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SASKATCHEWAN
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Unfortunately the transcript of this tape was not completed. The tape was recorded at a very low volume and the tone of the interviewee's voice is also low. As a result many words are indecipherable. The interview can be accessed on the audio tape. A summary of the tape is located in the transcript file.
SHARON: Edward Denomie of Regina. Mr. Denomie, can you tell me about your family, your father and mother? What do you remember about them, your mom and dad?

EDWARD: They was farming, they had a farm. Homestead.

Q. Where was their homestead?

A. Out of Lestock. And my son lives around there.

Q. What did they own their home that was their own home?

A. Yeah. (inaudible).

Q. What kind of house did they live in, a log cabin?

A. Log house but a lumber house on top, lumber on top. Had pretty good house.

Q. What type of land did they live on? Did they farm the land?

A. Oh there's just enough for his cattle and pigs and stuff like that. He had pigs, chickens.

Q. Did he have his own garden?

A. Yeah. He has a large garden, but the land wasn't good enough to put them cattles on. More sand like.

Q. The soil was too sandy?

A. Yeah. (inaudible) that's about all.

Q. Was the homestead... where was it located, in the town or on the edge of town?

A. What? The homestead?

Q. Yeah.

A. About ten miles from Lestock.

Q. And was it on... it wasn't along the road or anything?

A. No. Right down there it was all open, eh, and there's no railroad anything them days. Didn't need no pasture then. You have a pasture out, it's all open all over.

Q. What kind of hunting did your dad do?

A. Well, he want some meat he'll go out and kill a deer, stuff like that, rats and stuff. Minks. He may get two like that.

Q. And he sold the minks did he?

A. Yeah. Lots of mink.

Q. Did he get good prices for them?

A. Well, them days wasn't very much, but it's enough to make a go on, you know. You didn't have to buy meat and stuff like that, we raised our own meat like. After we grow up, well we moved to... my brother-in-law he went to the army and we moved to this homestead.

Q. In Lestock to...

A. Yeah, and the old man sold his lease and now it's (inaudible). Then we sold that place to guy from Kelliher.

Q. Well why did he sell it?

A. Well, when my brother-in-law signed up in the army and so my sister was married already, the oldest, so she didn't have no, nobody to stay home with, so the old man he thought he better go move then. So he did move there and then after he move all the cattle there and then he's got some farming there. He started. There wasn't much broken but he brake some up, make hay for the cattle and stuff like that. And every year (inaudible) Then my mother took sick. And then she died then.

Q. How old was she do you remember?

A. Well, we was all born then.

Q. Was she, were you young?

A. Yeah I was about ten years old I guess, maybe ten or fifteen, around ten I think.

Q. Well what did she die from, do you remember?

A. (inaudible) them days there was no doctor. And then just killed her, live for five days, maybe ten days that's what kill her. And after she died well we still stay there then and till my brother-in-law come back they was in the army for five years. He come back then after he come back two months kill all cattle we moved to Lestock. My grandfather was build in Lestock. And then just the two of us then, my brother was living in, one of the girl was in the hospital then, Mary was in the hospital she was a year and a half in the hosptial. So the old man went and get him, so he start off (inaudible). Moved to north of Lestock there what was open there, the old man build a house there.

Q. Could he just go and build on any land?

A. Yeah. We just build, it was all open them days. Them days you could build anyplace, you didn't have to build on the road allowance. There was no settlement or anything there, then you just build a house and then well he didn't build, he build good enough for us to stay. Then I was hauling pickets them days. We was selling pickets then. We didn't have no cattle then. No cattle just horses.

No chicken and stuff like that. So we make it go like that till we, the old man got a job in the farm then we all move down there we live on the, camp in the summer. We work there for awhile and help the old man (inaudible) work. And after when winter come well we move back again. And we kept on doing that (inaudible) Go out hunting and I wasn't too big yet.

Q. About how old were you, do you remember?

A. Well I was getting big. I was about seventeen.

Q. Seventeen years old.

A. Seventeen years old I was getting big then. And my sisters they was all getting big (inaudible)

Q. So you all could help at home?

A. Yeah. We all could help a little bit. Not much. But still I done the most helping (inaudible). My brothers too. (inaudible). When they go out threshing, (inaudible) I didn't go out yet. I'd rather stay home with the family all the time. And after I started going out we went down, both me and my girl we went (inaudible).

Q. Tell me about threshing.

A. Well, we thresh on the steam outfit then. There was about fifteen men (inaudible). I was driving a team. And we had our own cook car there and everything, horses (inaudible). So we thresh there, well we thresh about a month and a half them days (inaudible). There was no combine nor anything. We work there, oh, about a month and a half and we got through there, and we come back. Then we had some money then. We were getting paid about six dollars a day, like. And my brother, well we brought the money back to the old man and the old man was home so we give to the old man and we went back again. We started to plow on the farm then for a while (inaudible). Well we didn't get as much but we still got a little bit. And then from there we come home in the winter and then we start again (inaudible). So we make pretty good. We had two outfits, like. My brother had his own team and I had my own team. (inaudible) My brother wasn't married. He was the oldest one but he didn't get married. He died single. And then when spring come again we start to work out then.

Q. So every winter you moved home and did work at home and then every summer you went out and worked?

A. Yeah, well worked for the farmers (inaudible) I was big enough to work now (inaudible) My brother was working all the time (inaudible)

Q. Until you were how old?

A. Oh, I was about 20 years. Over 20 anyway and then I started moving around (inaudible)

Q. (inaudible)

A. I got mixed up (inaudible)

Q. What did your father do when you moved away on your own? How did he make a living?

A. Well, my brother still stayed with him. And the girls. And then the old man (inaudible) He died about 82

years old, I think.

Q. Did he have a pretty good life?

A. Yeah. He was pretty good till he got... He only suffered more than a month, I guess. He had cancer (inaudible). He walked about ten miles every day. He walked to the store and back again.

Q. Well how did you compare with the others in your family? Did you find that you were better off than the other families?

A. Well, I make it go, but I... not much of a pay but still I gotta work, keep on going. I wasn't fooling around. Every kid... start being born every year, well, I gotta work harder. So after they grow up then the two oldest girl they went to school, to the mission school. And you know that was a boarding school then. Then I had only two at home then. And in the holiday time they come back. By that time I save up a little money so they come home on holiday I have them for two months.

Q. So you never had a chance to go to school yourself?

A. No. The school was too far from the homestead. The closest school was about 25 miles, so the Old Man, he didn't want to let me go. It was too far. In them days there was all kinds of coyotes (inaudible). There was a big bush down there.

Q. Was that an Indian residential school or was that a school that anybody could go to?

(Several questions and answers are not decipherable)

A ...well, we didn't get much wage but them days stuff was a little cheaper. He needs about \$20 a month and he still has a little money when he's finished. And after he come back, well, we started to move away up north again. We started to work again, do some scrubbing and stuff like that in the summer (inaudible) and maybe go and come back again to Lestock when we had some kind of (inaudible).

Q. About what year was that, do you remember?

A. (inaudible)

Q. When you say you went up north, where up north did you go?

A. Wadena.

Q. How long did you stay up there?

A. Well, we worked there all summer, pretty near. They contract there to clear bush there. We come back again for harvest. Well, I done some harvest down there (inaudible) by

the acre (inaudible) You make \$20 a day. (inaudible)

Q. How long a day would you work?

A. Oh early in the morning and long as I could see. The more acres you stooked the more money you was making. You didn't work by the day. And then the farmer (inaudible). We boarded ourselves. Well, I had the family there. We boarded ourselves, you see.

Q. You were boarding with the farmer?

A. No. The wife cooked for us. I didn't have to go to the farmer to eat. We had our own meal (inaudible)

Q. And where did you get your goods from?

A. Well, he give us the potatoes and eggs and stuff like that. And bacon, well, some farmers had bacon. And besides that, for the other stuff we go ahead and buy it.

Q. What kind of house did you live in when you lived there?

A. Down there? Well we just used... that was in the fall of the year. We lived in a tent then.

Q. Oh you lived in a tent

A. Yeah, we just travelled with the tent then. We didn't have no house out there. Then after we were finised we come back at home again.

Q. In Lestock?

A. Yeah. Every year we come back.

Q. So every summer you went away and came back in the winter.

A. Yeah. In the winter we came back. We didn't stay. As soon as the snow goes, away we go. Well, I come back for the kids when they went to school. They had the holiday and go back again.

Q. And did the kids have to help you too, work.

A. Oh yeah. They do a little helping. Pile the brush, like, stuff like that.

Q. And then when you came back to Lestock, what kind of work did you do?

A. (inaudible)

Q. And how long did you have to go back and forth like that?

A. Oh quite a while. Quite a while we be going that way

all the time. You stay home, you couldn't make nothing there.