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GENERAL COMMENTS: Fred Kellar is of Dutch/German descent but
has lived common-law with a Metis much of his life.

Margaret: I'm speaking with Fred Kellar of Regina.

Fred: It's a long time, you know, to remember things way
back.

Margaret: Yeah. But you look good for your age.

Fred: (laughs)

Margaret: Can you tell me about your mom and dad?

Fred: Yeah. I can so much, I can't too much.

Margaret: Yeah, well tell me what you know about your mom and dad.

Fred: Well I know they worked awful hard that's what I know, awful hard workers. Worked out, they never had nothing of their own, you know, to gives them something to work on. Had to work out all the time. And they always got along good together. Never quarrell nothing. Go out in the summertime and work out all the time here and there for a living. Cut bush, pick stones, cradle by hand, everything. Cut hay by hand, carry it out of the slough up on the dry land where two little poles, put the hay on top it carry it out. They done that year after year. Just had two cows and used to cut hay by hand carry it out to them two sticks, put on top of two sticks and carry it out. Couldn't (inaudible) all muskegs. Horses step on the (?) and that's what the way they used to carry it up here. Me and my sister used to go to the bush that was our job, our dad and mother told us you have to do that (inaudible). And we used to take this hand sleigh go to the bush and put on a big bunch of wood, saw it up and put on top of and we drove home. One, two winters we give it our job there getting our mom and dad told us, you got your hand sleigh it had a little rack on it, you know, and he told us, you go to the sleigh road where they haul hay out, farmers and stuff they haul this hay out well they take the sleigh and they pull it off, you know, on the sides and we go along there with a fork and gather that hay all up and load it up on my little sleigh, and we'd haul it home. We hauled home nearly all winter to feed them cows, all winter just me and her. Used to haul home like that. And work like that, work like that till I got big enough and I left my dad and mother I went out to work some place.

Margaret: How old were you?

Fred: I was thirteen.

Margaret: And you went out to work on your own?

Fred: Yeah. And I never went home to stay home after. Stayed out and worked all the time.

Margaret: Who did you work for?

Fred: For farmers.

Margaret: And you did the same kind of work?

Fred: No, I didn't do that, different work.

Margaret: What kind of work did you do?

Fred: I'm driving team for him on the plows, breaking land. Or when I used to harvest everything like that. And then the winter time when he had nothing for me to do I used to leave him I go to work in the sawmill camp.

Margaret: In the where?

Fred: Sawmill camp, cutting saw logs, you know, for lumber.

Margaret: Saw logs yes.

Fred: I done that in Sudbury, Ontario.

Margaret: Oh yeah.

Fred: You know where Sudbury is, that's three, four winters I worked there and I was only thirteen, and when I was fourteen I went there when I was fifteen, and I went there till I was sixteen.

Margaret: How much did they pay you? Did they pay you much them farmers?

Fred: It will be \$45.

Margaret: Forty-five dollars?

Fred: Yeah a month.

Margaret: A month.

Fred: Well as you was on the cross cut saw for 275 logs a day. Yeah.

Margaret: So what time did you start in the morning?

Fred: Soon as daylight come.

Margaret: And you worked till what time?

Fred: I worked there till coming dark we'd go home again back to the camp.

Margaret: Was that lots of money for you then?

Fred: Well, it was lots of money them times. Them times is a dollar was worth five now. (laughs)

Margaret: Well, now you said your family, your mom and dad is from Ontario, right?

Fred: Well I told you I used to give my money every month I used to send money to my mother.

Margaret: But they come from Ontario?

Fred: Yeah, my mother did yes.

Margaret: But are they, now you mentioned to me earlier that they come from the States.

Fred: My dad.

Margaret: Your dad.

Fred: Yeah, he was born in the States or someplace and he come to Canada when he was little small baby. Somebody adopted him, see, and they brought him to Canada here. He was German by rights.

Margaret: He's German?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: And what's your mom?

Fred: My mother was Pennsylvanian Dutch. Yeah. I was kind of mixed up.

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: (laughs) Well I guess you can't have the nationality I guess (inaudible).

Margaret: So what do you have any native background in you at all then? Native background, are you...

Fred: No.

Margaret: Not in your family at all?

Fred: No.

Margaret: But you lived around native people lots?

Fred: Yeah. All drawn together they never bad friends no place that's one thing I can say never had no bad friends. Down there nobody was, my dad nobody hated him they all got along good.

Margaret: And that was around in Ontario or...

Fred: Yeah that's in Ontario.

Margaret: And how wa it when you came here?

Fred: Well, when I come here I got married and come here. I got married in Ontario and then I come here.

Margaret: And what is your wife?

Fred: My wife?

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: She was English and Scotch. Yeah.

Margaret: So did you get a chance to go to school when you were a boy?

Fred: Me?

Margaret: Yes.

Fred: I never had, too far away from schools all the time. Be eight, nine miles and I had no horses, I couldn't walk that far it was all bush, it was pretty near all heavy bush, lots of bears there, wild cats, (?) and everything. It wasn't safe to walk. (laughs)

Margaret: Yeah. Get even...

Fred: Because it's kind of bad (laughs)...

Margaret: So you couldn't even go to school in the summertime even eh?

Fred: No.

Margaret: Too far. What school was it a public school?

Fred: Yeah, public school that's all there was them times.

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: All long ways apart maybe eight, nine miles apart before the first school.

Margaret: When did you move from Ontario?

Fred: Me?

Margaret: Yes.

Fred: I moved from there the year, a year after the war quit I come out here. I got married and then when I come back I come from overseas back to Middleton, got discharged in Toronto, I come to Middleton. Well that was kind of a home town for me like most of the older there all the time when I working out some place, well I call it my home town because I was there mostly, so when I come home after I got married then I come out west here. And I've been out west ever since here, never left here.

Margaret: What made you come west?

Fred: Well, that country is better just want to come see it, so I left over there and I come. And I stayed here ever since till I went overseas and then I went overseas I come back here.

Margaret: And you were married at that time?

Fred: Yeah I got married and come back here.

Margaret: What did your wife do when you were overseas?

Fred: Well, she stayed here, she used to stay with my sister there in Middleton. Her brother married one of my sisters too. Yeah. (laughs) Well he died and she died too, now there's none of our... I'm kind of a lost all together, nobody to go and see or nothing, it's like I'm alone all the time. (laughs)

Margaret: So how was it when you came here to...

Fred: When I come here?

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: I said okay I liked it. I got a job right away as soon as I got off the train, I got off it into Sheho, I got off the train there near Foam Lake there. I got off of the train there I was only off the train about two or three hours I had a job already.

Margaret: Doing what?

Fred: Farming, yeah.

Margaret: Farming.

Fred: And I worked for that fellow for eight months and a half, you kow, they hired me for eight months and I worked seven and a half. Well he had two little boys there young guys, you know, that he want to keep them, had no mother and dad, well they had a mother and dad but they didn't know where. They was like adopted, so he had those two little boys working there and he didn't want to fire, let them go because they had no home and they asked me come, Bernie asked me he says, I'm going to let you go tomorrow. Unless it's up to you, you hired me for eight months you don't want to keep me longer it's okay. I says, I don't worry. So he said, okay. He told me, you wait till tomorrow morning, he says, we'll fix it up everything for your time and everything. I told him, okay. The next morning he took me out to the barn and we sit down there with me talk to me. He's a old Yankee that one too. (laughs) I talk with him there, talk with him there oh for a long time. Then he tried to tell me how much I do and how much I had coming and everything. Well he sit down then they told you everything that (inaudible) table he had there count all that top the table. Now he says, that's your full months' pay he says for the whole eight months. I'm not taking off no cigarettes, no tobacco, no clothes, nothing I'm giving you full time right through, because I bet you go before your time. Like it's up to you, I says. I'm not to tell you to leave it for me or nothing. (laughs) Well, he says, I'll give you the whole

thing right through, the whole eight months. Well he paid me \$40. a month too. Well I went away I had that money all clear in my pocket, I didn't know if I should go running.

Margaret: You didn't work.

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: You took off?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: Where did you go?

Fred: Me. I come from here to Lestock. And I stayed in Lestock there for oh I don't know how long, a long time I stayed there couple, three years. And then after that I started to move around again some other place. So I still told you know pretty near (inaudible). (laughs)

Margaret: Well how old were you when you went into the army?

Fred: Me, when I first enlisted I was twenty-one year before the, like when the war was on four years, five years wasn't it?

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: The first world... Well the war was on one year when I went to sign up. Well I wasn't twenty-one yet I was only twenty and my brother didn't want me to go. He hold me back, hold me back at last I got twenty-one years old I knew then and I went down and I signed my name up and signed it. Yeah I was twenty-one years old when I signed up.

Margaret: You have to have your mom's permission if your not twenty-one?

Fred: Yeah you had to have your mom's to this and that thing. Wouldn't take you unless she signs it. But I wait till I was twenty-one and I went to sign myself.

Margaret: Why did you want to go?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: Why did you want to go?

Fred: Well, all my friends, boyfriends I had there they was all going.

Margaret: All going. (laughs)

Fred: (laughs) Most of them.

Margaret: They all went overseas?

Fred: Have the nerve enough, you know, to go and sign, I lost, I had no nerve I didn't want to sign. I didn't care I used to it.

Margaret: How did you like it over there?

Fred: Me, I liked it over. Had to stop (inaudible). (laughs) Well, there's no use being scared. Say when now I'm never scared at all. I've had lots of things done to me (inaudible) just as bad as over there. You know, there was a table like that it's out in the room there table, I was on one side and this guy was on the other side he loaded the .22 and he stood there with it he pointed it right at me. Shoot me. I told him I say, if you want to shoot, I says, shoot don't be scared, because I want to die anyway. I says, shoot, I says. I says, your a coward, shoot. And he didn't shoot either. (laughs)

Margaret: Who was he?

Fred: Oh well I wouldn't tell you who it is. (laughs)

Margaret: But it was somebody you knew?

Fred: Yeah I knew him well, just as well I knew myself. He's mad over nothing. Just over a little argument.

Margaret: Oh, so he wanted to shoot you?

Fred: Over the head of the train comes from Winnipeg to Lestock. (laughs) The train was coming through and the other train that was suppose to come on I missed it and the flyer come. Well I already had my ticket, so I run up and I ask the conductor could I go to Lestock on that train. Sure, he says, as long as you got your ticket, he says. But, he says, I can't stop. We never stopped he send out the flyer, but he says, I'll slow down so you can jump on. So I told him, all right. And then that's what started the argument. My brother, this wasn't my brother but my brother's wife she started in there too and she says I couldn't get on that flyer and get off there. And I said, sure I can get off there that's the one I come on. No, they wouldn't give in they got mad at me and then he jumped at the guy and he was going to shoot me for that. So that's one of the reason I says, I'm never scared.

Margaret: And then after you came back after world war one how long were you here?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: How long were you here before you went again overseas?

Fred: Overseas...

Margaret: Again, the next time.

Fred: Oh, after I signed up to go over?

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: A year here, and then I went overseas after.

Margaret: How long were you there?

Fred: Overseas, three years.

Margaret: Where were you stationed?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: Where?

Fred: In England.

Margaret: In England.

Fred: Brampshot.

Margaret: Yeah. And did you like it over there?

Fred: Oh yes, had lots of fun there. (laughs) Get a midnight pass every night pretty near. (laughs)

Margaret: You had to have passes?

Fred: Yeah, well them days twelve o'clock at night you had till twelve o'clock then you had to be in. But we used to stay out right to the last minute and then come back. (laughs) Go and see the girls at night time to twelve o'clock, come back home after.

Margaret: But you had to be back by twelve?

Fred: Yeah you had to be back at twelve, sure.

Margaret: What would they do if you didn't come back?

Fred: Get C.B., they have, get job picking up papers all between the ranch and everything.

Margaret: What did they call it?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: C.B.?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: What did that stand for?

Fred: Well you just like you go in jail. (laughs) You couldn't get no pass nothing then. You had to stay in every night till somebody give you three, four days, or three or four

nights you couldn't go no place. You had to stay in. (laughs)

Margaret: Did you ever get it?

Fred: No I never got it, you can look at my discharge papers if I had them here you can't find one black mark against me, you know. You always have a black mark against you, you know, but you can look on them papers and they are just as clean at that.

Margaret: Yeah. You made it in time.

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: You made it before twelve o'clock.

Fred: Yeah. (laughs)

Margaret: Well during, you went back over there during world war two did you?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: World war two?

Fred: No I didn't go back.

Margaret: You didn't go?

Fred: No. No, I wanted to go but I was an old man like Joe Lafontain and they call this other guy there...

Margaret: That's my grandfather Joe.

Fred: Who?

Margaret: My grandfather.

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: Joe Lafontain.

Fred: Yeah, well I used to stay with him after right here in town here too. (laughs)

Margaret: That's Jack's dad.

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: Yeah that's, Jack is my dad that's my grandfather.

Fred: Oh. (laughs)

Margaret: So you didn't have to go back overseas again eh?

Fred: No I didn't have to over, no.

Margaret: So what was, how was it when your family how did they make a living while you were gone overseas?

Fred: I wasn't married then I was single.

Margaret: Oh you weren't married then. So no wonder you had a good time.

Fred: ...come back. (laughs) I wouldn't get married because we were leaving right then. (laughs)

Margaret: So how many years total were you in the army?

Fred: In the army?

Margaret: Yeah. For five years total?

Fred: You mean after I signed up?

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: That's three years that I signed up.

Margaret: Just three years you were in and that's all?

Fred: Yeah. Of course we had to stay here one year and drill here before we went over. After we drilled here one year, know all the drills and everything. We had to just listen to commands what was given and we knew right away, you see.

Margaret: So what was the language that your mom and dad spoke to you at home?

Fred: English.

Margaret: English. Did you learn any other languages?

Fred: No. My mother could talk Dutch.

Margaret: Dutch.

Fred: Yeah. I never hear my dad talk in German. He understood German.

Margaret: What was your religion when you were growing up?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: Your religion.

Fred: Religion?

Margaret: Religion, what were you when you were growing up? Were you Catholic or were you...

Fred: I didn't know religion here at all that time.

Margaret: No, your religion, were you Catholic?

Fred: Oh religion. No.

Margaret: Your not a Catholic. What were you?

Fred: Presbyterian. Yeah.

Margaret: And how was your family about religion, were they strong?

Fred: Oh yeah, you know, they wasn't called what they should be. Presbyterian (inaudible). (laughs)

Margaret: Did they make you go to church and that?

Fred: Oh yeah used to go to all kinds of churches. Catholic church, English church. (laughs)

Margaret: What was your wife is she Catholic?

Fred: No.

Margaret: No, she's Presbyterian too?

Fred: (inaudible).

Margaret: What do you remember about the years of the depression? In 1930.

Fred: What?

Margaret: During the '30s.

Fred: Yeah, yeah...

Margaret: In the depression, do you remember much about the depression?

Fred: Well not too much, well lately I knew (inaudible).

Margaret: Okay, what the depression do you remember during the 1930s? 1930s.

Fred: Yeah it was 1930s. Hard when (inaudible).

Margaret: Do you read?

Fred: No. I can't read or can't write either.

Margaret: Okay. Now if you couldn't work for the farmers during those years...

Fred: Well, you had to go out and work at something else.

Margaret: Yeah. But you worked for the farmers all the time?

Fred: Most of the time yeah.

Margaret: And how much did you say you got paid when you worked for the farmers?

Fred: Farmers, well the most of the time I got \$3. a month. And when it was harvesting time or thrashing time we used to a a dollar a day, well that was big wages. Picked bundles all day and separate them.

Margaret: And did the farmers give you room and board too?

Fred: Oh yeah. I had my own room, I had everything there board and wash my clothes, everything. And I used to make \$3. a month so that's the winter wages.

Margaret: And in the summer a dollar a day?

Fred: Yeah. Well that was big wages too. But you know when I stayed there with them they knew whatever they left for me to do or told me to do I done it. I didn't go and do half of it right and half wrong, finished everything up good -- and they knew that and that's why they kept me all the time wouldn't let me go, they wanted me to stay there. So I stayed with them for about nine years, that same guy. Never had no trouble no argument with him, nothing. Go in the field there with him all day scooped the grain up and once you finish that stand them up, I couldn't carry two it was very, one standed it and then I'd pile the rest of it on there. It was hard work. Church had burnt around, well they had no (?) carrier or, like they got now they have sheep carrier. Kick the (?) all out and then you got a big pile and then you (inaudible). And you go and get enough there for one stoop, stand it up then go to the next pile the same way. I used to do that all day long. Night time I go up and pull the last sheep out of the barn, the farmer told me you'r crazy, he says, your going to fast, he says, you'r going to play yourself out. (laughs) They couldn't get ahead of me I pulled the last sheep out at night time. (laughs)

Margaret: Well, when did you, you met your second wife when did you meet her? You got married two times, right? The second time when did you get married?

Fred: I didn't get married a second time.

Margaret: Oh you didn't get married.

Fred: Just live common-law.

Margaret: Yeah. But your wife was Metis eh?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: Half breed, yeah. Where was she from, Regina here?

Fred: Which my second wife?

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: Comes from Lestock.

Margaret: Well when you were in Lestock where did you live?

Fred: Me?

Margaret: In Lestock.

Fred: Oh in the winter time I had my home here, house, you know, to live in; and the summertime I used to work out or I used to go stay in the tent.

Margaret: Where?

Fred: Up around Wadena.

Margaret: Wadena?

Fred: Yeah up around that side. Kelvington, and Handen, Fosten I used to work all over for the farmers all over. Soon as they knew I had no job they was all after me. (laughs) I'm not telling you a lie, they'd want me. But I'm telling you the truth about, I didn't say what farmer I'd work for as soon as he knew I was down there there was two or three right there after me. They all liked me to work for them. One family they used to come in the field if I was working there and he'd tell me, leave that there, he says, come on with me. You don't have to do that today we'll do it tomorrow, away we go. We'd be gone all day. (laughs) Take me all over. (laughs) Humbolt and all those places, pretty near up to Wadena, not Wadena but, what do you call it, west from Lestock.

Lady: Elfronce?

Fred: No, way up, you know, where my wife wen to the hospital.

Lady: Wynyard?

Fred: No.

Lady: West of Wadena?

Margaret: Of Lestock.

Fred: West of Lestock going west, the train goes west. Oh you got one boy over, your brother over there now. Yeah your own brother is over there. You know, your brother.

Lady: Rose Valley?

Fred: Is he in Rose Valley?

Lady: Oh I don't know, I got not brothers over there.

Fred: Well he just went home didn't he?

Lady: Saskatoon? I got a brother in Saskatoon.

Fred: Well that's the one, yeah. Saskatoon. (laughs) I can never think of that Saskatoon, the one thing I can't think of it. And all the rest of the places I think of them right away, but that place well when I want to think of it I can't think of it. Think and think and think, I can't think.

Margaret: Well how did you meet your second wife?

Fred: How did I meet her? Well, flirting around I suppose. (laughs)

Margaret: But you were never married to her then, you just lived common-law eh?

Fred: Well, she knew I was married.

Margaret: Did your other wife die or anything, or...

Fred: No, she went away and left me.

Margaret: Oh I see.

Fred: I was all alone that's why I went flirting around, I missed her. (laughs) I'm not saying to tell you (laughing)...

Margaret: So, all your kids whose name did they take then? Your name then, or your, or her...

Fred: They're all under her name.

Margaret: All under her name and her last name is Saylor?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: Yeah. So did you live around very many native families?

Fred: They were all around lived around that side. At one place next to another place, next to another place I kept on moving one place to another.

Lady: She asked you if you always lived with the native people.

Fred: Well they were all native people...

Lady: Yeah, but you asking if you lived there all the time, you've always live with the native people ever since you came around here eh?

Fred: Me?

Lady: Yeah.

Fred: Yeah, yeah.

Margaret: Did you live the lifestyle of a native person, or did you go from your background since your wife was native? Did you bring your kids up that way or how?

Fred: Which ones?

Margaret: Your last wife.

Fred: Well she brought them up by her mostly. Of course she want them on her side, because we couldn't get married like that so put them on her name which was okay. Now she changed all the kids name off the way I had them, change them off on Saylor now. They go into Sear to the (inaudible).

Margaret: Did anybody ever say anything to you about marrying somebody that was native?

Fred: Oh yes lots of them, but I don't, I didn't pay no attention to them.

Margaret: What did they say?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: What did they used to say?

Fred: Well, say (inaudible) Indians you might as well leave it that way nobody bothers anyway. So I left it that way.

Margaret: But because she was native no one ever bothered you did they?

Fred: No. Nobody ever bothered me. Just once I had trouble.

Margaret: Where?

Fred: This girl, this woman I was staying with her dad and his mother, this guy's mother they got mad at me, my wife left him once the one she was staying with she left that guy and went away with another guy. Well Ried come home she was gone there was nobody there, well you blame me for it. So I told him it wasn't my fault I wasn't home either when she left I was away. And now she left that guy and went with another guy I said, and I wasn't going to go and run after them, I says, it's not my business to run after them. If they want to run away let them go. Well I says, you shouldn't worry either, I says, it's not your wife either your just staying with him, I says, what do you want to worry about for? Let her go. Well he wasn't satisfied the one that reported me there, they reported me for having two wives. Well I told them I said, I ain't got two wives I never stayed that one for now for four, five years.

(END OF SIDE A)

Fred: ...want to soak me in her, this second wife, you see they wanted to put us in jail and let the other two go. So I had a lawyer me, I was smart enough for that so I hired the lawyer and the lawyer jumped up and he says, your not going to do that. He says, your going to let them other two go and your going to soak them for six months. All you can do is give them two months a piece, you can't give them more. The other guys were mad because this lawyer come up and stopped them. All they give you is nine months, well then when I come out from jail she went to North Battleford, she went way up there and I went down to here and I stayed here for two months. Well when I got out of jail I got on the train and I went up to Raymore (?) up there someplace I got off there, come back to Lestock. So the train come in I couldn't get on the passenger there because the passenger went all ready, well then this flyer come. And I have to run down and I asked the conductor, you know, side of the train, you know, on the platform I run to ask him I says, can I get on here and get off at Lestock? You got your ticket? Yeah I got my ticket. Well he said, okay you get on, he says, I'm not stopping there but I'll slow down. So he done so, we slowed down there and he let us off there. When I got off the train there I met my wife there, my second one, I met there right there already. So I took her up the hotel and I had a room there and I put her in there and I turned around and got to walk home where I was staying. Got my team over there, the farmer kept them there for me, I got the team and I come back to Lestock in the morning and picked my wife up and took her home. The next day the mounties come there. He says you got to see your wife? I said, sure I seen her. Where is she now? I says, upstairs in the room there. Well now he says, you watch out this time. Yes, I said, your not going to be so smart this time to catch me like you done the first time. (laughs) Well the only thing he had on me there he caught me there I only had one bed in the house. (laughs) That's the way he caught me. (laughs) Well I didn't care. (laughs)

Margaret: And then they left you alone after?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: They left you alone after?

Fred: Yeah they left me alone, never bother me after. Well you see I told him when he put me in jail I told him, I says, I come out I'm going to take her back anyway. Well he says, you better not. Well, I says, I don't care if I go to jail, I don't care. (laughs) I was bound to win that one. Well Paul (?) used to live there right along side of me where I used to live just a little (inaudible).

Margaret: Yeah, I spoke with Paul (?).

Fred: (laughs) Well them fellows, you know, (inaudible) (laughs).

Margaret: So how long did you live in Lestock?

Fred: Me, I stayed around there in that Lestock there for eighteen, nineteen years.

Margaret: Well did you know all the half breeds that were living on that Chicago Line?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: Did you live on the Chicago Line?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: When, what year was that?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: When?

Fred: When?

Margaret: In the Chicago Line, when did you live there?

Fred: When they took up this here what do you call this thing they got here for the half breeds, building houses and stuff? Metis...

Margaret: Metis Society?

Fred: Yeah. I been here ever since, before that come out I used to live there.

Margaret: Yeah. But did you live on the Chicago Line with the half breeds?

Fred: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Margaret: You did?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: That was in what year? Do you know what year that was?

Fred: What year, well do you remember what year they took out this Metis work? Then I had the Metis in Lestock.

Margaret: Took them where?

Fred: They had a Metis farm there.

Margaret: Metis farm in Lestock?

Fred: Yeah. Suppose to remember that the time they built them houses, how long ago was that?

Margaret: They built the houses where?

Fred: On the Metis farm there.

Margaret: In Lestock?

Fred: Yeah. They built four, yeah four, five houses. Yeah five.

Margaret: Five houses?

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: And who got to live in them?

Fred: Well, Joe (?) used to be there that time he was around there too, and Paul (?) he was around there too he had a house there too, and Dan Mase they had a house there too.

Margaret: Was this on the road allowance or what?

Lady: No, no that's on the Metis farm.

Margaret: Oh yeah.

Fred: I'll tell you that was kind of rough. (laughs)

Margaret: What happened when they...

Fred: Oh, that time everybody was just like for their own, you know, and nothing else. Everybody worked for them ownself. Hauling wood, hauling pickets, hauling birch, everything hauling it out to the farmers selling it make a little bit you can make.

Margaret: This was the people that were on the Chicago Line?

Fred: Yeah. Worked around there like that. I see me get up at night time twelve o'clock at night, harness my team a load of birch on and head out to Batoche and west side there then south side, east over there haul this birch way out there. Be gone all day selling birch, so much a pole. You make more poles (inaudible). Take it out and sell it we got \$30. for meat, potatoes, chickens, money whatever I get from that, used to make good though. Farmers want that birch real bad, get a good price for it. You go home with a big sleigh load of potatoes, and chickens, and oats, and stuff (inaudible). (laughs)

Margaret: How did the others make the go of it?

Fred: Well, they do the same thing or take a bunch of traps and head out to sloughs some place and camp there and trap rats all night, or set traps for mink. You go out there every

second or three days and look at the traps again, sometimes they get them, sometimes they wouldn't get them. Make their living like that.

Margaret: And when did everyone move off that, out of that area?

Fred: Well that's the time they got the Metis to Greenwater or Green Lake, up there that's when they all went up there, they all left there that time and went up there.

Margaret: Did you go?

Fred: Me? No. I was stubborn.

Margaret: Well who came and told them about it, do you know?

Fred: Me?

Margaret: Who came and told them about Green Lake, do you know?

Fred: I know that fellow's name I just can't think of it. Well, he, think of that guy's name...

Margaret: What what did he tell them?

Fred: Well he used to work for the government like, you know, kind of a government man he worked for them, maybe he worked for the government too. When he was working for them well they give him so much to look after the Indians and try to get the Indian half breed all to go up there.

Margaret: Why?

Fred: To Green Lake.

Margaret: But why?

Fred: Why? Well they figure they make a better living over there. They could trap over there and fish over there, and everything there they could make a better living. They give them everything to go with and help them out over there. Well then after he got over there lot of the half breed fellows they couldn't make a living there, they was fighting (inaudible) all the time. So at last they made up their mind to quit, pull out of there a year or two years after. So they all got ready and head back to Lestock, move back one after the other and kept coming in, coming in, last they all come back. Well I was still there, me I used to laugh at them. (laughs) They tore all their houses all down, burnt them all.

Margaret: Who burnt them?

Fred: And they had to build all new ones again.

Margaret: Who burnt the houses, do you know?

Fred: The guys on the Metis Farm there some of them stayed there, they got mad they moved up and the government headman told them just set fire to the house and burnt them.

Margaret: Who was the headman?

Fred: Well that's the one I'm trying to think of that guy. I can't think of his name, I know that guy.

Margaret: But it was the government or the municipality, or what?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: Who was the government or the...

Fred: No that headman there working for the government, government man he worked for the Metis and the government too.

Margaret: Was he a half breed?

Fred: Yeah he was half breed, I know him good but I can't think of his name. Well Joe (?) knows him good and Paul (?) knows that fellow. Norman (?) he knows him good too, but I can't, he kind of married maybe three that fellow there too that guy I can't think of his name. He's got a doctor or something, married to some of his relation.

Margaret: Well when they had the people move up to Green Lake when did they burn the houses down?

Fred: About a year or two years after they left.

Margaret: They burnt them down that...

Fred: They burnt, well they didn't want them here they was coming back in a bunch of herds so they couldn't live there. But anyway they built new houses and moved back here.

Margaret: But it happened how much longer after they left? They burnt their houses down how much longer after they left?

Fred: Oh, about the second year I think. Yeah about the second year they burnt them up. Because I used to haul wood stuff down past down there and used to travel up and down all the time there. There was another guy stayed there too they call him Alex that's the ones here living in town Micheal (?), you know him?

Margaret: Yeah.

Fred: Well, he used to live there too on the farm but further up and used to travel up and down to his place visiting. Used to go and visit the old man every Christmas time and New Years we go and visit the old man, Micheal's dad.

Margaret: I heard that.

Fred: Well I don't know how much more I can tell you.
(laughs)

Margaret: What was his name?

Fred: Alex Laplante.

Margaret: Alex Laplante.

Fred: Yeah.

Margaret: Who, he was the one that worked...

Fred: Well him was looking after the Metis work the houses
and stuff there, coaxed the people to go to Greenwater.

Margaret: Greenwater. (laughs) They called it Greenwater, or
Greenlake.

Fred: Greenlake, yeah.

Margaret: And what, Alex Laplante?

Fred: Laplante yeah.

Margaret: And what did he...

Fred: Well he was the one looking after this Metis work,
getting the men to go up there and try to settle them down
someplace and the boys they went all up there and they got mad
as heck because Laplante didn't give what they wanted and they
all moved back to Lestock. That was his fault.

Margaret: Who did, did the people when they came back is that
who they went to Alex Laplante?

Fred: They didn't go to nobody they went on the road.
(laughs)

Margaret: Oh yeah. They were mad at him because he sent them
up.

Fred: They though they would work on the road and...

Margaret: But he was Alex Laplante was a half breed too wasn't
he?

Fred: Yeah he was a half breed.

Margaret: But he was working for the government?

Fred: Yeah. Like a government man they call him that
because he was working for them putting them guys all here and
there and giving them nothing to live on. So his home here
well they would work for the farmers around, they got a living
and got a little money and went to, well they got it all

right, but they went down there they got nothing. Across the river had to stay there. They didn't work that they wanted to come back Lestock, well they all come back. So (inaudible) come back. (laughs) They had knocked me over there they had to pull out someplace. Some of them lost their wives over there and come back with no wife.

Margaret: Lost their wives? (laughs)

Fred: Some guys stole them away. (laughs)

Margaret: How many families went up there, do you know?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: How many families went?

Fred: Oh pretty near all around Lestock because there were only just a few left, two or three left that's about all.

Margaret: When they went up there how did they travel?

Fred: Well they went up there they lived in houses.

Margaret: But how did they travel to Green Lake?

Fred: Up there? They all got into a car like a bunch of cattle.

Margaret: Into a car? (laughs) Train or what, boxcar?

Fred: All drunk. (laughs)

Margaret: Drunk. (laughs) What, how many cars were on the train, do you know? Just a little...

Fred: I don't know how many cars I didn't see I was away when they left I wasn't home. But they said they had a string of cars they were all loaded up everything horses and people. (laughs) Looked like a big shipping day or something to see them loading up horses, people. (laughs)

Margaret: Well were the people happy to go?

Fred: Oh yeah they was all drunk, happy. (laughs)

Margaret: But you didn't go? How come you didn't go?

Fred: Eh?

Margaret: Why didn't you go?

Fred: Oh I didn't like the idea. (laughs) Going up there didn't know nobody, nothing.

Margaret: Well the other went.

Fred: Well, the others went yes, but... I used to laugh at them. (laughs)

Margaret: So when they came back they didn't feel too good I guess eh?

Fred: No. Well Ben didn't go he didn't go that time. I used to chum around with them alot, stay around with them while I was there, I've been around with them I don't know how many years.

Margaret: How come he didn't go?

Fred: Why didn't he go?

Margaret: He's something like me he didn't want to go. He says go way up there some, up on (inaudible) they won't bring we back (inaudible) I'll have to fight my way back. No horses, he says, to come back.

Margaret: What kind of promises did they make to them?

Fred: Who?

Margaret: What did they promise the half breeds going up to Green Lake?

Fred: Well I guess they promise them a good living over there. They had everything for them. The guys coming back they had nothing. That's why they come back because they was going to starve over there, they come back, no two or three of them come back I was working in (?) that time when they come back, and one guy come back that way he didn't have one (?) to eat.

Margaret: How did he come back?

Fred: He come back with a team of horses. And the other guy come ahead just a few days ahead of him, and then he come right behind him and he come where I was working and he borrowed money from me to go and get something to eat.

Margaret: And where did they live?

Fred: In (?), they come to (?). They there for one day in (?) then they pulled out and got a job work someplace if they want to work. I know I give him \$20. that time, he had nothing at all, kids had nothing to eat. I give him \$20. to go and get, well that time \$20. buys a lot of stock. Buy flour, bread, tea, sugar anything you want cheap. Not like now \$10. now is like five cents. (laughs)

(END OF SIDE B)
(END OF TAPE)