ester'd be back on Pasqua Reserve, we moved up on top of the hill, that's when we got on top of the hill. And Grandma and Grandpa Amyotte were still living in that house that we had for a barn. I was born up there, I was born up there, that's when they were there, when I was born. But actually the first thing I remember is living at Lemire's. On your side...
- 7.1 **Norma:** Oh you're talking about the barn. [Someone says, "Pardon?"] Where Moshum [???] there [???

- 7.2 Lawrence:** No there's Grandpa and Grandma Amyotte lived in that two story [???], they lived in the little, little one at back. But I don't want to remember that, because, [???] more. That's what Uncle Larry told me this, and I didn't know that myself, but after that then we must have moved to Lemire's. Cause then my first memory of being aware of something is at Lemire's. And the cow tied behind the wagon and we were running around the wagon, Mickey and I, and hanging on to the reach.
- 8.1 Billie:** Always had a cows tied behind the wagon.
- 8.1 Pauline:** Ya, I can remember when we used to do that, [???] cow's tied behind the wagon.
- 8.2 Norma:** We had more than one [???].
- 8.2 Lawrence:** After that, Moshum moved to a little house, then he bought some more. Remember the little... [Someone says, "Ya."] The little guy, snowball, the little white steer that we had. Everybody cried when they shot him, butchered him. My father [???] head.
- 8.5 Billie:** I thought Ernie killed it.
- 8.6 Norma:** No, he killed your cat didn't he? Didn't you have a cat? And then he hung it. Hung it on the clothesline.
- 8.8 Billie:** On Christmas Day.
- 8.9 Cheryl:** So what about after you moved from Lemire's, then did you move up to the Métis Farm?
- 9.0 Lawrence:** I went to live, lived on the Reserve that summer, and then we went back to that little house. [Billie says, "On the south side of the valley."] On the south side of the valley. So that's where I remember, I lived when I started school, I was still living there when I started school. And, so the real memories of, of that time, going to school, and the weather was so, the lake would freeze over and there wouldn't be any snow on it almost all winter, and you put skates on outside and skate across to school, and I used to do that. And I remember the sailboat that the priest had, they had tow ropes behind it, and we hung even ah, Pat remembers that, she, she took a ride on that sail, it was a snowsail or whatever you call it.
- 9.9 Pauline:** Oh ya.
- 10.0 Lawrence:** And we used to hang behind it, with ah, on skates when, when there was no snow on the ice.
- 10.1 Cheryl:** So they had the sailboat and the [???], on the ice? [Lawrence says, "Ya."] Oh wow.
- 10.2 Lawrence:** Or just in the winter, like on both, it'd snow on the ice. But it had ah, runners like a skate underneath it so that it wouldn't slide. [Cheryl says, "Right."] It would stay straight, you see. And they sailed it up and down the lake right from Fort Qu'Appelle, right down to [???]. And we'd hang on to the back of it, you see, it had tow ropes on it, that beam, ah, for that ah, sailboat must have been almost as wide as this house right. [??? says, "Holy?"] Ya. And it had two skis on the back with that big beam and then one at the front for steering. That's how I remember it. Do you remember it that way?
- 10.9 Pat:** I remember it was a sail, ah, sailboat.

- 11.0 Norma:** Umm, come and sit with us. Have you got another, stool? You can sit by Pauline.
- 11.1 Pat:** No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.
- 11.2 Lawrence:** There's a chair in here. I'll bring it in if you want?
- 11.2 Norma:** Her mom and our mother are sisters.
- 11.3 Cheryl:** Okay. Did you want to join us?
- 11.3 Pat:** I'll, I'll sit on [???
- 11.4 Norma:** So she probably remembers stuff too.
- 11.4 Pat:** Only if I can smoke.
- 11.4 Pauline:** I was just gonna say that. I didn't know whether you smoked in the house or not, but...
- 11.6 Lawrence:** Well, here, you sit here if you want to smoke, cause the ashtray's here. I'll sit over there.
- 11.7 Pauline:** You don't mind Cheryl?
- 11.7 Cheryl:** Oh no, no.
- 11.8 Billie:** [???] at mine.
- 11.8 Pauline:** Ya, I, I'm sorry.
- 11.8 Cheryl:** I can sit here.
- 11.8 Lawrence:** No, no, that's okay, I'll sit here, thanks.
- 11.9 Pauline:** Do you mind?
- 11.9 Lawrence:** Oh you want me to sit there then?
- 12.0 Cheryl:** Sure, then I'll make sure I can get you all on camera.
- 12.0 Pauline:** Maybe sometimes you wouldn't know.
- 12.1 Lawrence:** Ya, we were talking about that last night. She used to have to go and get the, the, the willow, because she thought she was gonna get a lickin with it.
- 12.3 Pauline:** I remember gettin one with that. Well I remember Grandpa givin, givin me a lickin with ah, Grandpa Amyotte, hit [???] and I hit back, so he brought the lickin [???]. That's the first time grandfather ever...
- 12.6 Lawrence:** I, I never seen Grandpa whip anybody.
- 12.7 Norma:** Me neither.
- 12.7 Pauline:** He didn't hit him hard, but...
- 12.8 Lawrence:** Grandma was the feisty. I remember she chased Ernie all over the, the yard. Well I, I just gave up, say to add insult to injury, I think I had to go and get the switch.
- 13.1 Pauline:** Ya, sent a lot of kids.
- 13.1 Lawrence:** But I shot [???] in the head with a slingshot.
- 13.1 Pauline:** [???] get you little switches off a tree to get a lickin with. I remember Norma and I getting', we didn't have to pick our switch, because I probably would have picked a little tiny[???], but, Mom sent us to the barn, this is when we're on the Métis Farm, to get eggs, and then we made mud pies with the eggs. I can remember...
- 13.5 Norma:** She came and found us at the barn and we're making these mud pies, used all the eggs. And I was hopping and jumping all the way home, because I was getting the willow stick. But that was another thing, we used to all, all make our own slingshots, you know.

We always had the, the, the rubber and go pick our own willow branch.

- 14.1 Lawrence:** I think the fun times for me was when we played hockey at the Seminary with the brothers. [??? says, "Ya."] And ah, we used all their equipment, they had toboggans, ah, bobsled toboggans, we had those, you had to nail the seat on the ski and you went on the hill on that ski.
- 14.4 Pauline:** I, I got knocked out when I moved that thing down the hill.
- 14.5 Lawrence:** And they had this slide, and it was ah, a groove made with ice, and a toboggan would fit in there and it couldn't get out, it just followed the...
- 14.7 Norma:** A luge.
- 14.7 Lawrence:** Ya
- 14.8 Cheryl:** That's interesting how, um, you know, you're, when you think of the church, you don't think of it, you know, being involved in the fun aspects of your life, and you keep talking about how, you know, how the priests had these sailboats, or they were, you know, ice hockey, so they were very active in your...
- 15.1 [All talk at same time, agreeing]**
- 15.2 Pauline:** They used to ah...
- 15.2 Norma:** They were good to us, they, they were always having games with them, and one way or another, spring and ah, winter and summer.
- 15.3 Pauline:** They used to come up the hill after we moved off the Métis Farm up here, and then we used to have um, a treasure hunts with them. I think this was at Easter time, and they'd hide the candies and things in the trees, in the bushes, and they'd make us go look for them. And then we'd, there'd always be a lot of kids around, so we have had baseball games and [???]
- 15.8 Billie:** Me, I was out looking for cigarettes. [Laughter]
- 15.9 Pauline:** Well, ya, but wasn't hard to find dry leaves and brown paper I'll tell ya. [Laughter] The things these guys used to smoke; it was pathetic.
- 16.1 Lawrence:** I remember that the brothers had ah, a barge, and they used to go up to Camp [???] was it? And we used to go to camp for maybe five or six days. [??? says, "Camp ??? ya."] And they had canoes and sometimes we could use them to come across to get in the canoes.
- 16.4 Norma:** I remember you were swimming right across the lake.
- 16.5 Lawrence:** Well ya, over this way.
- 16.5 Norma:** And Uncle Larry.
- 16.6 Lawrence:** Ya, but it, it, it you know, actually had fun up there, ah, it was kind of a good life in spite of being kind of...
- 16.7 Norma:** Well that's what I told her, I, to me, that was the best years of my life, because...
- 16.8 Billie:** I don't remember being hungry.

- 16.8 Lawrence:** No, well we always had chickens and cattle, and horses, and then we'd, we hunting ah, grouse and deer and... [Norma says, "Rabbits."] [Billie says, "Wapass."] Rabbits, ya.
- 17.0 Norma:** I told her about Grandpa putting the fish in Ernie's snare.
- 17.1 Lawrence:** Ernie's snare, ya.
- 17.1 Pauline:** Grandpa Amyotte?
- 17.2 Lawrence:** Ya. Well I was with him that time, ah because I, I went with him to pull out, his nets. And here he is, I don't know, it must have been minus 25 or 30, and he's barehanded and he's pulling in the net and the steam was coming off his hands. I don't know how the heck he didn't freeze his hands. [Pauline says, "Grandpa?"] Ya, barehanded in about 25, 30, minus 35 or 30.
- 17.6 Pauline:** You had to be tough to live in those days though.
- 17.7 Norma:** But we were tough too. Look it, you know, we, we never missed school because of weather. [Pauline and Lawrence say, "No."] You know, or you know, too much snow or too cold, we always got ready and left, even if, we had hand-me down clothes, that were three sizes too big for us.
- 17.9 Lawrence:** Ya.
- 18.0 Norma:** Oh my God, I used to be terrified of that.
- 18.1 Lawrence:** I remember my first pair of skates. I got them from Father [???]. Cause he was a little guy, he was only about five foot, so that...
- 18.2 Pauline:** He used to get red in the face when you'd say [???], just red.
- 18.4 Norma:** Oh no, that's [???] Father, [???].
- 18.4 Pauline:** Oh, okay, [???].
- 18.5 Lawrence:** No, [???] didn't like [???], oh he was a nice old guy, [???].
- 18.5 Norma:** I liked eating it, but I didn't like [???].
- 18.6 Lawrence:** The priest let me use all his equipment, you know, to play some hockey.
- 18.6 Cheryl:** Cause he was such a little guy, it would fit you?
- 18.6 Lawrence:** Ya, they did, ya.
- 18.7 Cheryl:** And when you were talking about um, you know, you were never hungry or you weren't poor, you probably didn't see yourselves as poor, because everybody else around you was in the same...
- 18.9 Pauline:** The same, ya.
- 18.9 Lawrence:** Well, maybe we were poor, as far as clothing and stuff...
- 19.0 Pauline:** Ya, we always food, always had a place to...
- 19.1 Lawrence:** The grandmas seemed to always come to our aid for some reason or other, we used to get ah, moccasins for Christmas and stuff like that, you know, and knitted socks.
- 19.3 Norma:** Oh ya, I remember Mom used to make mitts.
- 19.3 Pauline:** [Talking at same time]. Scarves, sweaters...
- 19.4 Cheryl:** And your Grandma Amyotte used to make moccasins?

- 19.5 Lawrence:** Oh ya, ya.
- 19.5 Pauline:** They all did, always.
- 19.5 Cheryl:** Did she do beadwork or embroidery or anything?
- 19.6 Lawrence:** Ya, she did beadworking, ya.
- 19.6 Pat:** Did you know that like, ah, up on top of the hill, Jean Bellegarde, she's ah, administrator of First Nations Health Services, ah, they were just up on top of the hill, going on a witch hunt I guess digging, and they did have ah, it's in a frame now, on a dirt floor. Beautiful, somebody started, I don't know if it was gonna be a medallion, or the top of moccasin, and the beadwork on that and it must be really old. [Norma says, "Really?"] Ya, and they dug it out, on top of the hill, still, it was all wrapped up. [Norma says, "Where Grandma used to live?"] I didn't ask her exactly, but where we all lived in that area, and it was all wrapped up in hide. Well that's what I said to her, I said...
- 20.7 Billie:** It's Grandma's probably.
- 20.8 Pat:** It probably belongs to the family she said, it's mine now.
- 20.9 Norma:** Finder's keepers eh?
- 20.9 Cheryl:** So Pat, how are you related? You said your, your mother was...
- 21.0 Pat:** Sisters with their mother.
- 21.1 Cheryl:** Okay. And did you live close by then?
- 21.1 Pat:** Lived close by, ya.
- 21.3 Norma:** There was Mom's sister's and Grandpa and Grandma Amyotte, and couple other sisters. We all, they all, lived close to each other. Well how far were we? Auntie Claire lived right beside us and then...
- 21.6 Lawrence:** Ya, [???] lived in a little house, it was only about a kilometre ah, to her place. We lived on the far end of the...
- 21.7 Norma:** You know, Norbert lived not far from us. [???].
- 21.8 Pauline:** This is after we moved up, off the Métis Farm.
- 21.9 Lawrence:** Oh, I see, okay, ya, I was talking about before.
- 22.0 Pauline:** Ya, and before too.
- 22.0 Norma:** We always seem to have a relative living close.
- 22.1 Lawrence:** When we lived up on top of the hill, I mean, when I remember living up in that little house, Grandma Amyotte, I mean Grandma Welsh and Grandpa lived in that big house, just above the Seminary, two story house, with ah, Dazes, they went together, with the Dazes. And then the next house, the next big one was ah, Grandpa [???], and there's another one. And then Aunt Claire lives in that house beside it.
- 22.8 Norma:** Dazes are, well they call themselves Days now, we used to call them Dazes, but it's D A Z E, anyway, he was married to my Dad's sister, and she's the one that adopted Cathy, when Cathy was one.
- 23.1 Cheryl:** So what about um, like you said, you're, you're ah, Mom's sisters. What about brothers?

- 23.2 Lawrence:** Oh ya, they...
- 23.3 Cheryl:** Did they live close by as well?
- 23.3 Pauline:** Oh ya, ya.
- 23.3 Norma:** Some of them lived in Indian Head.
- 23.4 Lawrence:** Uncle Bert lived in Katepwa Lake.
- 23.4 Norma:** Katepwa Lake, ya.
- 23.4 Lawrence:** Uncle John lived in Indian Head, and Uncle Paul lived in Indian Head at that time.
- 23.5 Norma:** But they all lived around Katepwa Lake at one time.
- 23.6 Lawrence:** Ya, oh ya, ya, probably.
- 23.6 Cheryl:** So do you know when, like when they moved to Indian Head or, or was, did they move because of their, their wives, because their wives were living close to their families or?
- 23.8 Lawrence:** Well after they get married...
- 23.8 Pauline:** Like, it was after they came home from the war, that they, that Uncle Paul and ah, they moved from Katepwa.
- 24.0 Lawrence:** Well Uncle Paul, Uncle John were married before they went overseas. [Pauline says, "Ya."]
- 24.1 Norma:** But three of my Mom's brothers married three sisters, and there was um, twin, twin brothers.
- 24.2 Cheryl:** Right, and one of them was, his interview's in our veterans book, I think.
- 24.3 Norma:** Which one is it?
- 24.3 Cheryl:** Maybe John?
- 24.3 Norma:** Uncle John, ya, he and Uncle Bert were twins. And Uncle Bert was killed on the highway near ah, Indian Head. There's a cairn there, in his memory. How long was that, do you remember?
- 24.7 Pauline:** Oh goodness, Charlie was thirteen so, he's now...
- 24.7 Lawrence:** I think it was in the 60s some time, [???].
- 24.8** [Talking at same time].
- 24.8 Norma:** It was after I came back from BC.
- 24.9 Cheryl:** So you said John, Bert, and Paul? [Norma says, "Ya."] They married three sisters? [Norma says, "Ya."] And who were they, were they?
- 25.0 Lawrence:** Pelletier girls.
- 25.0 Norma:** Pelletier girls. Auntie [???], and Rhoda, and Josephine.
- 25.1 Pat:** Josephine, ya.
- 25.1 Norma:** And, [???]. Her name was Olive wasn't it?
- 25.2 Pat:** Ya. Olive.
- 25.2 Norma:** We used to call her auntie [???].
- 25.3 Lawrence:** Well Uncle Paul and Uncle John and Uncle Frank were the ones that were overseas.
- 25.4 Pauline:** Ya. And some cousins of ours, [???] and James.
- 25.5 Lawrence:** Oh ya, and James. And James...
- 25.6 Cheryl:** There was a lot of people that had lived from here, that wasn't ...
- 25.6 Pauline:** Ya, ya, ya.
- 25.6 Lawrence:** James' arm [???].

- 25.7 Pauline:** Just about all the men down here were...
- 25.7 Lawrence:** They weren't old enough.
- 25.7 Norma:** They weren't in the war, like...
- 25.8 Lawrence:** Well they were because they went over there in 1944. See, but then there was only a year of the war left. But they still went over there.
- 25.9 Norma:** Oh ya, right, ya.
- 25.9 Lawrence:** Cause they were not, they weren't old enough to get in when the war started, they had just turned old enough in 1944 or something like that.
- 26.0 Pauline:** What about Uncle Frank, was he?
- 26.1 Lawrence:** Ya, but... [Talking at same time].
- 26.1 Pauline:** I remember Mom used to, she had the radio on, and they used to announce um, [???] to listen to...
- 26.3 Lawrence:** Uncle Frankie was [???] maybe 19 or 20 or something like that, when he went overseas.
- 26.3 Cheryl:** Do you remember what it was like when they were gone, like when they were overseas? What was it like in the community?
- 26.5 Norma:** Everybody was always worried about... [Talking at same time].
- 26.7 Billie:** And we never lived in the community so, like...
- 26.7 Norma:** Our community was up in the hills, where you know, we just had neighbours kind of stuff, but we never actually lived in, in Lebret.
- 26.8 Pauline:** It was around, like at the Métis Farm, and up there, [???].
- 26.9 Norma:** They used to go to school here, and the grocery store was here and the church was here so, we did spend a lot of time in, in the community, but I can remember everybody listening to their radio, waiting to hear names, you know. [Lawrence says, "And being worried."]
- 27.2 Pauline:** And that's when we were at the Métis Farm when the war was on. I don't know how old I was, but this plane was flying over and we all ran because we thought it was a Germans coming to bomb us. [Talking at same time]. Even though we were just little kids.
- 27.5 Billie:** I thought that plane was just [???].
- 27.6 Pauline:** Ya, me too, I thought there was fighting over there.
- 27.6 Lawrence:** Well the air force had a training base in Moose Jaw during the war, and that's probably what you, you saw.
- 27.7 Pauline:** There's still [???] Métis Farm, but just a little plane that could have been, [???].
- 27.8 Lawrence:** Well those are little, those trainers they had little planes.
- 27.9 Cheryl:** Well I can understand your fear, because you know, if members of your family are, are overseas or involved, that fear was probably always with you, so just seeing that plane would be...
- 28.1 Norma:** Well especially when he went in there, Mom was frantic all the time, you know.
- 28.2 Lawrence:** Well I didn't go into the war though.

- 28.2 Norma:** That was her baby boy.
- 28.3 Lawrence:** The war was over by the time I got [???].
- 28.3 Norma:** Ya, I know, but, but she didn't really believe that.
- 28.4 Lawrence:** Well the Korean War was on. Maybe that's what you're...
- 28.4 Norma:** She was worried about it.
- 28.4 Pauline:** Well Ernie was in the Korean War.
- 28.4 Lawrence:** Ya, Ernie went to the Korean War, I didn't.
- 28.5 Pat:** So when Auntie Marie-Anne died, how, how many kids were like, left there? I vaguely remember. I think there was maybe five, right? [Talking at same time].
- 28.7 Norma:** They were all there except Mickey, Frank, and Ernie.
- 28.8 Pat:** In 1950?
- 28.8 Norma:** Ya. Five of the men died. [??? says, "Five?"] Ya, five.
- 28.9 Pat:** You were still a baby.
- 28.9 Pauline:** Ya, but I do remember that big white house. [Talking at same time].
- 29.0 Pat:** And, after school, I'd run over there with Mom or whoever to go and play, and I always thought it was Joey, but I think it must, might have been Danny. Is Danny more around my age?
- 29.3 Norma:** Danny's gonna be, see I'm gonna be 69 next...
- 33.0 Lawrence:** Ya, like an old porcelain sink, it, it was a double one. Then he pushed them down this hill and they went off course and they went right into the skating rink. [???] the hockey game, it was Sunday afternoon.
- 33.3 Pauline:** He was the one that was kind of the little devil in our family. Mom [???].
- 29.4 Pat:** Could have been Buzz, and that, could have been Buzz, he too. Maybe it was Buzz?
- 29.4 Pauline:** They're all up there anyway, it probably [???].
- 29.5 Pat:** I [???] all of them, but my vague, memory is that they were going away in a car, and I couldn't understand why, you know?
- 29.7 Lawrence:** [???] move to the fort probably.
- 29.8 Norma:** Ya, we moved to Fort Qu'Appelle, ya.
- 29.8 Pat:** Ya, and I never did see, see them again, until, just a few years ago.
- 29.9 Norma:** You know what, what I was saying was that...
- 29.9 Lawrence:** Oh there was only five left after mom died.
- 30.0 Norma:** There was you and Ernie and Mickey, were the only ones that were away from home.
- 30.1 Lawrence:** Oh I see now.
- 30.1 Norma:** Like Billie was, but she was working, like you know, so there was actually nine younger than me and Billie, but she was working here at the hotel.
- 30.4 Pat:** Ya, I remember that. I'd go there after school for ice cream cone.
- 30.5 Billie:** [Talking at same time] I think of [???] brown paper.
- 30.7 Cheryl:** What about when they came back from the war?
- 30.8 Lawrence:** Oh there was quite a...

- 30.8 Pauline:** Oh just happy, whole place was...
- 30.8 Lawrence:** Seven didn't come back...
- 30.8 Norma:** Everybody's [???] cousin.
- 30.9 Pauline:** [???] came back, Uncle [???].
- 30.9 Lawrence:** Joseph, Joseph ah...
- 31.0 Pauline:** Eli, no...
- 31.0 Norma:** Eli Sinclair.
- 31.0 Lawrence:** Eli Sinclair and Joe, Joe [???], wasn't he?
- 31.1 Pauline:** No, Joe, Joe [???], came back cause he lived at the Fort [???].
- 31.2 Norma:** He came back here.
- 31.2 Lawrence:** Oh ya, okay, ah, it was Alex. [Talking at same time].
- 31.4 Norma:** Actually I remember because we're related to them, you know, and I remember Uncle Frank had got married after he came back, ya married Auntie Florence. Went around town in a rack. That was a wedding car.
- 31.7 Pauline:** And that was a wedding that was in [???] at the Métis Farm. I remember all us kids were standing around there and everybody was eating and then it came our turn to sit down there was no food left. [Laughter]
- 31.9 Billie:** There was no rabbit left?
- 31.9 Pauline:** No rabbit left. No gophers, no squirrels, no nothing. Ya, it was ah, happy times, [???], I remember that.
- 32.2 Norma:** Oh, they had it in the hall up there though.
- 32.2 Pauline:** Ya, but I mean it was a big celebration all over, like Lebret, you go anywhere and...
- 32.3 Norma:** Ya, everybody in, in the town was celebrating.
- 32.4 Lawrence:** The funniest thing I remember that happened was when, ah, Ernie, found this old porcelain, my brother, [???] up in the [???] on top of the hill there where the slide was, and ah, he, he taught Cookie and Mickey, get, to get into this thing and he pushed them down the hill, and they went right into skating rink while they were having a hockey game.
- 32.9 Norma:** That's when Mickey cut her lip eh, cause they went right under the fence or something? [Lawrence says, "Ya."]
- 33.0 Pauline:** Was it a old tub or something? Used to suspect anything from him.
- 33.4 Cheryl:** You sound like you all got into a little bit of trouble so...
- 33.5 Pauline:** Oh ya. I remember filing up everybody's children, throwing every one of them [???]. Mom would need them to babysit, oh my goodness. That's when I missed my brother Frank here, cause he was the opposite to Ernie.
- 33.8 Norma:** Don't forget...
- 33.8 Pauline:** He yelled at us cause we'd miss every time. Norma too would [???] in the corner. [Talking at same time].
- 33.9 Norma:** I can honestly say I don't remember Ernie being bad.
- 34.0 Pauline:** Well he wasn't bad...
- 34.1 Norma:** He was just [???].

- 34.1 Pauline:** Just like he teased you and bugged you and stuff like that.
- 34.2 Norma:** He used to go out stooking and stuff up at the Métis Farm and Billie used to make his lunch, and he complained about it. He said, "Oh that sandwich you made just tasted like wax paper." So the next day, she made his lunch, she made a sandwich of wax paper. [Laughter] And he came home, throw his lunchbox, you know what he was yelling and screaming and...
- 34.6 Cheryl:** Did he ever complain again?
- 34.7 Billie:** I didn't make his lunch again.
- 34.7 Norma:** No. So, Billie grabbed the frying pan, we had those cast iron frying pans, she grabbed the frying pan and hit him over the head. He said, Jesus Christ she [???] me. Oh my God that was the funniest thing.
- 35.1 Pauline:** I remember hiding in this old cupboard in the backyard at the Métis Farm and he was shooting, [???], and he shot this stone, it ricocheted off a tree and hit me in the head.
- 35.3 Norma:** Ya, I remember that.
- 35.3 Pauline:** And I was bleeding I guess, I don't know, he was running beside me. I cried more for him than I did myself. Don't die he's saying. [???]. [Laughter]
- 35.5 Norma:** Well we used to make playhouses in the bush eh? [Talking at same time, agreeing]. We'd have old pots and pans and we'd play.
- 35.7 Pauline:** Billie used to cook mice and...
- 35.7 Norma:** Billie cooked a mouse and a frog...
- 35.8 Billie:** I never cooked meaty frogs.
- 35.9 Norma:** She, she tells Pauline to eat a fly one time.
- 36.0 Pauline:** Well she used to bet me, like [???] if you did this, and if I did, I still didn't get paid. Like just think of the interest on that now.
- 36.1 Norma:** [???] ya, holy cow.
- 36.2 Pauline:** One of these days, I'll collect. Me and my cousin, she used to make us do stupid things, well...
- 36.4 Norma:** Like when we lived up the hill at [???] there, we used to have fun there and she [???].
- 36.5 Lawrence:** Oh ya, ya.
- 36.5 Pauline:** I remember up there, the little [???] remember? I remember falling...
- 36.6 Norma:** So you probably remember lot of things that we don't, you know.
- 36.7 Lawrence:** About, well ya, before we moved to [???] ya.
- 36.8 Pauline:** Did, when we moved to [???] farm, is that where the house we moved like, it had a cement floor, where we, where were living in that little house.
- 36.9 Lawrence:** No that was in that little house, we had the cement floor.
- 37.0 Pauline:** Oh, I remember that cement floor, I don't know why.
- 37.0 Pat:** Maybe because you had to wash it.
- 37.1 Pauline:** Oh, cause it's cold to walk on.

- 37.2 Pat:** [??] beside the house.
- 37.2 Billie:** Um, um, little Marie was born in [??] [Lawrence and Pauline say, "Ya."]
- 37.2 Norma:** That's what I was gonna ask you. Is that where she, we lived when she died?
- 37.3 Lawrence:** Ya, ya, ya.
- 37.4 Pauline:** Because I remember swinging her, you know, they used to make these swings with hooks on one wall on this one and Mom would pull the blanket over and the baby, that's why, I remember her swinging her when she was sick.
- 37.5 Billie:** But Pauline, you were only about two years old.
- 37.6 Pauline:** I don't care, I still remember that. Oh ya, I remember spilling hot tea on my foot.
- 37.8 Norma:** The only thing I remember about her, I remember Mom carrying her, rocking her in the rocking chair and she was already dead. [Talking at same time.].
- 37.9 Lawrence:** I remember, I think she died in the swing.
- 38.0 Pat:** Devil moon.
- 38.0 Lawrence:** I think she died in swing because she was...
- 38.0 Norma:** Ya, she was in the swing, ya.
- 38.1 Lawrence:** When she died. I remember ever having convulsions.
- 38.2 Billie:** She was sitting on her knee and she was crying, and her tears were running down [??].
- 38.2 Norma:** Ya, that was an awful time.
- 38.3 Lawrence:** And there was a hundred feet of snow that year, and the doctor couldn't even get to the, the, he had a snowmobile, the doctor... [Pat says, "Doctor Hall?"] Doctor Hall, ya, and Dad had to pick him up at the Seminary with the horses.
- 38.6 Pat:** She died at home?
- 38.6 Billie:** Ya, ya.
- 38.7 Norma:** Like, but I don't remember the funeral or anything.
- 38.7 Lawrence:** I was a, I was just [??] ah, it's [??], and Robert Desjarlais and Kaiser were pallbearers.
- 39.1 Cheryl:** What about going to school? What do you remember about, most about going to school?
- 39.1 Norma:** [??].
- 39.2 Lawrence:** Ya, but I, I got that. I don't know, it was kind of a foreign thing because there's so much, additional biased and ah, religion, that, that kind of...
- 39.4 Norma:** I was telling her, like I never, I never felt any prejudiced or biased...
- 39.6 Lawrence:** No, no, I didn't feel it, but other people were feeling it. When I went to school...
- 39.7 Pauline:** I remember when we went to school, some people were feeling...
- 39.8 Lawrence:** Ya, they'd call you Half-Breed and stuff like that.
- 39.8 Norma:** See I don't, I don't remember that.

- 39.8 Lawrence:** Well maybe they didn't do it then, maybe they quit doing it.
- 39.9 Pauline:** When we, well I remember, some things, because when we went to school like there was white people. They'd call us ah, Indians, we're Indians, and on the way home from school, the Indian kids would be working in gardens and they'd throw potatoes at us and call us white people, so...
- 40.2 Lawrence:** You were in the middle?
- 40.3 Pauline:** Ya.
- 40.4 Norma:** I, I remember the, the, the Indian School, oh, they had a garden, big garden eh, and they used to throw potatoes at us, but I didn't think it was because they were prejudiced, I just thought...
- 40.5 Pauline:** No, they were just, you know, being mischievous.
- 40.6 Norma:** Ya, just thinking it was fun kinda.
- 40.6 Lawrence:** Like, going to school for me was like going to a different world altogether because, ah, I don't know why, there's so much religion, and not a lot of education.
- 40.9 Norma:** You had to pray ah, in the morning...
- 41.0 Billie:** 44 times a day.
- 41.0 Norma:** You'd pray at recess.
- 41.0 Pat:** At least. Confession...
- 41.0 Norma:** Pray at lunch time, recess again.
- 41.1 Billie:** At home too.
- 41.1 Norma:** Confession every day.
- 41.1 Lawrence:** Catechism, we had catechism after school, for a half an hour or something, and then the benediction.
- 41.3 Norma:** The religious holidays, and you know, ya we spent just as much time in church as we did in school.
- 41.4 Cheryl:** So how far did you go in school then?
- 41.4 Lawrence:** I went to grade eight here.
- 41.4 Cheryl:** Grade eight?
- 41.5 Lawrence:** Ya. And ah, I've got my, rest of my education in the army when I joined the army.
- 41.6 Norma:** I got mine out behind the barn.
- 41.8 Lawrence:** Where at [???] place? Cause there was a barn there, remember that?
- 41.9 Norma:** Ya, I remember the barn because I remember seeing snakes around the barn.
- 42.0 Pauline:** I remember you fainted.
- 42.0 Lawrence:** Remember the big ah...
- 42.0 Norma:** [???] that's where you threw a worm on me.
- 42.0 Lawrence:** No, no I didn't throw a worm on you.
- 42.1 Norma:** You did so, you put one on my...
- 42.1 Lawrence:** Oh did I?
- 42.1 Norma:** Yes.
- 42.1 Pauline:** Are you sorry?
- 42.2 Lawrence:** Ya, I'm sorry.
- 42.2 Norma:** I just about fainted.

- 42.2 Pauline:** I was screaming later when she, I thought somebody was...
- 42.3 Lawrence:** I didn't think it was me, I thought it was somebody else. I remember the big, big stalks of pig weed that grow by the barn, and made salad out of that. Mom cooked that stuff just like...
- 42.5 Billie:** Old salad eh?
- 42.6 Lawrence:** It's just like spinach.
- 42.6 Norma:** Yes, and you ate Seneca root too, didn't ya?
- 42.7 Lawrence:** Oh ya, ya, definitely. Everyday after school we used to go up the hill and dig them out.
- 42.8 Norma:** It was good, I like them.
- 42.8 Pat:** I remember using them on the way from school.
- 42.9 Lawrence:** I didn't know they were called Seneca root.
- 42.9 Pauline:** We called them [???].
- 43.0** [Talking at same time].
- 43.0 Lawrence:** I didn't know.
- 43.1 Pat:** They grow out on top of the hill.
- 43.1 Lawrence:** Well they grew all over the place, but I haven't been able to find any.
- 43.1 Pat:** I don't even know what the plant looks like. I know they had to dig down deep. They were down...
- 43.4 Cheryl:** We were talking yesterday about um, Rugaroo stories. Are there any, any stories like that?
- 43.5 Pat:** Just you, living down here.
- 43.6 Lawrence:** Well I remember some of the stories that Grandpa, Grandpa used to tell us about ah, things like that. I know you remember that, Moshum St. Pierre.
- 43.7 Norma:** Oh ya, I remember him telling stories but I used to never...
- 43.8 Lawrence:** He used to sit us all down on the floor and tell us ah...
- 43.9 Pauline:** Spooky stories.
- 43.9 Lawrence:** Ya, sometimes spooky, but some, most of the time he told about ah, [???] and medicines and you know...
- 44.0 Billie:** Oh I didn't understand him cause he, cause he talked in Cree and I didn't understand him.
- 44.2 Lawrence:** Well we understood him.
- 44.2 Norma:** I didn't understand him either, but I was always fascinated by it. Well, like Grandma Welsh used to tell us stories and she spoke in French, and ah, we listened, you know. You could understand the odd word.
- 44.4 Lawrence:** And so is Moshum ah, Moshum Johnny used to tell us stories too, although he's bedridden, we'd gather around the bed.
- 44.6 Norma:** Ya, I remember he's bedridden, ya.
- 44.6 Lawrence:** But I guess maybe you guys were too young.
- 44.7 Pauline:** I remember, I remember him, Uncle Frankie and Aunt Boda were there, they were in their uniforms already, and this was Grandma's dad. I remember him laying on the bed. And ah, I knew we were there. I don't know where we were living though, up

- there, the hill somewhere. But I remember being there just before he died.
- 45.0 Norma:** That was Johnny Blondeau.
- 45.1 Lawrence:** After the war?
- 45.1 Pauline:** No, no, this was before the war, before...
- 45.1 Lawrence:** We were living in that little house before the war.
- 45.2 Pauline:** Ya, because Uncle Frankie was there [???] and had their uniforms on, and after Johnny was laying there, and Grandma was looking after him.
- 45.4 Lawrence:** No, Uncle Frankie was overseas by that time. Must have been [???].
- 45.5 Pauline:** No, no, it was Uncle Frankie because bouncing me on his knee, and it was Uncle Frank [???], no [???] before.
- 45.6 Lawrence:** Well, one didn't join the army till 1944 or '43, and Uncle Frankie went in '39, so...
- 45.7 Pauline:** Well it must have been [???], Uncle Frankie then.
- 45.8 Lawrence:** Must have been. Cause that's what I've wondered about, you see, Armand and James joined the army at the same time.
- 45.9 Pauline:** Well it could have been just Uncle Frankie in uniform and, and but I remember [???].
- 46.1 Cheryl:** Is that a nickname for someone?
- 46.1 Pauline:** Ya, ya, Armand [???].
- 46.2 Billie:** Everybody had a nickname.
- 46.2 Norma:** Everybody had a nickname from Grandpa. His is [???].
- 46.3 Cheryl:** Which means?
- 46.3 Norma:** All Saint's, cause he was born on All Saint's Day. He's the [???] my sister, oldest sister, Mickey she was born Christmas Day. Oh, we didn't call her anything. We used to ask Billie who was born on Christmas Day. She'd say Mickey.
- 46.6 Billie:** I said Stella.
- 46.7 Norma:** Stella was her name. Later on people started calling her Mickey.
- 46.7 Lawrence:** That's what I told the bishop.
- 46.8 Norma:** Is that right?
- 46.8 Billie:** Ya, I was born the same day as Jesus.
- 46.8 Lawrence:** He asked me who was born on Christmas Day and I said, Stella. [???] make my confirmation, first communion.
- 47.0 Cheryl:** So do you remember any of the spooky stories that, that they told you?
- 47.1 Lawrence:** Ah, no, not really. They're, you know you always had to use your imagination. Maybe I don't remember them, because I didn't understand them that much, because he spoke Cree and French. Well we understood quite a bit of it, but he ah, he told stories mostly like, about a werewolf, you know, or something like that.
- 47.5 Norma:** Rugaroo.
- 47.6 Lawrence:** But werewolves and...
- 47.7 Pauline:** [???] people turning into wolves and stuff like that.

47.7 Lawrence: Ya, and the princess gettin stalked by a wolf or something like that.

47.8 Cheryl: So were they just told during Lent?

47.8 Lawrence: No, no.

47.9 Pauline: Anytime.

47.9 Lawrence: Told anytime.

47.9 Pauline: Anytime we were there.

47.9 Norma: But they could scare you about that during Lent.

48.0 Pauline: Rugaroo.

48.1 Norma: [???) was the bogeyman.

48.1 Pauline: [???) will get you.

48.2 Norma: But you probably know that anyway.

48.2 Pat: And when I was old enough to understand, it was always Lent I was terrified of, because it was [???). [Talking at same time]. Rugaroo would turn into a werewolf or something.

48.4 Pauline: Well they still talk about that, ya, don't they?

48.5 Norma: Bob Desjarlais still believes it. So does Cliff.

48.5 Billie: Cliff Arcand?

48.6 Pauline: And Joe, I think Joey does too.

48.6 Cheryl: So why was it this fellow that was the Rugaroo?

48.7 Pat: I have no idea.

48.7 Norma: Isn't he the one that had the clothesline ten feet high and...

48.8 Lawrence: Oh no, that was, that wasn't ah...

48.9 Billie: Ya, that was Billy Morin.

48.9 Lawrence: Was that Billy? Oh no, that's not...

48.9 Pat: They lived in the coulee.

48.9 Norma: Ya, ya in the coulee, ya.

49.0 Lawrence: I thought Joey called him something else?

49.0 Pat: Well he may have had a, a different name.

49.1 Norma: He may have had a nickname or something, but um...

49.2 Lawrence: He was kinda young, I thought. He's Billie...

49.2 Billie: Be Billy's son.

49.4 Lawrence: Roy, that's the one, Roy.

49.4 Billie: Roy ya.

49.5 Lawrence: That's the one. Joey told me about his, his clothesline was ten feet high.

49.6 Billie: Well it was his Dad's clothesline as far as I know.

49.7 Lawrence: And he's the one that ah, would sit on top of the hill and concentrate and fly like an eagle. And he wanted me to believe that.

49.8 Norma: But, you know, Bill, you could hear stories about him all the time, because people would say, oh he had... [Talking at same time].

50.2 Lawrence: He was the one that was passed out on the road, hit his head on the highway.

50.2 Pat: And you went back and picked him up. [???) should we pick him up? I said, no damn way, we're not picking anybody up [???).

- 50.4 Lawrence:** I was afraid somebody would run over his head because he had his head on the, on the edge of the highway. You know, he was passed out in the ditch.
- 50.5 Cheryl:** Was this the fellow you thought was the Rugaroo?
- 50.6 Lawrence:** Ya, ya, no, [???] he must have thought he was a Rugaroo because he said his, his clothesline was ten feet tall and he used to fly up there to put his clothes on, so I...
- 50.9 Billie:** Well Joey made that up because...
- 50.9 Lawrence:** Well he must have, but he wanted me to believe that he got [???].
- 51.0 Billie:** [???] maybe told him that...
- 51.1 Cheryl:** So why do you think they told you these stories when you were little? Keep you close to home or?
- 51.2 Norma:** I think they were scare tactics mostly, especially [???], to be good.
- 51.3 Pauline:** To be good, ya, don't eat meat on Friday and don't swear and...
- 51.4 Lawrence:** At [???], up there's a [???] slide that goes right across [???].
- 51.5 Norma:** [???] to make up stories to go to confession. You'd lie to go to confession. Oh ya, I did this and this and that.
- 51.7 Pat:** I lied. I lied about yesterday so I'm back again.
- 51.8 Pauline:** Well I hate to say that I lied to the [???] so, after I confessed all my sins and then I'd say, well I lied ten times.
- 52.0 Norma:** Well then of course, we'd have so many sins, [???].
- 52.1 Pauline:** Ya, when you're seven, like you know.
- 52.1 Pat:** Wasn't it stuff like [???] sins, mortal sin, and...
- 52.2 Lawrence:** The mortal, mortal sin was the bad one. The [???] was a misdemeanour.
- 52.4 Pat:** You could sort of sit at purgatory...
- 52.4 Norma:** I thought there was three things...
- 52.5 Pauline:** [???], mortal and there's another one.
- 52.5 Lawrence:** Is there?
- 52.5 Pauline:** Ya, there was three.
- 52.6 Lawrence:** That must be the extreme one.
- 52.6 Pat:** Because I would always get the [???] one.
- 52.7 Lawrence:** Misdemeanour.
- 52.7 Norma:** Wouldn't you know it. [???] talking to Ronnie when she came home and she was telling him, she was telling me that she went to a Baptist church when she went to BC and ah, she said she just went cause she felt she had to go to church. And then she talked to the minister after and she was telling about how we were brought up, you know, in the Catholic church, and penance was saying ten Hail Marys, and the minister said to her, "Saying ten Hail Marys is an honour. It should never be a punishment."
- 53.4 Pat:** That's right.
- 53.4 Norma:** And then, you know, ya, and when you think about it, isn't that true? Is praying a punishment?

53.5 Lawrence: No, not really.

53.5 Pat: But that's what the Roman Catholic church...

53.6 Norma: Ya, that's what we got.

53.6 Billie: [???] great to ask for forgiveness for your sins.

53.7 Norma: At the same time he would tell you ten Hail Marys for your punishment, penance it was called.

53.9 Cheryl: I have to change the tape here, we're running out.

[Tape ends here]