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SASKATCHEWAN
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SASKATCHEWAN
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Connie: We'll be talking about your schooling? Where did
your parents attend school?

Eda: My dad (inaudible). So he was when I was one year
old. So that when (inaudible).

Connie: What about your mother?

Eda: My mother must be in (?), Saskatchewan (inaudible)
education needed.

Connie: What about you?

Eda: My mother never went to school.

Connie: Did your parents speak any other language?

Eda: My dad was French, but like where we settled he just talked English to you because my mother couldn't talk any other language.

Connie: So you didn't speak any other language either?

Eda: No.

Connie: We'll talk about work history. Where did your, what did your parents do for a living?

Eda: Well my dad had a farm in Whitfield, Saskatchewan, he had a farm in Whitfield. And that's where he (inaudible) Whitfield, Saskatchewan. And that's all I know about him he was farmer.

Connie: What did you do?

Eda: Well, I worked at foster home for (inaudible). (laughs) And other than that just mostly house work and after I got married just stayed home and brought up the children.

Connie: What working wages were available for you?

Eda: Well goodness it was nothing I guess, my education, when I worked for \$13. a month it was on a farm and government was paying some of that. And them times were hard. So...

Connie: What did your parents do?

Eda: MY parents lived, well my mom and dad lived in Whitfield they had the farm. Now my step-dad lived in Nordale. I never stayed home much so...

Connie: How did your parents meet?

Eda: Oh goodness, I don't know. (laughs)

Connie: How large was your family?

Eda: Well, lets see got four brothers and three sisters. No I should say six brothers and three sisters. (inaudible).

Connie: What kind of dance or songs did you take part in?

Eda: In what?

Connie: Dances, songs, and games.

Eda: Oh goodness. (laughs) That my days that I remember we used to have old time dances we used to go to. I didn't...

Connie: How (inaudible) and recreation (?)? At the dances.

Eda: That's all there is is dances around.

Connie: What kind of music was played?

Eda: All the old music, they never (laughs)...

Connie: Was it a band or anything?

Eda: No, mostly violins and guitars eh. That's a big thing there.

Connie: Do you remember any kind of dances at all?

Eda: Square dances, yeah, waltzes, polkas and all those old kind.

Connie: Do you remember of any games at all when you were young?

Eda: Well, children to (inaudible) remember really being interested in ball games or anything, there didn't seem to have that. Kids just use your rope and skip, and play hopscotch and all those. That's all what I remember, you know.

Connie: We'll talk about religion. How much influence did the church have on your parents?

A. My dad was a strong Catholic, so they tell me.

Connie: Did you have to go school, I mean church when you were young?

Eda: Yes, when we stayed in a foster home I went to church.

Connie: How did the church lawas compare to todays?

Eda: Not much difference that I see. Little more I think, we'd go to church maybe three time a week, two, three times I think right now, Sunday and it seems to be it.

Connie: Did your parents attend shrines or retreats?

Eda: No I don't think so.

Connie: Did you?

Eda: I haven't been to one yet.

Connie: Did your parents celebrate weddings, Christmas?

Eda: Oh yes.

Connie: Talk about food and clothing. How did your parents get your food?

Eda: Well I tell you I got some at early age, my step-dad worked in the city, you know, P.A. here I don't know how many years. And I just, four of us boarded out for, I mean like it's important (inaudible).

Connie: Can you describe any special feasts or especially hard shortages of food?

Eda: After we married yes when we had a bunch of children and just my husband working. I guess we had lots of hard times. Had hard time even putting our kids through school, they needed no help or nothing.

Connie: We'll talk about medical care. Was there a doctor available to you?

Eda: Oh yes always, I think.

Connie: Oh he lived in the city eh?

Eda: Yes.

Connie: We'll talk about the depression years. What kind of jobs were available at the time?

Eda: Well, I don't really know. My husband start working up at the plant, he used to cook quite a bit for (inaudible). Then try and get a truck to haul it in, deep snow in the winter. (inaudible)

Connie: (inaudible)?

Eda: (inaudible).

Connie: Was enough food, clothing and shelter available to your family during the depression?

Eda: There's a depression after (?) it was before. What did they call the depression, was that before we were married?

Husband: Well before, before.

Eda: Still hard times.

Husband: Hard times, but...

Eda: The depression was...

Husband: I just work here for the city, (inaudible) \$5. every two weeks, so that wasn't bad, you know, (telephone rings). (inaudible). It's not like now.

Connie: How did the people help each other?

Eda: How did they help each other, I don't know. People did try to help each other, but see like everybody was in the same place and everything was, you know, it was hard for

everybody.

Husband: That (?) where we lived well sometimes It's all (inaudible), you know. Out in Prince Albert.

Eda: And then when, (inaudible) through high school because we couldn't afford it and we couldn't no help to put them through. Now our oldest boy went up to grade eleven and we didn't have many come through to grade twelve. So during their first, so I phoned for, I tried to get city to help them get by in the suitcase and that was in (inaudible), but they wouldn't do nothing so we just helped (inaudible) joined the airforce for a year. We couldn't get no help, he was on crutches for what three, four months or something. Went to welfare he was on crutches and they told us borrow from your neighbors, and they had to sign a paper then he got compensation (inaduable) and they took it all back.

Husband: When they give me (inaudible).

Eda: (inaudible) they took his cheque and they locked the bank and took seven hundred and some dollars out of his, no what was your cheque? It was seven hundred and seven. They took most of it. I think maybe they left maybe hundred and some, two hundred to do us till he got another cheque.

Husband: They take back what they give you.

Eda: You know, that's the way we got treated and he was crutches and he said, borrow from your neighbors. Well what no neighbors had anything to, that they could afford to lend and we had about seven kids. Six, seven kids that just remember they had a lot of (inaudible). That's the way it was before. It was hard. (inaudible).

Husband: (inaudible).

Eda: (inaudible), you know. Jobs and, you know, fairly good jobs, they all did workers anyway. Coming from such a poor place, poor home, but...

Connie: Is your son still in the airforce?

Eda: No. No he stayed in there a year and decided he didn't like it, so...

Connie: We'll talk about politics and leaders. How active was your community in politics?

Eda: Oh goodness I don't know. We never ever had any part in it. In fact when it come voting time we didn't really know who to vote for, when you got no education you don't understand and your not interested in it eh. So you just talk to somebody and somebody, you decided well maybe that's a good one to vote for well that the one you vote for. It's all, you know, person has the education you know what to do, but when your, you more or less go by what the other people tell you and think and...

So that's all I can tell you about that, I don't know.

Husband: Yeah, it's a big difference now than before it was.

Connie: Do you think things were better then or now?

Eda: Oh now. (laughs) (?) that's for sure. I mean everything is expensive and that, you know, but at least you can get a job and get decent wages now. Where then you got nothing. If you did get a job it wasn't, it didn't pay worth anything.

Connie: Do you think... Would you like to share any other experiences or stories about Indian history?

Eda: No I don't know too much really. Took a lot of foster children. (laughs) Native children, but I don't know.

Connie: Well did you ever hear any stories about native people?

Eda: Stories? Not really. Nothing any different than anybody else. (laughs)

(END OF SIDE A)

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