

Elder Interview of Harry Morin
Place: Ile a la Crosse
Date: July 5, 2001
Interviewed by: Wayne Morin
Transcribed & translated by: Wayne Morin
Present at time of Interview: Anna Ryding, Brenda MacDougal
Type of equipment used: 8-mm video recorder c/w cordless microphone

Time

00:00:00

(Showing pictures and artifacts he owns. Talks about trip to Sandy point with son)

00:03:10

Q: When were you born?

A: 1914 Ile-a-la-crosse.

Start: 00:03:07:24

Q: 1914 here, here in town?

A: Yeah, here I don't know where, I don't remember, but I was born here.

Q: (laughs) Was there a hospital here at that time?

A: No there was no hospital here in 1914 no just an old lady use to look after that eh.

Q: So how old are you now?

A: 86 now I'll be 87 in November we were married 64 years now.

Q: What was your mom and dads names?

A: Felix Morin, It's written right in there and my mom is Margaret Daigneault his dad was Vincent Daigneault eh, her dad.

Q: Margaret Daigneault, that what your mom, that one or Madeline?

A: I think so, Catherine my mom her mom was Margaret.

Q: Bouvier yeah oh ok, but your dad is Felix Morin?

A: Yeah, Felix Paul.

00:04:33

Q: That's a brother of Ambrose?

A: Ambrose's dad.

Q: That's your brother, Ambrose is your brother?

A: Ambrose in the oldest one in the family he was born 1905. My dad got married 1903 his first kid was 1905 was Ambrose his second one was a girl they call him rose but she died when she was not even 15 years old.

Q: She was sick?

A: Yeah and the third one was Jeffery (Zepherin).

Q: Then Jeffery and who else?

A: Yeah Marie Jean and then me, Marie Jean.

Q: Is that the one in Patuanak?

A: Yeah that was my sister too.

Q: Oh that was your sister too Marie Jean Gunn she married?

A: And then there's somebody between me and her because she was too far apart but I don't remember who?

Q: But they're not around any more eh.

A: No there's nine or ten of us a few died but I don't remember.

Q: They usually died from what?

A: Some kind of sickness, there's no hospital. I don't even know where there buried in here no name on it eh. The one that drown in Sandy Point Victor remember I don't even remember where they bury cause I was in Beauval and when I had a telegram coming to me she drowned eh, he drowned eh, no road and the lake was just freezing up no body could travel eh.

00:06:20

Q: Oh so nobody came?

A: No just your grandpa and George they come up. They had to pull it by hand and sleigh.

Q: Uh huh, so they just buried her like that eh no family around?

A: No, that's what happened years ago because there's no road around eh.

Q: For funerals?

A: The road came in 1957 from the folks 56 we got it in Buffalo. Was working there I started this in August 55 and 56 in the spring we got in Buffalo. And at the same that year we started about five miles from turn off that old road before you hit the folks.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A: And we had to quit eh ran out of money and it was late in the fall too. We do it in '57 in the spring.

Q: Oh, so you use to work there?

A: That's the time we start the Hanson Lake road. After we finished here we moved in July I think we move to Hanson Lake road?

Q: Where did you live? Where did you and your family live?

A: Inside trailers bunkhouses, everything cooks.

00:07:45

Q: No when you were small when you were growing up with Felix?

A: (points) Some place around here. This way you know where a map.

Q: You use to live here?

A: Yeah, we were raised in here we use to live here. The only time was when I was married in Beauval. I stay there for 7 years then I moved back to Ile a la Crosse in 1945 I moved back.

Q: In 1915 you were born or 1914?

A: 1914 November the 4th.

00:08:16

Q: You never lived at Sandy Point?

A: Yeah shit I stay there when you were just a little kid. Yeah I stay there about 4 or 5 years before I got married eh.

Q: When did uh when did Felix and them Felix pass away?

A: 1954 my dad passed away in Buffalo both buried my mom and my dad they're buried at Buffalo.

Q: Oh they buried them in Buffalo?

A: My mom died 1929 in May but I don't remember what day, my dad died she died 1954 in July.

Q: Felix remarried eh?

A: Yeah he married twice. You know Sakamees?

Q: Yeah that's you half sister?

A: No that's my stepmother.

Q: That's your stepmother ok so your half brothers would be who?

A: Moses and Celena.

00:09:13

Q: Moise?

A: Yeah Celena, Celena Buffin, I still got 2 sisters left from my mom and dad, Mathida and Claudia Petit. You know her ah.

Q: Yeah she's in Saskatoon we did an interview on her.

A: That's the one he told me. She ask he phone her that's it eh.

Q: There's no more men left?

A: From my mom and dad I'm all alone.

Q: There's about how many in your family nine?

A: How many did we find yesterday 9.

Brenda: 9?

00:09:59

A: 9 alive they were alive from what I could remember there was 9. There could be someone else but I don't remember eh.

End: 00:10:08:19

Q: And your mom and dad what did they do?

A: Only trapping.

Start: 00:10:09:05

Q: How did they make a living? Just by.

A: Only trapping in those days eh they tarp all winter they make enough money to survive, in the summer time there was lots of fish. There was no law like today we use to hunt ducks any time in front of your door those days same as moose eh. We even travel by canoe and paddle not by motor 100 miles an hour those days no motor just paddle.

Q: And horse?

A: Use to take 2 days to Beauval those days paddling, now it takes you half-hour.

Q: Use to follow that uh?

A: Beaver River all the way eh 2 to 3 hour only to the mouth of the river and if it's windy your stuck there eh.

Q: Who use to buy those stuff?

A: The Bay.

Q: The Bay was around then?

A: Oh yes another, there was 2 companies the Ahenakews use to run, Alec. Do you remember Alec Ahenakew.

Q: No I don't.

A: That Mary and ah that was there dad, Ahenakew.

Q: Yeah ok.

00:11:34

A: They had a store there they use to call ~~Riverion~~ ^{Bevilon}. Somebody heard of that (people present at interview). Yeah they had a store there they sold the Bay bought the whole works, and old Alec Ahenakew he moves his whole family to La Loche by canoe eh. No road those days. Then after that he move to Patuanak that's the time he retired in Patuanak.

Q: Is that a French company?

A: Yeah French.

00:12:08

Q: And the Bay is like English eh?

A: I think it's from France over seas. I think so eh. He was the first to open up the business around here use to call in northwest Company eh and ah but people around here they don't believe you we tell them the young people often that there was two but they don't believe you. They think it was the Bay eh. They thought it was the Bay that did everything but it wasn't it was the Riverion that open up the North Country. The Bay eh they had a little store across over there they had a little store they move in here now they're rich. They got about 1000 stores all over the country.

Q: The Bay eh?

A: I work for the Bay for about 4 years. I ran an outpost after I move from Beauval 1945 I stay at Sandy Point for a couple of years. I move to canoe ran an outpost for the Bay eh for 4 years.

00:13:19

Q: Oh what did you do there?

A: Well you just go by Canoe by water and I run it. I didn't have enough education but I could do it. My wife she could write eh but there wasn't much writing those days eh. There was no credit just straight cash eh mostly on the reserve. It was easy it wasn't hard.

Q: They use to buy it, Eh that outpost you ran?

A: Yeah I use to buy fur.

Q: You use to buy fur that's it eh that's all you bought?

A: Yeah just fur.

00:13:57

Q: How much did you pay?

A: Well that depends. They give you the list from the company. How much your suppose to pay. Summertime the owners have to follow the lowest price eh. What its worth in Winnipeg you have to follow the lowest price?

Q: A beaver pelt would pay you 1945 you said you worked there.

A: About 6 - 7 bucks.

Q: That was a lot of money back than eh?

A: There was a lot of money back than I start working in 1955 I got 93 cents a hour for driving a cat all summer. I was a little over 100 dollars every time I got paid I got paid a cheque twice a month.

00:14:39

Q: But that was a lot of money those days eh?

A: Yeah it was a lot of money those days I have 4 kids to look after but the old lady was working in the hospital part time eh we made good. Till the next year I got, I work for 14 years the last year I work you know how much I was gett after the last year 2 dollars 10 cents an hour. That's what I was getting after 14 I spend I spent about 3 - 5 months at a time at the Hanson Lake road. I couldn't come home; the only time we could come home was when the weather was bad frained for 2 - 3 days sometimes. Will have to wait shut down camp for 10 days eh. We had to come home eh. They wouldn't feed us over there we had to come home.

Q: When it rains they don't feed you guys?

A: Oh, they feed us but we have to pay so much again and you don't make any money at all the wages are small and we always travel together there was a couple of guys from Green lake. I use to come with them eh.

End: 00:15:5204

Q: When were you ah, when did you get married?

A: When at Beauval 1937 in October 17.

Q: October 17?

A: It will be 64 years in October this coming October.

Q: You've been married 64 years?

A: Yeah too damn long.

00:16:26

Q: What's Victoria's maiden name?

A: Middle name?

Q: No her maiden name before you got married?

A: Laliberte.

Q: Laliberte, where is she from?

A: Beauval.

Q: Beauval eh and how many kids did you have?

A: 4, Tom, Christine was the oldest one she died eh and Tom is in Prince George, BC eh and Louis and Yvette. You know Yvette eh she working at Northern.

Q: Yeah

A: And Louis at he's in Prince Albert. He's working in a mine eh he just got home Tuesday.

00:17:11

Q: How long did you live with your mom and dad?

A: Me well tell we lost our mom after that we had to find our own living eh, but before my mother was still alive, this Riverion here his brother Alec from Sandy Lake Reserve just outside of Debden he came to visit his for Christmas his brother at the and he had a little boy, lance, Lance Ahenakew just the same age as I am and he wants me to go with him to Sandy lake. I went over there I stay there a year and my dad come in the fall. He use to go to Big River build a couple scouts to bring him groceries for the winter eh.

Q: Your dad use to do that?

A: My uncle he was a working for the company eh and he had.

00:18:11

Q: What's his name, which one?

A: Louis Morin yeah and a my dad come to Debden he got a ride to Debden by horses he come to pick me up over there he said your mom wants you to come home. I didn't fell like coming home at all but I was treated so damn good you know. I didn't like it and he was a rich man eh about 400 – 500 cows, bunch of horse and things and you only had to.

Q: What year was this like 19?

A: 1927 I think.

Q: He had 500 heads of cattle?

A: Oh shit he was rich boy. All the reserve in the at Sandy Lake eh he was the richest, he was the richest man there no one else had anything at all. The whole damn reserve pert near he had. He was a big farmer eh. He had a bunch of guys working for him. Me and the boy we never did anything just playing around.

00:19:14

Q: So your dad brought you home then what?

A: Brought me home we went my dad was moving his Buffalo by time we were in Ile a la crosse when I left when went there all were moving to Buffalo. After that all come back we went to Buffalo cause my uncle Louis had a store at Clear lake Village across that lake Churchill Lake eh and my mom was still alive eh and that's the same spring she died eh about 6 months after maybe that why she wants me to come home eh. After that we had to make own living these was no welfare like today, we had to.

Q: What did you guys do?

A: We had to do little work. My uncle Louis his wife when she was in Buffalo she had a big garden I use to we use to work for her she gave us something to eat, food eh. There were no stores in Buffalo eh nothing you can do you got to bum that's all you had to do to eat. Nobody had enough money to feed you for nothing eh. It was pretty hard we went through a real tough life for a couple years eh.

00:20:38

Q: But they had a lot of gardens, people had lots of gardens?

A: Your brother, your unc, your mooshum was married already he had 2 Christine and Jean eh already were born.

Q: Ambrose?

A: Ambrose yeah, your granddad that's your grandpa eh he was married already but he had to look after his own kids because there's no work no fishing just in wintertime. It wasn't very easy it was real hard. Sometimes we has to go and fish the nets and cook it for breakfast, lots of time we did that me and my brother Jeffery. But you had to eat eat something and when I go work in the garden she bake some bread and bannock for the old lady then she give it to us and tea and sugar like that.

00:21:40

Q: When you guys moved. When you guys moved from here?

A: To Buffalo.

Q: To Buffalo where did you guys live. You.

00:21:50

A: I don't know how the hell they move it because we had a couple team of horses and few cows when I got back to Buffalo. I don't know why where they found then we had horses I know that but where the hell cows I don't know where the hell my dad got a hold of it because there a lot of fish in the winter time those days you know. My dad use to go to Big River with a couple load of fish with couple team of horses eh they follow the other teams going to Big River. They use to haul freight in wintertime. He come home with a load of groceries but after my mom died everything going I don't know what happened. I couldn't tell you guys I don't know what happened. The only, your grandpa Ambrose he only had a team of horses and one cow left for him that's when they moved to sandy point.

00:22:50

Q: Oh so after your mom died kind of?

A: My mom died in the spring.

Q: Everything kind of feel apart.

A: Yeah in a couple months we didn't have anything at all there and the ware house was just about full with groceries when my mother got, starts getting sick eh bunch of people at Buffalo trappers and fishermen there all from there maybe about 10 – 15 people from families to look after my mom different family everyday eh.

00:23:26

Q: Oh but they came from Buffalo to look after your mom?

A: No they cane from all over Buffalo fishermen's and trappers. There was nothing in Buffalo those days just a few little shacks. You know where the church is, yeah Keazie family there was only one house there the rest is all where the Bay is at and that little Bay there we use to live across there. We use to follow the lake from there to this house Keazie family eh. There wasn't even a trail eh, except in the wintertime you had a dog trail eh through the bush.

Q: Sandy Point who was the first to live there? Ambrose.

A: Your Kokums his dad and mom.

Q: Oh the Larivieres.

A: Yeah Larivieres.

Q: Were the first ones to live in sandy Bay no Sandy point oh.

A: And your mooshum got married too and George Gardiner got married the same two sisters.

00:24:40

Q: Larivieres.

A: Larivieres girls yeah.

Q: That's why the Gardiner are there?

A: That's why the Gardiner's are their Yeah.

Q: Oh ok, So you never really followed, when you were growing up you never followed your dad to show how to do things?

A: No.

00:25:16

Q: Where did you learn to ah to be a tough worker and stuff like that.

A: I just learn on my own when I was in Beauval I fish all winter for commercial fishing we quit about February the 15th. Then we went in the bush in logging by hand eh no power saw. Then after that we got we brought all the logs at Beauval to dump in the river and the sawmill going all summer. I work in the sawmill all summer 10 hours a day.

Q: How old were you at that time?

A; About, I remember I was 23 before 30 anyway.

Q: Before that your dad, you never went trapping with your dad or anything?

A: No, no by the time I was old enough to do that I was in Sandy Lake a year and by the time I'm old enough to do that we lost our mom we were all over the place eh. My three brothers they were so poor they both died the three of them one of them drowned. My brother Vital he just passed away just before Christmas eh and ah Louis about 3 or 4 years ago. They had to spend to that school in Beauval for 7 years. They had no place to stay my dad remarried to that treaty woman and she was so mean the chief from Clear lake he took them three boys and asked the bishop to see if they can keep them for no holiday even in July and August. They had to stay there for 7 years Vital stay there and Victor 7 years and my brother Louis stay there for 5 years.

00:27:19

Q: Where was this?

A: In Beauval.

Q: That mission?

A: Mission uha across there. There's nothing there now eh just a. So that's why after that they come home they come spend with me for I think just about a year. Vital stay with me and Victor too, then their dad come pick up Victor he wants somebody to help eh for winter and before its time to work that's when he drowned eh.

Q: How did they know, how did they know where because there was no, you couldn't phone back back in those days eh.

A: No.

00:27:54

Q: How did they know where people were?

A: Well Everybody traveled by foot eh and dog team you know the trappers when they go they don't come home for Christmas they go in the open water up north, they don't come until the spring.

Q: So the men are gone for just the women?

A: Yeah just the men.

Q: And the women?

A: Cause the store keepers, Hudson's Bay they look after the families by then people come home with bunch of fur eh. Sometimes they come home few of them not all of them, Christmas, right, after New years there gone again eh they don't expect them to be home by water.

00:28:47

Q: Who use to look after these families when these men are gone?

A: The ladies they do that and they got bunch of boys who can cut wood like your, Ambrose was old enough and Jeffery too, they can haul wood and cut it by cross cut saw oh we survived easy but after see two of them after one gone that's the hard thing you ever find when your dads gone, not too bad but the mothers all look after his kids don't matter what happen your mom never forget his kids, but a man is different when a man lost his wife he don't care for lots of them they care for their kids, but lots of them must be half of them that don't care for their kids and I seen it that too that's what Happened to use. See we had a bunch of dogs my brother Jeffery had a nice dog team eh. My dad took everything he give it away every damn thing we didn't even have a little dog and a sleigh to hook up in the fall.

00:30:00

Q: So where did you live then you just lived on your own?

A: We just live on our own, on our own yeah.

Q: So when your mom died you must have been what?

A: Me I was about 14.

00:30:14

Q: Then you lived on your own, you survived on your own?

A: Yeah I was working for my auntie everyday she looked after me she give me some clothes to wear cause my uncle Louis was he was a big shot eh for the company. They were well off eh, but.

Q: What company did he work for, yours?

A: He was start with Riverion but after Riverion sold out he went to the Bay eh 1934 Or 32 was when the Bay sold the Riverion sold to the bay eh sold out eh real quick.

00:31:00

Q: Did you always know you were a half-breed?

A: Half-breed?

Q: Yeah.

A: Oh yeah.

Start: 00:30:56:15

Q: Like your mom and dad always?

A: You know not really French half-breed. My grandfather its was its written someplace I don't know where Antoine they use to call him I think.

Q: Antoine Morin.

A: Yeah he got ah he was hired for the Northwest Company from France, over seas. My my my Jeffery my grandfather my dads, his dad, his dad eh and he got married over there around La Loche some place.

Q: Your grandfather, no.

A: No, no my real real grandfather not my grandfather. My dad his grandfather eh he got married to a lady over there without a priest he stay with the women for a few years. I think they have 3 or 4 kids finally the priest got in eh there was no priest in this country at all those days, that 1600 or 1700 I don't know why. Its someplace written in here I don't know (this one) but anyway he stay there and ah my grandfather Jeffery was born too and finally from there they move to Green lake he got transferred to Green Lake. That's where the rest 7 boys and 4 girls eh on my dad's side eh he's family and ah there all died not one of them alive and ah I my grandfather Antoine he's buried in Green Lake.

00:33:02

Q: Antoine Morin?

A: Yeah my grandfather Jeffrey's dad eh and Jeffrey's buried in here the cemetery here I but know but I think my dad's mom is buried in here too, but Jeff my grandfather he he married again you know Jimmy Morin he died 2 years ago that was his dad eh that's my dad's his half brother.

Q: That's your half brother eh Jimmy Morin?

A: My dad's his half brother yeah.

Q: Moise Morin and Sakimees what's Sakimees real name?

A: Zealia.

Q: Zealia because I want to see when he married again he was old eh?

A: My dad he wasn't very old cause my mom was only 43 when she died and my mom, my dad, my mom was born 1886.

End: 00:34:05:20

00:34:08

Q: And your dad was born?

A: 1886 in Ile a la crosse and my dad eh I don't know wasn't it was little bit older wasn't too much eh and when she was my dad died she didn't get old age pension yet just blind pension. She was half-blind eh she was getting blind pension there wasn't old age pension.

00:34:38

Q: Who's that your mom?

A: My dad.

Q: Oh your dad.

A: My dad couldn't get no but those days old age pension was only 10 dollars a month eh.

00:34:50

Q: So they use to get old age pension those days.

A: Yeah but it was only 10 dollars a month and a see that's why I found out she's only 34 I don't know if I'm right but I she was born 1886 that's 14 years to me till 1900 eh and 1929 that's when she died put it all together comes to 46, 43 I think but my sister Claudia she don't believe me that and I got it written in here what day she was born the day. I got some more papers over there but they could make a mistake like my wife she was born 1921 but his baptize come in from Regina she was born 1922. It was her but sister was 1922 wasn't her eh. There was 3 of them in the family a boy and 2 girls she was the oldest one eh.

Q: Claudia?

A: No my wife but when we got his baptize papers from Regina he was born 1922 but it wasn't 22 it was 21 she was born. See that's what happened to my sister Claudia she asked our mom she died 1930 he says I was 14 months old already he said. He was just a baby only 2 months old when my mom died eh when she was born, Claudia, my mom she never get out of bed after that eh for two months she was sick for two months and my uncle Louis took that little girl eh.

Q: Claudia so is that that's where everyone went to relatives?

A: Yeah.

Start: 00:36:48:15

Q: Where did you go you just stayed on your own?

A: Me oh yeah we had to stay on our own whole summer finally we start doing little work in winter time fishing for real small wages, but we survived. Finally I got married, my uncle told me if you don't get married you'll never have anything, every time you work all summer you still don't have anything, Find yourself a wife and get married and he's right too. I make a good living after that cause I don't run around all over the place, all night I stay home. Their use to be dances every night.

00:37:41 Q: Oh yeah what did they do in those dances?
A: I was playing the fiddle every night pert near for yeah.

Q: They use to go in a hall or?
A: In a hall yeah find a house we didn't have a hall but we find a house all the time every Friday night, we work we had to go work Saturday but those days we work 6 days a week eh only Sunday we had to work Saturday to 10 hours.

00:38:14 Q: Do you guys use to have dances Friday?
A: Yeah.

Q: Who use to come there like?
A: Oh lot of people filled up eh.

Q: From all over or just?
A: Around town, Beauval eh there was enough people, lots of young guys.

Q: Oh yeah and you use to play the fiddle?
A: Yeah that's why I don't learn to dance I didn't have no time.

00:38:37 Q: Oh yeah you don't I see ok and what did they do there did they drink?
A: What?
Q: Did they drink at those?
A: No there was no liquor.
Q: No liquor at all?
A; You never see any liquor when I was young that's why I never drink in my life that's one thing I don't do. I told that I don't what some of them told me I got sick I drink too much I don't what it means I never say that kind of stuff in my life and I'm old enough to learn now I won't do it.

Q: I guess.
A: I quit smoking 30 years ago.

Q: Did you guys every a like celebrate like Christmas, new years things like that?
A: Not very much no when I got married your grandpa come and play fiddle for me were dancing for three nights.

Q: Oh that long and there too?
A: Yeah no body drinking everybody was happy.

Q: You use to play every night then go to bed like then get up again?
A: 2, 3 6 o'clock in the morning sometimes we danced.

00:39:56 Q: Was my grandpa a pretty good fiddle player?
A: Oh yeah.

Q: That's good, who taught you to play fiddle?
A: Well I always watch him all the time eh.

Q: Cause he was older than you eh he was a little older than you, Ambrose?
A: Oh quite a bit older I was born 1914 he was born 1905 eh that's.

Q: he'd be 9 years older.
A: 9 years older.

00:40:26 Q: D you kinda learnt off him you watched him.
A: I steal his fiddle once in a while when he's away eh he didn't like that eh I still doing it eh every time he's gone.

00:40:41 Q: I wonder where he got his, where did those things come from those violins and stuff?
A: I don't know where the hell they come from there was very few around there very few of them no guitars around eh.

Q: No.
A: Record player just you have to crank eh you know the one we had your grandpa had it. Use to crank and winding use to Louis my son Louis and they took it to Regina to get it to get fixed and cleaned it they lost it I don't know what happened to that they couldn't find it.

Q: Who the people that were fixing it couldn't find it?
A: No the people that were fixing it they said they left it there they sold that shop eh but I think they took it along. They moved to BC someplace.

00:41:40 Q: That's an old, that's old that thing about 100 years old.
A: He still got the radio your grandpa give him the radio and record player. He still got the radio and power pack battery yeah.

Q: So those dances what did they do did they square dance?
A: Mostly square dances, few waltzes eh.

Q: And who use to call then did they have callers?
A: There had to be a caller all the time. I know lots of callers not like today they don't call now any more.

Q: They don't call no more?
A: Kinda poor last night a lot of people come from Buffalo they want a they want square dancing eh but them guys they won't play the fiddle eh just guitar they singing they all went home. Bruce Clark was there he like dancing but he couldn't dance only one square dance they dance.

00:42:38 Q: Back in the old what did you a, what type of food did you guys eat? *End: 00:42:38:20*
A: Mostly wild. *Start: 00:42:38:26*

Q: Just wild food like what?
A: Was no meat in the store, few can meats like that, like today you don't hunt at all if you want meat you just walk to the store get some. Lot of money today not like 50 - 60 years ago.

00:43:17 Q: Hardly any hardly any money?
A: Everything was so cheap tobacco use to buy tobacco by package 10 cents a package same as butter eh about 10 cents a pound creamery butter and now nobody can afford to eat butter.

Q: Who use to build like when you guys moved from here to Buffalo who use to build the houses?
A: 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.

00:44:03 Q: So they use to build it wherever they put it?
A: But they did have no roofing paper they use 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.

Q: Oh backs then so they use to use bark?
A: No stores in Buffalo. You had to pilot to Clear Lake to get to get groceries once in a while eh.

00:44:37 Q: How about for doors and stuff they use to make their own?
A: Oh yeah they have enough lumber.

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

00:45:04 Q: So who use to help your dad build those things?
A: Your mooshum, Ambrose and Jeffery.

Q: So the older kids use to help him?
A: 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.

Q: Just by himself?
A: yeah he was a big man just about 83 when he died, Jeffery, I'm the only one left.

Q: In the family?
A: Yeah that family and I'm the oldest one alive too. . Your grandpa died in '69 eh?

Q: No '74.
A: 74, you know Elizabeth Hood told me it was '69.

Q: '74 when he died.
A: 1974 he died but how old he was 69 years old?

Q: Yeah he was 69 years old already.
A: But he died '74.

Q: Yeah.
A: 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.

00:46:10 Q: I think so maybe 100.
A: I trying to go 75 I went three 25, 50, 60 already, the two of us.

Q: Oh with your wife 64 years you're been married eh?
A: Yeah just about not quite in October. Too long I said.

00:46:45 Q: Did you dad ever talk about a like when they wrote that land scrip?
A: No! I didn't even know about I never heard about land claims scrip for long time eh.

Q: So your dad never talked about it?
A: No its only in our family when it's only one that'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.

Q: Yeah cause he is on there Ambrose is on there cause he did sign, Felix did sign that in Green Lake I think.
A: Must be yeah.

Q: Hey wasn't it?
A: All these Morins I'm only.

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

A: I don't know what happened that its funny the people don't talk about that now there always fighting something different eh. Like the school eh they fight about the school the way they were treated. My brother, 3 brothers they spent, 2 of them, 7 years and Louis for 5 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 treat us. It was the money eh they want the money.

00:48:17

Q: So Vital and them you never went to the mission eh you never went to school?

A: 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 my family I stay 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 stay there cause even especially with my mom after he was gone it was a better place for me to stay eh.

Q: Did they talk about the mission how were they treated there?

A: What, where?

Q: Your brothers?

00:49:24

A: I don't know it was nice, it was a nice outfit the mission they raised a lot of kids when they no place to go those days, lost their mom their dad eh. The mission use to pick them up and raise them lots of them.

Q: And they never talk about, they never talk about them like being treating bad and stuff?

A: Oh no, I don't believe that cause I ask my 3 brothers the way the people talk, they were raise at Beauval and them too they were 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 its good thing we work he said we know some what to do and get out of there suppose to work to make living, after these 2 months holidays they were working mission had to make some hay and bunch of cattles they had but they were working there making hay, making stacks what they didn't mind that.

Q: Do you guys want to ask anything. Wise old guy here he knows lots.

End: 00:51:02:04

00:51:23

Q: Oh when you speak Cree this language we speak is that is that all you spoke?

A: Cree.

Q: CREE or French?

A: Me well I use to speak French little bit but I never use it now I can understand but pretty hard to speak eh that's a hard language.

Q: But this language we speak right we use some French words?

A: yeah we use half see like Ile a la Crosse here half French half CREE, see table that's not CREE that's French, chair French for chair. Everything - ~~lapoth~~ door same as the dishes, knife, cup.

la porte

Q: So where did, did your dad speak that too?

A: Yeah the same that's the way they speak eh same as, not like Canoe ~~Lake~~ Narrows they speak straight CREE eh they don't.

Narrows

Q: Straight CREE yeah?

A: Yeah in here Ile a la Grosse we don't that we half French that's really we had a bunch of sisters, we had a bunch of sisters up to twenty, half of them were school teachers eh.

Q: There were those Grey nuns, mission sisters and they all spoke French?

A: Yeah mostly French they teach French half a day and half a day English. Sister Therese you remember her?

00:53:12

Q: Yeah Arcand, sister Arcand?

A: Yeah Arcand you see his picture in the books I look at it this morning it says that that's what its written there he says half French in the morning, English after dinner. When its time it time to play no time gotta work. It can't it can't be very bad because she was raised in Ile a la Grosse she become to be a sister. She died a few years ago.

Q: Did you ever tell a like stories in. Do you remember your dad or your mom telling like?

A: I remember my dad especially my dad lived till '54 eh I had kids already but my mom I was young but I remember my mom real good eh.

00:54:07

Q: Cause she raised you. Did they ever tell you stories like about a they call them like folklore like there like Wesackedjack?

A: No.

Q: You never heard any stories like that in your life?

A: I use to heard but I don't there was an old lady she did I was just a kid I don't remember too. It was hard she use so many big words in CREE you know you don't understand half of it eh.

00:54:41

Q: A lot of nicknames too when you guys were growing up?

A: Yeah lots of nicknames.

Q: Why was that?

A: I don't know, I don't know.

Q: Did you have a nickname when you were growing up?

A: No, no I only got one name Harry no middle name at all.

Q: Oh, your dad did he have a nickname?

A: Felix Paul, Felix Paul was my dad's name, Morin.

Q: That's his middle name.

Brenda: Did people around here use medicines?

A: What?

Brenda: Did people around here use medicines?

Q: Was there any medicine men?

A: Oh yeah use to use it quite a bit on our young days there was nothing else no doctors. It was good but I move to Canoe in 1946 I remember that too I had trouble with my throat all the time swelling up eh and just when the lake was getting freeze had to come by water to see doctor, I couldn't go no place. There was an old man there my old lady said I'll go and get that old man see what he can do, good medicine man and he said I just put something in here hot stuff so you can sleep good he says but I'll fix you up early tomorrow morning. You won't believe what he did, but its true, he cut it in here a little bit he put the blood out he had a little horn, like about this big, he put in hot water and every

time he put it there and he suck that milk and he dump in a dish like was quite a bit blood just black and after her finish that I fell a sleep he lay me right on the floor inside a house too and he gave me some medicine to boil it and drink it for 9 pails. 5 gallon lard pails use to be and he said if you follow this what I'm gonna tell you he says you'll be an old man before you get that sickness back again, use to bother me all the time soon as I get cold or get wet a little bit I get a throat trouble you know you won't believe it I never had any trouble yet since that time don't matter if I get wet or lots of time I use to hunt eh get wet eh or skin a moose in the water but he must be right eh cause I had to drink all he said don't drink don't drink anything no tea, no salt he said, no sugar, when you eat your food don't use salt till you drink all this medicine and don't drink that steady he said. Boy I don't know what kinda medicine was and after I boil one he tied, he tied and made about this big eh these roots and he put it. You boil it 3 times and 3, 6, 9 pails of out and when 3 times the last time when you boil it leave it there till you drink all from that pail and don't throw it in the ground put in the stove let it burn it burn it down and I did that and he said you won't's.

00:59:32

Q: Since then you never had a?

A: You won't be sorry never had throat trouble, my tonsils are still in there. This is true story.

Q: What was his name that Medicine man?

A: I don't know is that an old man I don't even know I use to know his name but I forget about it. That's quite a few years ago eh 1946 that yeah that's ah.

End: 00:59:07:14

Q: I don't know anything else ladies.

00:59:11

Anna: Well I wanted to ask you did everyone belong to the mission like everyone went to church?

Start: 00:59:10:24

A: Me.

00:59:22

Anna: No everyone in the community all the people?

A: Mostly not now but years ago everybody use to go, even the old ladies, the ladies we use to go with our moms Sundays come home with them dinner too and but now half of there's more people like 40 years not even a quarter went to church on Sunday but there's no priest eh half of the time we got no priest eh. There's only one little Philippine priest we got eh.

Q: So back then there was lots of priests?

A: oh we use to have 4 or 5 of them sisters and brothers and everything but now we had to the people had to clean up their own church and no sisters, 2 sisters but I don't even them you don't see in church like they use too. The sisters use to go to church even 3, 4 times a day but now they work in the hospital sometimes they work all day Sunday instead go to church way different than years ago.

01:00:00

Anna: Did they, the priest, did they use to speak CREE?

A: Yeah pret near all of them did there the people but now they don't now they don't, there's an old priest we had we got he use to be South End ah he can speak CREE but he's not too good eh.

Q: Which one is that?

A: Father Turcotte.

Q: Turcotte yeah he's French eh he speaks French.

A: French mostly yeah he's the only one in the family become a priest eh he said my family we were poor he says we lost our dad he said and he's was worse now to 3 or 4 of them brothers were joined to be a priest they say 3 months

younger than me, 87 in November and January 24 but he looks so old he can hardly walk.

End: 01:01:57:02

Q: He has plastic hips both of them?

A: He's all crippled up.

Brenda: Do you remember Father Rupay?

A: What?

Brenda: Do you remember Father Rupay?

A: (nods no)

01:02:10

End of Interview