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HENRY PELLETIER

Mr. Pelletier was brought up in the Lestock area of Saskatchewan but moved to Green Lake under the Metis resettlement program.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Metis resettlement program.
- Life in Green Lake in the 1940s.
- Metis Association of Saskatchewan, the early days.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Henry Pelletier is a Metis born and raised in Lestock near Regina. In 1949 the white community, in the person of one of the councillors of the municipality, told the Metis families - many of them living on road allowances - that there was land for them at Green Lake. They were promised 40 acres, assistance in setting up farms and relief to live on until they were able to clear their land. They were told there was work to be had. Henry Pelletier and his wife Liza took them up on

the offer and left for Green Lake with several other families. Pelletier tells the story of that trip and the disappointing results.

INTERVIEW:

Henry: The councillor, Harry Paling, he come at home when I was living, he come and offered me this, to go to Green Lake. And I had four good horses that time, young, fairly young. Four and five years old and stuff like that, you know. They were good.

Murray: You lived at Lebret? Is that where?

Henry: No, no, at Lestock.

Murray: Lestock.

Henry: West of Lestock. I was living in little Joe's place as I was telling you, you know. That's when Harry Paling came along, him and another councillor.

Murray: He was councillor for that area was he?

Henry: Yeah, yeah, Leross and Lestock, see. That's all the same municipality, Leross and there. And he says to me, "We're going to offer you a deal," he says. "We want people to go to Green Lake." "Well," I says, "that all depends." I says, "What we get or how are we going to go there?" "Oh, going over there ain't going to cost you nothing," he says. "Put you on the train and all you got, we'll put it on the train, and you're horses. All you need is a team," he says. "Well," I says, "I got four." "Oh," he says, "we can't take your four." "Well," I says, "if that's the case, I'm not going no place. Because what's the horses worth now. These are young horses I got and they are good. I'm not just going to throw them away here," I said. "Somebody else pick them up. No deal if that's - throw away a couple of my horses - I'm not going." "Oh well," he says, "if that's the way you look at it, we'll take your four." I says, "All right." So we took my four. Then as he said, we were loading up there and we seen the smoke. That was Chicago outfit, the house was a little shack. Well, they had some pretty fair shack lumber.

Murray: That's what they called the area was Chicago, eh?

Henry: Yeah, Chicago. All along there, you know.

Murray: How many houses were there there?

Henry: Oh, I couldn't just tell you right offhand. There was quite a few. All I know is that Mike Pelletier, Baptiste Pelletier and Frank Denomie and Edward Denomie and old Joe Harry Pelletier, they all live on the line there. They had some pretty fair shacks.

Murray: These were log houses, were they?

Henry: They were log houses with a lumber roof and good floors. Oh, they were fit to live in. That's where they lived all the time. We didn't even leave Lestock, that great big smoke, that was them houses burnt. Now who the hell got paid to go and...?

Murray: Did you ever find out who burnt them?

Henry: No, no...

Murray: That was the government then.

Henry: Well, it must've... either the government or the municipality. I think it was the municipality.

Murray: Was there a lot of pressure from white people to force you out?

Henry: Well no, not really. At least nobody ever come and said anything to me. Only I know that there are lots, they were against the Metis people because they were on social aid. I know that much for myself. But nobody said, "You shouldn't be on relief, you should be working."

Murray: Nobody said nothing to you?

Henry: Nobody would come say anything to you. But you know, that's how it was. So when they offer me the deal, "All right," I says, "I'll go over there and see."

Murray: What did they offer you? What was the deal?

Henry: Well, they told me, old Harry Paling come and told me, "The government will give you 40 acres," he says, "and you can build your house on there." And he said, "There is always work in Green Lake." Well I found out it wasn't that goddamn fancy. I kind of figured out, hell, they didn't want to give everybody work. He says, "You can always go and work in the lumber camp." That's miles away, I seen after that. And then we went. When we got over there, there was nothing what I was told over there.

Murray: How many people went with you?

Henry: Oh Jesus, I don't know. A whole trainload.

Murray: What kind of train was it?

Henry: The horses went in the big cattle cars, you know. And our wagons and stuff like that, I had a wagon and buggy, we put them on a...

Murray: Flat car?

Henry: No, no, on a closed in box car, you know. And the horses, there were two car loads, I think, of horses. And we had a coach there for people. Oh, we were all right as far as the trip, and they take us as far as Meadow Lake. At Meadow Lake we were all taken off the train. We unloaded everything there and then a truck hauled the stuff from Meadow Lake to Green Lake. That Metis farm truck, a big three ton truck, he hauled all that stuff over fields, that guy went quite a bit.

I knew I had some of my stuff there and they had a big hall in Green Lake. They hauled all this stuff over there, you see.

Murray: Was there a road or was it just...?

Henry: Oh, there was a good road up to Green Lake. Yeah. But that's quite a while, 37 miles I think it was. This big truck hauled it. And when he hauled everything, we hitched up, put on our wagons and tent and bedclothes and we moved over there. (Inaudible) like you know. When we got over there, I looked for all this fancy stuff, work and everything they were talking about. There wasn't a goddamn thing I could see. So killing time around there, I heard they wanted a man on that Metis farm they got there, you know, this small little farm. I went to work over there.

Murray: That was a government farm wasn't it?

Henry: Yeah, it was a government farm, yeah. And the guy there, I forgot more about farming than he ever knew. He was kind of a young guy. Oh, I had more goddamn trouble with him than anything else. He didn't know the first goddamn thing about farming and yet he was supposed to show me how to farm. I cursed him one day. I said, "Son of a bitch, you just ain't going to get along with me." So I quit there and I come back to Green Lake. That's six miles away, you know. I come back to Green Lake and Gilbert and I, that's my cousin, "How the hell is it here?" "Oh," he says, "we can't do a damn thing here. There is nothing we can do." So I says, "To hell with this," I says, "I'm going home. I don't know who's all going to come but I ain't saying nothing. I'm going to hitch up my team come morning and I'm getting the hell out of here. I'm

going to sell what I got and that's it." So I told a few there, a few of these Green Lake guys, you know. I was never a rich man myself but the guys around there, they only had homemade tables, little benches, you know, stoves. There was none of them had chairs like we have here, none of them. You know, they were arguing about this, this stuff we had. I had a round table that time, you know, bought and a few chairs like this and that. And a cupboard...

Murray: More things than the people in Green Lake had.

Henry: Oh Christ, mine was a king's stuff, what we had. I'm

telling you, this is the truth. And you know, they were arguing there who's going to buy that and who wants that. They were arguing. Oh cripe, I sold my stuff in about a half an hour, an hour or something and everything was gone. Gilbert had the same. The same damn thing with Gilbert. He sold everything there.

Murray: Did a lot of people turn around right away and just, like you or...?

Henry: They bought the damn stuff and run away with it just like that, hauling the darn stuff away. A few chairs, you know what I say.

Murray: So they were even poorer than you were.

Henry: Oh Christ, you can say that again. I said there was nothing there to go for.

Mrs. Pelletier: And I had big crocks, you know. I had quite a few of those and I sold them like nothing.

Henry: Oh, I'm telling you, they were arguing there who was going to buy this, who wants that and they were arguing.

Murray: How many people went back to Lestock then?

Henry: Oh, the whole damn bunch. There was only old Andrew Morris from Punnichy, he stayed. And a fellow by the name of Joe Harry Pelletier. He was a bachelor, you know. He got married over there so he stayed. But he didn't live very long, he died. And old Edward Denomie. He married a squaw, you know. Well one them guys took his wife away from him. That same woman got killed that fall, from the guy that she went with. So that left Edward with nothing. He come back.

Murray: So not very many people stayed.

Henry: There was only two that stayed over there.

Murray: There were people who came to Green Lake from other places too were there? Besides Lestock?

Henry: I didn't see any.

Murray: Just from Lestock, eh?

Henry: Just from Lestock, yeah.

Murray: What year was that?

Henry: That was in 1949 was it?

Mrs. Pelletier: Yeah.

Henry: 1949, yeah. That year.

Murray: Because they had started even earlier than that I think, hadn't they? Bringing people in? 1940?

Henry: Well, I don't know. I never heard of any, that's the only time I heard plain is that I say...

Murray: 1949.

Henry: Yeah, 1949, the spring. Well, we left on June I think, wasn't it? I think it was in June when we left. I stayed over there a little better than a month. I seen there wasn't no goddamn way I can make it go, make myself a house, my barn and make feed for my horses. There was two days, three days work a week. How the hell are you going to make it go? Buy all your groceries and your windows.

Murray: Where was there for you to live when you were up there?

Henry: They had this road there to, where the hell is it? That road that comes from Green Lake and you go to, what the hell, I can't remember the name. It's a highway, a highway takes off from Green Lake going to that place...

Unknown: Towards Beauval?

Henry: Oh, I don't know where the hell it went.

Unknown: Go north?

Henry: Go northwest.

Unknown: Northwest, then it went to Beauval.

Henry: Well, all alongside that road there was, here this is yours and this is yours, all 40 acres. You know, they had surveyed that all along there. But Christ, the goddamn bush was as thick as you can get it.

Murray: It was bush, solid bush.

Henry: Yeah, solid bush. Well, you know, Harry Paling there come and told me, he says, "You won't have no hard time," he says. "Until you settle they are going to give you social aid. You can live. You don't have to worry about your living." It was absolutely a different tune when we got over there.

Murray: What did they say when you got there?

Henry: There was just no relief, you've got to go to work. Well, how the hell are you going to do it, try and do all your work and then go and work three days a week.

Murray: And clear the land, too.

Henry: Clear the land and make your buildings. How the hell are we going to do it? There was no way. I seen that. I said, "To hell with this."

Murray: Who were the people that you saw in Green Lake? Was it provincial government people that were there or..?

Henry: Well, there was an officer, they got an officer.

Mrs. Pelletier: Elliot.

Henry: Elliot was the name of him.

Murray: A natural resources man? Was that what he was doing?

Henry: Well, I don't know what he was. He was a big shot there, you know. Anything happened, go and see him, he'd tell you all about it. But he couldn't just give you anything you wanted, you know, you were supposed to go to work on it.

Unknown: (Inaudible)

Henry: Yeah, something like that.

Murray: He was a municipal man?

Henry: Yeah, I guess so. So, there was nothing he could do. There was no use going anyplace, that was the only one you could use. I went to him. "Oh," he says, "I only get orders, I can't give you anything. I'm not supposed to," he says.

Murray: Not supposed to give you relief?

Henry: Not supposed to, no. And yet Paling come and told me I'd get all the help I want until I have all my buildings built and ready to get out and go to work. But how the hell was I going to do that? No way.

Murray: And there was nowhere for you to live, no houses or...?

Henry: No houses, anything. I had lived in a house there, a fellow by the name of Obishon(?). He says, "I got a little shack here," he says. "If you want to live there till you get started," he said, "you can." So I went and lived in his house until I was ready to come home. I sold all my stuff right there, to hell with it. I had my horses. I says, "To hell with it, I'm going back."

Mrs. Pelletier: And the chairs were made with little logs, you know. And there was a board like this, put them on and just sit there.

Henry: All homemade stuff. There was nothing bought.

Murray: A really poor community.

Henry: Really poor community. As I say, I never was rich but, by God, I had more stuff than ten of them had over there.

Mrs. Pelletier: And they wore moccasins.

Murray: Did most of the people around there just live off the land then? They trapped...?

Henry: Well, I don't know, they go all over.

Murray: They hunted and fished and...

Henry: They know the places, see. They just know where you're going to make a dollar and all that stuff. They know all about it. What the hell did we know about that? They know how it is. And then there was a hell of a bunch of them; a lot of them were on social aid I guess, for all I know. But there was none of them dress up even like we were. All homemade moccasins and stuff like that, you know, everybody. But this is all that.

Murray: So as soon as you saw that, you knew there was no...

Henry: I know that. I tried to figure out how the hell was I going to make it go. There was no way and I finally told her, I says, "I can't see no way we can make it go here. How the hell are we going to live this winter?"

Mrs. Pelletier: And then you should have seen his face, the way it looked for those black flies. They were big.

Henry: Them little wee black flies. I had a face about like that. I was working out in the field when I went to work on the farm there. These little flies, you know. I put stuff on but that don't last. They just keep on, you know. They lit that and then they'd get you, and oh, he was about that big. I was in hell of a shape.

Mrs. Pelletier: Yeah, and the horses were bleeding, you know.

Murray: You didn't have those in the south.

Henry: No, no, no, nothing like that. And the goddamn mosquitoes, you could use them as a milk stool, they were that big. Oh, they had big mosquitoes, bull dogs.

Mrs. Pelletier: I didn't like it.

Henry: Oh, well, a horse has got no chance to go out through the day.

Mrs. Pelletier: We had to make things for them, you know, like ear muffs and..

Murray: Just drive the horses crazy.

Henry: Drive the horses crazy. My mother was living that time. She made me, for the horses, you know, put their ears in. Then that way they were all right. I used to rub them with axle grease around here and they worked that way. That was the only way you could do it, you know.

Murray: So you sold everything you had?

Henry: Everything I had.

Murray: Except for one team?

Henry: Oh, I kept my horses. Don't worry, I wasn't going to get rid of my horses.

Mrs. Pelletier: He only kept our bedding.

Henry: Yeah, I kept the bedding and I had a tent. We come home on that.

Murray: How long did it take you to go by horse back to Lestock?

Henry: Two weeks. Of course, I killed a lot of time on the road. Me and Gilbert, we went alone. We used to pull the two wagons together like this and stick the tent in between. We didn't have to drive no pickets. Carried on the wagon and, oh hell. Sometimes we stop a little early. Sometimes on the road, the lake when it was fit, someplace with nice feed. Well, we'd stop. There's a good place to stop for the night, all right, we'd pull in there. That's the way we made it go all the way.

Murray: Were there other people coming back with you or...?

Henry: Not with me, no.

Murray: Just the two of you then?

Henry: Just the two of us. As I say, Gilbert and the two families. He's my cousin.

Mrs. Pelletier: And we had a she-dog. You should have seen her feet, all bleeding, you know, from running.

Murray: From running alongside?

Henry: Yeah. I used to put her in the wagon and let her ride. So it was hard, I'm telling you.

Murray: Your house had been burnt when you got back to Lestock had it?

Henry: I didn't have a house. I was living out on a fellow, a

friend's of mine.

Murray: Oh that's right, you said that, yeah.

Henry: Joe Desjarlais, I was living...

Murray: And he was still there.

Henry: He was still there, his house was there. "Oh," he said, "the house is open, go on right in. You didn't have to come and ask me in the first place, go ahead." So I went right back to where I was. But the other fellows, everything was burnt right down, you know.

Murray: How many houses do you think were burnt? Twenty?

Henry: Oh, no not that many. Oh, six or seven.

Murray: Six or seven, eh?

Henry: Yeah.

Murray: Now, when you decided to go to Green Lake, what made you decide? You thought that things were going to be better there than they were in Lestock?

Henry: Well, as I said, these guys, you see, I always think they got paid. Don't say nothing but I think, but Joe Lafontaine, Mike Pelletier, Frank Denomie, those four, ah, Norman Lafontaine from Lestock, he's still there. They went there to see and they come and told me. That Joe Lafontaine,

he didn't want to say too damn much to me because he was my stepbrother and my cousin at the same time. He didn't want to say too much to me, you know. "Oh, it's good," he says, "they make it all right." The others, oh God, they were blowing about that place. "People don't even go home for dinner. They have their dinner in the cafe. River right there, you can fish or you can catch lots right there."

Murray: Sounds good.

Henry: Sounds good, yeah. But I always had a doubt, you know.

Mrs. Pelletier: I didn't want to go.

Henry: But these fellows, "Oh, God, that's the place we want to go."

Murray: And they all went too did they?

Henry: They all went, the whole damn works, too.

Mrs. Pelletier: Like a bunch of fools.

Henry: Yeah.

Murray: What was the land that you were living on in Lestock? Were you, did you own that land or how...?

Mrs. Pelletier: We were on the road allowance.

Murray: Road allowance?

Henry: We weren't on the road allowance. Are you crazy?

Mrs. Pelletier: Yeah.

Henry: Where! Are you crazy?

Mrs. Pelletier: On Chicago Street.

Henry: Oh that Chicago, we never lived in Chicago.

Mrs. Pelletier: Well, we stayed with your mother.

Henry: Oh, for damn little.

Mrs. Pelletier: Well.

Henry: But we lived at little Joe's place all the time.

Mrs. Pelletier: Oh, yeah.

Murray: But some of the people lived on Chicago Street.

Henry: Mostly, yeah.

Murray: And that was a road allowance.

Henry: That was a road allowance, that's right. But I always lived at little Joe's place over there and a place north there. That's not road allowance.

Mrs. Pelletier: Yeah, before that.

Unknown: That was mostly the old Metis people at that time were living on road allowances and...

Murray: They'd been forced onto the road allowances.

Henry: Yeah, well, that's about the size of it.

Murray: How many Metis families were there in that whole area do you think? Around Lestock?

Henry: Oh Jesus...

Murray: Not just there but all...

Henry: But you know, there were quite a few stayed. They didn't want to go. They stayed there. They were scared they were going to get caught the way we were. There was only a

bunch of crazy buggers, well, we were going to go and make it big. We took off, and then that's what we got.

Murray: So you got fooled and they were right.

Henry: They were right. They laughed at me after that. "Oh Green Lake, how much money did you make?" Stuff like that, you know.

Murray: So you got teased about that?

Henry: Oh, sure I got teased about that.

Murray: Well, at least you had a house to come back to.

Henry: Yeah, oh I had a house, yeah, little Joe's house. I used to ride for that guy years ago. I was pretty good friends with him. He said, "Sure, that little shack, there is a little house in there. Just move right in there." He had little barns there.

Murray: You had some land then at Lestock?

Henry: No.

Murray: What did you use the horses for when you were at Lestock?

Henry: Well, I used them for hauling wood and stuff like that, you know.

Murray: That was the work you did?

Henry: That was the work I did. I used to haul a few loads now and again to town, you know. Take one team today and take the other team tomorrow. Wouldn't work much but see, if you do nothing through the summer, they'd cut you off, you wouldn't get nothing, you know. So I had to make a few dollars. I used to haul a few loads to Lestock.

Murray: So there wasn't much work in the winter but there was some work in the summer?

Henry: Some work in the summer. Of course, there was a big reserve there. The Indians, whatever Indians, they killed(?) the first ones. I only get two dollars and a half a load with three good loads.

Murray: Because the Indians would sell it for less?

Henry: Less than that, you know. Small little loads and they'd sell it for less than that. That's the way it was.

Murray: So that conditions were pretty poor even in Lestock?

Henry: Oh, yes. Well, if it had been good I wouldn't have

went. And I used to go and work for this, the next one of little Joe's place, Auley. I used to go and work for him a few days now and again. That's where I made it go. That's quite a while ago, I could put in a pretty good day's work. Threshing time I was always out. I had my team and I would go threshing. That's the way it went.

Murray: How did the Metis people get along with the white people of Lestock and that area? Did they get along all right or was there some hard feelings about...?

Henry: Well, I'll tell you the truth. Well, I shouldn't say this but the...

Murray: If it's the truth, you should say it.

Henry: You know, the white man always kind of didn't like the breed because you're a breed, you're on social aid, you're not as good as I am.

Murray: Right. A second class citizen.

Henry: Yeah. They wouldn't go and associate with you like they would their own race, their own families. That's the way I found it. I never bothered nobody really but these guys that I know, like Auley's dad, a fellow by the name of (inaudible). I was pretty good friends with him because I used to go and work for them anytime they had a little job. They just had to come across, "Come on to work," I was ready to go.

Murray: Right. But the white people never said anything like that but you got that feeling that...?

Henry: You got that feeling, you know, and you know...

Murray: When someone doesn't like you.

Henry: Yeah, you know. That's the way it was there.

Murray: Could you ever figure out who was behind the idea? It was the municipality, I suppose.

Henry: The municipality, the reeve and all that. Old Harry Paling, he lived alongside of the Metis people all his life. He was kind of a fair man but a council for in a municipality, he ain't got a lot to say, you know that.

Unknown: They would pay the guys the social aid, eh. That time I think they called it relief.

Henry: Relief, yeah, that's what it was.

Unknown: Because I remember my dad used to be on relief there.

Henry: But old Harry, he was a pretty fair guy. He looked at

you just like one of his own because he lived alongside the Metis people all his life. He was born there. I believe he's still alive, old Harry.

Murray: So that's why you trusted him when he told you this?

Henry: Sure. Well, I guess he was told by the municipality, "See how many of them buggers you can get to go up north. Get rid of them for once."

Murray: That's what they wanted to do?

Henry: Yeah, sure.

Murray: To get rid of you?

Henry: Yeah. Old Harry he told me, he says, "It's up to you but what they tell me, you're going to get a lot of work over there." Well, you know, bull shit.

Murray: As far as you knew, the provincial government wasn't involved in this at all, it was just the municipal people was it? The councillors?

Henry: Well, I don't know how you'd say this, whether the government or just the municipality, I don't know. I can't tell you that much because I really don't know.

Murray: And you couldn't find out when you got back who it was that burnt down those houses?

Henry: No, no. I believe that goddamn old bastard and crook, Lafontaine in Lestock. I think he had a lot to do with that.

Murray: So he was in cahoots with them?

Henry: Yeah, he was in cahoots with these guys in Leross, you see. Well, he had to be. If he was on social aid, he'd be on with the town. He wouldn't be with Leross. And knowing him, anything to do around Lestock, he knew about it.

Murray: So he was part of it?

Henry: Yeah, he was part of it, I know. But I can't just quite say here if (inaudible) burnt down them shacks 'cause I can't say that 'cause I didn't see him.

Murray: Right. Nobody actually seen it.

Henry: No, no.

Unknown: Some of them guys that were staying behind would be the only people who knew who burned them down.

Murray: Was the Metis Society active in those days?

Henry: No, not a goddamn thing. I never was for the Metis Society anyway.

Murray: It had been active before that, years before that.

Henry: Well, they had to try. They started it before that...

Unknown: They had a Metis Association at that time. That was the name of it at that time.

Henry: Yeah, that's what it was. It's not this here Metis Society. It had a different name.

Unknown: The Metis Society formed in the early sixties.

Henry: I forget what year it was.

Unknown: (Inaudible)

Murray: There was one started up in the thirties.

Henry: Well, that's the one, the Metis Society.

Unknown: That was the Association.

Murray: But in 1949 there wasn't a...

Henry: No, there wasn't a damn thing like that, no.

Murray: So there was no one to represent you at all?

Henry: No, no.

Unknown: There was some here in Regina. Knopf was the secretary at that time but they only had just a small local here in Regina. And I don't think it went on the provincial scale, not like the Metis Society had done that.

Murray: What years would that have been?

Unknown: Well, this was during the late forties and into about 1952/53 and then I think they...

Murray: Just sort of died off, eh?

Unknown: Just sort of died off because they weren't getting any help from the government and people were starting to argue amongst themselves because one guy was the president and he was getting a little rake off them there and, you know, then they started accusing everybody...

Murray: There was jealousies and suspicions and...

Unknown: Started doing that. All the jealousies and, the same thing that happened, pretty near all the Metis people now. Even the Metis Society had it's growing pains when it was

growing. Joe Amyotte started it in Qu'Appelle. It was working real good until he got ahold of one people and they said, "Well, he's stealing the money."

Murray: He's out for himself or something.

Unknown: Yeah, he was going from town to town then and he had no money so you couldn't expect him to go from town to town on his own money. You know, even though he did spend an awful lot of money on his own. And then we started making dances at Qu'Appelle and things like that. They want to get a little income started so he could get some gas money to go around. And the town people of Qu'Appelle helped quite a bit because they come in as associate members and something... it was a dollar but some of them would throw in five dollars, you know.

Murray: Whatever they had.

Unknown: Yeah, you know, to help the Metis Society get started. And after that when it started, people started to say, "Well Joe is stealing the money." Yet his books was laid out for them, you know, and every cent that he spent was recorded. Not like the Metis Society after Jim Sinclair took over.

Murray: The one you're talking about now is the one he started in 1964, I guess, eh?

Henry: Yeah, something like that.

Murray: 1963 or '64.

Unknown: It was about 1964, yeah.

Murray: He later on got a government grant to help, but at that point it was just Metis people putting money in.

Unknown: Just our own, just our own around Qu'Appelle. We'd put up dances and bingos and things like that to get it on the road.

Henry: We done a lot of that to start off this Metis Society. They are really going good. But I'll tell you what was wrong with Joe, he depended on too many people. He trusted everybody. You or anybody else, they were an honest man same as he was. And that is what Jim Sinclair started, a bunch of crooks. Well, there you are today.

Murray: He was too trusting.

Henry: He was too trusting. He trusted everybody.

Mrs. Pelletier: That's true.

Henry: Yeah, she was the secretary when we were in Qu'Appelle.

Murray: Oh, is that right?

Henry: Yeah.

Murray: Do you remember, was that 1964? Was that the year it started?

Mrs. Pelletier: Well, I have a bunch of papers in there.

Murray: Do you?

Henry: It's all about meetings and...

Mrs. Pelletier: I was a board of director one time. But I didn't like it, you know. I didn't quite understand some of the words. I wasn't well-educated.

Henry: Well, as he says, you know, that's what was wrong with Joe. Joe had been a little strict, he might have still got that thing going really good.

Murray: He treated people like he expected to be treated and...

Henry: Yeah, yeah, that's right, but they're different.

Murray: Yeah.

Henry: Nowadays you know, you don't know who's a crook and who is your friend.

Murray: That's for sure.

Mrs. Pelletier: Oh this year, when Diane was the secretary. This is all his stuff here.

Unknown: Should have brought over, that one paper I got there from...

Mrs. Pelletier: There is all kinds of paper here.

(break in tape)

Murray: ...some of the delegates that voted for Sinclair or for Adams were actually paid to do that?

Unknown: Yes, I know that.

Murray: Is that a fact?

Unknown: Yeah. That's a fact. I'll tell you, when we had that meeting in Prince Albert, the girls that were supposed to count the ballots that day were being paid to keep their mouth shut. And this James Parisien was the one that announced that Dr. Howard Adams had won by a few votes. And it was actually the other way around. It was actually Joe that won it. And when he announced it over the P.A. system that Dr. Howard Adams

won, he just turned red as a beet. I knew he was lying and I told Joe, "Get up there and demand a recount or get somebody from the outside and come here and count them votes." And Joe got disheartened then and he says, "To heck with it."

Murray: If they are going to do that then he didn't care.

Henry: Yeah, well...

Murray: So he had actually won that election.

Henry: Sure he did. We know that. Those girls there, you know...

Unknown: And there was supposed to have been, some say that the girls, if the rest of us guys wanted that, we could get ahold of them and they would go to court and say that they were paid off to keep their mouths shut.

Murray: So they would've testified, eh?

Henry: Oh, they'd have been scared into it, yeah. They were just young girls, you know. It would've been easy to scare them into it.

Murray: I wonder if they would still...?

Unknown: Oh, I doubt it.

Murray: Be too long now, I guess.

Unknown: I wouldn't even know the girls' names any more.

Henry: No, I wouldn't know either.

Unknown: I don't think anybody even recorded their names down at that time.

Mrs. Pelletier: I think there is bills there that we paid, that he paid for. Bingos and stuff like that. Lunches, like you know. And the bills were there too, as well. Kept everything.

(End of Side A)

(End of Interview)

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