

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: CHARLES JANVIER
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: LA LOCHE, SASK.

INTERVIEW LOCATION: LA LOCHE, SASK.

TRIBE/NATION: CHIPEWYAN/FRENCH
LANGUAGE: CHIPEWYAN
(SUMMARY IN ENGLISH)
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JUNE 11 & 12/80
INTERVIEWER: VIOLET HERMAN & RAY MARNOCH
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD
TAPE NUMBER: IH-150/150A/151
DISK: TRANSCRIPT 1
PAGES: 6
RESTRICTIONS: NO REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL
EITHER IN WHOLE OR IN PART MAY BE MADE BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER
BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE UNDERSIGNED, HIS HEIRS, LEGAL
REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- This document is a summary of the original interview in
Chipewyan. Because the summarized sections are so short, they
will be of little use to researchers, who may wish to refer to
the original.

EARLY LIFE:

Mother, Adeline Maurice, daughter of H.B.Co. manager in West La
Loche, her family French from Montreal. She died 4 days after
Charlie was born. Charlie was raised by his grandparents,
Pascal Janvier and Suzanne 'Birdsister'. Those were poor
times. Charlie lived on boiled broth when a baby. No milk
because his mother died. Later Charlie's Uncle Alex walked all
the way to Fort Chipewyan to get a cow so baby Charlie could
have milk.

As a teenager Charlie worked for room and board at the H.B.Co..
When he was older he would travel by canoe to Big River 3 times
a summer for H.B.Co. supplies.

His father, Lacord Janvier, was married 3 times and had 26
children. His wives were Adeline, Isabelle and Sophie, a Cree
from Ft. McMurray. Charlie's blind friend, Julien Toulesjours,
is said to have lost his sight by ridiculing a blindman.

Charlie raised all his kids, plus 2 others, by hunting mostly.
He was paid \$60/month when freighting for H.B.Co. Two years he

made 3 trips by canoe to Big River. The third summer stayed and worked at the Big River sawmill. Got back in April. Charlie also went north to buy fur for H.B.Co. at the trapper's bush camps.

TRAPPING EXPERIENCES:

Englishman named White went trapping north. He wasn't seen for 3 years. He was presumed dead so Charlie and 7 others with dog teams went to look for him in the bitter cold. When White saw Charlie he told him he was just like a moose to come out in the cold. Charlie told White he was just like a bear hibernating for 3 years! That White went mad being three years without women.

While trapping north of La Loche, Charlie came upon a camp. He found a man, Albert, dying of a chewed arm so brought food from his camp a long way off. Although Albert wanted to die, Charlie encouraged him to eat and nursed him back to health. By killing all his dogs Albert survived. Charlie heard later that Albert was killed during the war.

Charlie was disturbed from sleep one night by 2 surveyors from Ft. McKay. They hadn't eaten in 4 days. Charlie fed them that night, the next morning, and gave them food for trip back. Then they asked if Charlie would accept \$1 for helping them. One of the men pulled out a large roll of bills but had trouble finding a one. They were rich men and yet Charlie saved their lives for nothing.

Upon finding a rotten animal in a trap, Charlie followed trap line to a big cabin. Inside he found the table set and half-eaten meal with a letter left behind. He found a suitcase full of fancy clothes and money. Charlie respected the man's property and left without taking anything, but the owner, who was known to be a wealthy white man, never returned. Charlie still regrets not having claimed some of that man's goods.

MAKING LIME FOR WHITEWASH:

Dug a deep pit in the ground, put limestones in there. Made a fire in the pit. To keep fire burning for 4-5 days used lots of firewood. When limestone fell apart put fire out and cooled lime. Put lime in barrels and let sit for 3 days until it became a fine powder then mixed with water and brushed it on the outside walls of log houses. Charlie made the lime and sold 100 lb. bags for \$4 ea. to H.B.Co. and home owners. When H.B.Co. moved to La Loche (1936) Charlie delivered lime by canoe; in fall he was hired to whitewash with own lime. One pitful of limestone yielded 30-40 100 lb. bags of lime powder.

Charlie worked for George McInnis and Slater in Ft. McMurray and in Ft. Smith delivering freight in a steamboat to Uranium City and Fond-du-Lac. Slater first hired Charlie to fish Big Buffalo (Peter Pond Lake). Then fished Lac La Loche and made

lots of money. They took the fish to R.R. at Cheecham, Alberta, by horse and sled. G. McInnis and Slater paid men to kill large numbers of fish until the government closed them down for over-fishing. At that time they left a huge mountain of fish on Buffalo Lake so the people from La Loche and Garson Lake picked it up by dog team.

One of the horse teams hauling freight went through the ice. The horses drowned but the freighters survived. The freight was all soaked and ruined. The horses were cut up and taken back to Cheecham to be made into horse meat.

MAILMAN:

Charlie hauled mail from West La Loche to Cheecham and back by dog team in winter and by walking carrying the mail bag in summer. Mail trip was once a month. He was paid \$30/month by the H.B.Co. The round trip to the train at Cheecham took 3-4 days. The La Loche post office was in the H.B.Co. store.

H.B.CO. STORE BURNED (1936):

Bob Wood asked H.B.Co. manager for debt to go trapping lynx but was refused. He went to Garson Lake to trap rats instead. One day Bob went into hiding and Charlie thought it strange until he returned and heard how Bob had taken all the lynx fur then burned down the H.B.Co. store. The R.C.M.P. and Barker, the district H.B.Co. manager, investigated but couldn't charge Bob because of lack of evidence. After selling the stolen fur down south Bob returned to Ft. McMurray and lived like a king. He later moved to Edmonton and disappeared. One lynx was worth \$60 then and Bob took a lot so he ended up with lots of money.

After the fire the H.B.Co. bought the Revillon Freres store and moved across the lake to La Loche.

Pierre Gun had a large potato field where the H.B.Co. store is today. The H.B.Co. district manager asked him to sell his land so Pierre Gun asked \$25 for his house and land but the DM gave him \$85. Even at \$4000 Charlie thinks the H.B.Co. would have bought it. With Revillon Freres gone, the Hudson's Bay was the only store.

Charlie's maternal grandfather, Francois Maurice, from Montreal, worked for H.B.Co. in Winnipeg, then moved with family to work for H.B.Co. in West La Loche. Older daughter, Adeline, given to Charlie's dad in marriage.

BEFORE MATCHES:

Birchbark was stripped off the trees and cut thinly then lit by sparks from a flintstone. Then dry grass was put on to build up the fire.

FIRST GUN:

Was 5 feet long with a snake carved on it. Gunpowder and straw were put in, then shot and straw were put down the barrel. Next a flint was put in and the trigger was pulled. It sure was a slow-firing gun. In order to buy one of these guns, furs had to be piled from the floor to the top of the barrel. That was a high price!

Many H.B.Co. managers were stingy. Charlie's grandfather, when a young boy, worked cutting enough posts for a fence around the H.B.Co. potato field. When he was finished the manager only gave him 5 marbles as his pay. He was very upset.

MAKING MUSKET SHOT:

With a rock pounded lead into a long thin line, then cut it into small pieces. Rolled those pieces into balls. One man if going hunting took 5 shots. After shooting an animal he would recover the shot, reshape it and use it.

GERARD AND THE SPIKE IN THE ROCK:

Pierre Gerard's father, Gerard, was a blacksmith in West La Loche. He made things like chisels and moose hide scrapers. He was married to Sarah of Ile-a-la-Crosse. One day he couldn't weld any of the metal pieces together so he summoned the devil. Made a promise to give devil baby when born. When his wife had the baby, he was quickly taken to the priest to be baptized. The devil came back and asked Gerard to fulfill the deal. Gerard offered himself instead of the baby. So because Gerard gave himself to the devil, he could make anything. He drove a spike in a rock to tie his boat to. That rock is still on the shore at West La Loche. Pierre was a young man when his father, Gerard, died. He had a violin but couldn't play it. Once when there was a dance he was asked to play. Everyone laughed at him, so he left to get his own violin from home. On his way back, Pierre met a man with a wagon and two horses. The man asked if Pierre knew how to play the violin. That man took the violin and showed Pierre how to play it. When they got to the dance, Pierre looked back and saw nothing but sparks from where the wagon was, then he knew it had been the devil. Pierre went into the dance hall and played the violin very well. He played so well that he was taken down south to play and was gone for about five years at a time.

A whipsaw was used to cut planks for the building of the H.B.Co. store in West La Loche. At that time there was no tar paper so layers of straw were used on roofs to keep the house dry. Because the store wasn't supplied with food every day, each family could only buy certain amounts of food. Charlie was relief manager for the H.B.Co. whenever the manager was gone south. Angus McLean, one manager, lived and worked at West La Loche for 28 years. He raised his children there. He was a kind man.

Dances back then were a lot of fun. People got all dressed up for them. On New Year's Day, a feast and a dance was held for everyone. It lasted 3 days some years.

Zepherin Lemaigre worked for the Bay 40 years. When he died all the Bay gave his wife was four planks for his coffin. Charlie and his wife took Zepherin's children in and raised them. The H.B.Co. was stingy.

In 1918 a lot of people died of the flu in La Loche. In Ile-a-la-Crosse, 35 people died in one week. Because of the flu, mail delivery was stopped. The Bay manager asked Charlie to go to Ile-a-la-Crosse to get the mail. He went by dog team. The priest had told Charlie that 75 had died already.

On the way back, Charlie stopped in at Deep Bay and beat a fisherman \$60 at poker. When reached Dillon, Charlie bought steel bells and ribbons for his dogs' harnesses. He arrived back at West La Loche at dawn.

The people who died of the flu are buried on the hill by the Bay houses and in the graveyard at West La Loche. In 1937, quite a few died of measles. There was no medication then.

Charlie was in Big River when he found spots all over his body. Three white guys took him to the hospital where he stayed for about a month. Later he got measles again and was taken to Ile-a-la-Crosse hospital. He was discharged after a week although not quite well. Angus McLean and he headed back to La Loche but Charlie got sick. Although Charlie didn't like it, Angus made him drink whiskey. Then Charlie didn't mind the long trip home so much.

ILE-A-LA-CROSSE STEAMBOAT:

A carpenter by the name of Maurice made a steamboat which went up and down 'des-chi'. It was not a very big boat so it wasn't used for long-distance travelling.

Aime Janvier's brother had a mental breakdown at Black Point while fishing. He was strapped to a bed for two days until a doctor and R.C.M.P. arrived. The doctor said his breakdown was caused by his head being exposed to the cold. He seldom wore a hat in the winter. He was then put in a straight-jacket and taken to North Battleford Mental Institution. During the plane ride he chewed up his lips and fingers. Some time later Charlie heard he died. Helen Herman is his daughter.

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
DISEASE AND ILLNESS				
-influenza	IH-150/150A/151	C.JANVIER1	1	6
DISEASE AND ILLNESS				
-measles	IH-150/150A/151	C.JANVIER1	1	6

FIRE					
-making of	IH-150/150A/151	C.JANVIER1	1		4
RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY					
-cairns and markers	IH-150/150A/151	C.JANVIER1	1		5
TRAPPING					
	IH-150/150A/151	C.JANVIER1	1		2,3
WORK					
-for wages	IH-150/150A/151	C.JANVIER1	1		3