

## **Daniel M. Bouvier.** (1922-2003)

By Albert J. Lafferty.

Daniel Bouvier was born in Fort Providence on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1922. He was the sixth child of Joseph and Celine Bouvier. Two siblings, and innumerable nieces and nephews that span at least four generations survive him. As a child, he attended the mission school in Fort Providence. Like everyone else back then, he attended school long enough to learn to read and write.

He enjoyed reading, and spent a lot of time at it. For someone that had only basic reading and writing skills, he developed quite a good understanding of the English vocabulary. Sometimes he would surprise his family when he knew the meaning of certain word, when we didn't expect him to! When he was asked how he knew the meaning he would say well he came across the word before when he was reading!

He was fluent in three languages his first language was Michif French and he was also an excellent South Slavey speaker.

To his nieces and nephews, he was always fondly known as "Cap". Actually, Cap had two nicknames. To the older generation he was always known as "Tsee-Lif", a nickname he held since he held since he was very young. All the old timers of his generation in the community still refer to him as "Tsee-Lif" to this very day.

Uncle Cap lived in Fort Providence all of his life. He never, ever, wanted to leave his home community, or had the desire to travel to distant communities. The only times he left home was in the pursuit of traditional hunting, fishing, and trapping activities in the area.

For work, in his early years Daniel worked for his father at the Joe Bouvier Trading Post hauling water with a yoke and pails for the garden and home; keeping the fires going; packing, shipping and receiving furs and other goods; and all the chores involved in that business, as well as the chores around the Bouvier home. Cap preferred the traditional economy of trapping and trading instead of the wage economy.

Although Cap preferred the traditional economy, he did work for short periods of time in the wage economy. Cap worked for the Catholic Mission from time to time; Federal Department of Public Works on the Dredge based on Dory Point; and the RCMP as a guard.

Cap kept a team of dogs for transportation to his trap line, and for hauling firewood and supplies. Cap never owned a vehicle or a snowmobile. The only mode of transportation Cap knew aside from his dog team was his old nine hp kicker.

Daniel Bouvier was a humble man who did not have any interest in things of material value. He never sought recognition, attention, or status. He believed that the

best things in life are free, and he did not dwell on the accumulation of material items or money.

In looking back, we can now say, his way of living was a “reflection of his nature”. He never wanted to be first, he never wanted to be best, and he never longed to be rich. He was content so long as he had the basic necessities of life, and was near his relatives that he always loved so much. Cap died on January 27, 2003. (Contributed by Albert J. Lafferty.)



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