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Sharon: Mr. Racette, do you remember your grandparents?

Stanley: No. Well only I had known my grandmother not the old man.

Sharon: Were the Metis or were they Treaty Indians?

Stanley: Metis.

Sharon: Do you know where they were from?

Stanley: No I wouldn't know. As far as I remember they were saying they were from Lebret, Saskatchewan.

Sharon: Waht about their names, do you know what their names were?

Stanley: Well my mother Pelletier, Cecila Pelletier, my dad was Joe Racette.

Sharon: And they lived in Lebret?

Stanley: Katepwa Valley.

Sharon: When were you born?

Stanley: October 5, 1918.

Sharon: In Katepwa?

Stanley: In south Qu'Appelle as far as I could remember.

Sharon: How big was your family?

Stanley: I beg your pardon.

Sharon: How big was your family?

Stanley: Well, you mean the size or...

Sharon: Yeah, your brothers and your sisters.

Stanley: Well, there was seven boys and five girls, one died. There was twelve of us, only eleven surrvived eh.

Sharon: And where did you live? Did you live in town or...

Stanley: No, we lived in Katepwa Valley for a few years and then we moved to south Qu'Appelle. Then we were living in south Qu'Appelle for quite a few years, we done a lot of brushing there with dad. Then my brother was quite small then I went to school in 1925 in south Qu'Appelle.

Sharon: Is that a regular school the Day School?

Stanley: Now that's a good question I would not know that, but that old school is still there, public school whatever they call it eh.

Sharon: It wasn't a boarding school?

Stanley: No, no, no. There were no other boarding school that time. I don't think they would know whether it was a boarding school. Not in those days.

Sharon: Is that school open for everybody that lived around there?

Stanley: Right. (inaudible) town was quite small then.

Sharon: Did all your brothers and sisters go to school?

Stanley: Well, now not when I was going to school there eh, like my older brother I don't know where they went I just don't remember I was quite young at the time I started school there eh. And now when we went farther out, when we went back to the farm Katepwa Valley now there was a farm school, these little school houses out in the prairies, now and I didn't go there then eh till we move a little closer to this place they used to go miles and miles, about eight miles, ten miles to go to school.

Sharon: Did you have to walk to school, or how did you get there?

Stanley: Well, we drove horses sometimes, sometimes we had to walk. We had horses and (inaudible).

Sharon: Do you know if your parents went to school?

Stanley: I know they didn't, no, no they had no education whatsoever.

Sharon: There was no school around for them?

Stanley: Well, I wouldn't know, I wouldn't remember that, I wouldn't know because... I mean my dad I know he didn't have no education and my mother didn't have none either.

Sharon: They couldn't read or write?

Stanley: Well, same as my oldest brother, my oldest brother couldn't write either eh, or my older sister. Recently I just went as far as grade eight then, the rest of my brothers (inaudible). But my oldest brother and my sister here I wouldn't know.

Sharon: What language did you speak?

Stanley: Well, that's a good question there again eh. Like we all mixed up with these white people, we had, well when we had our own little gathering eh we'd talk our own language, and when we play with the white people we talk English too. Well we were going to school with the white kids we got to talk English too eh.

Sharon: Well, what was your own language?

Stanley: Metis. Breed language.

Sharon: Would that be Cree?

Stanley: Cree, because we only have, well there's three or four different kind of Cree, but now what we learn Cree I

believe that's a slang Cree eh. Now Cree it's different Cree, (?) Cree, and (?) Cree and everything. Ours got to be right between, ours got (inaudible) we put a lot of French words in our Cree language eh. So I don't know how the heck you pronounce that, how you put it eh.

Sharon: You call it a Metis language?

Stanley: A Metis, well (inaudible) language eh. Just lately now right though here they still call it Metis. So I don't know that's all one, there's always one that could talk anyway there's no other languages in there. They had a hell of time to talk English never mind talk any other language. Well we got along pretty fair though eh. Going to school we trade a lot of the white people they sure like their bannock and we like their bread eh.

Sharon: Yeah.

Stanley: Yeah, well sure make a lot of feelings there eh. Jam, grease eh and we can (laughs) make snadwiches. Well, we got along. I think going along in our young days like any other kids today. They got no problem eh, and we didn't have no problem, we didn't have any problem. We just got what we got, we had, we didn't see any apples them that time, no candies. Eh just when you go there once a month if your mother and dad go to store and buy groceries eh, practically all you bought was what you do buy salt and pepper, when you need pepper and sugar eh. Porridge, it's just like, you know, then they made their bannock, you had your own stock eh. Pigs and stuff like that eh, you neve had to buy pork or nothing, you do your own butchering eh. But now you can't go and buy a steer today or be given to you for nothing. Well, now I wouldn't say that was too many years back ago when I used to get mine for nothing, eh steers then maybe from this dairy farm, well that's quite a few years ago too. That's oh about forty years, forty some odd years ago eh. I used to get from this cattle rancher and dairy cattle men eh, they had old steer cow and any steer he had he didn't need him he used to give them to me eh, sometimes five or six of them eh, I used to bring them home on the farm and let them loose in the prairie eh. So we, well they don't grow so big, but I mean still good enough to put the beef eh.

Sharon: Was that with your father and...

Stanley: My dad was living then eh. See my dad died in around, what dad die '42, Earnest?

Sharon: What?

Stanley: My dad died in '42, I think '42...

Earnest: Yeah it's '42.

Stanley: So he died in '42, I was overseas at that time.

Sharon: Do you remember what kind of a house you live in?

Stanley: Well, yes. Log house.

Sharon: Did your dad make that house?

Stanley: My dad make two storey house yeah.

Sharon: Two storey log house?

Stanley: Yeah. Upstairs and, well my dad was a carpenter and he made a good house. He flattened the walls inside eh, put gyp-rock inside eh and white-wash outside. We had some mud that looked like brown sugar eh Katepwa Valley there, mix it up with mud and, you know, then we start, cement well you say.

Sharon: Fastened it on.

Stanley: Yeah we fasten on, we put white-wall on there. Oh it's like the houses (inaudible) and there all plain inside. The logs were squared the 4 X 4s like eh, so he made a pretty good job at that time.

Sharon: It wasn't one of those rough looking ones that there was...

Stanley: No I don't think my dad would go for that eh. No, he went, when he did though, when he make sure he made a lot of cottages eh for people, but he made them good.

Sharon: Did he make furniture too?

Stanley: Well, he done most of the tables, chairs and stuff like that eh. Of course, they had all the tools what he need eh, but same with wagon wheels, buggy wheels. Take the wagon wheels, cut the rims in half make new rims for the buggy like the spokes, mend.

Sharon: We were talking about furniture that you had in your house.

Stanley: Oh yeah, my dad, we were talking about wagon wheels and buggy eh. (inaudible). Anyway, so my dad used to do all those eh for the people, the one that needs the wagon wheels makes the for him and, you know, little bit of stuff like that.

Sharon: Oh yeah, is that what he did for a living?

Stanley: Well he done everything, he done a lot of brushing, wood in the, cutting brush eh. So, so we go to these farms, the farmer they want brushing and wood we cut. Need wood to be cut we used to do that get so many loads, used to get so many loads and then we get a hind quarter, or it could be a half, beed, you know, just for so many loads of wood we cut for them eh. That's what my dad done.

Sharon: Did he hunt and trap too?

Stanley: No, he didn't do any trapping, well he done a lot of hunting. Didn't do very much trapping but, well he done a little (inaudible). Well he done a lot of hunting, you know, I wouldn't know what he done before my time. He could have done that now so I couldn't say, long as I remember I know what they had done eh. But he wasn't with me that long see.

Sharon: Did you guys have a garden?

Stanley: Oh, oh, garden! Lady, we had garden there, we feed the majority people around the village where we lived eh. My dad he was an awful (inaudible) big garden eh. Well even me I tried (inaudible) always have a good garden. Yeah my dad, I used to, pa would make her a garden for herself eh. We were talking awhile ago about what we bought and stuff, we never, we bought, we never bought any meat we just bought the flour and sugar eh. That time you get 100 pound bag for \$2.50, 100 pound of sugar \$2.50. And we never eat bread or anything we eat bannock.

Sharon: Were you considered poor, or were you better off than the other people?

Stanley: Well, now that's a good question. That's a pretty hard thing to say, but I think in my younger days I live a heck of a lot better and I was more comfortable, and I felt a hell of a lot better in our younger days than what we are today, any younger generation we have right now. Years ago you didn't worry about like in the city what we have, worrying about not to drink water and those days out in the country you didn't worry about any water, pollution, they don't worry about pollution. We got a lot pollution today and now, still I don't understand what pollution is anyways. And those days we didn't know about pollution eh. We never drink water, like today I go and buy water eh. Those days when any old slough water. Eh long as you got a little (?) youself or sometimes carry your pole with your pails, your straining water eh and (inaudible) well you got to have a white tea towel eh and you (inaudible) Metis or Indian they never had, they always did have a pail eh. Well there never another pail, they had to have something to cook in. Not like today the fine family you'd have a heck of a time with these frying pan today than we had in those days eh, you didn't have no place to plug in, unless you have a hot stone and put them on top eh. Now those days I figured we had a better time because we never seen, we don't canneries, you never seen the city eh. Well, we seen a small town like a little horse town eh, you could buy a horse in there and tie your horse in there, get your little stuff what you wanted. You want to go to cafe what the hell did you see, you didn't see nothing eh, all you see is horses tied around there and a delivery stable. You know, you didn't see any guys walking around, staggering around town because nobody stagger around there, anybody to trip over well you trip over dogs, there's a lot of dogs eh. Lot of horse eh, lot of horses every farmer goes inside they come into town they all tie their horses, or they put them in a little stable eh. Now what the hell you

going to put them in a little stable, lot of guys do eh. It's only guys they had a little bars in there eh. But then he had a time, you know, they got along really good. I been in a lot, we got along a lot better. Like, you know, like those days you live in the country you didn't worry about nothing, your mother brings an apple box of apples, well you seen those apples boxes.

Sharon: Those wooden boxes?

Stanley: Yeah, and oranges. Well you buy them \$2. or \$1.50. You get those grapes today, what do you pay for those grapes a little basket? \$3.?

Sharon: At least, yeah.

Stanley: Well I should know what I paid for them when I got a sore tooth that time, well a Indian bought a basket those little grapes, twenty-five cents eh. (inaudible), you know how your teeth feels eh. Like, you know, for twenty-five cents you got twenty-five cents I didn't (?) that time anyway. I still don't smoke. Like candies you put a (?) for a nickle you buy a nickle today what do you get one candy eh. You got ten cents worth of peanuts you get a big bag eh, today you buy a dollars worth you only get about ten cents back then. I think we got along better those day than what the hell we got along now eh. And we weren't living in the town either, we were living just out on the farm, because all the farm people, all the, a little, what do they call these, like Crooked Lake well they have these little villages like...

Sharon: Communities.

Stanley: Yeah, little community what they call them. Well the people they all got together eh.

Sharon: Yeah.

Stanley: Well, we used to do a lot of skating and what the hell we have skates, we call them old spring skates. You get those stap and tie your, you know, they used to tie, they pick them up and get your soles eh, your heel they got little levers eh and they got a little straps over, stap and a little (inaudible). Boy you laugh, but we used to have a heck of a good time.

Sharon: Were there dances and other things like that?

Stanley: Oh dances, lot of dances especially around the winter they dance lots eh, and around New Years eh. All the Metis they were all over here and I don't know how many colonies they had at Katepwa Valley there they had down below, oh where they have dance, (?) dances, Cardinal, old man Cardinal. Fiddle dances, man alive they'd go dance a wedding, usually last three days. We used to have a lovely time.

Sharon: At New Years how did you celebrate New Years?

Stanley: Well, I don't know, like hang a piece of meat out, out in the sticks somewhere in the odd (?) eh. So everybody make their bullets, they call them, you know, meatballs and their house like this right on, you go in a person's house and have a good meal, go to the second house, but I don't know where you find room but you find room. Maybe get a shot of beer what they got, well they had homemade beer eh. Make a shot of that if you want and all over. And (inaudible) then you head for the next one. Maybe you go about five or six miles, you know, the same god darn thing there. Then it's all on how long you going to take usually in the afternoon eh, evening well, you know, with no phone like we got today but, you know, the words get by so fast. Now one person leave them the other in they'll them they going to have a fiddle dance in this place and tell those people, and the other one tell, you know, pretty soon they all get around eh. And at night they'll have a house full where they going to have it eh, they don't have no electricity to turn lights on, they got one little lamp that's a coal oil, well some of them they got fancy some people like they got a fish and they used to put it on the refectation then you get more light. Really fancy.

Sharon: Coal oil lamps?

Stanley: Oh yeah, well if you got no kerosene, well you put grease in there, what do they call them? (?)?

Sharon: Yeah, I've heard of them.

Stanley: Your eyes just go blinking like that. (laughs)

Sharon: The land that you lived on was that your father's land? Did he own it?

Stanley: Well, no, no. On the breed they didn't own it, they, I don't know. People like, I don't know, Katepwas Valley there I don't know who in the hell owned that land, I think, I still don't know. It could be road allowance I don't know, but that beloged to Pelletier, old Henry Pelletier. Well that's what they call it (?) now eh. All the half breeds there are Pelletiers and (?) they all live there, about eight or ten families in there eh.

Sharon: Is that as far as you know your father didn't have title to the land?

Stanley: My dad, well my dad had, well as I say, they lost their title eh.

Sharon: Oh they lost their title.

Stanley: My uncle (?), there's a lot of these old people, older generation that time they used to get a script, they call it script eh. Now I wouldn't remember that, I heard them talk about it. Well, then the white people come along and took them, they gave them a bottle of whiskey and what the hell is a

script they just give them a piece of paper like that, and a lot of people couldn't read the script, that's a land title eh. So, well he guys they turn around and sell their, the white people for wine or whiskey whatever it was eh.

Sharon: They didn't really understand what...

Stanley: No, they didn't know what the hell, now I don't know how big their land was it could have been a quarter eh, could be a quarter section eh. It all depend how big they got eh. So I d't know, so I don't know what the heck.

Sharon: Was there a doctor around there that you could go see if you got sick?

Stanley: Well, doctors it was pretty hard to get a doctor. Well doctor we had one in Indian Head there. Most the doctors were the older people. Old people they use a lot of those roots and stuff like that, lot of mustard plaster eh if you got a cold. If you had to go in the hospital you got to be pretty darn garn sick, and the only time I remember as long as I live the time I got in the hospital is the time I got my tonsils out. (inaudible), so as far as sick like that we never, now where the hell they doctor you, the old people. I don't know. (laughs) How you going to put it, today you have a pain you run to the doctor eh, maybe you (inaudible). Those days they didn't worry about their pain eh, because you held it more...

Sharon: You were (inaudible)?

Stanley: Oh you were better health than what we are today eh. Your the first person that ever asked me that, I think that's a very good question. As far as our ability in those days our body was better matured, and we were built stronger. And I think the different food what we eating was lot better and more purer, we didn't have these chemicals what we got today eh. Those days what you get off the ground you eat, what you get off the cattles, milk and stuff like that you drank. They didn't have, we didn't even know what a powdered milk was, and what the hell is powdered milk. I didn't even know they had canned milk, but I remember I know, I remember that I still got that...

Sharon: Some of that milk?

Stanley: Yeah some of that milk and sweet...

Sharon: Like buttermilk?

Stanley: No, no, no. In a small can (inaudible). Well we just bought that (inaudible). So we used to have a lot of that eh, matter of fact I used to open like that little can, little lid on it and I use a little spoon eh, used to use that for coffee. We didn't know what coffee was, what the hell was coffee? We used to just mostly tea eh. Well, anytime you want tea they used to make it outside anyway, tri pot they boil (inaudible) boil the water and just throw a teabag, not a

teabag a spoon full of tea. We didn't know what a teabag was then. Oh they buy the tea by the pound back those days, all the (inaudible) they didn't put them in just a paper bag they put them in a real good (?) paper eh, real hard eh. But today they just throw everything in what, well what put in a box to keep.

Sharon: When you were growing up did your parents ever tell you anything about your history, like about the Metis history?

Stanley: Well, you know, I would say as long as I remember my parents they weren't with any, they weren't (inaudible) the other people (inaudible) farm house, they stay there. We just have about a (?). When they talk about mom just lately here before mom died a few years ago, they used to tell me, you know, about his parents and relatives like that, you know. In those days I wasn't interested eh about their past. I know I had a hard life too when I was growing up, I didn't worry about their's either eh. But they used to tell me but I used to laugh when they tell. There was one old lady that she used talk about, I was like (inaudible). And I guess he had a good old man he used to live in a tent, my mother told me that years ago on mama's side that's where mom got married eh. This old lady that they had at that time, this old man he was a good old guy but those old guys had those bullwhips eh. Got this old lady right, he wants a licking eh, you know, he finally got it he got this old man mad and he get in the tent with the whip he gets a darn good licking eh. Boy, then he comes out on mom's side and he just come like, (inaudible), you know I feel a 100% after he got a good licking eh. (inaudible). I fell a lot better now. (inaudible). (laughs) Just get tuned up once a year I guess, I don't know. (inaudible) with the moon I guess.

Sharon: Yeah.

Stanley: Well, that's what I got (inaudible). But some people they get on the hand (inaudible). Yeah, mom used to tell me that we all used to laugh. Mind you, you know, it was nice the old stories like, you know, (inaudible) my dad wasn't a man to talk hardly. He was always so busy working, doing things. My dad never come in sometimes till twelve o'clock at night.

Sharon: (inaudible)?

Stanley: Well, be, my brother he worked himself to death, he (inaudible) that's how he died, my brother Earnest was with him that time (inaudible). We didn't need more wood (inaudible). He didn't need (?) we had, cripe we had about 100 head of cattle we didn't need.

Sharon: (inaudible)?

Stanley: About 100 pigs eh. We had anything we need eh, chickens. My dad was working (inaudible). My mother raised a closet to 1,000 chickens eh. Well we had, well one time we had 100 pigs, and cattle, horses. Then he had to work, dad had to

work, (inaudible) to go and cut fifty loads of wood just for a god damn bee, he didn't need, just to make us work. And my dad was (?), my brother Earnest was with him the time he died. (inaudible) put him on the sleigh (inaudible). Told Earnest, take me home. And well he died the next day. All the blood inside (inaudible). Now today they would take your heart out and, like my brother he put two bypass, so those days they didn't know nothing eh. (inaudible) what the hell's that eh. And they just don't let you go they try to do something (inaudible). Today they can stop it, they can put a new tube for you right then eh.

Sharon: How did you get along with the white people around there? Like did you experience any discrimination?

Stanley: Well, no. No I wouldn't say, there were none like that no.

Sharon: Would you all mingle with each other?

Stanley: Right. You know, as far as I know as long as I live and my dad living, my dad got along with the white people better than what he got along with anybody else, my dad got along with everybody eh. As far as discrimination, no I could, I wouldn't put it now today we have lots eh. Why? I don't know why, but those days you didn't see them, (inaudible) likes one another anyways because any farmer, white people live there they living about five or six miles away from you eh. Only time we see the white people when we go to school, little buggars what the hell do they know, we didn't know nothing either eh. But as far as the bigger guys and the farmers well the only time they come out because they want something done eh. They come and see my dad, or they, well dad wants something, want to buy something off them and my dad go up and see them and make a bee with them eh.

(END OF SIDE A)

Sharon: ...the church then did you go to school like...

Stanley: Well, church (laughs) in Katepwa that old church still standing and that's all, Katewa Valley there. That's where I made my communion. I was just young there in the valley we all went to communion every summer, every summer holiday eh.

Sharon: Yeah.

Stanley: Had to go and take our summer holiday we didn't (inaudible) but we were out of school eh. They teach Catachism there eh, yeah the first time we get a good communion eh. We had, well we used to live, our house was on the side right across from that church there. (inaudible). We used to have church once a month.

Sharon: Once a month?

Stanley: Yeah, once a month. You had a big turnout eh, once a month our church is just full eh. And then every New, my dad every Christmas he never miss, I don't care if it's forty below zero we always go on a sleigh eh.

Sharon: Was that midnight mass?

Stanley: Midnight mass, yeah. Used to go ten miles.

Sharon: Would the priest, did he have a lot of influence?

Stanley: Well, (inaudible).

Sharon: Do you remember world war one?

Stanley: No that's the year I was born.

Sharon: It didn't affect you then?

Stanley: No, no, I wouldn't know.

Sharon: What about the great depression, the dirty '30s?

Stanley: The '30s, well we had quite a hard time there eh. But as I say, fortunately we're in the right place and the right time eh. In Katepwas Valley here where we farm there, running the farm there. My dad, that's where we had lot of horse, my dad went down here, out here this side of, well we'll say east of here and dad went there and bought himself twenty horses that time for \$20. A dollar a horse they were all colts eh, three year old colts eh, a dollar a horse. And down at Katepwa there you see from the dam and our property was, get all the water. (inaudible) we had all night (inaudible). We didn't worry we had water there and all the grain they want, so when we go the horses down there we'd (inaudible). Dad bought them for twenty bucks. That's what I was telling you about those calfs I was getting was for nothing, dairy farmers (inaudible) just load them on a wagon just bring them home eh and set them in there too, well we had a big pasture. We had, we used to (inaudible) land there eight horse a piece eh, well my dad and I, and my brother Al well that's sixteen, twenty-four head of horses.

Sharon: So you didn't have to worry about like starving or anything like that?

Stanley: Oh no, no, no. We had more ducks in there, every fall we had a garage, shed, I built that garage there, every fall they had about 3-400 ducks there, in there.

Sharon: How were the other people around there, were they the same way, they had enough?

Stanley: Well they had to do something, like they... Well I had told you about what dad done, well he made lot of garden, I

told you that before I believe. We had our own everything, we had our milk, we had our own, well we had our own milking cows and stuff like that, chickens, (?). My dad used to help the people out (inaudible). My dad used to help the people out (inaudible) gave them about 100 pounds a piece eh, a bag a piece eh. Well they used to (inaudible). And those people though them day they live right beside lake, the Katepwa Lake there, and they done their own fishing. Oh, see the most Metis there they done good of themselves, as I said, they weren't on relief either eh.

Sharon: Did your family didn't have to go on relief either?

Stanley: No way. Well, (inaudible) like, you know, year ago when they used to go, like they done a lot of snaring, had a lot of bush around eh. In the winter they fish. Then they got horse and buggy well they used to put fish in there they'd go to these farmers and trade them off and could get beef, could get, you know, butter. Well, they didn't worry about milk, they didn't care about milk as long as they got their tea eh, but coffee they never bought it, you didn't see very many people drink coffee those days eh, mostly tea eh. Maybe what I know I never see anybody had coffee in those days eh. Mostly tea. And see a lot of these guys they make a trade, my mother used to do that too (inaudible), but she used to go and make deals too. What did we need pork for eh? We had lots running around the yard eh, well she done that. (inaudible) in the spring there seen all the god darn (inaudible) and he kills them right there, you know. Get a lot of washed up those days, eh, didn't have no god darn washing machines or fridges at that eh. All we had was that big deep well about 128 feet deep, had ice in there and that's where you put (inaudible) there.

Sharon: (inaudible)?

Stanley: Put our butter, mom used to our own butter, we had our own (?). Mom made our own butter and put the god darn butter down there in a pot (inaudible) you could get it eh, not frozen but not a mess (inaudible). And the meat she put it down there. (inaudible) 128 feet down there, so they got to be cold.

Sharon: Did she ever can meat or dry meat?

Stanley: No. Mom never did dry meat. The only one I remember is my old grandmother, her mother. She died, she dried fish eh they'd smoke them and same time dry them, yeah I used to like that. But dry meat, well mom (inaudible) my grandmother, her mother, used to do that eh, but mom never done it. But she's now with her mother. Her sisters, they had about four or five sisters and they all dead now, nobody alive in my mother's side. My mother was the last one here.

Sharon: The Saskatchewan Metis Society started in 1933...

Stanley: Well, see there's quite a few your mother was in it...

Sharon: And your dad...

Stanley: Yeah he was in, but he donated a lot of money but he wasn't in there, went to no meetings, but he just, you know, (inaudible) like in those days everybody a dollar was a lot of money eh.

Sharon: Yeah.

Stanley: Maybe he give about \$5., \$6. into the... I remember Larocques used to run that Lebret. Tommy Major, all the Majors that what they do.

Sharon: Did they ever help you?

Stanley: What the hell they do, (inaudible). That was just a good drunk that I remember.

Sharon: Were you involved in world war two?

Stanley: Yeah I was.

Sharon: How were you involved?

Stanley: Well I was in there.

Sharon: Oh, you went to fight?

Stanley: Yeah, I was five and a half years over there.

Sharon: What about the rest of your family?

Stanley: Yeah I had three of us went over there, my brother Allan he got wounded on V-Day, my brother Peter got it, I got it and later on got one or two, three we got home. My brother was a sniper, Allan. And then I had, and me I come home the last. My brother Allan come home, then my brother, but Allan I never seen him overseas but I, he came over this time of D-Day my brother Pete and I went over the same time, you know. My brother came back in '45, you know, they both come back. I come back in '46. April '46 I remember. Yeah, May I was, yeah, May I come back in '46. Yeah I was out of the army for awhile then I went back in again in '50.

Sharon: Did it change your lifestyle in anyway?

Stanley: Well I'll tell you one thing, I don't know how people but for me it done me good, I liked the army, if I was young again I'd be right back in there eh. And I (inaudible) well, I was a good soldier, I think I was but, I was there anyway. I get a good pension out of it, I get just a war veteran (inaudible). I got (inaudible) and then I join again in 1950 eh, and then I had two more brothers join with me. There was five of us all together, my brother Wildfred he wen tto Korea and my brother Jimmy went to Korea, so there was five of us all together. One of my brother (inaudible). Yeah, I was in plain

clothes with the R.C.M.P. eh. I was on train patrol here, I used to go in Broadview and then I go to (?), Manitoba every day. Used to be four trains running eh. There were three and four going up, seven and eight come back eh. (inaudible) train patrol. Stayed in there for quite awhile and then I came out again '54. Now I don't do it anymore.

Sharon: Were there a lot of jobs around during that time?

Stanley: No I wasn't around, I wasn't around there, well there must have been eh. I was over five and a half years now I don't know what they were doing here eh. I wouldn't know. Well apparently there been because there was a lot of job when I come back eh. Well anybody went away they could get a job at any time eh. I like to work too, but I'm a little old to work now. I think I'll get a job yet if I went away eh, I know the other one.

Sharon: Are there any old stories or anything more that you could tell me?

Stanley: Well, my day I'll tell you, in my younger days when I went to school Katepwa Valley, my sister and Adeline and there was Peter we never worry about shoes, my mother those days used to make bib overalls. Used to get stuff they used to buy them in the stores, they sold us bib overalls eh. Well I wouldn't wear them right now, you know, those days we didn't know eh quite, you know, new pair of pants then, new stuff then we used to make everything. No shoes, go to school with no shoes eh. (laughs) Well that I know, playing football. Had a lot of ball at that, we used to have good time, but those days you know you didn't worry, everything you buy clothes you don't buy clothes you make your own. Your mom made the clothes.

Sharon: Your mother made all your clothes?

Stanley: Sure. Like in winter all we get is old rubbers, you know, rubbers eh well we do a lot of fishing, you know. Used to make canvas, canvas shoes eh out of tent, you know, out of these bunders. Make tents eh, moccasins out of them and the water won't go through in them eh. Used to wear them. They'd get a lot of hay soften it up and put it under the rubber so your feet wouldn't get cold. Yeah.

Sharon: Did your mother like make your jackets and that?

Stanley: Well, jacket, most of the jacket they always buy, but mom used to make a lot of those jacket out of overall, sweater. Those mitts we never buy mitts they're made, old sweaters they'd cut off, you know, make mitts eh. (inaudible). Any mitts like that well why go to school well used to get mitts. You don't wear them going to cut wood with, old pair just old canvas. Old Earnest Skinner eh he used to give us clothes, this farm guy eh. Any clothing we used to get eh. Underwears well most that time they weren't too expensive anyway. (inaudible) underwear that's all you wear eh, today you don't wear them today anyway. Well, years ago there was Indians when

I was going to school in Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head. I didn't know, the younger days didn't know anything. So I had a pair of shoes out, they were trying to go on (inaudible) so I had a pair of shoes... Well today girl or boys' shoes the heels are high now eh, look like boys shoes too though there was a girl (inaudible). And I put them on they fit oh they fit nicely, I went to school like that and these three guys were laughing at me then, the heels are higher eh. I was standing there for (inaudible). So they go away I sneak in the school there. Anyway just see the people all the time they all wear low heels eh, they get a little high, you know, they'll laugh their head if they see that. (inaudible). If we had a pair like that they wouldn't know what the hell you got on there, so... The next day my mom got me, they going on welfare that time that's only one time I remember, we went on welfare in Indian Head. (inaudible) I want a pair of shoes. Mom was talking to them and getting louder, Mom. What do you want now? I want chocolate shoes, chocolate shoes. Eh, I want brown shoes. (laughs) Well the guy thought, well what do you want chocolate shoes for (inaudible). But, I don't know they got the clothes (inaudible) they weren't too much anyway, I thing about a dollar those days you get a good pair of shoes for a dollar eh. Mom got a, just buy clothes anyway. We done alright and then we moved back on the farm, I thought we done alright after.

Sharon: (inaudible)?

Stanley: Yeah, well now I'm going to tell you about a time we were talking about these welfare, tell you about back in the '30s. Oh about '34 that the municipality eh at Katepwa Valley, all the farmers back in the hungry '30s eh, lots of farmers, every farmer around across around here that time the Russian thistle drove through here eh it wasn't till they had no crop. God damn cattle was starving right through out here (inaudible). So the son of a gun, well that's what I call discrimination right there about these white people oh, what do you call them, oh that Bell character Stevens they were there they were on the board I guess the municipality eh. So we had to see them, you know what they done? They give us work in Katepwa. Now Katepwa Hill there right by the dam there, I don't know why they tore down half of that hill, flatten some of the hill down just so, just to make the poor people work and you didn't get shit fir your horses. My dad had four horses driving for \$5. a day, my brother Allan got \$2.50 and I got \$2.50, little scraper and team of horses. See we didn't get no cash. Well my dad and I the three of us we made \$10. a day. Then we started gravel the roads up to Lebret. What the hell you, one yard the god damn, plank that wide, you know, on the wagon, darn whell wagon. Well he take a little god damn, it's like a spoon full eh and you drive for miles with horses, go down to, I don't know what the hell eh, come back all the way. Well just for that crazy \$2.50 a day eh, they won't buy you feed for you, they won't give no feed for your horses. I think you got to damn well (inaudible) when they got no feed, you had it eh. And now by the time you figure out your horse your spending on your horse you don't even make nothing eh. See

just to make the god damn poor breeds to work, you know.

Sharon: What did they give you for working then, did they...

Stanley: That's, well, figure that \$5. a day, well what the heck would you make in a week about \$50., \$25., \$50. every two weeks. And they don't get that he just get the money, just got an order they go down to the store and go it eh. You don't get no god damn cash.

Sharon: Did they elected the Metis people or the white...

Stanley: Well it's all Metis that works in the valley there, there's no white people there. No way. That's old Stevens, I never forget them, but I tell you only god damn time they come up and shake hands with you whenever election comes eh. They come up and bring a case of beer that time, a gallon of wine, \$2.50 a gallon eh, they come and give them wine, they buy their booze eh. Well, now that's... I don't know what you call that. See that's the only time they come shake hands with you and kiss you about eh, election time comes. They come and buy their vote eh. They take you there they drive you there that's the only car we ever did have eh.

Sharon: (inaudible).

Stanley: Well, just to buy your vote with a gallon of beer eh. Well, not a gallon of beer you get, a gallon of wine. Well I wasn't old enough to vote anyway, but still my name was written there too eh. That's the only god damn time they look at you eh. After the god damn election you meet them you say hi they wouldn't even look at you. Not for the next five years. Well the next five years you see them, boy they just about kiss you, they don't shake hands eh, even the store the General Store they shake, ha ha how you been doing? Thanks to you I'll (inaudible) living eh. Well you can't very well tell him that either. I remember that time with mom and then I went and joined the army so... There's only one year we were in that, (inaudible) that god damn welfare, my dad too, you know, he, you know, my dad was into anything. I don't give a shit if (inaudible) my dad has to have his nose in there. He didn't have to go in there. I don't know maybe that's how we all would like working eh. He just made us do that eh. Fight like a son of a gun for nothing. Shit I remember the time I worked, I work for the government for \$5. a month for Abernathy that time, I was only fifteen, sixteen years old they send me a cheque \$5. a month. And the farmer want to give you \$5. they give it to you, if they don't give it to you they don't have to eh. You get your board and room and \$5., and you work like a god darn rate eh. Get up early in the morning milking cows, shoveling manure, clean the barn, turn the cows out, go back at four o'clock and you go and milk them again. You never have an hours sleep eh, night jesus christ you got to look after the god damn cattle for \$5. a month. And he used to come and tell me \$5. a month you know what I tell him. Yeah, \$5. a month.

Sharon: Did you have to work every day too?

Stanley: God damn right, not because you want to you damn well had to work. If you want to have a room to stay, they'll just kick you out. I remember the time years ago when we were harvesting for Ernest Skinner, what the hell we get? We start thrashing daybreak (inaudible). Well christ, we (inaudible) what the hell he give you, five bucks eh. I tell you you worked like a son of a gun and get \$5., well \$5. was a lot of money eh. Jesus christ, a lot of guys they get, what the hell they get \$10., \$15. an hour. Me, I work one month for \$5. I remember those days working like hell for all bloody week for \$5. What the hell it was better than a nickle a day eh. You got a lot of good eat, you eat good, pay good. What the hell about \$5., me well I couldn't buy my, at that time you buy cigarettes five cents a package, ten cents, twenty-five cents. But I didn't smoke, well I smoke now and again but I'd smoke (inaudible) I can't see no sense for me smoking. Pack a cigarette and it spills in my pocket. Oh yeah, years ago that, you know, nice, had a nice life, stooking you get about \$20., \$30. one week. Holy christ \$30., and you get \$10., \$20. a day I didn't even know. I seen fifty cents my first time I was fifteen years old my dad gave me fifty cents, I didn't know what the hell it was. Yeah, I never seen any money when I was that age. My boys knows more about than I do. Yeah, well I think that's enough bullshitting.

(END OF SIDE B)

(END OF TAPE)