

## Nap Johnson

**Wayne Morin:** Where were you born and in what year?

**Nap Johnson:** I was born in 19- uh, November the 30<sup>th</sup>, 1915. I'll be 85 years old this fall in November.

**Wayne Morin:** Where were you born?

**Nap Johnson:** Sucker Point. You know where you were born, right by Sandy Point, just three miles across.

**Wayne Morin:** Oh you were born at Sucker Point?

**Nap Johnson:** Yeah. My wife, my late wife, Margaret, she was born in... [inaudible]

**Wayne Morin:** Sandy Point.

**Nap Johnson:** Sandy Point.

**Wayne Morin:** What was your wife's last name? Margaret...?

**Nap Johnson:** Margaret Kyplain.

**Wayne Morin:** Kyplain, yeah, her last name. Oh yeah, Johnson eh?

**Nap Johnson:** Johnson yeah.

**Wayne Morin:** How did you get that last name? Where does that name come from?

**Nap Johnson:** Well, my, fisheries, Ice Fisheries, started in 1914, and that's where I was, come from eh. And my mother married to a guy by the name of Johnson from Norway.

**Wayne Morin:** Oh from Norway?

**Nap Johnson:** Yeah. So, then when I work, I was a special constable for seven years, then they give me that name, Johnson eh.

**Wayne Morin:** But your dad, papa was a Johnson?

**Nap Johnson:** Well, not really, but uh, I don't know how to...I was over here, and you were over here already.

**Wayne Morin:** Where did you live? Sucker Point?

**Nap Johnson:** Sucker Point. I was brought up in Sucker Point. And my mother, she's a Treaty Indian, and at that time, she belongs to Patuanak band you know, Churchill River band, and we used to borrow a canoe to go get her rations, little bit salt pork, and about six pounds, and three balls of twine to make nets, and side line, seaming twine, and we got two hooks with line to cast out you know, so that's how we used to...when I was about eight, twelve years old I started trapping for weasels and minks eh. I couldn't, I

couldn't open, I couldn't open the traps. I had to put a little stick like that and put my knees, to put that spring down and I opened up...

**Wayne Morin:** [says something in Michif]

**Nap Johnson:** Well my mother I guess. And you know, I worked for Baptiste Natomagan, Modeste Aubichon, Julien Aubichon, and Apisis. Four old people there, I was about eight years old, that's all the people...Sucker Point...and my mother used to tell me...boy this is a good story for young people...my mother used to tell me, from about, I was eight years old, he said, haul wood, we had to go in the bush to haul dry wood, and there was no sweet saw back then, just cross-cut saw. I had to use that cross-cut saw to, to cut wood. I cut wood for all those people, and my mother used to tell me...there was no old age pension yet at that time...and then uh, my mother used to tell me, she said, don't stand there to wait for them to pay you. They got nothing. They're poor just like us. We had to get fish from the lake. In the wintertime I had to go in the bush to chase rabbits, chickens...But we lived good because nobody come behind us to tell us what to do, it was free country, and when I was twelve years old then I, I start to kill moose then eh, so, caribou, deer...