

Harry Morin

Wayne Morin: Back in the old days, what did you ah, what type of food did you guys eat?

Harry Morin: Mostly wild.

Wayne Morin: Just wild food? Like what?

Harry Morin: Was no meat in the stores, few can meats like that, like today you don't hunt at all. If you want meat you just walk to the store and get some. Lot of money today, not like fifty, sixty years ago.

Wayne Morin: Hardly any, hardly any money?

Harry Morin: Everything was so cheap. Tobacco, used to buy tobacco by package, ten cents a package. Same as butter eh, about ten cents a pound, creamery butter, and now, nobody can afford to eat butter.

Wayne Morin: Who used to build, like when you guys moved from here to Buffalo, who used to build the houses?

Harry Morin: Well, there's my dad, and get the trees with, with horses, from the bush, and they build a house. It don't take long with just logs.

Wayne Morin: So they used to build it wherever they put it?

Harry Morin: But they didn't have no roofing paper; they used to cut down a birch, then peel it, just the bark eh, and they use that for roofing eh, they put dirt on top. There was nothing, no place you could buy that roofing paper eh.

Wayne Morin: Oh, back then. So they used to use birch?

Harry Morin: No stores in Buffalo. You had to pilot to Clear Lake to get to, get groceries once in a while eh.

Wayne Morin: How about for doors and stuff? They used to make their own?

Harry Morin: Oh yeah, they had enough lumber.

Wayne Morin: And windows?

Harry Morin: The mission always have lots of lumber. That's where they get the windows, some of them, they got, they always find something, just, a small window eh, not like the windows we got today, bunch of windows laying all over the place.

Wayne Morin: So who used to help your dad build those things?

Harry Morin: Your mooshum, Ambrose, and Jeffery.

Wayne Morin: So the older kids used to help him?

Harry Morin: The oldest boys ah, it don't take long. Old Jeffery was so strong, you know, he grabbed a big log, he just put it on top eh, like nothing, like nothing at all.

Wayne Morin: Just by himself?

Harry Morin: Yeah. He was a big man. Just about 83 when he died, Jeffery. I'm the only one left.

Wayne Morin: In that family?

Harry Morin: Yeah, that family. And I'm the oldest one alive too. Your grandpa died in '69 eh.

Wayne Morin: No, '74.

Harry Morin: '74? You know, Elizabeth Hood told me it was '69.

Wayne Morin: '74 when he died.

Harry Morin: 1974 he died, but how old? He was 69 years old?

Wayne Morin: Yeah, he was 69 years old already.

Harry Morin: But he died '74?

Wayne Morin: Yeah.

Harry Morin: That's what I said. He was 69 years old and now I'm still alive. I'm just about, I live till 90 I think.

Wayne Morin: I think so. Maybe 100.

Harry Morin: I trying to go 75. I went through 25, 50, 60 already, the two of us.

Wayne Morin: Oh, with your wife? Sixty-four years you're been married eh?

Harry Morin: Yeah, just about, not quite, in October. Too long I said.

Wayne Morin: Did your dad ever talk about a like, when they wrote that land scrip?

Harry Morin: No! I didn't even know about, I never heard about land scrip for long time eh.

Wayne Morin: So your dad never talked about it?

Harry Morin: No. The only one, in our family, the only who's got, my dad and his wife and your grandpa Ambrose. I think Ambrose was very young, he was just a baby when he gets it, that land scrip.

Wayne Morin: Yeah, cause he is on there, Ambrose is on there, cause he did sign, Felix did sign that in Green Lake I think.

Harry Morin: Must be, yeah.

Wayne Morin: Hey, wasn't it...?

Harry Morin: All these Morins, I'm only...

Wayne Morin: But they don't understand, they didn't understand what that was?

Harry Morin: I don't know what happened, that...It's funny the people don't talk about that now; they're always fighting something different eh. Like the school eh. They fight about the school, the way they were treated. My brother, three brothers, they spent, two of them, they spent seven years in Beauval and Louis for five years. They never say anything happened to them, about the sisters or brother or a priest. Vital say they never see anything like that, and the rest of the people, the Treaties, they say it was the worst place to be in, Beauval, the way the mission treated us. It was the money eh. They want the money.

Wayne Morin: So Vital and them, you never went to the mission eh? You never went to school?

Harry Morin: Me, no. I went to school a little bit. I went to school in Sandy Lake for a month. I just started when my dad come pick me up. I just, I was, they were going, that family I stayed with, they were going to try and put as a treaty. I was gonna adopted me and, but it was hard those days, to do anything without a phone, and you gotta write a letter and it takes long time to get a mail to here eh. I don't know what would have happened to me if I didn't come home. I wouldn't have come home at all if my dad didn't go pick me up. I would have stayed there, cause, even, especially with my mom, after he was gone, it was a better place for me to stay eh.

Wayne Morin: Did they talk about the mission? How were they treated there?

Harry Morin: What? Where?

Wayne Morin: Your brothers.

Harry Morin: I don't know. It was nice, it was a nice outfit, this mission. They raised a lot of kids when they lost their mom or their dad eh, no place to go those days, the mission used to pick them up and raise them, lots of them.

Wayne Morin: And they never talk about, they never talk about them like, being treated bad and stuff?

Harry Morin: Oh no. I don't believe that because I ask my three brothers, I said, the way the people talk. They were raised at Beauval and them too, they were there the same time, even from Canoe Narrows. A guy said, how come I said to that guy Vital and Louis, they wasn't treated like that, and you guys, they say you've been treated like that. He said, they don't want to tell, he says. That's why, why Vital, I would tell if it happen like that, but I never seen anything like that. We had, we had to work, it's a good thing we work,

he said. We know some what to do and get out of there, supposed to make a living after this two month holidays they were working. Mission had to make some hay and bunch of cattle they had, but they were working there, making hay, making stacks, but they didn't mind that.