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HIGHLIGHTS:

- General reminiscences of his life.

Ray: This is Ray Marnoch, and I'm talking with Frederick Daniels, at his home in La Loche, Saskatchewan, on January 22, 1980. Fred is 75 years old this year, and we begin our conversation with Fred telling us about his birthplace, Fort Chipewyan, in Alberta.

Frederick: Fort Chip. That's where it is before. I was born at Fort Chip. You know Fort Chip?

Ray: Yeah, way up north?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: And how old are you now?

Frederick: Seventy-five.

Ray: Seventy-five.

Frederick: Yes.

Ray: And how big was Fort Chip then? Was it a big town?

Frederick: Big town. Yes. Fort Chip was a big town.

Ray: And your dad, he lived there too?

Frederick: He died there.

Ray: He died there? What was his name?

Frederick: My Dad? His name was Fred Daniels.

Ray: The same as your name.

Frederick: Yeah that's Frederick Daniels. Or sometimes they called him Fred Daniels and sometimes they called him Frederick Daniels.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: I've been all over, pretty near, this Canada. Because I don't trap. I've never trapped.

Ray: You've never trapped?

Frederick: Just work and that's why I didn't, you know. Sometimes big boat, big dark, you know the steamboat? Steam, it used wood. No gas, no oil, just steam, you know. And the big boat and the back boat, you know, the back boat, big wood, water, you know. Lots of wood you brought and you got the water boiling, make steam. That's when you use it.

Ray: Where was that? That you worked on that boat?

Frederick: A long time. He come McMurray here that boat, and he hauled the freight to Chip and Fort Smith, Goldfields, Yellowknife, Stony Rapids, Fond-du-Lac. That big boat, you know. Got big barge, sometimes three, four train back full of that stuff, you know. Any place you put it. First time you put that's something, you know, Fort Chip. Up they go to Fitzgerald and they put some stuff came from (?), you know.

Ray: You put more wood in?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Who cut the wood?

Frederick: Well, somebody in the summer. On the river. (Inaudible) River, McMurray, you know the river? And the bush. You cut loads of wood. Mick Court, you know Mick Court? Lots somebody, you want a job, he gave him that job. He pay, you know, that's why they let him too. You need lots of wood. When the pieces of wood are going to the boat somebody is throwing wood to the barge, you know.

Ray: So did they cut the wood in the winter?

Frederick: Yes. No, they cut it in the summer.

Ray: They cut it in the summer?

Frederick: Yes, you know, every summer, every summer because in the summer they use the wood too, you know.

Ray: Lots of people worked on that boat?

Frederick: Lots.

Ray: Do you remember the name of the boat?

Frederick: The Athabasca. And one Echo.

Ray: Oh. Who owned those boats?

Frederick: One by Hudson's Bay and one Revillon. They were hard jobs.

Ray: Did you work for them for a long time?

Frederick: Yes.

Ray: How many years did you work there?

Frederick: Sometimes one, two years, three years, when you tried that. And after everything, they used gas and oil. I worked on the old railroad track, you know, the train? That is a hard job.

Ray: When did the train come to McMurray?

Frederick: The train came to McMurray, from Edmonton to Fort McMurray. McMurray and Willow Lake, and Cheecham, and Carvel, Lac La Biche, and Edmonton. The train came through this way. Some of the trains go to (?) Big River, I think Big River. One train would go this way and one train would go this way.

Ray: What year was that that the train came to McMurray?

Frederick: Oh boy, long time.

Ray: Do you remember that?

Frederick: Yes, long time.

Ray: How old would you be, a little boy?

Frederick: Maybe, 25. Maybe 20 years. That is the time of the train.

Ray: You were 20 years old about that time.

Frederick: Yeah, I was young.

Ray: And then you got your groceries, everything from the train?

Frederick: Yes.

Ray: Your supplies?

Frederick: Yes.

Ray: Before that time, how did you get your supplies? Where did they come from? When there was no train.

Frederick: For a long time, we used horses. We rode horses. Big pack horses. Sometimes 20 horses. We got packs, you know. Sometimes 20, sometimes 15 horses in the summertime. In the wintertime, we used dogs. Lots of dog teams at that time.

Ray: Where did they go to to get the supplies?

Frederick: To Fort Chip.

Ray: From Fort Chip to where?

Frederick: To Fort Smith. All over. When they finished the order, they would go back there. And you got hold of the freighter there.

Ray: Where did the freight come from south, from Lac La Biche or Big River?

Frederick: From Edmonton. From here from Edmonton. They come from someplace, you know. I don't know what place.

Ray: They took their horses all the way down to Edmonton?

Frederick: Yes. In the summertime. There was nothing, no planes, no train. It was hard at that time. You know sometimes McMurray they would come from Edmonton to go to McMurray. This one river they use a barge, a big barge. One would come this way and one would come this way. It was easy to put a lot of stuff on a big barge.

Ray: That's from the Athabasca Landing?

Frederick: Yes. Big barge. Lots of stuff from Fort Chip for all over. This means, okay, when we came back to the barge (inaudible). The cold water is strong. Sometimes they had a big rope, a big rope, sometimes it took 14 men or 20 men to pull the barge. It took four guys on the barge. Some people died too. It was too hard for them. Sometime the river is crooked. Who would steer the barge? The water is strong. These people pull the barge and she is heavy in the back. She is like a rock. These times are easier. Easier for everything. That was a time of hard job.

Ray: Did they ever come down this way with the horses?
Down through the portage here?

Frederick: Yes.

Ray: And down this way to Big River?

Frederick: Yes. No, I don't know this one. I don't know. Then after I hear somebody digged a tunnel -- under, you know. And going to take some stuff to Big River. I know that.

Ray: All the way from Fort Chip?

Frederick: Sure, yes.

Ray: To Big River?

Frederick: Yes. No, from here, from La Loche. That's all. From Edmonton, that's (?), to McMurray and he used to go north, Eskimo.

Ray: So your dad and you mom lived in Fort Chip?

Frederick: Yes. They both are dead now.

Ray: What was your mother's name?

Frederick: Veronique.

Ray: What was her name before she got married? Last name?

Frederick: Daniels.

Ray: Her name was Daniels too?

Frederick: Yes.

Ray: Veronique Daniels?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: They were born there too?

Frederick: Yes. And after Daniels died, my dad died, and after Piche is still my mother. That's my last name, Piche anyway. Wasn't too long ago Frederick Daniels Piche. That's a crazy. They're different priests, they stay there before.

Ray: Father Ducharme?

Frederick: Yeah. He didn't put my name. My name is right. Well Philomene, that's my wife, see. And it's just he didn't put Daniels, Philomene Daniels, he don't put... see he put Daniel Piche, you know. And my name is Frederick Daniels Piche,

you see.

Ray: (And then I asked Fred, when did he start to work and this was his reply.)

Frederick: Twenty.

Ray: You were twenty when you started to work?

Frederick: Yeah. And then I quit sixty year I pass. I pass my years, see.

Ray: You worked for sixty years?

Frederick: Yeah. I work hard, you know. I never trapping.

Ray: You worked until you were sixty, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. In the wintertime, you know, when I start work. The fellow man before, his name Daniels too, you know.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah, that's my wife. Before, doctor from Edmonton, he called Daniels.

Ray: Your father's daddy, do you remember him? Was he alive when you were born?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Do you remember his name?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Your grandfather.

Frederick: My grandfather's name Blahus(?), Blahus Daniels.

Ray: Yeah, Boris Daniels.

Frederick: Blahus Daniels. And George's name is Daniels, and after Fred Daniels that's my dad, and three brothers.

Ray: Three brothers?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: They're Chip people, or Cree?

Frederick: Cree, French.

Ray: French?

Frederick: French and, yeah -- everything he talked -- French, and Cree and Chip.

Ray: Way back, your grandfather, your dad's father, was he Chipewyan, or was he a Frenchman?

Frederick: Frenchman.

Ray: He was a Frenchman?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Where was he from? From Winnipeg, or something like that?

Frederick: No, I don't know that. Maybe before me born (inaudible).

Ray: But he wasn't, he wasn't Chipewyan?

Frederick: No.

Ray: Frenchman, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: And he married his -- that lady he married was Chipewyan, or Cree?

Frederick: Cree.

Ray: Cree, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. Can't say that, because (inaudible) old-timer, he talk anything, you know, Chipewyan and Cree. No more (inaudible). Yeah, just French, you know, old-timer. I don't think English.

Ray: No.

Frederick: No. French, Cree, Chipewyan.

Ray: So, don't know if he's a white man, or a Cree, or anything, eh?

Frederick: No, no, no, no.

Ray: And his name was, what was his name again?

Frederick: Who?

Ray: Your grandfather.

Frederick: Blahus.

Ray: Blahus?

Frederick: Yeah, Blahus Daniels.

Ray: Blahus Daniels. Did he work for the Bay?

Frederick: Hudson's Bay, with the Hudson's Bay, that's all.

Ray: Yeah, and Fort Chip?

Frederick: Yeah, Fort Chip.

Ray: How about your daddy, did he work for the Bay too?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: In Fort Chip?

Frederick: Yeah. He work all over.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Like you, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. Well, that Hudson's Bay and Revillon. You know and Revillon?

Ray: Yeah. Revillon Freres.

Frederick: Yeah, see just two, Hudson's Bay and Revillon. See, two stores.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: And these time lots.

Ray: That's right, so many, eh.

Frederick: Even in Cheecham we've got stores.

Ray: Yeah. (laughs) Did your daddy ever do any trapping? Or he just work for the store too?

Frederick: No.

Ray: No trapping?

Frederick: Yeah. Old-timer, lots of trapping guys, you know. Who trapping, who work, working everything, you know. Fishing in the fall. Yeah.

Ray: Does everything, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, does everything.

Ray: Did you go to school in Fort Chip?

Frederick: Yeah, I go to school.

Ray: When did you go to school?

Frederick: About 17 years I stayed at school.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah, 17 years.

Ray: When did you first go? How old were you then?

Frederick: No, my mother like blind, you know, can't see good. And sister, Reesmen, know like before, before ever see hospital(?), everything. That's my sister Reesmen, you know,

in school. (Inaudible) about four, five year and I start in the school, starting in school, you know.

Ray: When you are five years old, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Was it French teacher then?

Frederick: Yeah, French. After when I got out Fort Chip, 17 year, McMurray in school, that's English school now. But I stayed two year in the school, English school.

Ray: So you must have been over 20 years old then.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: You went to the English school.

Frederick: Yeah, that's the time maybe.

Ray: In Fort Chip who, who had the school, the mission?

Frederick: Mission.

Ray: Yeah. It was sisters in the school, or the priest?

Frederick: The priest, yeah, or sister.

Ray: Sister too?

Frederick: Yeah. No, no priest, eh. The priest no school, you know. Same like this; the priest stayed alone.

Ray: Yeah. How many children were in school? Was it a big school, or small?

Frederick: A hundred kids, boys; and a hundred, hundred little girls. Two story.

Ray: Two story?

Frederick: Yeah. Four or five upstairs, you know. First room, upstairs, the girls they sleep over there, and after the boys next room, upstairs. And after the girls there, the daytime, you know, upstairs and the boys they're down.

Ray: That's five?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Five stories?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Oh, what a big school.

Frederick: Yeah. And a long way too. And the kitchen, everything.

Ray: Did you have to work in the kitchen sometimes?

Frederick: No.

Ray: No.

Frederick: Sister (inaudible). Yeah. That's why when I got to learn Cree in the school, you know. And after that lots I see Cree Indian, you know, he talk to me Cree and I take it, I learn. And after they first, I talk Cree good; I learned myself. And Chipewyan too.

Ray: You didn't talk Chip before?

Frederick: No, no, no because I been in the school, you know.

Ray: What did you speak in your family, French?

Frederick: French.

Ray: With your family, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. Oh Cree and French, Chipewyan. Well, before I never speak Chipewyan, you know.

Ray: No.

Frederick: No. I learned to, when I stayed Chipewyan, you know, someplace. Sometime I hear somebody talk Chipewyan, you know, and I take it. That's how I learned.

Ray: You're a good teacher, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: In the old times lots of people spoke though in all languages, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: French, Chip, Cree.

Frederick: Well, that's why the priest sometime he don't understand Chipewyan, you know. He don't understand Chipewyan, the priest sometime.

Ray: No.

Frederick: Yeah, he come from, from Edmonton someplace, you know. He arrived, first he talked French see, and the (inaudible) people, you know, what did he say in Chipewyan, he says. And somebody tell what he says, eh. He marked French here, he marked Chipewyan. Well, Chipewyan (inaudible). And me, you see "Soo-ay."

Ray: "Soo-ay."

Frederick: When you say "Soo-ay", what do you marking, "Soo-ay"?

Ray: L-O-E, I think with an accent.

Frederick: L-O-E-Y, yeah. And you mark fish here, and you mark "Soo-ay", see. And that's what he do. Maybe he learned much, the priest.

Ray: That's how he learned Chip, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, that's the way he learned. And you ask somebody, you know, "What did he say, what he say?" When before the priest he talk Chipewyan, you know, he mark down everything for Chipewyan, for priest. And after the priest come from a long ways, you see, he can't talk Chipewyan and he knew that book, see, and after he learned that.

Ray: He teaches himself from the book, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah.

Ray: That's good. That's what I tried to do too.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Do you know how to read Chip?

Frederick: Chip.

Ray: Or Cree?

Frederick: No.

Ray: With a syllabics, you know that little...?

Frederick: Yeah, Cree and Chipewyan it look like just the same, you know. And English and French, they looked just the same.

Ray: Yeah, that's right.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Can you read those languages?

Frederick: French?

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Before. See lots of French I forget.

Ray: Oh.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Yeah. So when you were in school in Fort Chip, did they make you do some work too?

Frederick: No work, just school learn.

Ray: Just keep to school?

Frederick: Learn, that's all.

Ray: You didn't have to cut wood, or...?

Frederick: Well, sometimes.

Ray: Work in the kitchen?

Frederick: Sometimes cut. Not in the kitchen, outside.

Ray: Yeah. You had to work outside with the...?

Frederick: Yeah. Well, that time, you know, got a sawmill.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Old-timer sawmill, like Brother's, you see.

Ray: Like Brother's one, yeah.

Frederick: Yeah. Lots of wood, steam.

Ray: A steam, steam engine?

Frederick: Yeah, steam. Hot water boiling, (sounds out), put big log (sounds out).

Ray: Cuts it up easy, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: So you worked on that?

Frederick: Not me. (laughs)

Ray: No.

Frederick: No. Just I was chop wood a little bit.

Ray: When did you go to school, all year? Did you go all year long?

Frederick: No, no just Chip. Just Chip.

Ray: But I mean when you're at school did you go in the summertime too?

Frederick: Yeah, summer and winter.

Ray: Winter and summer?

Frederick: Not like here, you know. Somebody see stayed at school. Fort Chip, this big school, you know, he don't stay at his house. He stay where, he sleep where his school, you know. And he eat, he don't go to his father's place, you know.

Ray: What about at Christmas time, did you go home or not?

Frederick: No.

Ray: Stay at school?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah.

Ray: How about summertime?

Frederick: Summertime too just the same.

Ray: You stayed at the school?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: You don't see your family much, eh?

Frederick: Well, every Saturday. Every Saturday daddy and mother they go to one room, you know, to see kids -- they got one room. Every Saturday he visit. Yeah.

Ray: So they come to visit you, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: But you didn't see them very much?

Frederick: No. Every Saturday, that's all.

Ray: You never go home?

Frederick: Yeah, never, no.

Ray: For 17 years?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: You stay in the school?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah. Not like here. Not like someplace too. Not like before, no.

Ray: Did you get lonesome?

Frederick: No, because lots of kids. Play, play, play.

Ray: But you didn't get lonesome for your mother and father, eh?

Frederick: No.

Ray: Boy, that would be hard. Did the school, they give you clothes and everything?

Frederick: Yeah. Oh everything, clothes, food.

Ray: Food, clothes. Did your daddy have to pay for that?

Frederick: No, no.

Ray: Nothing, eh?

Frederick: No, nothing.

Ray: Did you have games too, sports?

Frederick: Sometimes, yeah. A long time nobody knows that sport.

Ray: Play other games?

Frederick: Yeah. Used to play ball, and in the wintertime you used to make sleds, you know, go down.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Toboggan, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, that's all. Everybody, kids (inaudible).

Ray: Did you like that time in school?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: You liked the school?

Frederick: Yeah. Before I don't know, you know, I don't know nothing before that's why, you know.

Ray: So you learned a lot, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Did they teach you about church too?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: About catechism?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: So when you went down to McMurray, who did you stay with there? You stay at the school too?

Frederick: Yeah. Yeah I stayed at school.

Ray: They have a big school there?

Frederick: Yeah, English school, no French.

Ray: So you stayed inside the school too?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: And then after that where did you go to when you were finished school?

Frederick: When I finish school I go all over. I stay one somebody. Well after I got job, I working, I live in. Sometime I move someplace, you know. That's why I learn everything -- Cree, and Chipewyan, you know, and French, English. See that's why I learn, you know.

Ray: What are some of the places? Where did you go to, some of the places you went to?

Frederick: Where?

Ray: Where did you work?

Frederick: All over.

Ray: Fort McMurray?

Frederick: McMurray, sometime the river track, and sometime, you heard of McInnis? McInnis, eh.

Ray: Fishery, eh?

Frederick: Fisherman, sometime fisher.

(END OF SIDE A)

Ray: (This is Ray Marnoch and I'm talking with Fred Daniels, in his house, in La Loche, Saskatchewan, on January 22, 1980. He is telling me about George McInnis who operated a commercial fishing business out of Fort McMurray. We continue our conversation.)

Ray: George McInnis, where was he from? That's George McInnis?

Frederick: Yeah, George McInnis. Arthur Slater, you know, Slater?

Ray: Slater.

Frederick: Yeah, McInnis, and Royal(?), and Slater, and Bill Mapite(?).

Ray: Bill Mapite(?).

Frederick: Yeah, that's three (Cree?) fishermen.

Ray: And they came from McMurray?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: And they came this way?

Frederick: Yeah. To McMurray, you know, when they finish the (?) to Muskeg(?) Lake, fisher, to Muskeg Lake.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: And big boat.

Ray: In the summertime?

Frederick: Yeah, summertime. They hauled the fish to McMurray after the train come and the box car, you know, they put all the fish, full, and they take it to Edmonton.

Ray: Do they fish in other lakes too, lakes around here?

Frederick: Yeah. Sometimes fish in here, this lake.

Ray: And Big Buffalo too?

Frederick: Yeah, wintertime, you know, fish in Buffalo Lake. Chain the horses. They pull the fish to Cheecham because the train go to Cheecham, you know, yeah.

Ray: You had lots of horses, eh?

Frederick: Lots, boy. One sleigh, four horses.

Ray: (Fred continues his description of how the fish were hauled out to Cheecham, Alberta by horse team and sleigh in the winter. He mentions that the horses had steel shoes on their hoofs.)

Frederick: You know, steel.

Ray: Steel shoe, yeah.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Did they have one team of horses to pull it all the way to Cheecham, or did they stop?

Frederick: Yeah. They stop. When they pull the fish from Buffalo you hear that Garson Lake you got fish camp; from Christina River you got fish camp; and after Cheecham...

Ray: A fish camp?

Frederick: Yeah. They call fish camp because somebody fishing, you know, who fishing is coming over there. Every night he come to that place, you know.

Ray: Yeah. Did they change the horses?

Frederick: No, I don't think.

Ray: Get fresh horses?

Frederick: No.

Ray: No.

Frederick: Getting just use it that's all.

Ray: Just one team, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Never get tired, eh?

Frederick: No.

Ray: So sometimes you work with him, eh, McInnis?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Lots of people work for him too?

Frederick: Lots. Yeah, lots of people.

Ray: Did he go up north to Descharme Lake and Lloyd Lake up that way?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: So when did you come to La Loche?

Frederick: Gosh, what I stayed 50, 50 years I will stay here, La Loche.

Ray: In La Loche?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Fifty years?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: So after you came from school, McMurray, you came to live here?

Frederick: Yeah. I don't stay in the summertime.

Ray: Yeah, you go, eh.

Frederick: Just go. And wintertime I come back. And summertime I go back. See I go just working. Sometimes stay winter McMurray, see. Sometimes I stay Cheecham when the fish bring into Cheecham, you know. They make everyone box and after you put the ice, and after you put fish then you put ice again, and you put fish like this in one full box.

Ray: How many fish would be in that box?

Frederick: About a 100, sometimes 116, sometimes 150 pound.

Ray: A 150 pound fish.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: How many boxes on one sled with the horses?

Frederick: Oh about -- I can't say but there'd be lots of fish.

Ray: Can't remember, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, can't remember.

Ray: How many boxes, about ten boxes on a sled?

Frederick: Oh, more than that.

Ray: More.

Frederick: Yeah. Because that sled box, you know, they'd be high. They'd be a foot high. They'd be in a top you put five on. There'd be 40 boxes, I think.

Ray: Forty?

Frederick: Yeah. I think.

Ray: Forty boxes of fish on one sled?

Frederick: Yeah. Because four horses, you know, four horses, big horses too. Easy to pull.

Ray: Even that much?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: That would be heavy.

Frederick: Heavy, sure heavy.

Ray: Did they have to bring hay for the horses to eat?

Frederick: Yeah, oats.

Ray: Oats, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Did another sleigh bring the oats?

Frederick: Yeah. No. Who uses the horses, you know, who uses the sled, use horses, he got himself oats. And old hay tight, you know, for wire.

Ray: Bales of hay, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah.

Ray: There was room for that too and the fish?

Frederick: Yeah, on top.

Ray: Everything on top, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. And blanket on the top. There's grub, too, at the top.

Ray: Must have been hard work.

Frederick: Boy, nobody can do this now.

Ray: No.

Frederick: No, nobody can do anything now. This time (inaudible). Just drink beer, that's all. (laughs) Yeah.

Ray: So you had a house over West La Loche?

Frederick: West La Loche.

Ray: At that time?

Frederick: A long time, yeah, before.

Ray: Before there was no town here, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. When my mother stay with me at that house, West La Loche, and after that I move this side.

Ray: When did you move here, this side?

Frederick: About 20 years.

Ray: Twenty years ago?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Why did you come to this side?

Frederick: Well, everything going this way, you see. Before the Hudson's Bay store see, you know Hudson's Bay store, West La Loche. And there's Hudson's Bay store going, and after everybody move here.

Ray: Everybody did?

Frederick: Yeah, because no store, you know. Sometime bad weather, cold, and nobody can come every day, you know.

Ray: Why did the Bay move over here? Why didn't they build a new store over there?

Frederick: Because that place no good, that's what I hear. The plane can't stop good, you know, it can't plan it good. And that's why the Hudson's Bay move this side, and from here the plane go that way, go this way (inaudible). Maybe the wind is north and river is straight, you know, that's why it's hard too for an airplane, you know.

Ray: Before that, long time ago, the mission was over here, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, long time, first time, long time.

Ray: I wonder why the mission came here first instead of in West La Loche.

Frederick: Oh, well long time (inaudible) old-timer right here, you know, the priest he got a little shack.

Ray: Over here, or over there?

Frederick: All over.

Ray: Yeah, all over, eh.

Frederick: West La Loche too, before. See little shack, he learned to somebody everything, you know. And after he'd go like this, sometimes he'd come here, sometime he'd go to some place, (inaudible). It's hard to say that.

Ray: So he had lots of houses around, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Garson Lake too?

Frederick: Yeah. All over, even the bush.

Ray: Yeah. So he had church service with just a few people, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: And then one time I heard a long time ago, over on this point over here there's a church.

Frederick: Here, here that's what I mean, you know. That's what I said -- all over. Churches there, you know, (?) Lake, church where they learn, he'd learn everybody.

Ray: He'd teach everybody, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, that's right. And sometimes if (inaudible) and after he'd come here. And when he stay here, he stay here.

Ray: Before, he used to be always moving around, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: But then when he came to this side, just stays right here, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh boy before, hard.

Ray: Went by dog team?

Frederick: Dog team. Somebody sick, he want to see the priest through dark, he go all over.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah. This time (inaudible).

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Did you come to this place first, or where did you live before?

Frederick: West La Loche.

Ray: You lived West La Loche and then you came over here?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Did you build this house?

Frederick: Yeah. No, this house.

Ray: Or this one?

Frederick: I made it, but they are not hard to make new house over there. I sell that house, you know. I don't really live all the time here see, sometimes wintertime, maybe sometime summer. I stay all over, you see.

Ray: Did you take your wife with you or not?

Frederick: No, no.

Ray: No. Didn't want to go, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. Because there's another one they stay here see, and he stay with his mother when I go someplace.

Ray: Oh yeah. Did you ever work on bringing freight from Ile-a-la-Crosse, with a sleigh?

Frederick: No, no, no, not me. Somebody, not me. I don't go this way see.

Ray: No. This way, eh?

Frederick: This way.

Ray: Always over McMurray, eh?

Frederick: Alberta. No, this way.

Ray: Before when there was no road to La Loche, they used to bring freight from the train, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, from Cheecham.

Ray: From Cheecham.

Frederick: From here. From Cheecham from here.

Ray: How did they do that, with horses?

Frederick: Horses. Horses and dog, that's all.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah. No truck, no car, no plane nothing.

Ray: How about a cat? A caterpillar.

Frederick: Cat?

Ray: That's later, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: When they did it with horses, did they have cabooses there too?

Frederick: Yeah, cabooses.

Ray: With a little stove in it?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: When did they go there, in the wintertime, eh?

Frederick: Wintertime and Buffalo Lake, horses (?), oh somebody stay, you know, and big house see. And that's, they're out fishing on the lake.

Ray: They're fishing?

Frederick: Yeah. They took cabooses on the lake, you know.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah. When cold, you know, you make fire and fishing. When cold you go inside, be warm in the cabooses.

Ray: Yeah. Did they make many trips over there, or just once a year to Cheecham?

Frederick: To Cheecham? Oh about when they finish fishing, you finish. Every one week they'd go.

Ray: Once a week?

Frederick: Yeah. Sometimes two weeks, sometimes one week.

Ray: Yeah. How about for supplies, for the Bay store. They go there, over to Cheecham too?

Frederick: Yeah. And summertime to Big River.

Ray: Oh, by canoe?

Frederick: Yeah, paddling all the way. Yeah.

Ray: That's hard, boy. Did you ever work for the Bay in West La Loche?

Frederick: No. Work at Garson Lake.

Ray: You worked there?

Frederick: Yeah, for Hudson's Bay.

Ray: They had a Bay store at Garson Lake?

Frederick: Before.

Ray: When was that?

Frederick: A long time that before.

Ray: How old were you then at that time?

Frederick: About 30 years.

Ray: Thirty years old?

Frederick: Yeah. I don't stay long, you know, but I stay four years. I work there four years.

Ray: In Garson Lake?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Who was the Bay manager there?

Frederick: No, no manager, just me.

Ray: You?

Frederick: I looked after.

Ray: You ran the store?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: You're the manager, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Was it a big store?

Frederick: Yeah, big store.

Ray: Like this house?

Frederick: Yeah. From Cheecham I got freight, from Cheecham the cat, you know, the cat (inaudible) from Garson Lake, for me. Yeah.

Ray: Is that Brother's cat?

Frederick: No.

Ray: No.

Frederick: McInnis.

Ray: McInnis's cat. Oh yeah. So you ran the store there?

Frederick: Yeah. No manager here, Hudson's Bay manager. That's because I own the store, you know.

Ray: Oh yeah.

Frederick: Just that back part for the Hudson's Bay Company, you know. No manager, just me.

Ray: Who was the manager here at that time?

Frederick: I don't know, maybe Blackhall.

Ray: Blackhall?

Frederick: Yeah, Blackhall. He was in the war. That's what he told me. He marked his face with a big knife.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: In the war?

Frederick: Yeah, that's what he said. He took his knife and he got picture, you know, his picture. Show dress, the old boots, knife.

Ray: Yeah, in the war, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. And he got picture of that. Mark his face here too. Blackhall.

Ray: How long did he stay here?

Frederick: About three years. Jessie Chainowl, anyways, was a manager here. One is there four weeks, and one in three years, four years.

Ray: They don't stay long, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: So Blackhall got you to go to Garson make a store there, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah.

Ray: Was it a good store?

Frederick: A good store. And after, lots of people they move from Garson Lake, you know. That's why not many people there. That's why I quit.

Ray: Oh, you closed the store when they moved, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: They moved to West La Loche?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: I wonder why they moved to West La Loche.

Frederick: I don't know. Maybe it wouldn't be as hard, or get anything, you know.

Ray: They want to come to the store, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Maybe the mission too?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Is there any other stores in Garson Lake?

Frederick: No, not now, nothing.

Ray: No, but that time?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ray: Who had a store there?

Frederick: Oh no large store, you know.

Ray: No.

Frederick: Sometimes somebody got job to buy fur they take it (?) from here, you see, and the fur lays out and he sells a lot, you know. Yeah.

Ray: But not, not white people, eh?

Frederick: No.

Ray: Just Chipewyan people, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, that's all. No white people that time.

Ray: No. I heard -- did Robbie Fontaine have a store over there, Garson Lake?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah.

Ray: One time.

Frederick: Yeah. About one year finish. He's broke. Yeah.

Ray: Lost all his money, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: So you used to bring things from here over to Garson, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah.

Ray: For your store. Was there a road that way?

Frederick: Yes, the road go (?) and horses, in summertime take pack.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: The horses.

Ray: In the summer?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: All around the lake?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Down the south end...?

Frederick: No. Come here in the canoe.

Ray: Oh yeah.

Frederick: With some stuff in the canoe. They're going across West La Loche and after the horses to Garson Lake. We use the horses.

Ray: Were there many horses here in La Loche?

Frederick: Oh boy, lots. My sons have 40. Lots of cows, lots of bulls too sometime here, long time, old-timer. Lots of dogs, lots of horses, lots of bulls, lots of cows, lots.

Ray: Did the bulls pull the wagon too?

Frederick: Yeah, pull the wagon forward. Sometimes you take eight for themselves. Somebody uses scythe, you know scythe?

Ray: Yeah, to cut the hay.

Frederick: Yeah, cut the hay and make some big tacks, and after put in the sled. Big rack, you know, full of hay.

Ray: Where did they grow hay?

Frederick: Grow?

Ray: Yeah, where did they get it from?

Frederick: Well, it's there, what you call these, (?) Lake there. Something around the lake, Little Lake there. La Loche River it's name, La Loche River that way.

Ray: Bull's House?

Frederick: Yeah, yeah. On the river, lots of hay was there. Sometimes cross, across the lake. All over lots of hay.

Ray: Over at West La Loche too?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: So there was no trucks then, just lots of horses, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: How about the boats, did they have big boats too, or just canoes?

Frederick: Canoes that's, just canoe.

Ray: No sail, no big sails on them, eh?

Frederick: No.

Ray: Just paddle?

Frederick: Yeah, paddle. No kicker at that time.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah, good old Johnson, no kicker that way.

Ray: Just arms.

Frederick: No, sometimes were gonna use it, you know, brush in the bush, brush.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: You cut down and peel that, you know, from the top so that thing, you know, and no hole and make a little canoe. You use it.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: With the small sticks?

Frederick: Yeah. So that big brush, it's not that big, you know. As soon as you cut that thick, you see, and you (?) easy, see. It's not that wide. They use it for canoe.

Ray: Birch?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Birch bark?

Frederick: (inaudible).

Ray: Oh yeah, birch bark.

Frederick: Yeah, yeah.

Ray: Many people make it with that?

Frederick: Sure.

Ray: Birch.

Frederick: That's the way living, you know.

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Sometimes go in the bush and cut that.

Ray: It's not heavy, eh?

Frederick: Not heavy.

Ray: That's a good one.

Frederick: Yeah. And no nails. No nails at that time. You know that spruce?

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: Spuce from under, the roots. That is thick, you know, and cut it like that, you use his knife.

Ray: Put it in his teeth?

Frederick: Yeah, put it in his teeth and he pull it toward him, and he worked and he worked and he pull at it. It split in half. That's why; sew it.

Ray: Sew it with the spruce roots?

Frederick: Yeah, that's how you make canoe.

Ray: And then how do you make it waterproof? How do you keep the water out?

Frederick: Well, you use gum. You know, when you sew, when you sew...

Ray: Yeah.

Frederick: You put gum from the bush.

Ray: From the spruce, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, spruce gum.

Ray: That was a good one, eh?

Frederick: Yeah, but no water leak. No water in the canoe.

Ray: No.

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Anybody still know how to make those kind?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Some people still do?

Frederick: Sure, maybe somebody make it yet.

Ray: Yeah. But I don't see many, many big birch trees, eh?

Frederick: No.

Ray: You need a big one.

Frederick: You need a big one -- not a small one -- a big one.

Ray: A big birch tree, eh.

Frederick: (inaudible).

Ray: Where? Out by Clearwater River?

Frederick: And this way too. You have mountain, you go that big mountain over there, there big spruce, big birch.

Ray: Birch, eh? Yeah.

Frederick: And the river to Clearwater, yeah.

Ray: Some people used to go up there and make it, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: It's a good boat. How did they make the barges, a big barge?

Frederick: Barge? Oh, you just use lumber.

Ray: From the sawmill?

Frederick: Yeah, from the sawmill, you use lumber -- that's easy.

Ray: Do you remember when Brother came to La Loche,
Brother Vachon?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: That was about, when -- 1946, or something like that?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Did he build the sawmill?

Frederick: Yeah, sawmill here.

Ray: Yeah, he built it, eh?

Frederick: Yeah.

Ray: Lots of people help him build that?

Frederick: Yeah, lots of people.

Ray: So the mission paid people to work for them, eh?

Frederick: Yeah. Oh that time I don't think there's big sawmill
here. No, I don't know that. I thought I mean Fort Chip
sawmill, big sawmill, Fort Chip. Here, I don't know
(inaudible) long time that would be sawmill here, you see.

Ray: In Fort Chip there was a big sawmill?

Frederick: Oh yes, still. When we saw two the first thing --
oh yeah...

(END OF SIDE B)

(END OF TAPE)

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