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Nathan: Rosalie Kelly and her husband Lawrence Victor Kelly.
Okay, could you tell me where you were born?

Rosalie: I was born in Saskatchewan. St. Mark. It's just a
little country, just a little village like eh, French
settlement.

Nathan: French settlement.

Rosalie: Yeah.

Nathan: How large was, where, I mean how large was your
family?

Rosalie: What?

Nathan: How large was your family then?

Rosalie: How large, five of us.

Victor: What about (?) .

Nathan: Did you have your own home at that time?

Rosalie: Yes. Yes.

Nathan: Was it a log cabin or...

Rosalie: No, it was a lumber house.

Nathan: Lumber house.

Rosalie: Yes.

Nathan: Did your father build it?

Rosalie: Well, I think we rented, we rent a farm.

Nathan: Was this on your land or someone else's land?

Rosalie: Somebody else's land, like we rent it eh.

Nathan: Did your family, didn't have title to the land then?

Rosalie: No.

Nathan: Okay.

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: Pardon.

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: My grandpa had land, yes.

Nathan: What kind was it land script?

Rosalie: What do you call...

Victor: (inaudible).

Nathan: What part of the valley?

Rosalie: Qu'Appelle Valley, yes.

Nathan: And he had land there?

Rosalie: Yes.

Nathan: Was that a Metis farm?

Rosalie: Well, I don't know what they call it. If it's a Metis farm, yes Metis settlement, yeah all the Metis had their own farms eh. And most of them had log houses, you know, nice houses.

Nathan: What kind of furniture?

Rosalie: They had good furniture, real good furniture.

Nathan: Like you had like when your water at time, like how did you family make a living at that time?

Rosalie: Well, my dad raised cattle, pigs, horses. My dad always had good, you know, good farming.

Nathan: Good life.

Rosalie: Yeah.

Nathan: Did you have trouble like, what kind of supplement did he do besides the like cattle and raising? Did you have like living by hunting, or trapping, or cutting firewood at that time?

Rosalie: Well my dad I think he sold quite a bit of cattle, you know, pigs.

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: Old pickets, yes he sold an awful lot of pickets.

Victor: Sell some seneca root, I think.

Nathan: Seneca root?

Rosalie: Yes. I suppose he did when we were small I think maybe they did eh.

Victor: But the water supply was a spring (inaudible).

Nathan: You had water supply then?

Rosalie: Yes.

Nathan: You weren't very far?

Rosalie: No.

Nathan: Did your water supply and your cutting wood, did you barter with any of the surrounding communities, like traded for goods or some things you couldn't get, you know?

Rosalie: No, I don't think so.

Victor: (inaudible). Who the hell was it that (inaudible)?

Rosalie: Flance?

Victor: No in the valley.

Rosalie: Pritchards?

Victor: Pritchards, yeah.

Nathan: Traded with Pritchard then?

Rosalie: Yeah.

Victor: They had, yeah (inaudible).

Rosalie: Well could have been yeah, but I was too young, you know, don't remember really, you know.

Nathan: What was the importance of seneca root that time that you sell and trade?

Victor: Oh for the (inaudible).

Rosalie: Well I don't know why they, I guess because there were lots all over the land I suppose.

Victor: Pretty fair price.

Nathan: Do you remember the price that time?

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: Oh golly, fifteen cents, maybe twenty-five cents a pound.

Nathan: A pound.

Rosalie: Yeah.

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: I don't know how much.

Victor: (inaudible) St. Clair all over big hillside laid out like blankets, you know.

Rosalie: But...

Victor: (inaudible) seneca root.

Nathan: So that helped make ends meet too then at that time?

Victor: Oh yes.

Rosalie: Yes. Yes.

Nathan: Did they have to travel, did your family did they travel out of the area to find work? Did they have a garden?

Rosalie: Oh yes. My mom always had a good garden.

Nathan: Do you know what kind of a garden she had?

Rosalie: Oh, potatoes, turnips, onions, you know, corn.

Nathan: Was there any kind of certain way that you picked it and cooked it, or a certain kind of way?

Rosalie: No. I think we cook the same way as we do today.

Victor: Except that it was all wood fires.

Nathan: (inaudible) gas, yeah. Did you consider then at that time pretty well off to other people at that time?

Rosalie: Yes we did. We did better living than a lot of white people really, you know. My dad really he was a good, you know, manager, you know. So is mother.

Victor: Before your dad was married, I don't think after, before he was married he seemed to do a lot of travelling by dog team. He was from Manitoba.

Rosalie: Yeah. Well, he used to take lawyers and ministers I guess eh from Portage la Prairie to right across...

Nathan: Portage la Prairie.

Rosalie: Portage la Prairie right across way up north anyway.

Victor: He travelled up as far as Hudson Bay, I think.

Rosalie: I think so, yeah.

Nathan: That was your father?

Rosalie: That's my dad, yeah.

Nathan: Did he, two people buy dog sled teams then eh?

Rosalie: Yes, yes.

Nathan: Those lawyers and ministers...

Rosalie: Yeah, yeah.

Nathan: What was the need for lawyers, did you ever find out?

Rosalie: I don't know. (laughs) I don't know what...

Nathan: Do you know what year was that about?

Rosalie: Oh golly...

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: Oh yes. Well my daddy be only about seventeen, eighteen years old himself when they were travelling.

Nathan: When you were born and you were raised in the valley there eh?

Rosalie: Well, not really. We were raised a little while, I don't know how long we lived there about three years I guess and then we move again to Rocanville. As far as I know it seems to me that's where I was raised most of my life. That's where he met me and...

Victor: (inaudible).

Nathan: That's how you met your husband?

Rosalie: Yes.

Nathan: What kind of school did you attend?

Rosalie: Oh, we went to a English School. One time we went to a French School too, you know.

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: Oh it doesn't matter about that. But, you know, when we went to school over there in St. Mark there nobody talked English eh, mostly all French. So we, of course, we were raised... (telephone rings)

Nathan: Okay, school now.

Rosalie: Yeah well, I told you that we went to this French district schooling eh. We must have went there about two years.

Nathan: Where was this school located at?

Rosalie: It was in St. Mark. Probably that's why we were all Christian too, St. Mark.

Nathan: Roman Catholics?

Rosalie: Yes. Then we moved to Rocanville and we stayed there a good many years.

Victor: Then went back to...

Rosalie: Then we moved back, oh I'd say....

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: No we didn't. Where?

Nathan: Did you feel that...

Rosalie: We... Eh? But when we moved from Rocanville we moved close to St. Lazaar a great big lumber house that's where we live.

Victor: Oh okay, okay I don't recall that one.

Rosalie: Then we got burnt out then we moved back to Rocanville again.

Nathan: How did you get burnt out?

Rosalie: Well, I kind of think somebody burnt it on purpose.

Nathan: They, there the settlement you were living at?

Rosalie: Yeah. See dad rented the farm eh, and this fellow came over oh maybe a week before and they ask my, well he asked me if my mom's furniture was insured and I said, well, I said, I didn't know. And he came ask me all kinds of questions eh. So anyway...

Nathan: Was he government?

Rosalie: Well, I don't know if he was a government, you know, but insured, probably the farmer owned that place eh.

Victor: They had the house insured I think.

Rosalie: And so one night we came home after mom and us picking raspberries or something, and we knew somebody was in the house but we never could find where he was. So of course mom got scared, it was thrashing time and my dad was away, so of course we all took off to the neighbors eh. Well that time was raining a little bit and when, so my dad say, ah, he says, it will be no good today, no use, you know, you better stay with the neighbors overnight and we would go home in the morning. So we did stay there and when we came back the next morning the house was gone, it was all burnt. So we lost out. But if dad, if he would have went after the fellow that came there and asked us probably we would have got something for it eh, but dad...

Nathan: You didn't know who that gentleman was?

Rosalie: No we didn't. Well, I don't, well dad always blamed somebody else, this deaf and dumb guy, you know, one time he stole my dad's harness, you know, my dad brought like a team of, you know, harness so he stole them one time but dad found him again; so he thought maybe it was him that did it, but it wasn't him.

Nathan: At that time were you conscience of Metis history in your family, being Metis, natives?

Rosalie: If we weren't what?

Nathan: Your Metis, you know, being Metis?

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: No, I don't think so.

Nathan: You didn't see no difference?

Rosalie: No.

Victor: Well at your school when you were young...

Nathan: Like when you were in school though, did you have any trouble?

Rosalie: No we never did.

Victor: (inaudible) white kids.

Rosalie: Oh yeah, well we were almost living among the white people all the time eh. We knew them as going to school growing up eh.

Nathan: So, at the dances and social events how were they like?

Rosalie: Oh I guess we had good times. We'd travel miles. (laughs)

Nathan: Just to go to a dance?

Rosalie: Oh yes.

Nathan: How did you go to the dances?

Rosalie: Oh we usually went with sleigh, cutter, just depend how many went.

Nathan: How did you keep warm?

Rosalie: Oh with blankets and heaters, you know, the...

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: No, the little, what do you call them? Footwarmers they call them you put the hot/cold in them, you know. We had lovely robes, my dad had lots of nice robes. Everytime my dad killed a cow, well he used to take it to an old lady eh, they call her, what do they call that old lady?

Victor: Lilly?

Rosalie: No, no. Oh Black Joe or something. Black Joe I think they call her. (laughs)

Victor: Everybody had nicknames at home eh, and it was darn hard to find a real name quite often.

Nathan: Everybody had nicknames eh?

Rosalie: Well I don't know, I think maybe it was a real name, you know, but she used to make these robes, beautiful robes eh.

Nathan: Were they beaded or just...

Rosalie: No, she used felt. Yeah felt covers and all (?), you know. And she tanned them herself.

Nathan: She tanned them by hand?

Rosalie: Yeah.

Nathan: Did she charge very much?

Rosalie: I don't remember how much she charged. I know my dad used, you know, paid her.

Nathan: That's the kind of clothing at that was robes then, was it?

Rosalie: Yeah. That's what we had robes, yeah.

Nathan: Did you have them mixed with other kinds of pelts from other fur bearing animals?

Rosalie: No.

Victor: Well, I don't think you dad did much (inaudible).

Nathan: Do you know any of the Metis dances, wedding songs, Metis folklores, stories of past Metis hunts, or any happenings that you can describe?

Rosalie: No I don't. Well, maybe we did go to a Metis one wedding as I remember, I think we did go to a Metis wedding.

Nathan: How was it?

Rosalie: It was good. Real nice, a beautiful wedding.

Nathan: How were they dressed? The celebration any different from other weddings?

Rosalie: No, but they still celebrate the same way as they celebrate today, you know.

Nathan: (inaudible)?

Rosalie: Yeah. Yeah.

Nathan: Do they dress in a special way? Or did you hear from the past that they dressed in a certain way?

Rosalie: No, I think...

Nathan: How did the church (??)?

Rosalie: No, I think people they're pretty well the same, you know.

Victor: (inaudible) went up to St. Claire and there was a

dance there and everybody but us had moccasins on.

Rosalie: Well, a lot of people had rubber boats on too eh. But that's only where I saw a little bit different that I found people they were pretty poor eh.

Nathan: What language was spoken at home?

Rosalie: Well, French some Cree they talked and mostly English.

Nathan: Outside of the home like in school did they speak different?

Rosalie: Well, then they went to school, (?) School mostly French eh. Then we went to this English school everything was English eh.

Nathan: Did you have trouble then with these teachers?

Rosalie: No, not at all. No.

Nathan: What role did religion play in your life at that time? Did you attend church?

Rosalie: Roman Catholic.

Nathan: Your parents too?

Rosalie: Yes.

Nathan: Were you a very religious person?

Rosalie: Oh yes. (laughs)

Victor: Not any more. (laughs) I think (?) not Roman Catholic particularly anymore.

Rosalie: Well, we belong to the... (telephone rings)

Nathan: Did you feel that the church that time played a very major role, a Metis community you were describing the Fort Qu'Appelle area when you lived there?

Rosalie: I never live in Fort Qu'Appelle, and Rocanville. Well, I think the people there they were very, very religious, you know. They was all mixed up with French, and half breeds, they call them I guess, you know, Metis people, you know.

Victor: Seem to me that the priest have a great say in people's lifes.

Rosalie: You know, we didn't, I don't think it's any different today yet, you now, I think they're all mixed up Metis and French yet.

Nathan: Do you feel hat the church, the role of the church

has changed in regards to how...

Rosalie: Oh yes, yes.

Nathan: Did Metis people at that time feel it was necessary to hide their Indian ancestry at that time? Who they were.

Rosalie: Oh, gee, I don't know if they did or not.

Nathan: It isn't resolved in moving away, distancing themselves from their Indian relatives or those that looked Indian?

Rosalie: Gee I don't, I couldn't tell you that. (laughs)

Nathan: Were there close ties kept with the Metis relatives family wise?

Rosalie: I believe they did, yes.

Nathan: Like was there any feelings like for the Indian people nearby reserves?

Rosalie: No not really, no. No.

Victor: No, I think that the church had quite a heavy bearing with the native people. He would talk to the girls and straighten them out, there was nothing near the freedom of sex that was going on in now days nothing like it at all. They were well behaved people.

Rosalie: Oh yes.

Victor: That's why the church was concerned, well in many other ways a little later I think there (inaudible). (laughs)

Rosalie: You know, it's funny one time we were thrashing eh, so me and my sister, Laura, my dad says, If you pick the grain what's left behind, you know, you could have it and sell it for yourselves. So we went out this night picking grain, naturally who come along one of my uncles. I don't know how many kids they had and they were talking I guess, you know, noise in the wagon. And my sister Laura said, Geez, I think Indians coming. (laughs) You know, we took off we were so scared, Indians are coming. (laughs)

Victor: Oh yes another thing we shouldn't forget is we had a darn good fish trap down there and we got lots of fish.

Nathan: You did fishing too?

Rosalie: You know, I often think about that, you know. You know, years ago we were so terrified of Indians, why I don't know. (laughs) And I never seen like pure Indian them days, we didn't know how to (laughs)...

Victor: You'd have a hell of a time to find a pure Indian.

(laughs)

Rosalie: Yeah, but like when we wen to Burtel Sports Day, you know, really how Indian dress feathers and all that, I never seen a met a, you know, never, never. So...

Victor: Before.

Rosalie: Before, yeah. So I though boy those Indians.
(laughs) Oh golly.

Nathan: So was any, at that time do you know if there was any open discrimination or hostility towards the Metis people by surrounding communities, like stores?

Victor: Oh there is some places, yes. Now we moved into Rocanville and the Mayor at that time he was against Metis, and there was a hell of a good trouble moved in there all over.

Rosalie: Oh yeah, Barlons.

Victor: Barlons, yeah. They think they could have (inaudible) as far as money was concerned.

Rosalie: You know, I think maybe you might know them maybe Barlons.

Victor: (inaudible) they wouldn't sell them any land to settle on. But this Barlons they went and bought a house from another guy and they couldn't stop this, now they had a house so they lived in it. (laughs) There was discrimination yes there was some. I wouldn't say it was too general, but there was some definately.

Nathan: At that time were the Metis paid about the same wages as the others like were they ever refused a job because they were Metis?

Rosalie: Gee I don't know.

Victor: Well I suppose when they get down to it there was no, what would you call it, professional jobs like shinglers, or painters, or anything like that. But (?) and thrashing and all that sort of thing they were paid pretty well the same.

Nathan: Like you mentioned about the Mayor like, did the town officials every try to get you to move, or try to force you off your land?

Rosalie: No. No.

Nathan: Was there any feeling that Metis should marry Metis? Were Metis women encouraged to marry white men or did the Metis marry only white, Metis women at that time?

Rosalie: Gee, I couldn't tell you really about that. I think mostly our family we were running around quite a bit with, what

they say, they white people, you know. Well that's all we knew really when we lived there.

Nathan: Did you have, oh you had friendly relationships then (inaudible).

Rosalie: Yeah.

Victor: I think there might have been one point they had, I think the Metis were more inclined to marry cousins, but I would stress that, but it would seem to me that there was a little bit of marrying family.

Nathan: Yeah, cousins too eh?

Rosalie: Well, not in our family there weren't.

Victor: No I know that.

Nathan: During that time was it possible to see a doctor if you had no money, or what kind of medicare did you receive at that time? Was it the same as the white people or...

Rosalie: Oh yes it's the same. With us anyway it was the same, you know.

Victor: (inaudible) talk Cree and pretty good people just the same as anybody else.

Rosalie: Well, yeah.

Victor: Far as money was concerned always had the money that was owned to them. (laughs)

Nathan: Do you remember what happened during world war one, how old were you then at that time?

Victor: Well, you were born in eleven world war one (inaudible) you were four years old...

Rosalie: Yeah I was about four years old, I was going to say about four years old.

Nathan: Okay. Do you remember how old you were when the great depression came?

Rosalie: Yes. I would be about, how old I'd be...

Victor: We married '29.

Rosalie: Yeah.

Nathan: How did your family at that time, you and your husband make a living then?

Rosalie: We farmed.

Nathan: Were you affected any way by the depression?

Rosalie: Oh badly.

Victor: We were affected, it wasn't...

Rosalie: Very bad. Very bad.

Victor: (inaudible) should do it. We did everything immaginable during the depression. Just before we were married we was already in and my mother used to make cheese, nice big round cheese and sell that. But they took their money, we made our own yeast cakes, anything and everything. We lived on mushrooms we didn't live on them, but, you know, that was the source of supply. (inaudible) I remember one fall we had a very poor crop and we had about six pigs, they weighed about 100 pounds a piece, we butchered them because we had no beef, we never did eat them, couldn't give them away nobody wanted them. But...

Nathan: Did you, then you were making your living farming, did yo have to move or did you finally trade for goods, trade or buy?

Rosalie: No. We had our own, well we used to sell turnips, raspberries, strawberries, you know.

Victor: Yeah we had fruit.

Rosalie: And we shipped a bit of cream, sell eggs for five cents a dozen. (laughs) Butter ten cents a pound.

Victor: Butter was cheaper than axel grease.

Nathan: Cheaper than axel grease.

Rosalie: Yeah. Really, you know, we lived well, you know, we had all that food and we lived well, you know. You got tired of eating of the same food over and over. (laughs)

Victor: Well I was saying that the '30s I wish the depression was over I'm tired of eating turkey. (laughs)

Rosalie: Yeah, turkey, chicken, pork, beef.

Victor: Oh we had...

Nathan: Did you hire people to work for you?

Rosalie: Yes.

Nathan: Did you hire the surrounding people who were (??)?

Victor: Yes, but...

Rosalie: Fifty cents a day. (laughs)

Victor: Didn't get very much (inaudible) a pound of butter to take home after they'd put in a day or two. Cut cord wood, sell wood we sold a lot of...

Nathan: Who did you sell the wood to?

Victor: The people around town. Wagon full of wood for fifty cents (inaudible).

Nathan: You did the splitting and...

Victor: Well we split it by hand, (inaudible).

Nathan: So your family you had garden and crops too?

Rosalie: Yeah, oh yes.

Nathan: Did you receive relief during the depression?

Rosalie: Relief?

Nathan: Yeah.

Rosalie: I don't think they give relief them days, did they?

Victor: Yes they did...

Rosalie: Did they?

Victor: ...and I think we did get some apples, they shipped a whole carload of apples from Ontario (inaudible). But that's the only relief that I remember we ever did get.

Nathan: What did you use for transportation?

Victor: Oh well, just buggy.

Rosalie: Buggy and team. Or a sleigh and team.

Victor: Have a, just before we got together bought an old Ford Model T Ford. (laughs)

Rosalie: That's before I known you he bought a T Ford.

Victor: (inaudible) Model T Ford. (laughs)

Nathan: How many fellows?

Rosalie: Three.

Nathan: Three for a Model T. What did you do for entertainment?

Rosalie: Oh we used to go dancing eh.

Victor: Yeah.

Nathan: What kind of dancing?

Rosalie: Square dancing. Square dance. Them days mostly it was square dancing, fox trot and waltzes.

Nathan: Neighbors would hold them or what?

Rosalie: Oh yeah, yeah.

Nathan: Do you know anything about the movement then about the Saskatchewan Metis Association about that time in 1933?

Rosalie: No we didn't.

Nathan: Were you or your family a member, active members?

Rosalie: Them times no. No, because we didn't know anything about it, you know.

Nathan: Did the election of the CCF government affect you anyway, Canadian Commonwealth Federation during that time?

Victor: I told you. (laughs) Well it's definately they helped.

Rosalie: Yeah.

Nathan: Did you fill out the policy there help these people get ahead and that?

Victor: Yes, I think they did what they were able to do at that time, of course the federal government was the big hold back and they were square deal to the Metis in them days. Our province could do what the federal wouldn't let us.

Nathan: So the federal held back (inaudible)?

Victor: Yeah I think so.

Nathan: The square deal was trying to get their rightful place in land?

Victor: Yes that way we have a neice (inaudible) who is the president of the Indian Woman's Association.

Rosalie: Yeah, she's from Saskatoon.

Victor: Saskatoon.

Rosalie: And you never heard of her.

Nathan: Did you feel that that time you and your land rights like script land, do you feel at that time that you people had a right to say that running a homestead or..

Rosalie: Well I think my dad that's what he had the first time a homestead, I think eh.

Victor: I think it must have been.

Rosalie: Yeah a homestead, yes.

Nathan: Do you remember where his homestead was?

Rosalie: Oh, I don't know. Would it be in Manitoba somewhere? Maybe.

Nathan: Did you, at that time feel that world war two opened and the war started did you have much respect in your family where you lived at, where your family lived along the war?

Rosalie: Well...

Victor: That started in '38 and none of our family were old enough to join up, I was in the first world war, but... Rationing came in, of course, but I think government speaking that, general speaking that...

(END OF SIDE A)

Victor: ...happened there was that mostly the Metis seemed to settle around the poor land. Whether it was because they couldn't afford to buy land, or whether this land was sort of vacant and moved in and rented and so on, so on. But they didn't seem to have any real trouble feeding their children or anything like that, I would say they lived well. Like now mother, well there's a cook in the hotel there for sometime (inaudible).

Rosalie: In Moosomin.

Nathan: Moosomin.

Rosalie: Yeah, when they were building the railroad through my mother used to cook for the...

Nathan: You felt that railroad would have a affect upon the community affect on?

Rosalie: Well,...

Victor: Well, that railroad was sixty miles away I guess.

Rosalie: Well, for me I was too young I don't really remember, maybe I wasn't even born, you know.

Nathan: Did you see any change in like your family like during the war was there any change in lifestyle? Like you mentioned a lot of jobs that would free time, like can you remember that time?

Rosalie: Well, I don't, what do you mean like?

Nathan: Like your lifestyle do you feel that life got better after the war and depression and that, did people pull together?

Rosalie: Well, I guess, anyway I guess they have to, you know. You know, they after the war...

Victor: The depression was actually through the '30s (inaudible) '38 the war started, it was more critical.

Nathan: Was there any people at that time significant people in your life that helped you (inaudible) have an affect upon you during your child years and going through the things that you see through your life? Anybody that remember that had an affect upon you?

Victor: Her grandma.

Rosalie: I don't, I don't know. I don't really remember. I can hardly remember my grandma, I know she was living yet when we were married but funny that I don't really remember her. I know she was a real strict old lady, very strict.

Nathan: In which way?

Rosalie: Well, behave yourself, you know, try to make a good living, you know.

Victor: Don't (inaudible). (laughs)

Rosalie: You know, really she was a very religious person I guess.

Victor: I think actually the priest had a great deal to contribute to the white people living...

Rosalie: Far as that goes my daddy was just as strict too, eh. We've been brought up real strict eh, like we had to wear, you know...

Nathan: Carry your weight.

Rosalie: Yeah. We had to do, look after the cattle, clean the barn and milk the cows, you know, and bring the wood in. It was so different them days compare today, you know.

Nathan: Did you feel that it has a lot of bearing on people, young people today?

Rosalie: Yeah.

Nathan: Did you feel that some of those values have been lost?

Rosalie: I think so, very much so. You know.

Nathan: Like listening to the elders like you did.

Rosalie: Yes. Right, you know, that's... Like today my young generation well they don't have work to do, now everything is powered, running water, you know, what they got to do? Nothing.

Victor: Oh I think the modern days...

Rosalie: Everything is so modern now eh.

Victor: The children the older generation I had to work darn hard when I was a kid and I didn't got nearly nothing for it, now I'm not going to have my kids work like slaves. And this is altogether wrong.

Rosalie: Well don't you think today if the kids had more work to do that they'd be different today?

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: They're so different.

Victor: Yes, give kids money instead of (?) now days.
(laughs)

Rosalie: Well, so many mother they work today instead of staying home and look after their own family.

Nathan: Yeah a lot of breakdowns in the families today than there was yesterday, because the family needed each other.

Rosalie: Yeah, right. Yes.

Nathan: And this is where you see your problem today...

Rosalie: Oh my yes. You see that in lots of family homes today.

Nathan: You were mentioned earlier about the influence of the clergy. Was there much insurrection of dealing with the municipalities, government, provincial government, city towns people, or R.C.M.P.?

Victor: (inaudible) I'll have to think about it first, Mounted Police I ever saw I suppose I would be about sixteen and we were living on the (?) at that time. (inaudible) had a few words with my dad and just passed on. (inaudible).

Rosalie: Well you didn't see many mounties them days anyway, hardly ever.

Victor: One of the things that...

Rosalie: When I was young I think I saw twice a mountie, you know.

Victor: We were always scared of the police with the fish trap. (laughs)

Nathan: Why? What are you scared of?

Victor: Well, because it was illegal to have a fish trap.

Nathan: You mean there was restrictions?

Rosalie: Oh yes.

Victor: Oh yeah.

Rosalie: We were not allowed to have a fish trap.

Nathan: Was that the Metis or white people?

Rosalie: Yes the Metis people.

Victor: (inaudible).

Rosalie: But it was the white people came just as (laughs) often as the Metis, you know.

Victor: ...after we were married.

Nathan: Can you just give a description?

Rosalie: It was built right across the river with stones, and they had the box right in the middle of the river, in the middle.

Victor: ...middle, screen in the (inaudible)...

Rosalie: Chicken wire or something.

Victor: The fish normally were swimming down the river, which is not what they normally do, but then they filled it with this box and they couldn't get out. So you pick them out and took them in.

Nathan: What would happen if you got caught?

Rosalie: I guess, I don't know what they would have done, I'm sure.

Victor: You know, I think the reason to why we never got caught was I think it was dead on the line between Manitoba and Saskatchewan and nobody knew whose it was. (laughs)

Nathan: So there was restrictions in fishing then?

Victor: Oh yes, on that type of fishing yes.

Nathan: What about the hunting were there restrictions at that time too for the Metis people?

Rosalie: Hunting yeah. My dad had to get license.

Victor: Yeah.

Rosalie: Yeah. If he had to go and get deer, or beavers, or rats, muskrats he had to have a license.

Nathan: So there was policy to the government in effect to...

Rosalie: Yeah.

Victor: Fishing after we were married her uncle took me down to the fur store, we caught these fish but after that for several years we went down to (inaudible).

Rosalie: Oh that would be a mile anyway.

Victor: And we stayed for three days, because you never know how many people might be there, you see, but we wanted to get to maybe a 100 pounds of fish. And we would clean the fish, clean them, salt them and take them over and smoke them. Like they had a dry well (inaudible) they would dry well. But we had to smoke this little all the way around.

Nathan: No one to help you in the winter?

Rosalie: No.

Nathan: Did you ever hear anything about the Little Chicago Line in Lestock about any Metis settlements being relocated to the north and the south?

Rosalie: Them days?

Nathan: Yeah.

Rosalie: Gee, I don't think so.

Victor: There was a reserve not far from Lestock up in there somewhere (inaudible).

Rosalie: To tell honest truth I don't know where the reserve was.

Victor: There was one over in there someplace.

Rosalie: I don't know really, I never paid much attention about the Metis how they lived them days, you know, you just kind of ignored it eh.

Nathan: But you were Metis?

Rosalie: I am yeah I'm a Metis, and yet I don't know I never had interest. Ain't that funny.

Nathan: Accepted who you were.

Rosalie: Yes. Right.

Victor: Well, I think background of it all is I'm a person, your a person and that's it.

Rosalie: I know lots of time when I used to chum around with the French kids, you know, like, you know, and they say, look at her the Metis and the (?), you know.

Nathan: How do you say that?

Rosalie: (?).

Nathan: That's French?

Rosalie: Yeah.

Nathan: That's how they say it in Manitoba?

Rosalie: Yeah. (?).

Victor: (inaudible).

Nathan: That was in French.

Victor: In Metis I guess. (laughs)

Nathan: Do you have any last comments or anything that you'd like to be felt that something that played a, you know, significant role in your life today? Like the log cabins and they way things are now.

Rosalie: Well, I think a log cabin is really nice if it's built decent. My dad built a beautiful home one time out of logs, you know. Well he helped, you know, fellow helped him, you know, and it was really nice and it was a huge home. It was really nice. I bet that house was lot better than the new lumber house, you know.

Victor: Fellow's wife made those, live in the log house and after my brother Bill (inaudible). And we came and took it out myself now, myself and my parents and we came out (inaudible) I came to a place called Pillwood and there was lots (inadudible). And we moved into a log shack in Assiboinia and stayed there for one summer season.

Nathan: As you grew older you were mentioning about some of the policies or politics of the government. How did the people usually vote at that time? See the Metis, how the Indian people seem to be treated at that time.

Rosalie: Well, them days when they were, when election came it was the liberal. Everybody vote for the liberal, you know.

Victor: (inaudible).

Nathan: Well the church had an (?) of that.

Rosalie: Yeah, yeah. The liberal was the, oh they used to say (inaudible), you know. (laughs)

Victor: And (inaudible) liberal rally and Manitoba, oh heck where was that?

Rosalie: St. Clair.

Victor: Yeah, up in that area but Manitoba was in there, and the chap that was (?) was the premier of Manitoba (inaudible). He landed up there with a democrat as a double (?), you know, he's a democrat. (inaudible) they had that think plucked full with shoes, boots and shoes to bribe for votes, you know.

Nathan: Did you very aware of the politics that were going on in that time? Were they doing (inaudible)?

Rosalie: Well I don't know that they improve anything or not. You know, I don't think they did really.

Victor: Well, speaking for myself, now my dad he was, I forget liberal or conservative now, but it doesn't matter. But I have been conservative every since I could vote, I still am. I don't know if I can (?) system, because (inaudible) climb, climb, climb. (inaudible). (laughs)

Nathan: Do you feel to that the time when Indian people or Metis people have much say in their affairs what was affecting them at that time between the Miller certificate date or period that you felt that they were being imposed upon, or by any, by the government?

Victor: Well, I think they got a rotten deal with the reservation. Now mind you I'm going to back up some on this, when I try to think what the government should have done but they didn't at that time, I can't answer the question but I don't think they should have dumped them in reservations. I think they should have went out as long as can (inaudible) same as you are, and we think we have a better idea of how to use this land and we would like you to share it with us. They could have done this instead of done away with it, I think it would have been much better. (inaudible) two of the reservations turned out to be okay, but not because of a good land or good fishing, because (inaudible).

Rosalie: Yeah, well why didn't they give the Metis land too? You know, why didn't they get their land? You know.

Victor: Well we have a bit of Batoche. (inaudible).

Rosalie: I sure would like to go to, but...

Victor: Yeah there's two write on the, one has favoring Riel and the other one is from (?). Now I don't, matter of fact my brother's father-in-law was a Metis counsellor in Middleton who was the leader of the (inaudible). My brother's father-in-law

was (?) to General Middleton who was in charge of the soldiers, the expedition reports that was sent up there to straighten out the Riel Rebellion.

Nathan: That was in Duck Lake or Batoche?

Victor: Batoche.

Rosalie: Batoche, and his name was...

Victor: Yes you can read his name in there, his name was Gough, G-O-U-G-H. And it's all from one side in the last page you can read it there.

Nathan: That was (inaudible)?

Victor: Eh?

Nathan: And where was the expedition coming from, Fort Qu'Appelle? Regina?

Victor: I think they were mobilized in Regina, but I think they had a hell of a long walk there, prayed to get up there. It's too bad the mountains in that of course too. I'll say while your talking, do you know any of the...

(END OF SIDE B)

(END OF TAPE)