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Henry: Didn't like school?

Jim: He didn't go to school those days, problaby no  
schools.

Henry: Did your parents speak any other language at all?

Jim: Ma spoke French. Read and write.

Henry: We'll talk about your work history now. What did  
your parents do for a living?

Jim: Well, my dad when he come here he ranched more or  
less cattle, and he freighted for Hudson Bay Furriers.

Henry: Your mother?

Jim: (inaudible). Freighted for years.

Henry: What about your mother?

Jim: When they came here kept house for her brothers, and then she was married I guess somewhere around in the '95 or '96. Then he farmed, well he farmed right here in Shellbrook. (inaudible) and then in 1907 that's where I got my first time to go to school, put a couple of months in that summer. Nine years old before I was finished school. But that's the way it was those days.

Henry: There was no school around?

Jim: Well they build a school over here, there was a school here but west there was no school not where we lived. Country because there's very few schools in the country. Nothing for him to go four, five miles to go to school anyway. You know, have saddle horses.

Henry: How many teachers were in school?

Jim: Just one. And the teacher in those days used to teach up to forty, fifty kids. All the grades. Teach them all. Of course if you had a grade eight education those days you were well educated. Today they give you a lot of education and I don't think they learn anything anyway.

Henry: What kind of wages were there back then?

Jim: Oh, in those days, well I don't know. Prince Albert Lumber Company was paying if he's a good man, a good teamster or something he get \$26. a month. And that's a dollar a day, just practically your wages those days.

Henry: What would you be doing?

Jim: Well those days your in the woods logging or your on the farm farming, driving horses. No machines those days. (inaudible).

Henry: Where did your parents live when you moved here?

Jim: Just west of Shellbrook. Before that they lived up near Cameron, you know, on the (?) River (inaudible) those days. The country was so (inaudible). You see Battleford used to be the Capital of the North West Territories (inaudible) Alberta, part of Manitoba, Saskatchewan. And my dad used to freight from here to Battleford too, he used to come down at different times with...that was the way that worked out. And then we moved here, you see. And of course he farmed here for years until he quit.

Henry: He had his own farm?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: He had his own farm?

Jim: Oh yes. Well the second world war, he had a section there I don't know. (inaudible). And forty-six years in there. Lost my wife and I quit there, before that I work on construction worked quite a few years in Manitoba and then I ended up here.

Henry: What kind of wages did you get when you worked on construction?

Jim: Those days? Well don't get mad, I got \$300. and room and board.

Henry: So that's pretty good then.

Jim: Those were damn good wages.

Henry: Didn't you get your trainging though?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Sell trade? Talk about your social life now.

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Your social life. How and where did your parents meet?

Jim: Well I can't tell you that. As far as I know it must have been here in this country.

Henry: How large was your family?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: How large was the family?

Jim: Parent's family?

Henry: Your family.

Jim: Mine? Well, I got three girls. Three girls.

Henry: Did you all move down to Shellbrook?

Jim: Well, (inaudible) when we moved here to Shellbrook. I never mind the (?) it was only about five or six miles along the Shell River. So it's not...

Henry: What kind of dances did your parents take part in?

Jim: Oh well they were all party dances those days. You know the home, home, schools where the dances were mostly at. This here (?) schools were in the schools, so it's not...

Henry: What kind of games did you play?

Jim: Baseball mostly. When we did.

Henry: In school is that what you played baseball? How was the entertainment at the time at the dance?

Jim: Well (inaudible), you know, musicians. Fiddle players, guitar, accordians.

Henry: Do you remember any of the players? Do you remember any of the musicians?

Henry: Oh christ!

Jim: No.

Jim: They're all dead as far as I know. (laughs)  
(inaudible) Jack Martin was one he was a fiddle player, Coax I think he had a harp. All those different ones. (inaudible).

Henry: Were your parents affected by prejudism in the community at all?

Jim: None that I know of.

Henry: We'll talk about religion now. What religion were your parents?

Jim: Baptists I guess, they were Baptists.

Henry: Was it strict then?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Strict, you know, did you have to go to church every Sunday?

Jim: Yeah you had to go to church them days. That was... (inaudible).

Henry: Did you attend any shrines?

Jim: No.

Henry: Did your parents celebrate weddings, Christmas?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Weddings and Christmas.

Jim: Well to a certain extent. Weddings those days weren't big deal like they are today. Nobody had any money, christ. You know, the girls... I guess give you an idea what (inaudible). There's another that was (inaudible). My mother and dad were married in 1896, and the amount of money they had

was thirty cents. Well that's your difference from today. People today don't know what the hell (inaudible) as far as (inaudible) too easy that's one thing wrong with this. And seems only well there's nothing here (inaudible) pretty soon to buy ourself a pot.

Henry: And it cost sixty-five cents?

Jim: This is exactly what happened from the old countries, this is old country this is going all over but that's what it's gotten to. People are wanted more, you get nothing. I was talking to a fellow this morning that was in here and he'd been down the States, down in (?), the averages down there, your top wages down there is \$4.25 an hour. Those same people getting \$15. or \$20. here for, so you can see what's happening yourself. True through I have to stand up and tell us that the United States is our trouble, our interest rates they better start looking at home that's where they should look. People here are asking too much, they don't know what they want. It's no good, your dollar is no damn good to you. You see, that's what happening all over. (inaudible) wants to go and hell your not getting any place. I just give you an idea what the difference in times back then in 1890 than what they are today. We got people today everybody is working, which is wrong. Definately wrong. You may say, well anybody can critisize, but that's (?). And everybody today your a married man you sit down if your working if your wife got to work, if you got a family to run wild and nobody takes care of them there's where a lot of our trouble is. The years and years and all through my time happened to many years if they'd only looked after the family, you never heard of women working. Very, very few maybe just the odd one in the family was grown up, or didn't have a family. You see your trouble is all going around all the way. Everybody wants too much and (inaudible) it's getting worse. Of course to say I don't know, maybe not I have two years first depression in 1930 and Mrs. working just the same way in a different angle is all it's doing. And that's, as far as I'm concerned that's what happened to furs. (inaudible) is concerned I think people should get along, what's the hell the matter with them. Who works them both sides of their... We have made it here darn good people. I know me as far as that's concerned. There's a lot of them around, and it's been all my wife around (inaudible) good and bad in any nationality. You know, well some figure well their abused by (inaudible), their not. As far as I'm concered your (inaudible). People themselves are (?). As far as your concerned I see you read and writing the other day they were critizing the jails for so many of them in jail. Well good lord there's a lot of people today (inaudible) it's not a jail anymore.

Henry: A rest home. (laughs)

Jim: You know what I mean, you couldn't get a better home in your life, it's a real first class hotel. So I couldn't matter, I know darn well if I was there didn't have a job or something I'd knock somebody on the head too. (inaudible) if I could, because you got a darn good home. That's one thing

wrong, well if we base the whole thing out I got (inaudible) everything else, we know it's damn well all over the country. Too many getting (inaudible), and then we got the (?) sits around (inaudible) we got (?) in our unions and we should have them they should be set on. We don't need to go, I worked and I'm not manager, I'm not criticizing the union only to a certain extent. I think the union would find 100 percent until they got carried away, it's not the (inaudible) you belong to the union it's not you, it's that guy up above you that's getting great big money. Is telling you what to do and your crazy enough to listen to him and that's what's happening today. We're going to (inaudible), sell it to anybody. (inaudible) to work, it doesn't. And if your work ain't there, you can't get it, or your out (inaudible) they don't know what to do they just kil them. We got work to be carried on and we create a certain amount of, but it's not there. Our (inaudible) our plumbers are all (inaudible). I don't know what they want. They're going to run out, I don't know, drums were broke, so I don't know what the hell they're going to do. Know I don't see anything much too wrong as far as set up is concerned it's just from experince (inaudible) but I can't see. Some of them are doing damn good some are doing really, it's just, like the Indian himself he start a union so I met two young fellows here about two weeks ago, well (inaudible) coffee shop and they were Indians, (?) Lake Reserve here (inaudible) forty-six years. And of course I knew their dads and, you know, I set up a (inaudible) fellows I guess, well I wouldn't know who to pick. They know me, see they (inaduable). So I sat down in there and I said come on over here. He come over and they know me but I don't know, so they told me who they were. And they were going to P.A. to look at some machinery, they were running quite a spread there on the reserve and they have some damn good land, some of the best land in the country. And you see (inaudible) might go to another one (inaudible) but you got the (?) thing. (inaudible). You can go here you've got (?) It's long and a fairly good spead and you got guys never get any further than the bush. That's natural you can't seem to get away from that. If you lived on a island out here you know and you've got about ten family on and give them all \$100. a piece in five years that whole area works. That's about the way it sets up.

Henry: How did your parents get your food?

Jim: Well, in the early days we dog darn near took the flour, for flour we just pounded up wheat or ground wheat. In later years they got a flour mill in P.A. and we used to take the wheat in. (inaudible) had it ground up into flour and that's what the rest of it was. (inaudible) and hunting. Cattle they had their own beef, their own chickens that's what they lived on. (inaudible) little salt in (inaudible). So you, wel I can remember my grandma first used (inaudible). I know some of them had a bunch of cattle and they took them up and we were milking cows there and (inaudible) ten cents a pound that's all the damn money we had and that's what we had to live on. So that's the way it was you lived off the land. Today you live out of the can, you know what I mean. As far as living is concerned they just lived off the land. Well you

take in this (inaudible) thirty cents, and they got mad and they had a stomp on that and then a man they pounded up their, well same as the Indian settling in here pounded up his corn or whatever it was, you know, for the (inaudible) and they found (inaudible) in that. Make bread out of their biscuits that's what they all do, that's back in the early 1890s. (inaudible) that's damn near ninety years ago (inaudible). That's the way it goes.

Henry: How did your parents prepare the food?

Jim: I imagine the same as we do now. They just cooked it.

Henry: Can you describe any special feasts or special hard shortages of food?

Jim: Well, I don't know. Well, you might get a shortage of hay crop or something you got to cut down. And had to haul berries, but I don't, I can't say there was any shortage I never heard of anybody nearly starved to death, you know what I mean they all seem to be eating some. Got a little hungry being a little short but they always found something and ended up all right.

Henry: Any special feasts?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Big dinners or...

Jim: Well not that I know of myself. (inaudible) summertime be the odd picnic. (inaudible) maybe they had a deer or something. Everything was picked barbequed and (inaudible). Outside of (inaudible).

Henry: Was there a doctor available to your parents?

Jim: Well there was they lived, not the early days. I guess that was near probably around 1910 or so in there there was a doctor otherwise they had to come from P.A. Well all this medicine (inaudible) and the nearest doctor was Shellbrook.

Henry: Who brought the medicine to the people?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Who brought the medicine to the people?

Jim: Well, doctor supplied it if he ever got paid for it. I don't know just... Well that went for doctors to get up and drive thrity-five, forty miles at least. And maybe never get paid for it. Then it wouldn't be very much of course, but of course if you had a dollar well could buy something then.

Henry: Did your parents have any special people in your

community who helped?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Like mid-wives. Was there any special people in your community who helped the doctor like a mid-wife?

Jim: Oh well yeah, I can't, I guess wasn't really aware. That was pretty near (inaudible) you know that time there's a lot of (inaudible).

Henry: We'll talk about the depression years. What kind of jobs were available?

Jim: During the depression?

Henry: Yeah.

Jim: That railroad track there be covered in summertime maybe forty, fifty men in there talk to them (?). (inaudible) manage to buy a loaf of bread for about eight cents. (inaudible) and I know lots of times I was (inaudible) to town and they come and tell me. They come (inaudible) from somebody that's the way I lived (inaudible) might get a job. That's just the way they travelled. And the government there in the winter time, you know, they would (inaudible) you getting five dollars a month, and the government (inaudible) and that's what he got was ten dollars a month. And of course there were a lot of cases there people didn't have five dollars so how you getting, couldn't very well pay them either.

Henry: Is that the only jobs around?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Is that the only jobs around?

Jim: Oh there was more work. Like men would work in the bush but there was very little. You know, if there's no money you can't sell anything and that's happening right now. You see this people can't buy they can't (inaudible) all right if they want to pay that twenty-five percent increase (inaudible). And that's (inaudible) it's just some here and he paid told me, I know he's been working and he works during the month he said well that the interest (inaudible). And I said I could start paying for the principle and he's been working for seven years to pay that interest alone, over a period of years if he had time to figure he'd be working all those years to pay that interest back, now I can start paying the principle well that's going to happen. (inaudible) he's going to lose what he's got and whose going to get it? Banks and all that finacers are going to get it. That's (inaudible). I think there's ninety-five percent of the people don't know a certain bet come right down to it today. (inaudible) your name. Which was too easy. We've got too much stuff laying around they can't buy it anyway. Well I don't know.

Henry: Was there enough food, clothing and shelter available to your family?

Jim: Well, far as that's concerned I think so. Well I'll tell you they were, the government did help out but your got the same thing there, you see. (inaudible) the government was broke there was no money, and when the government changed (inaudible) no money. There was no money to do anything. So eventually about '34 around in there (inaudible) oh ten, twelve dollars a month, eight dollars a month that was their relief. They sent people out of the cities like Saskatoon, Regina off the prairies there and sent them north here, and every blooming place in the country was (inaudible) living and that's what they were giving, that's what they had to live on. And the reason for that is they could, they had to (?) outside their heat. They didn't have to buy it, in the city they had to buy it. And they could, you know, hunt for chickens, prairie chickens there's lot of them, game so they lived that way and that's what they did that whole blooming country. Especially out (?) there. You got big river country and they came there and been there since, that was always settled. So you got whole lots of them, I know lots of them pretty hard, government come often. When we (inaudible) everybody they couldn't seem to (inaudible). And then there was beans and apples dished out to the people. Because they were having troubles in the east so when they shipped that stuff west it helped them out and, you know, dishing it out to people. Well the first time when the war broke out whole lot of them they started to move out, they got jobs, things started to pick out and a lot of them joined the army. And that, straighten things out again and I guess that's what's going to happen again too. Nothing right now for, in anything to do unless it's (coughs)...

Henry: How did the people help each other?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: How did people help each other?

Jim: Well, as far as that's concerned there were lots of cases where they had something to do they couldn't handle it themselves they exchanged work. And you go and help your neighbor do something he come back and help you do something.

(END OF SIDE A)

Henry: We'll talk about politics.

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Politics and leaders. How active was your community?

Jim: Well I on't know. Far as that's concerned nobody paid too much attention about it, oh there were some. Far as politics was concerned not involved too much, of course you had

the odd one. Politics was always the same they are today, oh certain amount of (inaudible) I guess.

Henry: Where you or your parents involved?

Jim: No. Never (inaudible).

Henry: Who did your parents look up to?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: In politics.

Jim: Well, I really don't know. My days when I was home, I don't know, you never heard anything about politics. (inaudible) I don't know. Those days politics wasn't a nation at all (inaudible) and there's very little anyway.

Henry: Are there any stories and experiences of native leaders?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Native leaders, any stories and experiences?

Jim: Oh, native leaders. Oh well they always had a tie, you know, with that. The Riel Rebellion, you know, that went on for years. And then there was all mighty voice (inaudible). It pretty near created trouble again, because (?) nothing but damn horse thieves anyways. They build all this whole damn country here stealing horses. They had a place down here across Saskatchewan River, now not too far I don't know exactly where it is, but I heard them talk about it last, and not too far from Carlton in the bank in there they had a barn on the (?). And they took these horses and they skin them, take them in there and dye them and take them the hell out of the country and sell them. They were all right until we got a good reign on them, washed out and they found out they had different color horses. (laughs) But then that is (?) as far as I'm concerned the native people really didn't have nothing as far as that was just a few (?) and can happen in anything (inaudible). They were the guys who caused trouble. So there you are and that can happen with anybody. But for my (inaudible) I know for fact that, well my age (inaudible) they were doing it when I was a kid. And cattle would be missing, horses would be gone, you know. That's what really created, that's what created all the trouble all together (inaudible) and some of them in the first place was over horse stealing, so police went after them and that start the trouble. They ganged up. Because otherwise they been no real value. That Riel was nothing else but a ajatator and that's all (inaudible). Well you get that (inaudible) you got him today in your union, you got him everything. People listen to and see we've got the same thing just right in our carpenters and plumbers union today. It all works out the same way only a different time.

Henry: Are there any other stories about Riel Rebellion?

Jim: Oh I don't know. You know, I've read the stories about Riel years ago that was published, and you know I read one here last winter. Jesus christ I don't know, somebody took all our land, they don't correspond us too bits at all. You know, that's a fact. And so there you are. Well, there's always somebody wants to get in and be a leader, you know, so got to be a leader and put a lease on it. That's the same thing in your politics. That's your union you got your same thing a lot of unions you'll get a guy whose a big shot he goes out to the front and eventually gets paid for it and that's about the size of it. So I don't know.

Henry: Can you tell me experiences that...

Jim: No I didn't, no. (inaudible) hangs up and down. Well I would say up until about eight or nine, ten in there that's never settled in this country. (inaudible) could break out any time. (inaudible) somebody else would take over (?). And you take this, what the hell you call it down there this side of Prince Albert, you know, where they got that monument?

Henry: Thompson?

Jim: No, no right here on the north Saskatchewan, this side of P.A. that river. What the hell they got that road running in there, they got the what the hell, oh christ I can't think of it. They got a big name some these guys and they end up their just a bootlegger with the Indians, you know what I mean. Don't forget the Indian treated all writing, even misused they got people who are doing it to make money out of it in the liquor trade. That's where a lot of your trouble comes in. And you go on up river you got Battleford, Fort Pitt up there and all the, they went in there and got the Indians all rilied up and they murdered all those buggers in there, I don't know ten to fifteen people that run the store and different things. Well I think if somebody (?)...

Henry: Just ask general questions.

Jim: Eh?

Henry: I'll just ask general questions. Do you think things were better then or now?

Jim: Well I don't know, I can't say any better. You got a lot of things today that you didn't have then that's for sure. But I think they got out of hand that's my opinion. How long we going to have it? I don't know you keep this up or not. I can't see where we can.

Henry: Do you think native people are stronger now and wiser because of their experiences?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Do you think native people are stronger and wiser now

because of their experiences?

Jim: Well, yes. That could be but then they've got a good chance. You can take up here right now you take your Sturgeon Lake Reserve during Lent, you see, you and an Indian your exempt to tax, this means a lot. You know, if you take (inaudible) they go on there they are farmed on, how many thousands of acres do they break up there? And they can't do a damn thing about it, they tried to farm it but it didn't work. A year ago last fall they had three new combines (inaudible) and some young buggars got a hold of it and they started them up out there and they just drove them into one another they broke them all to hell. So what can you expect to gain, now that's (?). Now they rent the darn thing because they can't, they couldn't do it either. And that money from the land is taken on (inaduable) pay it back into the band first, but that's money they got to spend. Their not working for it. So I don't know how that's going to work. And then what happens they, well I guess they go to the beer parlor they got a little money to spend and that's what they do, nothing to do. There is the odd one up there that's still farming their own land. (inaudible) thousand acres there the government broke up there, you know, in the last few years.

Henry: Were there any other experiences or stories about native history that you know?

Jim: No (inaudible). No I, the whole works might just as well settle down and try to get along and be done with. There's one thing you see blowing again that I see your bound to get the next, (inaudible) bound to get your natives divided into family living. You know what I mean. That's family health. In the States I notice when I mentioned about that (?), down there a woman that my wife met, an Indian (inaudible) she could take him back on the reserve. And here you can't do that. The Indian can marry a white woman he can take her on the reserve, but a squaw can't marry a white man and take him back on he reserve.

Henry: Does she lose her status?

Jim: Eh?

Henry: Does she lose her status?

Jim: Yeah. There's something that's absolutely wrong I say. If a woman can be married go on reserve it should be the opposite should be too. The others well there are laws are not, to me is, there could be a lot of changes.

Henry: A man marries a white lady she can come to the reserve?

Jim: Well maybe he offered her, but he's entitled to back on the reserve and go there he can take her back. Another thing this woman now she was born an Indian (inaudible) more our color there (inaudible). But her daughters (inaudible) man

in the city of Spokane, you know, and she was telling me how she belonged to Spokane she said that when they wanted to retire she could take her husband and go back there any time, but there was two acres of land made out that belonged to her and that was there any time she wanted to go back and use them.

(inaudible) land. Now that's the way it works there. Now I don't know how it (inaudible). But your trouble is, the big trouble is anyway pulling the whole set up (inaudible). We got the things for government given in (?) and there's not a damn thing to do with it. All this, all this problem isn't the Indian (inaudible) they're the guys that made the law, they're the guys that made the deal if they made it wrong let them straighten it out.

(END OF SIDE B)

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