

THE BRADY SISTERS: DOROTHY CHAPMAN ANNE WALTHER SISTER BRADY

Transcribed by David Morin

TAPE ; SIDE "A"

A father was very tolerant

D early years Jim stayed with Louis and aunt Bessie

came out of the convent about ' went in about

first went to St Paul Father moved to LLB (Lac La Biche)

A totaly (sic) disinterested in power could have had power if he had chosen to He was a humanitarian He took many law cases and paid for them He took one case to the privy council (sic) the case of a widow killed in WW he felt (sic) a great duty to war widow and orphans His wife ran the farm and business He was not a politician an intellectual He influenced Jim regarding concern for the downtrodden

Socialism in those days not accepted by Fr Can Catholics Jim saw many of the inequalities of the system dad influenced Jim like he did all the family all the children are in the service field teaching nursing nun

Mother had decided opinions mostly coincided with father She wasn't ambitious Her mother nursed the whole community obly (sic) one between there and Edmonton for a long while She would often be called out in the middle of the nite (sic) for a tub of butter or some such thing For a quart of strawberries Mother also influenced him in terms of generosity Story of Jim giving away meat to less fortunate

Mentions that there have been derogatory books written about the family Can't recall her father ever saying a mean or prjudicial (sic) thing She didn't experience real disc until she went to the U S

Tolerance was a religion in the family

Mother was a very strong woman stronger than father in some ways She was stronger in action than father Father would agree that something should be done but not initiate the action mother would he wasn't a disciplinarian at all mother was the disc She didn't punish people or get angry but she made sure things were done Father couldn't stand to see people cry just had to cry and you'd get what you wanted Can't recall ever quarelling (sic) had great respect for her Grandfather was a very well read man Father would vivit (sic) grandfather to have a tlk (sic) and this is how the courtship started It wasn't obvious or formal courtship Father had been seminarian Father never worked for the RR Father didn't come immediately to Alta doesn't know why he came to edmonton (sic)

In the early days in St Paul only the priest and father spoke English "J" the French gaurded (sic) their community very closely and jealously Everyone spoke French Father wrote all the ltters (sic) to officials etc Judge came once a year Father was allowed to practice even tho he never passed the bar exams At the time there were very few metis there mostly French There had been a reserve

Mentions a book about early St Paul (sic) by a Druand Mentions that his family treated the Brady's as second class citizens very strong racism by the French The most insular town she has ever seen and it remianed (sic) that way for years She left St Paul in '

SIBLING RIVALRY between Jim and Ann because she was first born but not a boy European tradition saw the first son as most important

Found it very difficult Jim from babyhood a very bright and intelligent boy Read at four years and had a photographic memory Recalls him reading the lettering on the stove Doesn't know how he learned

JIMMY from he was a rather sickly child For some years it thought he had TB He went into the bush with his father and came out a very strong and healthy child Very religious as a child Made sure that the sisters and brothers went to mass etc

describes the religious rituals the stations of the cross Describes how Jim would make them follow around the stations everyday He was a born leader Even when he lost his religion he made sure they got to mass and with no ifs and buts Father never pushed the issue at all but Jim did He wouldn't go

end himself Jim was about thirty Doesn't know where or how he lost his religion

SIDE "B"

"A" he was not a crusader in his early days he never condemned the catholic church refelected (sic) the tolerance that was learned in the family never lost his respect for priests He could discuss all religions as well Would spend hours clippings from newspapers and books Neber (sic) read without taking notes We wouldn't see him for days Father had a good library inherited from grandfather ans (sic) another fellow Jack Green had books as well

Jim more attached to father than mother Mother's discipline was a reasonable kind and would not have been resented by Jim or others Always had a reason for giving instruction

Anne spent much time with grandparents There was a close relationship between father and Garneau Sr Grandfather died poor couldn't pay for his funeral He ran freight and furs etc Very influential He wasn't a socialist but was also humanitarian

Both men thought with their hearts not their heads This is a sign of ANTECNOTE (sic) IRISH IMMIGRANTS father outfitted them with best horses food for a month tents etc Mother was furious

father didn't even know who they were or where they came from His response was "They needed it" He always gave the best he had you don't give away whzt (sic) you don't want You give what you would like to have Recalls him giving the bread off the table why not give flour? "They're hungry you don't give hungry people flour " Jim was always bringing people home

"D" Jim got his giving nature from father

"A" never appreciated in the truly prejudiced village Those who have the worst opinions of the family are the very people who were helped by the family

ST PAUL the metis (sic) were the servants and workmen of the town Some were southern europeans (sic) Talk about the St Paul Reservation The land was eventually sold to the French opened up Each town in n alta was an ethnic enclave There was an Irsh (sic) town St Bride ukranian (sic) Italian

Jim was always interested in politics "J" can't recall any discussion that wasn't political they were always this way race religion politics were all blended together These talks took place every nite (sic) father resented a guest who didn't take part in a talk after dinner The Brady's were one of two families who had a radio the news was listened to

times a day Each news cast would start a discussion that would last til the next news cast which start another conversation It was usually a news item that started the talk They would discuss local issues as well The general situation of poverty was not talked about (among the metis) but individual cases of poverty The children called father the "GOVERNOR" would sit on the fence and call for him and he would take outa (sic) piece of bread and jam ANECDOTE (sic) family's home burnt down ay (sic) xmas (sic) and father gave the entire xmas (sic) dinner to them and gave all the xmas (sic) toys to the children of the family Anne had to give up a doll and never touched a doll after that

there was no bitterness among the younger children This kind of action influenced Jim perhaps towards socialism The feeling about the family was mixed Many people loved father very much People looked after her mother when she had the flu

MOTHER'S DEATH until then father hadn't taken a drop of liquor (sic) His depression was so great it amounted (sic) to an illness They only drank as gentlemen the more he drank the more generous he became He would give everything away Grandfather very courteous man followed all the rules of etiquette

Reference to translation of Druand's BOOK * Sister Brady translated parts of the book that related to the Brady family

In the book it mentions that the community didn't want to give Brady any land because he wasn't french canadian (sic) The French gaurded (sic) the town very carefully There were other ethnic groups along the RR line The Ukranians (sic) had less power than the French and maybe were less discriminatory recalls them as end very fun loving and genrous (sic) people

TAPE ; SIDE "A"

prejudice in Alta

There was no pride among the metis (sic) accepted their position in society as worms or supernumeraries There was none of the feeling of being proud of Indian ancestry The Garneau family was not conscious of such things they were respected because of who they were and this was a source of pride They did know of the involvement with Riel

As children they didn't know of Garneau involvement in the rebellion Mother did mention it to Anne and did so with pride Bu (sic) this was not something to be talked about publicly It was later on that some members of the community decided that not mentioning native ancestry was the best policy "J" not til the metis (sic) assoc that metis (sic) people began to take some pride in ancestry and knowldge (sic) of their history The communities where the MAA has existed the people still stand up for their rights "D" as a child she recalls being ashamed of having Indian blood

ABILITY OPPORTUNITY RESPONSIBILITY father's favorite saying her nursing class adopted this as its motto This was her father's life summed up The house door was never locked not uncommon to get up in the morning and find people sleeping on the floor He was know (sic) not to refuse anyone Peopl (sic)

RELIGION very religious long family prayer everyday went to church every morning Father sang in the choir mother was organist In her mind the parents merge doesn't thik (sic) of them separately Very compatible Mother very strong and expressed her opinions

Father encouraged all of them to get education
Recalls Jim saying he didn't want to continue in school he knew enuf (sic) Eather (sic) said Jim didn't even know enuf (sic) to know he didn't know They think he quit school in grade and quit then Anne had won the Lt Gov medal the year before and Jim won the Gov Gen Jim didn't care at all for the medal not proud of it Jim didn't think of himself as a brilliant or extraordinary man He preached the doctrine of the common people This was true of his appearance as well only wore his one suit to weddings and funerals He was not a proud man

Jim learned a great deal from his extrordianry (sic) friends picked things up "D" recalls Buckley seeing potential in Jim and was always after fathher (sic) to have Jim finish his schooling so he could go into the NWMP Jim was never pushed to do this and he refused to go back But father never said you must do this or that same with all the children

Doesn't think that Jim consciously declined to put himself above others It was an unconscious thing Things didn't impress Jim easily She sees the family as being an extraordinary group

After the children had a very difficult life all trying to make their way

Recalls Louis having a number of sisters Rose in St Paul would have grown up with Jim Aunt Bessie was an influence on people as well perhaps on Jim as well She took them all in for a start Jim saw Louis and Bessie as his home closer to that family than his own Mother and her sister died the same day in the smae (sic) family When it was over they couldn't bury the dead it was in winter of Father went around keeping the fires in the homes burning In the Feb of they ahd (sic) one mass for dead Just from St Paul There was one from every family town only had just about people Mostly adulf (sic) women who were killed many pregnant women

"D" recalls only the house but not her mother Father was in such a state of shock that Anne took care of the family she was years old An aunt from Oregon came for a while

Father when he returned to "sanity" he kept some activity but lived on inheritance Describes father as a zombie died with his wife Describes his death had cancer and the treatment was worse than the cancer he wanted

end treatment stopped

SIDE "B"

JIM AND THE METIS CAUSE this deleoped (sic) later on maybe at age when he met Malcolm "D" recalls gatherings at the house in LLB discussed for hours at a time It was Malcolm who influenced him most Also recalls Pete Tomkins coming into it

Pete Sr gave a lot history and background to these men about the metis (sic) the interest was not there in Jim when he was a young boy Found its way in later

FATHER AND THE METIS gave a lot of encouragement and pol advice in the beginning money was also a problem and he flet (sic) he could give help It was he who gave the the (sic) most help He also talked for hours about it father took part Pete Sr and father were the tow (sic) teachers of the younger men

Jim used to write to Anne and quote Malcolm call him "my good friend" He was impressed by Malcolm He had more influence more than any

one "D" recalls a picture of the four men they all got dressed up in suits to have their photo taken Eleanor has the picture (other sister) The women were not that much influenced by the metis (sic) assoc her interests were simply different They don't recall being deprived because of going to the metis (sic) assocaition (sic) They wre (sic) well off compared to other friends Kathleen resented these things because she was the baby of the family

JIM'S PERSONALITY reclusive Jim had a shack one room about yds away from home He would do all his reading there wouldn't see him for days An old fellow called "uncle Tom" looked after Jim's interest would let people know that he was all right All of a sudden Jim would come back for tow (sic) or three days at a time he was a loner He enjoyed being alone

Jim didn't take part in any social events didn't have many girl friends just one People weren't aware of any other girl friends Conversations were always discussing the woes of the world He was an intinerant (sic) worker the sisters would be worrying about food for tomorrow Jim never thought this way If he had money he would spend it never worried about it he (sic) did have many friends among the native people probavly (sic) got fed among these people This was before the MAA days

Cree was not spoken in the family Jim may have understood cree (sic) a bit He may have forgotten the Cree

JIM'S FRIENDS majority of friends were native people but did have whites as friends He got some of these - ukranians (sic) behind the movement Example Marshall Hamar Convinced socialist people to support the MAA

The rest of the children associated with the same people bur (sic) Jim had a totally different group of friends Never knew who were (sic) they were except for those be (sic) would bring home He often would not correspond at all not a strong family person Recalls having been weeks in Wpg and didn't visit her With Jimmy she accepted it because she expected this But there was never a Xmas that they didn't hear from Jim Anne recalls that her daughter corresponded with her she kept the letters Jim gave her a great pride in her native ancestry None of the family ever thought they were less than other people The CHURCH didn't do anything about prejudice and discrimination

POLITICAL MEETINGS there was always anti Indian remarks There was dirty politics involved they would accuse father of not allowing English to be spoken when campaigning in Eng town and vive (sic) versa in a Fr town

JIM worked for Buckley in one election as they recall

ANTECDOTE (sic) Jim was so unconcerned about food that when he invited Jean to stay for lunch one time at his shack he was stirring something in the fry pan and when asked what was for lynch (sic) he siad (sic) he didn't know had a book in the other hand and was reading He enjoyed good food but woulxd (sic) just as easily eat a piece of dry bread Dorothy knows Jim best of the sisters

MOTHER for her time she was a liberated woman and demanded respect for herself She was bery (sic) much respected in the community She had a great sense of humor good at a party Very ivivacious (sic) She was always very correct socially She danced a lot Points out that they had very many Fr Can friends

SOCIAL LIFE There was an active social life or dances a month and everyone dressed up Some were more more (sic) formal than others
Brady's
END TAPE had them at the drop of a hat

TAPE ; SIDE "A"

Traditions broke down very slowly Jean attributes racism etc to no ill will but to tradition

JIM didn't see himself as a leader only insofar as he knew what he could do

for his people Always referred to Malcolm as his good friend Would say that

they had a good discusaion (sic) He seemed to accept Malcolm as a mentor

Doesn't believe that Ji (sic) ever considered himslf (sic) a liberal father was a

left wing liberal but not a socialist If father had been young in the thirties he

would have been a socialist He was a product of his time in the liberal tradition Both were concernted (sic) about the common people

MOTHER POLITICS had children in years and didn't have much time for elections etc But she was active

FATHER AS LAWYER would do a lot of work re: land claims for Indian and metis (sic) people Land would have been ceased illegally law was not enforced as astroungly (sic) as today this is why he was needed

GARNEAU SENIOR lost his land to pay taxes didn't have the income to pay the taxes Had land in Strathcona

says in the book that he lost his homestaed (sic) due to the machinations of a crafty doctor He had the first brick house in Edmonton and the first gas lights Her grandfather took to luxury (sic) with difficulty but her ga mother (sic) liked it They once took a train to the east and rented a private car Garneau went and sat in the coach He didn't appreciate wealth

Jim was easily impressed as a child by the family traditions Very sensitive to the stories and traditions Jim much like his gr father (sic) was about Lived close to him when he lived with Bessie and Louis It was a close family people moved around between families but were always at home There was a lot of visiting among the families the primary social life of the family

Very musical family they all played an snstrument (sic) of some kind and would play for the dances gr father played the fiddle

CULTURE everyone would go to the dances metis (sic) and French the ill feelings

was felt but not expressed It came out in elections Father never lowered

himself to attack anyone personally but the opposition did this all the time He

had the dignity to carry himself this way

During an election year things changed at school they would have mock elections _ the school yard was French (sic) and the other _ was english (sic) speaking Jim couldn't have cared less about this Even ay s (sic) school he was a loner didn't take part in sports etc Racist remarks

weren't made on the yard nuns policed the yard It would happen off the yard It was there all the time but you couldn't put your finger on it
ELECTIONS between elections the enemies were friends Lassard would attack Brady but never the reverse Lassard was Fr Can didn't have to have a party It was set up who would run The church supported a Fr Canadian not so much religious basis but an ethnic basis for support They considered the protection of their language as a protection of their faith

ANTECNOTE (sic) RE: THE CHURCH the Garneau family had a pew and took a divorcee to church and the people sharing the other half of the pew got up and left

Anne recalls seeing the first protestant person in St Paul She had been a friend that they'd met in Ottawa and they came out (sic) and homesteaded Mother held a tea for the woman everyone came but no one approved Anne was anxious to see the protestant something unique The woman must have felt very welcome the others came with the same curiosity The prot family was completely ostracized as was her mother for holding the tea The speaking of English was identified with Protestantism Language and religion and culture were all one with language the most important 'Nortre langue notre frois"(sic)

ANTECNOTE (sic) recalls speaking English to someone as a nun and some of the old french (sic) women wispered (sic) "is she a prot?"

ANTECNOTE (sic) at a town of St Edward there was just one family (sic) and they were all Rovers miles from St Paul They still arranged marriages Everyone was after her father (Anne's) because Anne wasn't betrothed at yrs should be married by Father Lacombe's nephew extremely homely Her father had told Anne that he had betrothed her to this nephew as a joke

FATHER * had a trained voice his voice was a trained voice and his notes

would die off long after the rest of choir's This embarrassed (sic) her at the time

away He had the throwing voice of a speaker and you could hear him a mile

JIM talk about Redmond story about indians (sic) coming up to Red in the bar and telling him that Jim told them (sic) if they ever needed money to come to him

Red resented this

end Jim had a bit of income from the family estate but was always staking people

TAPE ; SIDE "B"

talk about Jim's accounts at his death As children they were taught very careful handling of money the kids would write notes to each other for nickles (sic) and dimes and they had to pay them back some were even dated notes The honesty instilled in Jim was a rare thing the whole family is the same Red would get up in the middle of the nite (sic) to pay a bill

Talk about the family in St Paul It was resented by the people because of the inheritance from Britain (sic) Father never really worked would go out haying and just sit on the hay stacks the men used to joke about it He would be reading all day He would come in and be all tired out from a hard day

FARMS one at St Vincent acres one at St Paul acres and one between these two farms about acres Her mother raised (sic) everything (sic) ducks geese cows pigs etc Threshing was contract work would bring in all the equipment and do each farm at a time Doesn't know how many people worked on them

They used horses to power the threshers Threshing was very hard job

end