
Interview With Lorne Sinclair

Interviewed by Cheryl Troupe

May 12, 2003

Kinistino, Saskatchewan

Also present Terri Huntley and Betty Fitszimmons

Tape One: Side A

- 0.0 **Cheryl:** Okay today is May 13 and we are in the home of Betty Fitszimmons and we are conducting an interview with Lorne Sinclair. Okay Lorne do you want to tell us where and when you were born?
- 0.2 **Lorne:** I was born in Kinistino in September 23, 1934.
- 0.4 **Cheryl:** Okay, and what were the names of your mother and father?
- 0.4 **Lorne:** Jane and Ed Sinclair, Edmond Sinclair.
- 0.5 **Cheryl:** And where were they born, were they born here?
- 0.5 **Lorne:** My mom was born in Scotland, Orkney Island and my dad was born in Cladeboy, Manitoba that is where he came from so.
- 0.6 **Cheryl:** Okay what do you remember most about your parents?
- 0.6 **Lorne:** Everyday life.
- 0.7 **Cheryl:** And what was that like?
- 0.7 **Lorne:** Good.
- 0.8 **Cheryl:** Yeah, good. And did you have a lot of brother's and sisters?
- 0.9 **Lorne:** I have four half, my mother was married twice so there in my family there is four of us two sisters and two brothers.
- 1.1 **Cheryl:** And what were the various roles in the family? What types of things did the kids do, did the parents do?
- 1.2 **Lorne:** It was farm life, farm life yeah, lots of music we would play music for entertainment and that type of thing.
- 1.4 **Cheryl:** And what types of music did you play?

- 1.5 **Lorne:** Well I play the fiddle and guitar and stuff like that, we have a band. We played the old time music and my son now he was in a big band hey and he would come home and play with us hey when we were playing we got more dances then they got, *laughs*. He played for the country north in Prince Albert for six years.
- 1.9 **Cheryl:** So when did you learn to play?
- 1.9 **Lorne:** When I was nine or ten. My dad played you see, very good fiddle so I got to play on the piano, I would chord on the piano then I didn't end up playing that but. We would play for the school dances and at the end of the year I would get grabbed by the ear and have to go up and I didn't want to hey. So I knew four chords on each scale so I was fine.
- 2.4 **Cheryl:** Sop then when you started playing the fiddle was there other fiddle players that influenced you?
- 2.5 **Lorne:** Oh, just my dad. Self taught. Yeah and then my son played and he started, he didn't start until he was about fifteen and then he started getting interested and he played the base guitar from Calgary from a friend and then he started playing that. Then he started playing lead guitar and singing and then he ended up that he could have went to Holland with Prairie Fire with what is his name there, that from out of P.A. he is from Regina now. France Scholar he tried to get him to go but he was married and had a little bundle so he didn't go and missed a chance of a lifetime he could have had. But he is over and above us self taught, my wife has got grade nine in music and he showed her where diminished, he has got theory built in him. She didn't take the theory she took the music but not the theory she played some of the church we used to play hymns and we would get in the church and she would play guitar, piano and fiddle, or guitar and some of those different scales you can't understand how to play the music unless you understand the theory so the minister would come out and hum the song to her and she would pick it up you know, strange.
- 4.0 **Cheryl:** Back to a little bit about your family, when you were growing up did you have a lot of extended family around, a lot of aunts and uncles around or cousins?
- 4.1 **Lorne:** Oh yeah, a lot of the relations were right here, my dad's family was about ten miles south of us they moved up north about nine miles from us, we were all pretty close. My dad moved out of Manitoba in I think 19109 maybe up into Saskatchewan. He lived on scrip, like scrip land and he was a fisherman that is how they made their money and his dad James that is how they lived. _____, so.
- 4.8 **Cheryl:** So you had extended family around what was their role?
- 4.9 **Lorne:** Oh, some were at stores and some farmed, mostly farming like raising and I have got to be careful how I say this because we have two families of it, my mom got married twice. She lost her first husband in 1918 in that big flue so he is

buried in Regina. When my dad passed away he was 55 and he went overseas when he was 15 and a half cause the times were tough and he was a grown man a fifteen believe it or not and I never quite growing at 21 and I am still not very tall, in fact I am going the other direction now. That is about all I can tell you about that, you know just family life. That is what it was up here in Saskatchewan was farming, like there was no other industries like really. So my one half brother he was in the bank he worked in the bank and he had a store in Winnipeg and then he moved to Vern Lake and that is where he passed away.

- 6.3 **Cheryl:** Did you and your family identify as Métis, self identify?
- 6.3 **Lorne:** How do you mean?
- 6.4 **Cheryl:** Like did you consider yourself to be Metis?
- 6.5 **Lorne:** Well I do, definitely some of them aren't interested but I am and I would like to get my heritage and that is what I am after, I am not after anything else because that is what is important to me. I am not, haven't got the complexion, some of our guys have I am the lighter coloured one but Grant he passed from a _____ well my dad and them they are dark about your complexion (points to Terri Huntley), maybe a little darker.
- 7.1 **Betty:** Grant is darker.
- 7.2 **Lorne:** Oh, by a mile. Well uncle Bub's he was pretty dark too and uncle Joe, my dad you would look at them. There wasn't never much put into it and then I said I was going to before I was gone I am going to get this going. Like my she is buried in Winnipeg, in St. James cathedral, this Native lady here in the guy married, this William, he was a benefactor for the Hudson's Bay Company. I am have got my family tree, like if you look at it and read it you would be amazed, I have got it right here.
- 7.7 **Terri:** Can I look at it?
- 7.8 **Lorne:** Yeah, I have got it right here, oh I am sorry, there is the start of it right here. If you read that if you go along, I had to read it four or five times because if you put all of that, it took me a long time to get that. And it is pretty interesting.
- 8.1 **Cheryl:** And you say that you found that your family comes from Stanley Mission?
- 8.1 **Lorne:** No, from Cladboy.
- 8.1 **Cheryl:** No, but you were saying that...

8.2 **Lorne:** Well, there is a Stanley that is mixed up, they were telling me and I just found this out not long ago and I don't know why they can't seem to locate this Stanley Mission that was named after him, maybe that Stanley Mission will show up hey. I have got a cousin Stanley you see, so then they got Sinclair passed,

Sinclair Creek, Sinclair Canon where they went through with the Red River Ox carts. Took settler from Fort Gary in Winnipeg out to the Cannel flats, they took two trips first with the _____ parished they took the wrong round route or whatever they were trying to get through the mountains and the mountains to get there. If you were to read that it would tell you better than what I am saying like in a way, but it is all marked. Then we have William Sinclair in 1855, I believe it was I have a picture of my wife standing under the I think it is the Kettle Valley where he was like he got killed trying to save an Indian woman during a skirmish and he went out to open in up and save her and he got shot with whatever it was. They have a big plaque there and I have got pictures of it right on a main highway, it is nice.

9.6 **Cheryl:** So when you were growing up what were some of your favorite hobbies or activities that you did?

9.7 **Lorne:** Oh, sports, playing ball playing music was one of my main ones, pretty near everything I didn't play hockey because we couldn't get organized there. Horse, boys liked horses, loved those saddle horses, that is pretty well it.

10.0 **Cheryl:** You were mentioning music before did you play for dances and that type of thing?

10.1 **Lorne:** Oh yeah, we just finished the ten year stint here three years ago trying to find music for steady functions. Oh yeah, we had a lot of fun with that but then these kids got up to, they were into sports so we had to quit. I got tired of it too not tired of the playing tired of the work, so that is about what we did.

10.6 **Cheryl:** What about social functions like playing cards and going to feast and that type of thing did your family do that?

10.7 **Lorne:** Oh we went to all types of things we went to all sports days and _____ we never missed one hardly ever. I am not a card player I will fill in but I would sooner do other things that play cards and watch TV. I will fill in and watch sports and that is about it and talk shows but other than that I don't care.

11.1 **Cheryl:** What about holidays how do you celebrate holidays?

11.2 **Lorne:** Whenever they fit in, we are still doing the same thing. The kids are all grown up and we are still doing the same thing, we work around the kids hey if they have to do something, we will fill in hey.

11.4 **Cheryl:** And is that what it was like when you were growing up?

- 11.4 **Lorne:** Well we didn't, back then you didn't do what you do now. My grandchildren in Red Deer, one is eleven/twelve and the other one is fourteen band they are playing in band, all we had was we went outside and saddled up our horses and went for a ride. *Laughter.*
- 11.7 **Cheryl:** So was Christmas more of a festive holiday or a religious holiday for your family.
- 11.8 **Lorne:** Oh yeah, big time. We had a Christmas day and then the next day, Boxing Day was the same thing, eat until you couldn't eat anymore. New Years was the same thing. Yeah, good time.
- 12.1 **Cheryl:** and did you attend church for those things or no?
- 12.1 **Lorne:** No, mom she read the bible inside out but in those days she never went, it was hard to get, we were milking fifteen cows and doing chores and dad was sick, he was sick since I knew him. So when he passed away he had three strokes. He went overseas and when he went overseas he got something in his lungs and he was never the same so I never really knew him when he could run a block, never ever. SO we had lots of work to do. So we drove four miles to school one way and four miles home. So when we left in the morning with our team of horses it was ten to eight and when we got home it was four o'clock, maybe a little later. We had lots of, we enjoyed it.
- 12.9 — **Cheryl:** Where did you attend school?
- 13.0 **Lorne:** Crumpton School just outside of here about six miles out, south. Good times, we weren't always perfect us guys either. I had a trap line and I caught my dog, we used to snare rabbits it was handy with a whole team I would check them everyday twice.
- 13.4 **Cheryl:** On your way to school.
- 13.4 **Lorne:** Yeah, oh that was part of it.
- 13.4 **Cheryl:** So how did you catch your dog?
- 13.4 **Lorne:** He found out where I had a trap I had a trap set about three quarters of a mile from the house, I was trying to catch a mink and I caught him instead. He couldn't get out of that trap he because he was just quiet, he knew I was coming down there though because he could smell the bait hey, I didn't think he would ever go down there but he did. Oh yeah we had lots of laughs I imagine everyone else had their days too.
- 13.9 **Cheryl:** So was hunting and trapping was that a large part of the diet then?

14.0 **Lorne:** No, oh no that was just a sideline of mine, we never id d that, we had our own beef and that we didn't have to worry about that.

14.2 **Cheryl:** And what about gardening?

14.2 **Lorne:** Oh yeah, big time we still are. It is part of our life Marge likes it so. We don't have to the kids give us a talking to and when we started it keeps getting bigger and bigger the garden. So no that is a good part we like olive gardens and stuff.

14.7 **Cheryl:** What about the farm house that you grew up in what was it like?

14.7 **Lorne:** It was built in the thirties and we lived in that until 1981 fixed it up and this and that. My daughter came home and she was a banker in Prince Albert, she worked at the Bank of Nova Scotia and my son in law, he was a body man so he come home and give them the house and we bought a big house and we figured we would when we were finished with that we could move it off of the property and go. Somewhere close to the facilities. But we are still there and I am still doing the same thing, still farming yeah never stopped. So I got a brother living in the yard and my son in law and daughter live well I can here Jason's drums playing when I am in the trailer here in the basement, of course he plays them really loud but hat is how close we are to each other, it has been that way since forever.

16.0 **Cheryl:** You mentioned before a team of horses, so horses were your main transportation?

16.0 **Lorne:** Yeah, well at that time it was pretty well, we had a car too but it was only used sparingly back in the forties.

16.2 **Cheryl:** What about horse races do you remember anybody in the community racing horses?

16.3 **Lorne:** Oh yeah, we used to go up to the reserve all the time; we never missed the sports days out there. We would watch the Constant boys race their horses Robert and all them. Oh yeah but that is where we had to go, either that or Shellbrook, we went to a lot of sports days, we loved it.

16.6 **Cheryl:** So what types of events would they have there?

16.6 **Lorne:** Out there, oh chariots and they had the what do you call them the chuck wagons they had big horses though, they didn't have these small ones, it was unheard of then, they didn't have the little ponies they had the big thorough breds and boy could they ever go. You bet.

- 17.1 **Cheryl:** We were talking before about your aunts and uncles, what about your grandparents were they around?
- 17.2 **Lorne:** No, my granddad died, James, he died in Manitoba I don't know what happened really he got sick and died. My grandmother lived to be 93 I never did have a grandfather they passed away, my only grandfather he passed away in Scotland, my mom's dad. I didn't even have a picture of him in those days. Then she came over and when she was 12 when she come from Scotland, but she is not hooked into any of this Métis, that was my dad that was the Métis part.
- 17.9 **Cheryl:** Do you remember when you were growing up did he ever tell you stories about Métis history or folktales or legends or anything?
- 18.1 **Lorne:** Not a lot other than how we arrived into this world through the different generations. He was sick, sick hey, and he was a quiet guy talked very little, he never talked he was a hard guy to feed too. He was fussy to eat, he didn't have an appetite hey, he ate everything he wasn't supposed to. He mentioned when he was a boy they used to swim in the Red River and that's how they lived and his dad was a fisherman and that is how they made their living in Lake Winnipeg; I imagine that is how it was and lived on a strip of land so it was quite a. I think at Fort Carlton we have a Sinclair there and I think he was a surveyor he had an office at the fort Carlton there where you walked in the top of the door there. So there is lots of things happen in exploration because William there he was a benefactor for the Hudson's Bay Company, he was a top man. He was buried in the Hudson's Bay or whatever they call it I can't remember it is in that book there. But they moved him because he was buried in permafrost and 75 years later or 80 years later they had to move him out because the permafrost kept melting back and he was perfectly preserved. He had an iron, a big iron gage around him and everything you know, back then he yeah I saw them that is kind of interesting.
- 20.1 **Cheryl:** What about your clothing and what type of clothing did you have?
- 20.2 **Lorne:** Just like I am wearing. More or less, we didn't have snow toboggan suits I'm telling you.
- 20.3 **Cheryl:** So how did you stay warm then?
- 20.3 **Lorne:** Put on parkas and be tough.
- 20.4 **Cheryl:** Did your mother mostly sew your clothes?
- 20.4 **Lorne:** Oh yeah, she made we bought some and she could make them, she could make anything she was handy we were well dressed. Some of the kids sure weren't but we were and well fed, always well fed we were never hungry. We

had no money but we were always well fed. We never ate too many jam sandwiches I will tell you, we always had meat.

- 20.8 **Cheryl:** Do you remember when you were growing up about the Métis community around you do you remember anything about them?
- 21.0 **Lorne:** Oh we lived around them heck I grew up with Natives and Métis and a lot you didn't even know were Métis but we knew a lot that were but a not a lot was said about it.
- 21.2 **Cheryl:** And why do you think that is?
- 21.2 **Lorne:** A lot of them didn't want to admit that they were Métis say that sadly and I don't understand it that is part of your blood hey. I am fifth generation but still I think a guy should be interested in that there is a lot of Métis people around that don't admit they are Métis, I don't understand it.
- 21.8 **Cheryl:** So when you were growing up was there certain responsibilities that you had in your family that were different from others?
- 22.0 **Lorne:** Well out in our district there was a lot we had to work we didn't go to town on Saturday because we had to do our thing on Saturday we went to school every other day and the other kids have parents that were sick hey dad was sick so we had to do his work for him. We had kind of dairy farm a little dairy farm here hey so we supplied the town with milk but he was sick so he couldn't do anything very little. After he was forty so we worked hard and it never bothered us a bit. We used to take the horses to the rack and go six miles and get snow blind and the whole bit and I was only about nine years old and we could have four gages just like everybody else. We were strong hey, we grew up having to work so we were didn't have any trouble with these town kids anyway if they were getting on our backs we would just clean them up a little bit and stay out of trouble.
- 23.0 **Cheryl:** What other kinds of chores did you have to do?
- 23.1 **Lorne:** Oh mostly stock, dairy and look after the horses and stuff like that. We had about forty head of cattle and eight horses and stuff like that it was a steady thing everyday.
- 23.3 **Cheryl:** And was it just the boys that did that or did the girls do that?
- 23.3 **Lorne:** Oh no, my mother could just as much as the two of us when we were small. We'd milk the cows and we would like doing that hey. We were six years old and trying to milk the cows and she would dome back and redo them and stretch them out to make sure that we didn't miss any milk hey and we called it stricken em. Yeah she worked hard, never complained and never cared if she went to town. She was never in a hospital and she lived till she was 25 pretty well

and she was healthy as healthy could be until the last year she got cancer just like that. Yeah she made many steps for my dad I can tell you.

24.4 Cheryl: You had said that he had gone overseas?

24.4 Lorne: Yeah, he was there for two years and he had got there were going to Normandy and he got two of them got sent home because they were underage. He still just ___ and he was still only I don't know if he was 17 or not but he was a grown man he looked like 190lbs, 180 lbs 190lbs. Got home he got a good discharge but he got sick over there with something. (Dog barking) He did ___ and all that and he had music in him so he was playing music at that age.

25.0 Dog Barking

25.1 Cheryl: Was he playing the fiddle by then?

25.2 Lorne: I don't think so I think when he came home he run into some people by the name of Callories or they weren't Métis but they were very close to the Native hey like I would say maybe three quarters Collin and here my son married his great granddaughter Patty. That is where he learned to play fiddle that is where he learned to play fiddle because they al lived out there in that Ethelton country so he would walk half a mile down and that is where he learned to play some of his fiddle.

25.7 Cheryl: Do you remember some of his favorite songs?

25.7 Lorne: Oh god he had lots of them, I had a book of about five hundred of them, I had to learn how to play the drops of brandy and all that kind of stuff when I played in PA, I played for about three years in PA. I am not a professional but I know how to play well enough to build through all of this so I have tapes from Manitoba and tapes from Alberta to learn you take a tape and learn.

26.1 Cheryl: Is that the kind of music he played as well?

26.1 Lorne: Yeah oh yeah he played that and then old time music, some Norwegians music mixed up like the waltz and stuff like that. But I like the breakdowns and the jigs and all that stuff. Oh yeah I just played last night for three quarters of an hour I was tired but I took the fiddle out and didn't even plug it into the amplifier and she played the piano and I played the she has an electric piano hey so I sat there and played away. Entertaining. We played for a lot of dry dances in that East end hall there in PA and one in the west end, all winter. We played three winters and we got tired of that because we were getting lots of dances lots of music on the road hey, all lot better money it costs a lot of money to travel around and buy instruments.

27.3 Cheryl: What about language what language did you speak at home?

- 27.3 Lorne:** English.
- 27.4 Cheryl:** Ever any other language?
- 27.4 Lorne:** No, we were always being taught English.
- 27.6 Cheryl:** What about your education you talked a little bit about going to school before.
- 27.7 Lorne:** Yeah I went to grade eight and I went to work.
- 27.8 Cheryl:** Did all the kids in your family go to grade eight?
- 27.8 Lorne:** No, my brother went to grade eight and my one sister and the other one I think she took grade ten, that was it back then and then she went to work as a telephone operator. That is what they worked at then in those days, never went any further. There was lots of work back then we never had to worry about getting jobs I stayed at home because I worked at home all the time so I got well fed and some clothes that is what I got. My dad was sick like five years three and a half years he was in bed, bed ridden so I stayed home and my brother he wasn't quite ready to settle down yet and he was older than I was and I was married six years before he thought about getting married.
- 28.7 Cheryl:** So your dad being sick like that, that must have had a huge impact on your family when he came back then.
- 28.7 Lorne:** Oh big time. Yeah big time especially when we were young you know we wanted to get out. You're taking out the girlfriends and stuff and you are out traveling when you are eighteen but we didn't really realize what mom was going through either but I was home every night. She put a tough time in, she had a lot of patience. Yeah she was married and had four kids when she was 27 and her husband passed away, he was a chartered accountant in Regina right from England. You had to have the eggs, boiled eggs on the plate right at six at night and the paper and his glasses and his pipe and he was a real nice looking guy, real tall and a mustache. That is the way he was he was right from England and she would get disgusted with him, he tried to farm one year but he was no use. They got a pair of oxen in Prince Albert and they were bringing them home and wouldn't you believe that the train killed both of them talk about luck you know. This was a true fact and then after that poor terrible land there it is all sandy far north of the Meskinaw there, poor land. They stayed there one year and he said this is not my kind of work, moved to Regina and then they come home and he was a general or whatever you call them in the _____ in the Boer War in Africa there and come back and worked and then he went and got his insurance and brought it home and put it on the table and the very words he said to mom, he got a few shot in 1918 and if I croak he said bury me in the manure pile and there is the insurance. He died on the 11 of November, 7 or 9 days later from that shot he took they figured

that is what killed him he was only 38 years old. That is something hey couldn't believe it.

- 30.9 **Cheryl:** So how did she meet your dad then?
- 30.9 **Lorne:** Well she come up here and worked for some people up here, she had relations here from Scotland and the Allery's and them. I don't know how she run into him, or how he met her he was 27 with his four kids so she married him and that is how this started and had another family then. I was, she was 43 when I was a twin when us twins were born. Can you imagine in 1934 no power no nothing yeah the two of us. I bet she cried when she knew that was happening at 43.
- 31.8 **Cheryl:** So do you think her life was drastically different when she married your dad from her first husband?
- 31.9 **Lorne:** Oh I am not too sure I think maybe she was happier in a sense I shouldn't say that. If you were asking the question, he was totally different it was two different people like he was different, he was a good guy but he had his own lifestyle. My dad was more easy going and did your thing and he was very punctual her first husband everything was on the minute, everything if he had a cup of coffee it would be at a certain minute of the day pretty near. Oh yeah he never worked after supper like all the other farmers and that they woulod be out working after dark if you were busy. But not him six o'clock come and he would start at 8 o'clock right on the nose and worked you know six o'clock come and everything was done for the day. He was only 38 though a young man very well educated though.
- 33.1 **Cheryl:** Do you remember your dad talking about his experience in the war.
- 33.2 **Lorne:** never talked about it much any. In fact he hardly ever said anything about it but us kids we never asked a whole lot about it neither back then we weren't interested in we weren't old enough to be really really into it he never talked too much about any of that. Just that he went over there and never looked after himself he come back and he figured he got into ____ (dog barking) where they put you in and you are wet one day and dry the nest and he got bronchial problems hey he never looked after he was tough and strong and cocky, and he was a heavy smoker he did lots of that.
- 33.9 **Cheryl:** Was there lots of people from the community that enlisted when he did?
- 33.9 **Lorne:** Quite a few yeah, quite a few from around here and quite a few didn't come back too. He never got to go that ship come across the panel and it never came back they got blown away so he was lucky and mom some of the other ones weren't so lucky. That was a long time ago.

34.4 **Cheryl:** Was there anything else any other stories or anything that you wanted to share?

34.6 **Lorne:** No she was not much to talk about mom she just come through life and took it whatever was fine was fine and it didn't matter. Tomorrow was another day fine we will try to do this tomorrow or try to do it some other next week or try to coax her she wasn't interested in going out. Saturday was a big day to go to town. You never went in jeans to go to town back then never, you had to dress up the white shirt on and the whole show back then even these little towns. Oh yeah you had to come to town dressed in jeans like now, oh no that was a big day back then. You girls wouldn't remember that back then I will tell you that.

35.2 **Cheryl:** So when you came to town what would you do?

35.3 **Lorne:** Oh walk up and down the streets *laughter* have enough money to go to the show and maybe buy an ice cream cone. Fool around sometimes and maybe be bad put stone in brown ____ bags and let watch the women walk up and down with those open toed shoes and watch them pick it off the street and sit back and laugh at them. The town was full you couldn't find a place to park in here at the end of those days. If you didn't get in here before 7:30 or 7:00 you had to park way off down. It is hard to believe there were six dealerships in here and it was busy a town cop and the whole bit. Now there is nothing big time yeah but that is all we did, that was entertaining to us. Buy a bottle of piltridge and take them home and we would have a treat, that was our treat oh yeah different than now.

36.4 **Cheryl:** I think just before we close I think I will ask you again what are your fondest memories of growing up?

36.6 **Lorne:** Oh I am not too sure I had a good time all my life ever since I was that high. I think my music I started playing when I was six I started playing the piano at home or was trying to and I liked music then I was into music. My mother would tell me to get off the piano and quit it she was trying to get dressed to go to town and I was driving her crazy cause the more I play the faster I would play and then she would get going the speed I was going and she would say get off that piano. That was one of my main things that was the main, it still is all my life I like music where ever we go if we kind find people to play it is party time there would always be music. We would always make sure that we were with the lions guys they were Métis guys from up he was a good accordion player and we would chum around and play. Other than that I wasn't interested in anything that is what we lived for and I still do. Other than that we liked ball and we liked sports and that was us. My brother was interested in nothing, nothing it is strange you know that way. Oh the Kinistino rodeo. Oh yeah we played at the rodeo's at the little garter salon they called it oh yeah we played everywhere for a few years. Peter McIntosh and myself yeah. I can't think of anything else. I used to have a good friend named Hap Gerard from Saskatoon he used to live in Prince Albert I got to know him pretty well. A very fine fiddle player in fact he took first a couple of

times in Minot he got me a violin. I remember I had the hotel here for two or three years the kids didn't like it, I didn't mind it I my friends from up on the reserve they all knew me so good that they looked after me looked after things it was never no trouble but he never picked that fiddle up. He never came and got it. It needed repair work done to it or something so I spent four or five hundred bucks on it. It fell apart down in the states it fell apart on me down there in Texas because the humidity was so high. I come out to play I would take it with me in the van and I had two little poodles she would go shopping and I would twice around without my wife and then I would go out and sit in the van and I would play my fiddle down one scale one octave and I would be mellow I would sit back there and play and do something and fool around. That was his fiddle but it fell apart and so I had to get it all fixed and he never did pay me for it and that was like thirties years and he just died here two years ago with brain cancer and I have got the fiddle. Believe it or not it is an McGuiny. I don't even know what that really meant McGuiney but McGuiny taught Stratavurious how to play violin so it is a replica for sure and it is a really nice violin compared to my dad's I don't even like my dad's Stratavarius. I got them both fixed up but that is my memory of him and it will never leave home. In fact his brother phoned me here three months ago how he knew I had that fiddle I will never know. I talked to a guy by the name of Charlie burns because I had a violin and old grandpa up north here she knows him Tommy. Terry Sanderson pawned it to me when we had the hotel, I gave him fifty bucks. I would hide it because I didn't like it I didn't like the sound, it wasn't my kind of fiddle it was old and I had it for four years and every time she would get into drinking a little bit, his mother, she would do that sometimes and she would phone me and ask do you still got that violin? Oh yeah I said but when are you going to come and get it I am worried about somebody if we go away somebody will come and break in and steal it and then what do I do? I know it is a very important fiddle to you guys I would never sell it ever even if I don't play I would never sell it don't worry about that. She is scared I might sell it. So one day Charlie Burns came over with a car load of them and he tried to get the violin and I said I won't give it to you because that is not right and I will phone Terry or phone his mother. So I phoned her and she said that was fine so he took it and he lives out in Oliver, BC. Away they went with it hey, he didn't want Terry to have it any more because they were afraid that he would pawn it again or something but he paid me for it. Away they went. Yeah lots of experiences with that kind of stuff that is the way she goes. But he was a very good fiddle player that he couldn't read or write but he could well play the clarinet, saxophone not one thing by note, I don't play by note either. I figured I used to go to the powwows all the time in Saskatoon they would have their folk fest in Saskatoon we played in there for three years we played Norwegian music in there for three years my wife and I, that was quite an experience.

Tape One Side A Ends at 42.6

Tape One: Side B

0.0 **Lorne:** Then we went down to the village and he played for them all the time at their pavilion and last time I didn't see him there another fellow played from where he was from and I asked one of the ladies there do you know what is his name, the one I was talking about playing his fiddle I forgot his name just like that. Anyway she said no he passed away two years with brain cancer. I noticed he wasn't playing well that is one thing I noticed never really thinking anything was wrong with him I always used to go and visit with him. Joe what is his name up north, he was a good singer, Joe I can't think of him he played guitar but he wasn't that great I can't think of his name. They were from the reserve but they lived in Saskatoon Abraham Gerard was his name. He was from Prince Albert he was a welder in Saskatoon. So we missed him but it wasn't long after that that his brother phoned from Prince Albert. Like Weldersons's here well it would be a couple of years asked if I wanted to sell that violin and I said no, it is mine it's a keepsake. *Laughter.*

2.0 **Cheryl:** Okay well I don't think there is anything else.

2.1 **Lorne:** Pardon?

2.1 **Cheryl:** I don't think that there is too much else.

2.2 **Lorne:** No, that is all I am like I am back a ways but I mean some of the other ones are closer like second generation or so they could probably come up with a lot but it is hard to pick this up really. But she is buried in St. James or St. John's Anglican cemetery; we have pictures of her not her but of the grave. It is all well looked after believe it or not.

2.8 **Cheryl:** Maybe I will have a look.

Tape One Side B ends at 2.9
