

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: HENRY LETENDRE  
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:  
  
INTERVIEW LOCATION:  
  
TRIBE/NATION:  
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH  
DATE OF INTERVIEW:  
INTERVIEWER: MARGARET JEFFERSON  
INTERPRETER:  
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD  
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apply during my lifetime only.)

Inter: Today my guest is Henry Letendre. Today we'll talk  
about his school. Where did you attend school?

Henry: I never went to school.

Inter: What about your parents?

Henry: I was born in Batoche, I don't know if there was a school -- oh, we were living across the river. Everybody stayed on the other side of the river. The school was on the other side of the river. And I started going to school while Daddy was batching, I had no mother. I tell you we had to, you know, we only had to cross the river, taking us to school. The school was across the river.

Inter: Did you like school?

Henry: (Inaudible).

Inter: Do you speak another language?

Henry: What?

Inter: Do you speak another language?

Henry: Well, yeah, that time I just speak French once and a while. Speak English now.

Inter: What about Cree?

Henry: Cree? No.

Inter: Okay, talk about work history. What did your parents do for a living?

Henry: Well, it was a little different that time. Now mostly farming eh, farming. Working like, you know, we had to (inaudible). We used to haul some wood (inaudible) and sell it. You know, working and got to buy groceries, you know.

Inter: What kind of job did you do?

Henry: I was cutting wood and haul it. We sell it for a living.

Inter: What kind of money did you get for the wood?

Henry: Cash, cash money.

Inter: How much? So much a cord or...?

Henry: Yeah, so much a cord. So much a load, yeah. Or delivered, (inaudible) three dollars a cord I guess. Three or four dollars. Well, like, in fall, well maybe you get a little more, maybe a little less. We had it and cut it in cord wood, then four dollars a cord.

Inter: Was that the only work available, wood and farming?

Henry: Eh?

Inter: Was that the only kind of work that was available? Just cutting wood and farming?

Henry: Oh yeah, yeah.

Inter: Okay, social life. Do you remember where your parents met?

Henry: Where did they come from?

Inter: No, where your parents met?

Henry: Oh, in Batoche. I was born in Batoche.

Inter: How large was the...

Henry: Have you been in Batoche?

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: Well, you know what kind of people they have there.

Inter: Yeah. How large was your family?

Henry: Oh, just (inaudible) I was four years old and there was my brother, he was three years old. Then my mother passed away. And when my mother passed away, (inaudible) I was four. (Inaudible) cross the river every day in a boat.

Inter: What kind of dances and songs did you guys have?

Henry: Eh?

Inter: Dances and songs? What kind did you guys have?

Henry: What?

Inter: Dances and songs. What kind of dances did you guys have?

Henry: Dance?

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: Oh, (laughs) must have been mostly square dances.

Inter: What about games? Was there any kind of games you guys used to play?

Henry: Oh, not that much. Oh, played ball and stick ball and stuff.

Inter: Who supplied the entertainment when there was a dance?

Henry: Eh?

Inter: Who supplied the entertainment when there was a dance? Like who were the musicians or anything? Were they just people around town?

Henry: Oh! (Inaudible) Mostly violin I guess.

Inter: Were you or your parents affected by prejudism?

Henry: Eh?

Inter: Were you or your parents affected by prejudism? You know, people that teased you or anything?

(Inaudible comment from third party)

Inter: Religion. How much influence did the church have on your community?

Henry: Eh?

Inter: How much influence did the church have on your community? On your town?

Henry: (Inaudible)

Inter: How much influence did the church have over the town?

Henry: Oh, I don't think it was that much. It's what they, we went to church.

Inter: Did you or your parents ever attend shrines or retreats? Like, Batoche, or, St. Laurent?

Henry: (Inaudible).

Inter: No, shrines or retreats, you know, just like...

Third Person: Oh yeah, at pilgrimage you mean.

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: Oh, oh, oh, yeah.

Third Person: Yeah, well, we always used to go to that.

Henry: Yeah.

Inter: Well, was it every Sunday?

Third Person: Oh no, that was just once a year.

Henry: Once a year.

Third Person: We had a pilgrimage.

Henry: We used to go to Batoche at the school there and it

was like I said you know, too much trouble. Because the river was boats there every day, every morning. You had to (inaudible). We miss lots, lots. (Inaudible). Study, you know. School every day. Did that every day, well learn better.

Inter: Did you guys celebrate weddings?

Henry: Eh?

Inter: Did you guys celebrate weddings?

Henry: Oh yeah. Yeah.

Inter: How did you do that?

Henry: How did we do that?

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: Used to make dances, like, that's what you mean. Dances at a wedding like that.

Inter: What about Christmas, did you celebrate that too? Okay, food and clothing. How did you guys get your food?

Henry: Get food?

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: (Inaudible) I guess.

Inter: Did you ever hunt or trap?

Henry: Hunting. Oh yes, yes. Yeah, we did some of that too, yeah, I think. Trapping, hunting, hunting rats.

Inter: How did you and your parents prepare the food and clothing? Like, how did you make the clothing? Or did you just buy it?

Henry: Oh, we had to work for it. Sell some wood and buy clothes. (Inaudible) Yeah, yeah.

Inter: Did you always buy your clothes?

Henry: Yeah, I had to buy myself like that. Well, the farming yet, you know. Dad and mother too. (Inaudible)

Inter: Was there any hard shortages of food?

Henry: (Inaudible).

Inter: Okay, medical care. Was there a doctor available to you and your community?

Henry: A doctor?

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: Well, (inaudible) and then there was a doctor in Duck Lake. If you needed a doctor, well you had to go to see him in Duck Lake.

Inter: Did you guys ever make any of your own medicine?

Henry: Oh, not very much. Well, only the (inaudible). You know, maybe ginger or oregano or something like that. Mix it with water, you know. Drink it. Yeah.

Inter: Was there any special people in your town like a midwife? You know, somebody that helps when somebody was sick or delivers babies?

Henry: Oh, yeah, like a nurse?

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: Oh yeah, yeah. There was some, yeah.

Inter: The Depression. What kind of jobs were available during the Depression years?

Henry: What kind of a job?

Inter: Yeah, during the 1930s.

Lady: Well, you was farming then in the '30s.

Henry: That's not so long ago. 1930 you said?

Lady: Yeah. (Inaudible)

Henry: (Inaudible)

Lady: The wheat was not working out.

Henry: (Inaudible) a week. I was on (inaudible) a week. My brother was three years old and had about a glass a week. And (inaudible) was away. He was away (inaudible) in the state of Montana. He went down there...

Lady: Now you're talking about your dad.

Henry: Well, he's asking me something that...

Inter: Was there enough food and clothing during the Depression?

Henry: Yeah, yeah.

Lady: Very skimpy. It was skimpy.

Inter: Not too much.

Lady: No.

Henry: Oh, if you had the money, yeah. We got what we need, anyway.

Lady: A lot didn't.

Inter: If somebody didn't have enough food, would somebody else give them some?

Henry: Oh, no, no. (Inaudible)

Inter: Okay, politics. How active was your community in politics?

Henry: Politics?

Inter: Yeah, how active was your town?

Henry: Oh...

Inter: Like, was there a lot of people involved in politics?

Lady: Oh yes, sure. And they'd go around seeing everybody and talking with them what they were going to do and that. They came around there (inaudible). They couldn't get it. (laughs)

Inter: Were your parents ever involved in politics?

Lady: No.

Henry: No.

Lady: Your parents were never in politics.

Henry: Huh?

Lady: I said your dad was never...

Henry: No, no, not that I remember. (Inaudible) to school. When I went to school you know, and learned how to read, how to write.

Inter: Was there any special person that you're town liked that was in politics?

Henry: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, there was a man, one of them they called Daddy Everett(?). He took all (inaudible) like you know. Well, that's what it was (inaudible). We were batching, batching. When my mother, she died. We were batching. What we did in school, school was across the river. Like I say, we had to cross the river with a boat. I went to

school but school had a poor chance to learn back then.

Inter: Was there any stories that you heard about native leaders?

Henry: Any stories?

Inter: Yeah.

Henry: Oh, no.

Inter: Can you remember any at all?

Henry: Well, not too much, no.

Inter: Okay, general questions. Do you think things are better now or then?

Henry: Now.

Inter: Now?

Henry: Oh, everybody's (inaudible) now. Yeah, everybody got a home, see, like me. But that's not because (inaudible). Yeah. (Inaudible) School, say school.

Inter: Do you think the native people are stronger now because of their experiences?

Henry: Eh?

Inter: Do you think the native people are stronger and wiser now because of their experiences, like the Rebellion?

Henry: Well, I don't know about that.

Inter: There is no stories or nothing that you don't remember?

Henry: No, no, no.

(END OF SIDE A)

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