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## Interview with George Klyne

**Interviewed by: Calvin Racette and John Arcand**

**Location: Fort Qu'Appelle**

**Date: December 19, 2000**

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**Calvin:** Hi, I'm Calvin Racette here on December the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2000, at the home of George Klyne, here with John Arcand. Stopped by here to visit with George, an old friend of mine. I grew up knowing George all my life. We're here just to visit and ask questions, talk a little bit. So, where are you from George, where did you grow up? Where were you born?

**George:** Pitampa, down in the valley. Well I was born in Indian Head Hospital.

**Calvin:** So what are your parents' names, and grandparents' names? And where did they come from?

**George:** Well they're from up the Ituna way, my dad was, and Henri Klyne was. They noticed his name was more or less Andrew Klyne.

**3.0 Calvin:** That was your dad?

**3.1 George:** My dad yeah. But my parents, on that side of my dad is my grandpa Klyne. I didn't know him that good. Already I was gone when he was you know, passed away. So I didn't know he was, Landrieu Klyne was his name.

**3.4 Calvin:** Where did they come from, Do you know?

**3.4 George:** They were from up there, I don't know exactly. I couldn't tell you that for sure, and then my mother's side was Amyotte. Isodore Amyotte was his dad, my grandpa on that side. My mother was Vera Klyne, more or less know that half-breed name, la fille used to call her, nickname. Now I was raised up there and they had, there were 4 other boys besides me. They all passed away. I was the fifth one which lived through it, and I was sick for, until I was about 8 years old.

**4.6 Calvin:** What was the matter?

**4.7 George:** I had pluralist. And those days they didn't have the money really, everything had to be cash, there was no such thing as welfare, or anything like that you know. Dad had the cattle and they had to give a cow or heifer to the doctor to keep us, to keep us going and that. So I was in the hospital, they say it was about 18 months or something like that and I think in and out you know, until I got through, I couldn't even talk. I was very weak all that time. Until I was about... yeah and then when we lived there... I was 6 miles to school, and they, mum and he wouldn't let me go because to go to school because... my

sister they were quite a bit older than me and they were working already. My sister Irene, she was quite a bit younger but they, she, they had school in Mowart. Mowart school and nun whatever and that, that.

**6.1 Calvin:** That was a long way to Mowart School.

**6.1 George:** Yeah, but they were trying, they couldn't, mom and dad they couldn't afford it, to get into school and that for me. I had the horse there for a while, and going to school, and what happened, I'd go, I was already 12 or 13 years old, and all the kids would laugh at you in grade one. I turn around, and get a little rough with them and the teacher pulled me in and get the strap in them days. So the next morning I go to school, I hid in the hills and put my horse in the quarry and I stayed there until the kids would go home and when the kids would go home I'd jump on my horse and go home and that. That went on for quite a little while then all of a sudden, they go, they call them, the trustees, the school trustees. They wouldn't ask mom or how come they don't send him to school, he said, he's gone every morning for a long time. Well, why? He says the teacher said he hasn't seen him for a week or so. So, when they got, my dad got back from work, mom of course told him. He said, "Wonder what he does? He goes to school every day, but he said the teacher hasn't seen him," my dad said. Well what does he do? My dad come out, line me up, so I had to tell what I was doing. I was getting, he got the big whip, he hit me a couple of times and I took off. I run over the hill, and I wasn't coming back. I was running away. Mom stopped him and he says, "What are you going to do? You can't read. You'll never get a job. Like me, I read a little bit, but it's not enough. You have to go to school." "Well, I don't want to go to school. I want to work right now." "Where do you think you're going to work?" "I'll find a job." So he leaves me alone, so I come, he gave me a horse already. I had a little stallion pony. I went over across the hill to Jack Bank's. He had bunch of sheep. I ask him, "Do you need any help here? He said, "Yeah, aren't you going to school?" "No, they don't want me in school. I got kicked out." So he says, "Okay, you can herd the sheep then. Take them down to the valley." He says, "We want them in the valley, but someone has to watch them, coyotes and stuff like that." I said, "Okay." So I got the job, big money.

**9.9 Calvin:** How much money, how much an hour, a day?

**9.9 George:** I got 12 dollars a month. Boy! that was good money, I tell you. I was just waiting. When I got my pay, I bought myself a watch. They called it, was a dollar watch, they called them. And by the name of Clifford Leper, worked there on the field and that, and then I used to go up there after I get my sheep home and worked on the field, used to ride with him. Around Oliver he had there you know... all banks worked there and ride with him. All of a sudden he said, "George, do you think you can drive this thing? I'll go on the side and sit on the fender and you can sit on the seat and drive it." I was doing all right, knew how to stop it, change gears, 1, 2, 3... whatever gear you wanted. I was doing all right. First thing you know I was driving the tractor. But I had to look after my sheep and that. So we worked there for a while, he was a bachelor. Eva Racette, worked there as a hired girl and that. We all kind of know one another and that you know. But, when I, after that I quit there and got better jobs here and

there. I was getting older and I worked for Bob Emerson. I was canvas district and that you know, and the teacher, school teacher was boarding there. And she was trying to make me, told him what happened and that. Because what happened, they come give me some paper there or something happen or something for me to read it and it was pretty hard for me to turn around and say, "I can't read." But, they had to take it out of me, because I can't tell lie you know. You know what happen, there. The school teacher, I told her you know I can't read this. She said, "I'll read it to you then, when I have time," she said. "You come to the other room and I'll try to learn you, how to sound your words, stuff like that," I said, "Fine." So that's what we were doing, that.

**12.9 Calvin:** Were you able to read then?

**12.9 George:** Not very much! No not a heck of a lot, this that you know.

**13.1 Calvin:** Was that a Road Allowance community? There lots of half-breed people there?

**13.2 George:** There were a lot, mostly half-breeds living on road lots, that you know. But were that, had you know, it was owned by different, it was a company, Hudson's Bay. Hudson's Bay land and they never bothered you or anything. That you know.

**13.5 Calvin:** So there was a Native community?

**13.6 George:** That and that, you know. But the rest of them were on the road allowance like you know, they all lived there you know. There was a road allowance that went across there where Rene Amyotte used to live. They were on there and what you call them, there. Then, Auntie Emma bought the land after you know, because Uncle Rene drank quite a bit, you know and he didn't bother anything, like that you know to save his money to buy that.

**14.2 Calvin:** That's where?

**14.2 George:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, we lived a little father up and more down. More or less you see. Billy Barr, and there was, as we lived there, and after that Ernie Skinner made Cardinal moved over off the hill and build a house there. But before that, and that you know old Billy Barr, he, we didn't rent a place at all so old Billy Barr, he was kind of an old miserable old guy.

**14.8 Calvin:** That's what I heard yeah.

**14.8 George:** So he sent a letter to the, to, to the, to the Head Quarters to the Hudson's Bay and he rented the place.

**15.1 Calvin:** Oh I see.

**15.2 George:** And that, and so while he doing that then he come and put a fence right around us. We could, there was a lot of places you couldn't get out. He fenced the bottom and everything. So in the meantime, dad was working for

Ernie Skinner, he went and told Ernie, he says, "Henri is doing that to you? Wait a minute." He sends a letter right away to Hudson's Bay there. He says, "That land for sale?" "Yeah," he said. Skinner bought it. He said, "Henri live there as long as you live, as long as you live."

**16.0 Calvin:** Is that right eh?

**16.0 George:** Ernie Skinner bought that, the land, and it did not take long about a month I guess and he had the papers already you see. He was a millionaire, Ernie Skinner, you see and old Bill Barr had the notice to take off all the fence off. And Phillip Fary my bother-in-law and another guy there one of his friends come you know and that had the pickets and wire. Old Bill Barr, when he pull a picket out they were there to put the others ones in the same hole. They followed right behind him.

**16.8 Calvin:** Is that right, yeah.

**16.8 George:** Yap! Old Bill Barr didn't even what to look. He did even roll his wire or nothing. Just, hook his team. He wasn't that far, you know. His team then this wire he pull it right in his yard you know. The whole straight like you know. But, they made a fence there. That's how there it happen, you know. We live there we let it go. Who owns it now I don't know. Who Skinner let it go to I don't know.

**17.3 Calvin:** So ...

**17.4 George:** So, that's how come Old Cardinal, when he couldn't work anymore that farm there, so they build a house there for him on the same land. After, that, that's where Henri Buttress stayed in that there farm, there you know where Joe Cardinal was. You see, Eddie...

**17.8 Calvin:** Just down from Rene and Emma's there?

**17.8 George:** Hey!

**17.8 Calvin:** Just down from Rene and Emma's. So, Rene Skinner was a good man in some ways?

**17.9 George:** Oh! Well he was a good man more or less to say in always, but hum, the thing is you know he look after. That's how, he was a tie guy, that's how guys have made the money yeah. Otherwise he would spend your money any other way he wouldn't have been a millionaire. Yeah!

**18.3 Calvin:** But! He looked after, he looked after the people who worked for him.

**18.4 George:** He worked. Yeah! Why sure! Like your grandpa lived on his land and whatever. Quite a few Métis, yeah.

**18.5 Calvin:** All of those years. So you didn't work for this guy yeah?

**18.6 George:** Yeah! I worked for him for a while. Yeah, yeah, we worked Billie and I and Wilfred? Donnie, we come in the evening we were going to go to town. He says, "You going to ask for money?" "Yeah," I said, "I'm going to ask," I said. Ten dollars, used to be a lot of money you know. He said, "You want ten dollars," he said, "Ask for twenty and he'll give you ten." He says, "Every time, he lowers it," he says. That's how he was. So he did know him, like I say. So I go there and I ask him, "Can I have twenty dollars?" I, what so does this cover the paper like ??? Ten dollars sure enough. HA HA!

**19.5 Calvin:** Ha! Ha! ???

**19.6 George:** Billie says, "See, you got ten dollars yeah?" "Yeah," I say. "Told you he would give you twenty. He only give you half of what of you ask for yeah."

**19.7 Calvin:** So how much did he pay you a month? Do you remember?

**19.8 George:** He never tells you. He never tells you how much he give or nothing that guy. You ask him he'd say, "You'll get your pay." That's how he'll tell you. "How much will I get an hour?" "You'll get your pay." Whatever. That it.

**20.1 Calvin:** And he just give you money all the time?

**20.1 George:** Yap

**20.1 Calvin:** Never paid you a lump or nothing?

**20.2 George:** We hauled wheat with horses to Indian Head from Indupet?, from across the valley. Go to a horse's tandem, tandem and that you know. And one beside the horses to get them into town. He had that big, his own elevator there and when that was full he had the liver barn in the loft, and he had bins in there had to shovel it in to bins. And by the name of Old Sam Sing, was at the café where we had our meals. You go there and tell them, "Ernie pay," you, know you go there sign your name and Ernie pay for it. All that time even when we quit working, and that you know. I go there and Bill and them were still at the farm you know, and you had to go with them. "Come on George, let's go and eat in the café and put our name down for Ernie Skinner. He'll pay it." Okay. I go with them and they have big dinner and he'll know. Never heard nothing. He pay it, I guess. I guess he paid. Whatever.

**21.5 John:** What about you, were you to young for the last war?

**21.5 George:** No, I wasn't. I was going to join in you know my cousins, name of Fane boys there, uh, Jewel Fane, Peter Fane, Donald, they joined in the Army. I was going join in, my mother, you had to have your mum sign hey, and she wouldn't sign in. Cause, then they say you the only boy they can not force them, you know. Then she would sign you know so I, I, I was, I tell you, I was want to go so bad I. You know but the old days she would sign so you can't do nothing at that time. Unless, you were I don't know if you were old, I was

eighteen or nineteen at that time, or something around there you know. I said I go.

**22.5 Calvin:** Consider yourselves, obviously you're down there. Were times tough? Was it really bad, poor living and hard working and...

**22.7 George:** Oh! It was pretty poor I'll tell you. One, I come up I told you and that I know and that I was trying to go to school. There were, most of the time we were barefooted and the dry years in the thirties, in the thirties and that you know. We used to have two barges... uh, uh, one of the barges stone boat to go down the river and get water and try and water the garden. You know, you do water the garden it will be coming up a little bit, be a storm coming. Be hail it would knock everything clean, you didn't get nothing yeah. Maybe a few potatoes and then they will try to come up again, and that you know. And it was pretty hard years. And that you know and that too you know. Dad he worked, for farmers. Then Mum, he sits down, she had rugs and that and he take them for farmers for bacon and eggs and one thing and another. It was at that time she raised own chicken and after that you had turkeys, and things were coming up a little bit. You always had cattles. One or two milk cows through the summer pretty well every summer, yeah. Because part of the winter, you know that what saved us. But there was a lot of them that did not have that, you know. Like, Uncle Rene and Auntie Emma they had cattle. While the rest of them didn't have nothing, that's where they use to come up to us you know. Like Fred Frank's kids and that you know come up after Mum, made butter come and pay something for butter. They trade this and that. They didn't have the cash, hey.

**24.6 Calvin:** Right.

**24.7 George:** Stuff like that. Well they, old Fred, they hunt for rabbits and stuff like that and then they hide a little bit, they go for deer. Me and Uncle Rene were pretty good at that. You know, we used to go and that, went, it was stormy, yeah. We'd go out you know. There was no, never supposed to shoot deer, yeah. But, uh no one bother you that much, the game warden never came. I guess he figured well they had to make their live and did bother that much. All that somebody, jealous go and tell on you and that then they had to come check on you. That happen, not to us but I know it happen so someone there that you know.

**25.7 Calvin:** What about uh, uh, when the Métis got shipped to Green Lake there? Were you involved in that?

**25.8 George:** No. No. No. I know nothing about that. No.

**25.9 Calvin:** So what in 1940 you would be living down the valley? Yeah?

**26.0 George:** Yeah, yeah, oh yeah.

**26.0 Calvin:** The ones from Muskgot, Aldridge?

**26.0 George:** Yeah, oh yeah. 1940 I was working at, by the name of, of, John White, there that time. That's about when I started, yeah that's right to when I

working for John White. Uncle Rene worked for that. I always remember that when you said that, 1940. It was '40, it was the war was on and everything was rationed, yeah and that sugar, beer everything. So, Uncle Rene was going to town. He says you not quite old enough to go to the bar. But! When you're ...reg there... He says, uh let them see, all them had papers, registrar, yeah and that. I take my paper, and he says but a one here you were born in '41. You know. You take. I took that and went into the place where you get your book for a beer and I did, I got it. Mind you, I got a few beers yeah and Uncle Rene, was happy yeah. I think he got, yeah, yeah when you say that you know in 1940- 1941, I should put the 1941 in there, Uncle Rene put it on for me.

**27.6 Calvin:** I remember when I was a little guy growing up like our people, like down in that part of the valley didn't, didn't have a lots. But, I remember Grandma had things, like she had her, like them clay birds on the wall and stuff like that. I think that like, there were other old things, like fiddles and stuff like that. I...did you have any? Did, do you remember what people wore? Did they wear blue jeans? Did they wear suits? Did they wear jackets? Do you know?

**28.2 George:** No, they just, ordinary clothes, you know more or less the same. There were no such a thing as blue jeans then at that time. All colour pants at that time, more as like a grey pants, stuff like you know and you know. Or a half-breed to have. Like in the summer, you know you all, you wear the pants that. When I was a little boy, I know they came just past my knees here. Which the old pants people, they like maybe my grandpa, uncle made from their clothes stuff like that. They had holes in them. Mum would take them and cut them, and she was great for sewing and that you know. Made them a little smaller and that you know. And that heard, them all boy. I use to sit there and watch Mum, making me a pair that was just like buying a brand new pair to have. When they get ready, I would just sit there waiting for that, to get that, to get that pair of pants. But, uh like you say, you know, uh, we never bothered much for Christmas eh, and that you know. The day was New Year's them day, straight through the valley. Where, how they did it? I don't know. There was, there was...

**Tape ends with a blip noise.**

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## Interview with George Klyne

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Location: Fort Qu'Appelle

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**Tape One: Side B. This does not sound like George, Calvin and John put I type it in case you need it.**

**0.0 George:** My Dad tell me. But, like I said there is only the mother's difference, hea! But, they still be my first cousin no matter how you look at it.

**0.2 Calvin:** How is his music different than yours?

**0.3 George:** His what?

**0.3 Calvin:** His music.

**0.3 George:** Well, everyone's got they own style, yeah.

**0.4 Calvin:** Yap.

**0.5 George:** I mean say, what grow up to be the way I play. I mean say I just more less like my dad used to play, I guess. It just more or less come more or less natural like, I guess.

**0.7 Calvin:** And uh, and uh...like he's...he's got to be a really hero in fiddle music too like uh, he can play it very, very well and I'm just glad that we're told he.... Uh, put a tape together like this of all the great favorites of western Canada.

**1.1 George:** Yeah.

**1.1 Calvin:** You among them.

**1.2 George:** Yes, I won quite a few trophies. I was the first North American uh; trophy I won was in 1984, eh. And 1986 I won another one, North American one, and 1987 I won another North American one. But, then I had to drop out then, yeah because you can only win twice in a row.

**1.6 Calvin:** Oh, yeah. So you would have won again?

**1.7 George:** Well, I probably might have, but I'm Métis. But, that was a gamble, I mean to say. You can never, can never say that you're going to win because there is ask, it just depends on how you come up with your tunes yeah.

**2.1 Calvin:** Yep.

The tape stops here and then someone different comes on.

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### Tape One: Side B

**2.2 George:** Families there hardly had anything to eat though. New Year's Day come up, you walk in them houses, there was everything on the table: carrot cakes, six big cakes, big cake in the middle all decorated up and everything and that you know. Pies and all kinds of stuff you know and that you know. We used to go from house to house, New Year's Day and visit your people and that you know. And that and say Happy New Year's to them. Then, then, in the evening we gather up to one place and have a dance, yeah and that which anyone who's got a little bit of money maybe got a bottle of whiskey, and there you know. And we got together. We me and Billie, and that you know. We used to drink together all the time you know. Your Grandpa used to bring us. No such thing as liquor at Indian Head you know, at that time even away after they made wine there. They said, your Grandpa, go to Regina we made our list and he go get it for us.

**3.6 Calvin:** With Uncle Charlie?

**3.6 George:** Oh yeah! He was good to us you know. He yelled but you boys behaved yourself. Oh, he give a big warning I tell, and that you know. Edward was supposed to look after us. After that he was the guide but we used to get him drunk, then .... Ha! Ha...he got so drunk.

**3.9 Calvin:** I think that's where you got sloshed all the time... Ha! Ha!

**4.0 George:** Yeah, we got drunk and Billie would laugh, you know. We would get him drunk with us you know. He was so... you know. Oh, oh, he was good at that sleigh that he had.

**4.3 Calvin:** When you had a gathering like... yeah, do people dance a square dance and all that? All different kinds of dances, yeah?

**4.4 George:** Yeah, square dance was yep. April? Waltz and stuff like that you know... What they call the rabbit dance and what ever and that you know. Yep, yep. We called it like in my language uh, uh, the, they call the uh, uh, I can't even say it.

**4.8 Calvin:** Is it an {??? (Dance name) le ....croquet}

**4.9 George:** {??? (Dance name) le ....croquet} that one too, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**5.0 Calvin:** {The Dankqueteau??? Dance name}?

**5.1 George:** {the Dankqueteau??? Dance name} Yeah, yeah, there couldn't say it. Yeah yeah. But, yeah.

**5.1 Calvin:** I got a version of that, yeah. Played for me, The Reveille Rock by Touc..?? (Name)

**5.2 George:** Yeah.

**5.3 Calvin:** I got...

**5.3 George:** Oh, yeah.

**5.3 Calvin:** ... remember I'm sure he would. Image Church also Grandma was one for church hay. It played a pretty important role in that?

**5.4 George:** Yeah, yeah, your Grandma, he was, she was a great one for Church and that you know. She prayed in Cree, French, and English that woman. Then we want it and then Clarence said you can get. Of course she had a good education and that you know. Yeah, yeah.

**5.5 Calvin:** I know she used to make Sunday pretty important and now and I image. Our Grandma like, in that family John, our Grandma was sort of seen as the matriarch, yeah. She was sort of seen as the important person, our leader. Yeah and everybody sort of went around her place, so we had to do what she wanted to do.

**6.3 George:** Yep, yep.

**6.3 Calvin:** She was pretty important.

**6.3 John:** She must have done the right things though.

**6.3 Calvin:** Yeah, most of the time. So and course...

**6.5 George:** She was a Bellegarde, to start with.

**6.5 Calvin:** And so... whatever, like... I always hear lots of stories about how the priests, used to take away fiddles and all that stuff during Lent and all that stuff. Is that true George?

**6.7 George:** Yep, yep, yeah, we're, you not supposed to go to dances and stuff like that, you know right through Lent. That's what, that was, you know and that you know. After you say your prays every, you know your bead every night and you supposed to have in the morning, night and morning, before you go to work. What ever you go do or if kids before you go and play. Always kneel down and after that you have your breakfast and away you go, yeah. That's how it was at that time. Then you, there was as you say, when your parents passed away. You and your brother, sister anything like that. What you call that? You had that black, uh stripe on you. You could dance, you could ... not supposed to dance for so many years. Was the same thing and that you known? Yeah.

**7.9 Calvin:** ??????

**7.9 George:** You remember that, yeah.

**7.9 Calvin:** Yeah.

**8.0 George:** You had a ribbon on you. Yep.

**8.0 Calvin:** Mourning sort of thing, that was the principle of the thing, you were in mourning.

**8.1 George:** Hmm! Yep! Yeah.

**8.1 Calvin:** Did you ever play the fiddle, George or just...?

**8.2 George:** No, no. I uh, we had a that like I say. Dad had a fiddle all that time. He played a bit you know, not a great, you know, not say a great fiddler but he play a few tunes and this and that you know. Say you know my sister Alice played, she just pick it up on her own, played the violin and the midline. She had uh, a viol.. midline yeah. She played that you know. And when Georgie got old enough my nephew, he played pretty good violin, yep. He played that. I even bought him one. After that, I don't know what happen to his violin that time. But, I bought one I even made all these right uh, tighteners for him and that you know, so they would not come off and one thing and another. George had that, what he done with it I guess when he got to be a big boy and that he started drinking and stuff that you know. He was kind of wild after that. You know, and he kind...

**9.4 Calvin:** Did you ever see anyone spit on a peg? When you were...

**9.5 George:** Hey, that's how they don't. It was a kind of violin I got, that's all wood and that you know. It takes after... {Here George demonstrates how he spit on the violin and they all laugh}. You play the violin like that?

**9.9 Calvin:** No!

**9.9 George:** You don't spit on it?

**9.9 Calvin:** My dad used to.

**9.9 George:** Yeah, but you got the real tighteners on your violin, yeah. They don't come off. Wherever you put them, they don't come down. Yeah, that header little thing on the end, what you call where you tighten your, uh your key here, yeah.

**10.3 Calvin:** Oh, no I got one of wood pegs.

**10.3 George:** Wooden pegs but they don't come on that.

**10.4 Calvin:** Not, if they fit right, you know.

**10.4 George:** That they fit right, yeah. How come them on you?

**10.5 Calvin:** How come dur..... They weren't made with, uh the wood we use now.

**10.6 George:** Oh, oh,

**10.6 Calvin:** They used to wear out, but they put these in eh, in the old ones.

**10.6 George:** Yeah.

**10.7 Calvin:** There not a hard wood they're a soft wood, sort of thing.

**10.7 John:** Yeah. They did fit. If you did spit on they'd get they get, you know.

**10.8 George:** For a while they would stick.

**10.8 John:** You spent a little while, and then they'd go for awhile.

**10.9 George:** Yeah, that right.

**10.9 John:** I've seen my Dad do that, lots of time, there.

**11.0 George:** Yeah, yeah. We had a great fiddler he was good but old Fred Train, was his name you know. He was so good fiddler I tell you. He played a good fiddle. But, you know he was, I don't want to play I'm tried and this and that.

**11.3 John:** You had to coax him?

**11.3 George:** Had to coax him, yeah he wants to be coaxed. You give him a bottle of beer or something, you know, soon as his bottle of beer is empty he wants to go away, hay. He was a hard guy to keep on the violin. Uncle Rene, he played not too bad, he had a few tunes, but he was just about the same all the time and that you know. He was pretty good, but him he sit, there you know you give him a beer, now and again, you know he sit there and play. Another one there we had you know Martin Pereau, he did need a drink in him. If, you give him a drink he'd drink, but he liked parties, yeah and that. He could sit there all night, to play to just see that everyone had a good time and that. It didn't matter to him, if he had a beer or not or whatever, anyone wants to give him a beer he'll have it. If he don't he don't and that he was you know.

**12.4 Calvin:** I had a problem all those guys, as a young kid growing up, you know. I remember Martin Pereau, I seen him every, I remember he lived down in sort of half-breed end of town there.

**12.6 George:** Yeah, yeah.

**12.6 Calvin:** He was old and retired, and I never knew he played the fiddle and Fred was an old storyteller.

**12.7 George:** Yeah, yeah.

**12.7 Calvin:** He was forever spoofing someone.

**12.7 George:** Oh, yeah.

**12.7 Calvin:** And that I didn't know he played the fiddle and that. Rene, I didn't know Uncle Rene. He liked to drink and party, and laugh, and visit. But, I never knew he played fiddles.

**12.8 George:** Yeah.

**12.9 Calvin:** Uh, another thing you know, as a kid growing he had to start into acting with the white committee. You know they treated us like we were. Not very welcome. I remember that, growing up, that sort of thing. You grow up in that, in Indian Head. Everybody at school, sort of treated like I was accepted, if I was a good boy. You know, sort of...

**13.2 George:** Yeah, yeah.

**13.2 Calvin:** You know if you were a bad boy they didn't like you, but if you were a good boy. They said well okay. Was it the same for you growing up? George, or was it different.

**13.4 George:** Well, let's see uh, one, hum... Like I say when I went to school in Contipareau, there was mostly half-breeds anywhere. They didn't... white couldn't .... White boy or girls couldn't push us because there was too many half-breeds. If, they did that you know you get after them, you beat them up anyway. But they were pretty tough anyway, the Johnsons and Glen Johnson and that hum. They were white boys, they were bigger and that. Glen, hum... Even and that, you know, there Patterson. Eldon Patterson, he was going to school same as I did there that, you know. We all, we're all growed up like that, we were good friends, heh and that you know. They weren't, instead of that us, we're one another the half-breed were fighting more and, than the white fighting us, you know.

**14.5 Calvin:** You would fight among each other more?

**14.5 George:** Yeah, more like you take, there was Peter Astee, but not your uncle. The other Peter Astee, you know in the valley. You used to live there was Jimmy Astee, Allie Astee, and I don't know if you remember that. There was supposed to be your cousins, there and that. You see how you don't know your relation. Yeah, if you don't get close to them and that. His name was... Big Joe uh, Uh, Versette I think was his name. You know to, yeah, yeah they were like them there they went was to...Pelletier, Peter Pelletier and that you know. He went there and that you know. Johnnie Pelletier he got killed in the army, Johnnie, yep yep. Pet he died here about, you remember him, he lived here that yeah. Pete Pelletier.

**15.6 Calvin:** Yeah I remember Pete, yes. He died last year, here.

**15.6 George:** Yeah, two years ago maybe something like that yep, yep. He went to school there and that you know. Ernest we used to call him Fattie, you know a

nickname and that. Ernest Rosette he want to fight, and that you know. They put a stone or a chip on their shoulder and they put one on his. They want to fight and they would make us fight. He look at. Brave enough you were to knock that chip off you were suppose to hit him. He said you going hit him. I knock his God damn chip off. Now, you going to fight me. Okay he said his was going to fight me. I told his brother Big Pete, bigger than him that. He went told his brother, he was working the field. We were going home, Pete got off, and tied up this horse, it was horses at that time you know. Here they come they were going to fight us this and that you know. We run back Pete and John they'd Pelletier, you're going to fight us and that. Yeah. We went down the river and they cut some willow whip like. They come there and Pete, is standing and they whip him.

**17.4 Calvin:** Ha! Ha!

**17.4 George:** Yep! They used a whip on him and Pete, he running to his horses jump on just like that. He never bothered us any more after that.

**17.6 Calvin:** I don't image so.

**17.6 George:** Yeah, he whipped him with a whip.

**17.7 Calvin:** All my life George, I know ...all the years I've know you, you worked on the highways. You know, it seems like that's what you did all your life.

**17.9 George:** Well, I say when I quit the Emerson's, I worked there twelve years and I told you what happened after. Twelve years and that where I got married, yeah shortly after that yeah. I went to the bush camp. I got married from Broadview, Sparvier, girl Rose Sparvier. They call her Lafie, as a nickname and eh, and she couldn't. Bob, he would pay her very good so she quit and when she quit I quit too that fall. I took crop off first and that, everything. I quit and that winter I had to get a job so my brother-in-law, name of Sonny Boy, we used to call him and that you know. We went to Ontario, for a job in the bush camp we stayed there all winter and that you know. That was a hard winter too I tell you. Oh, boy! I figure I should chop wood down here and I'm going to make good sum. There were trees there I couldn't get my arms round, the God damn tree.

**19.2 Calvin:** Ha! Ha!

**19.2 George:** Then you get this little saw, you know by hand. Oh! My God a little hatchet they gave us. They're big yeah! Make two logs sixteen foots logs two of them you make with one tree there and you get some left over too, you know. So, I'm out in this tree all day it took me. Three feet of snow, very hard to find that son of a gun in there you know.

**19.9 Calvin:** Ha! Ha!

**19.9 George:** Through them in the snow and you have to cut the limbs off and that. I think the boss come foreman, there, worked there. Oh, he says you doing it wrong. You should have had your tree cut the other way. You're so poor you're going to have your wood he says, the road that's on that side. He cut one across, the rest

you put on top so you wouldn't lose them. But, the way you got this one there is no way, you're going to get your load on top of this one anymore. He says I'll see you tomorrow, I got a couple of boys working one in the barn and one does the work around the cook car and bunk house, and there he said. They're not getting along very good he said. Fighting and one thing and another. See what will happen you see. So anyway he come back the next day. Yeah, he says you take the job. I fired them two boys yesterday. I know you guys from up there you're good workers, you're working too hard, here he said. You take on the boot jobs, you look after bunk house, the cook, and the barn he says. Feed the horses and clean out the barn he says. There is lots of time to do that he says. All you got to do is haul the wood in, I'll get someone else to saw the wood. All you got to do is carry it in to the bunk house he says. Okay, so I went in \$8.00 a day, that was good money I tell you and that.

**22.2 Calvin:** How many hours a day did you work?

**22.2 George:** That was in '49. You worked about oh, nine, ten hours, yeah a day. Help the cooks get the meat in, get the wood in for them and that, get the wood in for the bunkhouses, watch the fires, get the fires going. At night, we put ... there was no power, they had to light the lanterns, all you had to pump the gas you know. Gas put them up on the walls that was hard on your fingers to pump them you know. Pump too many lanterns and that you know. Oh, we put them out you know, 10:00 o'clock, bedtime. You walk in the bunkhouses everybody reading. You yell, 10 minutes to ten you go through the bunkhouses. 10 minutes, time for bed 10 minutes, come back. 10:00 o'clock come and you put out the light. Some guys they reading they pretty tough boots, God damn boots were fling. Who did that? You put that, touch that God damn light I'll hit you with this other one. That right, then I goes and bang, it hit me right in the back of the head. I went out and went straight to the foreman. Oh, my head told them. He said that right, he was an RCMP before, he got discharge but he was looking after a bush camp. Big tough guy he walks in there, which guy, that buck there. He says, these your boots here? Jump down and put them on he says. Where's your clothes? Get on the God damn road and get out of here.

**24.4 Calvin:** Just like that hey.

**24.4 George:** Just like that yap! It was twelve miles to the main park boy. You want to be tough you, be tough.

**24.6 Calvin:** That's for sure hey.

**24.7 George:** Yeah, he quit them out everyone, here.

**24.7 Calvin:** So you never had any more problems after that?

**24.7: George:** No more problems after that, they heard that you know, that poor ... I feel sorry for the poor guy. After, awhile why did I go and tell on him, in away. But, you let him go you don't do work, you know.

**25.0 Calvin:** All your life I know you raised up all your boys and they all worked hard on the highways and stuff. You were always a firm believer in a days work for a

days pay, and all that stuff. I think that was always knew that you work hard, you went away every week. That's all you did was work, work, work.

**25.4 George:** Yeah, I worked uh, 33 years at the same company, Sulk Construction. Yea, yeah, that one of that (Pullman?) clock hanging over there, I got from work, and that clock there is for no accidents and that you know. So many years. I got first four years award you got a little alarm clock. The next four years, I got a hard-hat...a silver one at five years. The next five years they called the gold one, eh. Yeah. The next five years I ...(inaudible)..

**26.0 Calvin:** When did you ever figure out that you were a fancy stepper? Because I know I remember growing up and like all we had...(inaudible)

**26.0 George:** Well, I ...the thing to start with, things like that you know, like say when we lived in the valley, used to go to my cousin's whose name was Goodlow we called him, Frank Cardinal was his right name. So I go there to get a haircut, and he'd tell me take his violin, he says you've got to earn your haircut, you've got to step...uh jig for me, I'll play you a tune. He'd take his violin and he'd play. He played pretty good, you know. He played violin at the step-dance room. So, and now when I used to go home and that you know. I used to figure well, when I'd need a haircut, I better make my little step because he won't give me a haircut and that's it.

**27.0 Calvin:** Practice?

**27.0 George:** Had to Practice, a little bit, or I wouldn't get a good haircut, you know. Stella was his wife's name. She was a Racette before, you see. And the way he used to give them heck you know. He used to say he was my cousin, that was Louis Cardinal's brother, Frank was. He was a good stepper himself, you know. Sometimes you know, "No...not that way!" He'd hold his violin and he'd step and play the violin at the same time, you know. "That's the way to do it, you know, you don't do that way." That's why he'd try to do that. And when they had the fiddling and that with all of these house parties. You go there like that. I couldn't help it, it just come to me that square dances...I dance the square dance, I step the same time, I just didn't walk, you know...I stepped all the way around. Where see I know they come out, they play the Red River Jig...I got in there too and I'd make a few steps. I wasn't the best then at that time, but I tried and tried. I know about when I was with you and you were going to school and there was no one there with that step at that time. I made about seventeen steps I knew that were good ones. To me, I'd say it's liquor that makes you go too, you know. You know, you guys should know this...if you don't (drink) you are kind of sluggish and you sit there and say I can't do that. So 'here have a drink'...first thing you know...oh Christ, I can do anything...it would just loosen you right up. It would just loosen me right up, eh. At that time we went there and I used to go with the Pelletier girls, and Joanne was my little sweetheart. Oh, he'd say, you'll beat him, you'll beat him, okay.

**27.1 Calvin:** Was that at the competition?

**27.1 George:** Oh, cripes...there was quite a few. Must have been about.....

**27.2 Calvin:** You would enter every year and .... they would say "Here comes our star champion"...competition....there were some pretty good steppers there...

**27.2 George:** Oh heck, yeah.

**27.3 Calvin:** Now you'd clean up and tick all those young folks right off.

**27.3 George:** Yeah, oh heck, I'd just start off, I bet you ...seven, eight, nine...twelve in the bunch. All of sudden they can't make any more steps...first thing you know there would just be a few. I got a sash for winning, (?name Admiril) was looking for my sash for when you guys came, I was going to put it on. We couldn't find it, I don't know where she put it. But I won three of them. One I gave to Jeanette Pelletier she had it on, they put it on her when she passed away. And that Pelletier boy, his oldest brother took him there....Jake, they said took it. The other one Joanne got it someplace. The light ones, there is the girl one and the boy one is kind of ....

END OF TAPE...

TAPE II / SIDE A

**27.4 Calvin:** ...We're rolling again.

**27.4 George:** We're rolling again?

**27.5 Calvin:** Right. You grew up (...?) all those years, ...I know your voice, you were (?born and raised) in Indian Head.... I can remember you living there right next door to Louis Cardinal in that big, old house...it was high, and it was like a castle there....there was an old, about two, three stories sort of house. And then I remember it was gone...it got torn down or whatever happened to it...it was right to the corner.

**27.5 George:** Yeah, that place there was a barn, hey. Used to be a barn. I could tell you a little story about that. See this...by the name of Hank Pollace was his name. He wasn't that bad here. He used to come by there and ....he had this corner by Elliotte Street. Right in the corner I lived...had this little barn...it was in good shape. Real good shape. And I come up, and I asked this guy, I forget his name...I was going to buy that. I come up, this happened, Mel came...and he come and asked me to haul some wheat and that. So I told him ok. So I went to help him, came back, and was there a couple of days. That barn, someone pulled it away. And what the heck happened here? Mel supposed to pick me up the next day again, I stayed home. Find out, Pollace bought it. Mel come and picked me up and I was telling him that, you know. (?inaudible/Sam?) That man got mad, 'Why'd he do that to you for?' he said 'He knew damn well that you were going to buy that' he says. 'I was with you.' And I had to go because he got mad. 'I'll find you one,' he says. He found me another place there. I had one. Oh Sam bought that for me. You see, that barn there...

**27.8 Calvin:** He bought you that?

**27.8 George:** He bought me that you know. Yeah. He bought me that. He bought that little barn, he said "You work well, I'll work for it and ... when I need help." I think he paid two hundred dollars for it at that time, you know. And I got Frank Fox (to?)

pull it. They had a small cab. He pulled that damn thing right there. I bought that lot, I pulled it there. Measured that, and made the foundation...and then brought it right straight, opposite from the road. And at that time I was working on the railroad and that. And I borrowed the jacks from the railroad jacks. And I put in roads and I pushed that damn thing with those jacks. Back and forth. You know there wasn't a damn son of gun showed to come and help me put that house on. Old lady Cardinal lived across there, married. "Oh my God!" she said, "You'll have that house there by spring," she says. (...inaudible...) says 'Is that right?' Them rollers they were going pretty good there (inaudible) we'd go too far and them rollers would come up, and you'd put the other ones over them and keep on. Twelve o'clock midnight I had that damn thing on like this. That's it. Then I left it there and then I had to straighten up a little bit here and there.

**27.9 Calvin:** How old are you George?

**27.9 George:** I'm seventy five. My birthday was August 5<sup>th</sup>. Nineteen twenty-five I was born. Yeah. But anyway, I put along one wall, and then you put a little bit on it, eh. Put the one door on it and then the stair on it...there was that loft. We fixed it up over there, the kids slept up there in the loft.

**28.0 Calvin:** Because I can remember being a kid, that was such a big place.

**28.0 George:** Go up there and watch the loft and step like this. I got a few lumber there, Walter come... "Hey," he says... "You're going to get yourself some lumber," he says... "I'll make that steps for you." So I went and got some lumber. "You come with me and pick what you want in the lumber yard." I pick it up Walter made that stairway.

**28.1 Calvin:** Oh yeah.

**28.1 George:** Yeah. Oh it was good then yeah. You could run up in there. Walter made it up straight. Yeah, we were good for a while in that, you know. But anyway, I was still working on the railroad there you know. At times he was good, my neighbour, there. Next door. Hartley?

**28.2 Calvin:** Hartley, yeah.

**28.2 George:** Norman Hartley was his name. I was out and kids started going up hiking and what matter, and to him I says, "Well, I says, I have this big slabs from the railroad." I says, "I'll put a fence so the kids won't go under the fence." I said I would put it from his house straight across. He says "You've got to give me two feet between the house." I gave him two feet, I had no place to walk because the house was right up against the old lady's house over there. That's Louis Cardinal's old lady, Racette. Remember him? Morris's mom lived there in that little house.

**28.3 Calvin:** Yeah.

**28.3 George:** So I says, well, I don't know I told him, I says I want to put from your house this way. What he does, he got mad at me and he went to the town. He went to the town, he said he told the town he wants them to come and survey it. They come there and he was two feet in my lap.

**28.4 Calvin:** He was?

**28.4 George:** He was. Yeah. His wife, Dolly, she come over. He went and hide. Dolly come and said "George, what are they going to do? We can't move that house, we're two feet in your lot." I said we're going to put a door on that side, and I'm going to put a chair, and I'm going to sit there. I got two feet in your house, it's mine. I'm going to sit there. Sure, I'm going to put a door there...you tell that to him. I cut it open and put a chair right there and I will sit there. She never said too much, you know. So I got my slabs, I nail them right against his house. My fence right through. He never come out. Because it was two feet in my house. I told him, I said don't bother. I told Dolly don't worry about it. Along that fence is there, now don't worry about that, and that was fine. So I bought that place there in the corner.

**28.5 Calvin:** The one on the corner, yeah.

**28.5 George:** So, you're going to sell, what happened? The second year, I didn't pay the taxes on that, the next year come and now I've got two taxes to pay. I bought this place already, I told Louis, why should I pay taxes on this one? I said I'll let it go. I'll go and take all of the lumber out of that house...somebody else could have the land.

**28.6 Calvin:** Well, Bill Barn ended up with it didn't he? Didn't he go buy it then?

**28.6 George:** No. He wouldn't come here. He sold his place to Schaefer. And he come up, Schaefer come up to me and said "I'll buy it from you." I said never mind buy it, you go pay the taxes, you can have it...you can have it. Already the house is half down. Louis helped me, I give him the chimney to take to tear the thing down because by that time I was already out working. So anyway, we were doing that, and they come out and they wouldn't let it go. The town. He can't sell it. He's got to pay the taxes, then sell it. Schaefer says I'll pay the taxes. I'll pay them. No...he's got to pay them. Well, cripes...I come home and Schaefer come and told me. We'll fix them, I says. You give me the money. I'll go and pay the taxes, I said, you can have it. That's what we had to do. We fix it. I said what the heck. And he had to give me the money. I go and pay the taxes. I told that guy there, I said "Look, ah...when of the boys there, ah, Eddie Poitras, had a house in St. Louis.

**28.7 Calvin:** Right.

**28.7 George:** He bought that. He didn't pay the taxes two years, they kick him out.

**28.8 Calvin:** Right.

**28.8 George:** They didn't ask him to pay taxes. They kick him out and say that's for sale. How come they couldn't do that to me there? Different...what's the difference? You know, from town to town. They wouldn't let me go, I had to pay the taxes. Maybe they figure, you got money to buy another place, you should have money to pay the taxes on that, you see. So I bought that other place there and I lived there for quite a while. But the thing is I was, I made a foolish deal there, I tell you. Real foolish deal.

**28.9 Calvin:** Yeah, (?? ) ....or a ?? or ??

**28.9 George:** No, no, no, no, no. That house I bought in the corner. I bought there and that you know...you seen the quite a big lot there. Half of a garage there too. The garage burned after that. And then, I bought it from Wes. Anyway, after when the wife left me, I wanted to sell it. ??? and read the paper and this and that, they told me we had that, ah ...glass...ah I don't know he was... what do you call it?

**29.0 Calvin:** Lawyer? ??? inaudible

**29.0 George:** ?? inaudible...so anyway, I figured I'd sell the place, so I goes you know...around and whichever lawyer there, I told him I want to sell this place and stuff like that. And we got to...he said you get to...oh the guy wanted to buy it, he wanted to pay me so much. I want to buy that. So he told me, he says I'll give you so much money, so many yeas and that, then he can borrow the money and pay you off. If he don't he says you get the house back. Make a deal like that. Well it sounds ok to me. So he says, but he says you better get your title. I go and get my title, I only own one lot there. There's three lots! I've been paying taxes for three lots!

**29.1 Calvin:** And you only own one?

**29.1 George:** And I only own one. Oh Christ, go and get your money back. What the hell you paying taxes for, you don't even own that land? And we fought for it. And no God damn way, they won't, the town won't pay me. You were using it. This and that. You got to find out who's the owner. Peterson. They owned it. Who owned the land. Actually, it should automatically come to me.

**29.2 Calvin:** Right.

**29.2 George:** Well they're still living, they have to sign. This Peterson's son or something. I found one of them. He told me, he don't want it. But he said I got a brother in Ontario, he phoned him. He said I'm not going to go all the way down there just to sign my name over that damn land...he can have it. But they won't let it go like that. He has to come and sign. He has to come right to Indian Head to sign face to face.

**29.3 Calvin:** ??? inaudible... do that.

**29.3 George:** Eh? Face to face, right in that office. And that. He wouldn't come there. So I??? you know, what ever they got there. And I'll sell that lot and house there, I'll let it go. So I let them go. I said I'm not paying any more taxes for the other two lots. So I let them go. I just pay one lot. Come to the taxes, I tried. The guy in the office, he said, "Your house is sitting four feet in the other lot. Sitting on two lots. Well...what's the scope in here.

**29.4 Calvin:** Just trying to give you a hard time.

**29.4 George:** Yeah. What the heck am I going to do now? Well we'll let it go. Nobody buys it, you the first one to buy it. Okay, so I'm looking for people that owned the place I wanted to buy the land and that you know. I couldn't get at it, you know.

I'm busy working. I had to go and see this lawyer. To him I said by the time I get the lawyer and everything, stuff like that, it's not even worth it, you know. They get the money, I get the shaft.

**29.5 Calvin:**        ??inaubible???

**29.5 George:**        Yeah. (chuckles). Yeah. So anyway, I told him I said, I just pay the taxes for the one place there, one side anyway. So I goes to the town and I says why don't you guys buy it. Then you can sell the place up. Ahh...they wouldn't do it. So I let it go. I sold it. I sold it to the town. It was wrecked after that. The water went in the basement and wrecked up my furnace...oh water all over everything. When there is nobody there, they smash my windows and everything. Big windows on there too, eh?

**29.6 Calvin:**        That's right too, yeah.

**29.6 George:**        They smashed up all that, you know and they were going in and out of there and the town got after me...oh they're going to get hurt. Why? I said, it's not my fault they broke the windows. So they went and nailed boards on it and one thing and another, you know. You got to do something about it. I went in there and I says you guys can have it I told them. Pay no more taxes for that God damn, it's not worth it I said...to fight over it. He phoned me up one day. I want to see you. He says we just can't take it like that...you've got to sell it to us. Give me a dollar I told him. Okay, so he give me a dollar.

**29.7 Calvin:**        And that was it?

**29.7 George:**        That was it. I signed the paper...??? See that's how I got out of it.

**29.8 Calvin:**        ???...inaudible...?? The town of Indian Head has not been good to George, eh.

**29.8 George:**        Well, yeah. More or less to say it was my fault. I should find out what ??? this lawyer. I was going to look for him. And that, the guy come up, they went to look for him...he's a vegetable at that time already. He done too much, he's a vegetable. ....???inaudible....?? What's he going to do then?...He can't do nothing.

**29.9 Calvin:**        That's true, yeah.

**29.9 George:**        Yeah. Boy oh boy.

**30.0 Calvin:**        When did you retire George? ...when you hit sixty-five or did you work right until seventy?

**30.0 George:**        No, I worked two, ah two more years after that. Sixty-five, sixty.....I was sixty-eight when I quit. You don't make nothing my friend. I got, I get my old age pension...Canada pension. I work for these other guys that came in, you know bought ?? out. ?? (...inaudible...Asell, bought them?) I worked there with them for two years. And they are good payers. Work long hours. Oh, I was making good money. Come to make my income tax, I was, had to pull out over three thousand dollars. I had to pay in. They ?? where they took from before. Ah, and the money, I

didn't have it to pay it right off the bat. They took one of my cheques, of a month. Joanne, here...that's Elma's sister. You know Joanne. Boyd? She does income tax. What the heck goes on, they just phoned there. And that you know, why'd they do this...they said you can't do that. He says, he can give them whatever he feels like it. He can give them five, ten dollars a month, he said, they can't do nothing. As long as he's trying to pay it and that. So, they had to send me back that cheque. They were forced to give me that cheque back you see. That's how they pay me. You know, I called up after, you know. I pay. I says, well okay...you take seventy five dollars a month off my...one of my cheques, eh... a month to pay it off and that. But I work, then when I got home. I work in ???.

**30.1 Calvin:** That's right too.

**30.1 George:** [Laughing]... They want me to stay there for the next seven years, I was in there.

**30.2 Calvin:** ???...job with Jerry.

**30.2 George:** Yeah, Jerry to go work ??? inaudible. Yeah...just barely made it the last year ago...last, this fall let's say when I quit there eh?

**30.3 Calvin:** So you worked right from the time you were fourteen until the time you were seventy-three?

**30.3 George:** I was twelve years old, my boy. I was twelve years old when that thing happened. Happened there at ???. Yeah. Yeah. When I won ????? inaudible...

**30.4 Calvin:** ???inaudible....worked there until you were seventy-three?

**30.4 George:** Yeah. Yeah.

**30.5 Calvin:** So that's about sixty-five years. Or, sixty-one years.

**30.5 George:** Yeah. I been working ever since that.

**30.6 Calvin:** ?????.... no pension plan.

**30.6 George:** No. No pension plan or nothing there, ?? didn't pay that pension plan either. You know.

**30.7 Calvin:** By the hour.

**30.7 George:** Yeah...by the hour. You only get your ah, ah... old age pension and Canada pension eh. But Canada pension I paid it since when it came out right until the end. That's over seven hundred a month, eh.

**30.8 Calvin:** Yeah.

**30.8 George:** But I gave seventy-five....

**30.9 Calvin:** It's your own money.

**30.9 George:** Yeah. Yeah. They're giving it back to me more or less to say I guess. Seventy-five dollars a month off of that, ah for my tax you know. Then I don't have to ...I owed them I think it was fifty dollars, I think Joanne said this last time. Maybe I catch up now, I don't know. I don't know what it is. But they don't bother me anyway...whatever.

**31.0 Calvin:** They don't bother you now?

**31.0 George:** They get so much.

**31.2 Calvin:** They can't arrest you. I was just...You were telling me the other day on the interview when we were visiting...your heart...seven surgeries or something?

**31.2 George:** Seven bypasses.

**31.3 Calvin:** Seven bypasses?

**31.3 George:** Yeah.

**31.4 Calvin:** Ho-ee-yah cripes. So they did the whole works?

**31.4 George:** Yeah. See that's why I'm getting weak over there, I guess, when I was working you know. But I, it was a different ?? Came here and send me up in Regina. Went to see the doctor, he send me to ah, Cornwall there....there go, you know....???inaudible??? they put that thing in....ohhhh God....??? inaudible. Then they send me to Pasqua after that... they get two there now. Now they look after the other side now. Then they give me a bunch of pills for awhile, and came back, this ain't so bad. On my shack on the lake, I fish all winter. And that, and the spring come, and that, and I pulled the shack out and everything. Went to the ?? here hot coffee. By the name of John? Woods. He was a horseman, you know, by Qu'Appelle there. He was down, one of my old buddies. All of a sudden I just sweat, felt weak. Thought I had some pills, I ran out. I told him I said, you know, I said you know, John I got to go. I'm getting shaky I said and I ran out of them pills, I better see the doctor, maybe he give me those pills again. I come, walked in there and I told the nurse, she said...you go in that little room there. And there they come and test me. Went back to the doctor, he came in and gave me the paper. Said...go straight to the hospital here. Send me to the hospital...I went over there. Took my blood pressure, everything and, that you know. They put that stuff in there, you know and listen to your heart I guess or whatever. He told me, he says, How'd you get here? I drove myself I told him. He says you're not going no place, he says, you're staying right here, can't get you out of bed, he says. I can't do that I told him...I got my dog in my truck. How does my dog feel? I bring my dog home so Alma drove me back. Stayed there three days. Came back, you come tomorrow, he says...you can go home now, but tomorrow you come back. So the next day I go to the office, check me out. He said George, Mr. Klyne, we can't do anything here for you anymore...you got to go to Regina. Oh yeah...he said, what doctor you want, he says, for surgery? Oh gee...I don't know...doesn't matter to me, I says, anyone. Anyone? Tell you what, I told him...he says you better get a check up. May. That was May the second. He says, you go to Regina get it checked. Took off. Went

down there. Him too, doctor said...I want to talk to your woman there, your wife. Alma went. He says...he's lucky he made it here. He lowered the bed. They make you ??? inaudible. About three days after that they cut me up here first. Send that damn thing up, I guess, that blockage, whatever. And that you know. I laid in bed there. I was four hours, can't move. Holy Christ I thought my back was going to break. Well I can't move. And then I got up after a while. Then three days after that they send me in the operation. They took the veins off of me, here, off my arms on one side. and the veins to patch my heart, you know. They...there's nothing in my legs. They drained them a long time ago. I had them, blood clots, like you know? I went in through that. They stripped them.

**31.5 Calvin:** Oh...vari????????

**31.5 George:** Vari??? Yeah. Yeah. And that and they...the doctor come and he looking...where...all open ??? He says, I can't find your veins...It's a wonder you can't find them...there's none there I told him. Stripped them already. You see the marks I told him...Oh yeah. Okay, so he says, we'll have to check your arms then they checked them. I think they'll be alright he says. ??inaudible. Holy Cripes...yeah, the more that night, you know. God damn stuff I says, what do you ??inaudible. I could just see, I tell you pulling all my veins out ???inaudible ..... Twelve o'clock, midnight was ??? Oh I told him. And then they put in the room there where they look after you all the time, this and that. Stuff like that, you know. So two days there, then after they go back to the room there and that, you know. I was sitting there and but cripes you can't move. I want to move this way...you have to lain down...too much on my back, I want to move around. Not enough strength to move. The nurse come into the room I told them, I can't move there. Yeah, I'll fix it he says and put a pillow behind me then. And they move me this way and I stayed there until morning. Jesus Christ I said, I'm just useless I should might as well have died, you know. That's what it felt like you know.?inaudible....

**31.6 Calvin:** ??inaudible...

**31.6 George:** Yeah, yeah.

**31.7 Calvin:** So how are you feeling these days? You said you were feeling better these days.

**31.7 George:** Yeah. Kind of yeah, you know. I think what happened to me now I think I'm getting too fat.

**31.8 Calvin:** You need to do some step dancing.

**31.8 George:** I was sixty, a hundred and ninety-five...when I started. Now I weigh two hundred and twelve.

**31.9 Calvin:** ??inaudible

**31.9 George:** You see. I put on quite a bit of weight after that. Eating too good there.

**32.0 Calvin:** You have a good cook eh?

**32.0 George:** Yeah. So how's thing going there?

**32.1 Calvin:** Oh, I think alright. They're okay.

**32.1 George:** Alright.

**32.2 Calvin:** You want to try a couple of steps?

**32.2 George:** Oh, I can do that I guess, whatever.

**32.3 Calvin:** You don't have to do many at a time if you don't want to. Like ah, maybe what you have...nice and slow.

**32.3 George:** Nice and slow. You want that music on there then...you have to have music. I can't...

**32.4 Calvin:** You want to listen to that damn Arcand guy?... (laughing)

**32.4 George:** I got that tape on there...his tape

**32.5 Calvin:** His tape?

**32.5 George:** His tape, yeah.

**32.6 Calvin:** Okay, but you can't do it there...

**32.6 George:** No, no I got to do it over there.

**32.7 Calvin:** Oh...you need...??inaudible...just stop whenever you want..... (Fiddle music beings playing...that's not a very good beginning to this...we got to find the Red River Jig. Okay. We'll find the Red River Jig on here. Is it on here?

**32.7 John:** Yeah, last one on that side.

**32.8 George:** You keep going then. He's the last one. He must be just about the last in that one. Let it play there.

**32.8 Calvin:** On that?

**32.8 George:** Yeah. Let it play. (Fiddle music begins again.....) Maybe the other one, eh?

**32.9 Calvin:** The other side?

**32.9 George:** No. No. (...fiddle music again) Does it say there where they play? That's yours, that's you finally....

**33.0 Calvin:** Turn the tape maybe. We'll find out. ?? Batoche, Gilbert Anderson's road songs.....inaudible....Red River Jig...yes it is the last one on there.....what the heck did I do???.....playing it backwards maybe....playing it backwards. ....(fiddle music begins again then stops.).....inaudible....(more fiddle music).....[sounds like someone stepping]

**33.0 George:** No....can't do it. (Music stops) The thing is that back of my muscles here tighten up. Yeah. [can hear more stepping, no music] No, I can't get that damn leg going. (laughing).

**33.1 Calvin:** That's the step he wants.....just one step at a time. ...inaudible...

**33.1 George:** Oh. Yeah. [stepping sounds]...Like that, and then you go [stepping sounds] see, like that.

END OF TAPE