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BELOW.

Brenda: March 13, I'm doing an interview with Eva Rostvold.  
Growing up, what was growing up around St Laurent like. Was  
it... or describe... We should talk about your family, your  
parents. Your dad, you said he done some carpentry, not carpen-  
try but he was...

Eva: Confectionery.

Brenda: Yeah, confectionery, your dad was in confectionery.

Eva: Yes. Well, I wouldn't know too much about that except that I knew that he was in there, in that business.

Brenda: And your dad was from...? I don't have your dad's name on here. I'll have to write some more information down on here. Where was your dad from?

Eva: Well, he was from Duck Lake. He was in Duck Lake here.

Brenda: Oh yeah, and he was in the confectionary business here in...

Eva: Yeah. And then later on it was... Well, first this was Wakaw.

Brenda: He owned a store business in Wakaw first, and then he moved from there to Duck Lake?

Eva: Then he come back to Duck Lake, (inaudible) all his brothers were there, eh.

Brenda: What years would that be in about?

Eva: Oh geez! I couldn't tell you.

Brenda: After your dad was in Wakaw then he came to Duck Lake and he was in the store business with his brother?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: And he done that until...

Eva: Until he moved away, yes.

Brenda: And he moved away to...

Eva: B.C.

Brenda: B.C. and that's where he passed away?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: How about for... did... when your father was living in Wakaw or Duck Lake, did he have garden and horses and things like that?

Eva: No, no.

Brenda: How did the people travel? How did your family travel? Did they travel by vehicle or by horse and buggy?

Eva: Well it was mostly horse and buggy, or saddle, or

something like that.

Brenda: And that's how everybody, the whole community traveled around there?

Eva: Yes mostly everybody, that's the way they were traveling. When we first seen a car coming (laughs) everybody pretty near had their eyes out.

Brenda: Oh yeah. When did the first vehicles, when did you see the first vehicles, or when were the first vehicles around Duck Lake here?

Eva: Well around St. Laurent I seen, the first vehicle I encountered I don't know what year it was, but I know everybody was looking out pretty hard. (laughs)

Brenda: I wonder would that be in, shortly after, were you still a young girl then?

Eva: Yes, I wasn't... I think maybe a teenager or something like that.

Brenda: They were a sight for sore eyes then in those days eh?

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: Brand new vehicle, little wee tiny tires.

Eva: Yeah, everybody wondered what the heck was coming down the road. (laughs)

Brenda: And how about on your mom's side, did they... in their family, how did they live? Did they live along the same lines as your family lived?

Eva: No I think they were more for farming or trapping, or something, a mixed...

Brenda: On your mom's side?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: And your mother, was your mother, was she white? Your mother was white?

Eva: Well no, I wouldn't say, well it's pretty near like myself there. Her dad was from Montreal, I guess.

Brenda: On your mom's side?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: Oh yeah, your mother's dad.

Eva: My mother's dad, yeah.

Brenda: Mother's dad was from Montreal.

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: Oh yeah. So your mother and your mother's dad, your mother's mother... How about your mom's mom?

Eva: Well she's...

Brenda: We were at your mom, where was your mother's mother from? Or your mom, where was your mom from?

Eva: My...

Brenda: Your mother's dad was from Montreal and your mother's mother, your mom's mom...? Oh, geez!

Eva: Well Winnipeg, I imagine.

Brenda: She's from Winnipeg?

Eva: Well yes, Red River. Where's that, Red River?

Brenda: That's right in Winnipeg.

Eva: That's right in Winnipeg and I heard them talking about Red River, and then... what's the other name? Where's St. Boniface then?

Brenda: St. Boniface, that's in Winnipeg too.

Eva: Well yeah, all them places. I guess she lived up there.

Brenda: Your mom?

Eva: My grandmother.

Brenda: Okay. Your mother's mother was from Winnipeg. I wonder if she was Metis. Would you know?

Eva: Oh yes, I'm sure. Our families are Metis.

Brenda: Yeah. Okay. Now were getting somewhere here. So your... This grandpa is Charlie Laviollette?

Eva: No, no, no, that's... He's more white than anything else.

Brenda: Marie Arcand?

Eva: Marie Arcand, yeah. There must be some, either some Indian or quite a bit Metis in the Arcands.

Brenda: What was I getting to now here? Oh yeah, I was up to your mom and dad. Your mom and dad and they were living in Wakaw. They were in a business there and then your dad moved

away?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: Your dad moved away and then your mom?

Eva: My mom she always stayed with Grandpa and Grandma Laviollette.

Brenda: On your mother's side you stayed with, your mother stayed with her grandparents?

Eva: With her dad.

Brenda: With her dad.

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: And you were...

Eva: And I was there too, yeah.

Brenda: You were talking about how you were raised with Lorraine. You were talking with Lorraine about how you were raised and like, the home that you were born in, you said you were raised in there by...

Eva: Well I was born in this vacant house.

Brenda: And it was a house with nothing in it?

Eva: Nothing in it, I guess. And later on that house was moved away, later on in years.

Brenda: But where you were born, that's not... like, the house that you were born in, were you raised in that house too?

Eva: No I was raised in Grandpa's house, a log house it was.

Brenda: And the house that you were born in was not the home that you were raised in?

Eva: No.

Brenda: You went somewhere... your mother had you somewhere else?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: Was it in another community or was it...

Eva: No, it's in the same, just in the same neighborhood just about, oh, not even half a mile away, or something like that.

Brenda: So you were more or less raised by your, you were

raised by your mother but... and your grandparents?

Eva: Stayed with my grandparents, yeah.

Brenda: Did your grandparents still have some say in the way you were raised? Like did they tell your mother, well, treat your daughter this way or this way. Did your grandparents more or less take over?

Eva: No, they more accepted me and they spoiled me, you know, later on. I guess at first, well, they didn't care too much, but...

Brenda: Then after a while...

Eva: Yes. After a while, I guess, I was accepted by them.

Brenda: So your mother had you out of wedlock?

Eva: Out of wedlock, uh-huh.

Brenda: And then they took a long time to accept you?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: And then after a while it was...

Eva: Yes, it was the opposite way. They just spoiled me.

Brenda: Then you had brothers and sisters after...

Eva: Well, I can't just remember the year Mom got married. And they never moved away except once they went to Battleford, and stayed in Battleford at her husband's uncle.

Brenda: And this was after she married her second husband?

Eva: Yes. And then... Oh yes, one year they were at the ferry, he had the ferry. Her husband had the ferry in Carlton.

Brenda: Oh yeah, he owned... he ran that ferry?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: Oh yeah.

Eva: Yeah. Otherwise I can't remember (inaudible).

Brenda: Then after your mom got married...

Eva: But another thing, you know, I consider myself a Metis on account of my mother being one,...

Brenda: Metis?

Eva: ...and she raised me.

Brenda: So you know the language and...

Eva: Yes, and I was raised amongst them so that's what I figure I am. But later in years before I started working out, when I started working out well, I wouldn't say I was Metis, because if I did, every time you went to the employment office... There was one place there, I just don't remember where, but it said, oh I don't know, something about nationality, I think it was, and somebody had tipped me off and told me, "Don't say you're Metis because you won't get any job." So I just, would just put British, I think it was. (laughs)

Brenda: When this was happening when you were out looking for work and...

Eva: But I've always been lucky though. I've always been lucky because I managed to get something to do.

Brenda: You were luckier than other people that were Metis that were dark skinned and if they went to look for a job they couldn't...

Eva: Well I had that advantage, I guess, because my skin wasn't too dark, eh?

Brenda: Whereas the dark skin and the brown eyes and black hair would kind of...

Eva: Yeah, kind of out eh.

Brenda: Couldn't find a job.

Eva: No.

Brenda: And you say you never had any problems. Did you know of people that had problems looking for... when they were looking for work, because they were Metis?

Eva: Well...

Brenda: Did that happen quite often?

Eva: Well I think really there was quite a bit of it. I knew some of my friends and, you know, they had a problem.

Brenda: This was in your early teens or your late teens?

Eva: Yes, yes.

Brenda: And this was happening already, like the discrimination that was shown to Metis people when it came down to look for work.

Eva: Yeah, and just tell you, you come back the next day, or you come back next week, or something like that, eh. So that's the reason I always put British down there.

Brenda: You made life easier for yourself.

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: Yeah, there is a... I think maybe what we'll do is we'll just go through these quickly. When you think about yourself as an individual like, and you think about yourself, how did you, how was your life from the time that you were... was it difficult or hard, interesting?

Eva: Well, I don't know. I didn't have too much of a problem.

Brenda: Because of the color of your skin and stuff like that...

Eva: I suppose, yeah.

Brenda: ...it was easier for you to find employment.

Eva: Yes, I imagine, yes.

Brenda: So life was kind of a little bit easier for you?

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: When you look back at your life and all the things that you've done and everything else, how do you see it? Was it... I guess it's more or less the same kind of question, was it difficult or satisfying, was it a life of hard work or...?

Eva: Well, of course there was hard work. There was that.

Brenda: Where you were raised and how you were raised, did you have running water and...?

Eva: Oh no, nothing like that.

Brenda: Everything had to be hauled?

Eva: No. Well, we lived along, close to the river bank and, oh, they used to take horses and go and get a barrel of water down the river, bring it up and let it set there, and sometimes it was pretty muddy. (laughs)

Brenda: You had to let it...

Eva: Really riley, you know.

Brenda: How about firewood and things like that, did you have coal or was it firewood?

Eva: No, no it was firewood. We had to haul the wood.

Brenda: You had the wood stoves?

Eva: Yes the wood stoves and they'd haul wood. Well those days people, they used to haul a lot of cordwood and stove wood

and bring it to town and sell it. They didn't get much for it. I don't know if it was, sometimes I guess it was not much more than \$1.50 or something like that.

Brenda: For a cord of wood?

Eva: Yes. Well, I don't know if it was a cord, I just can't remember what it was. I don't know anything about measuring those.

Brenda: Did your dad... like during the '30s, like those were really rough times, and your mother and father and your grandparents, did they... like during the '30s when it was really tough, did they have to do other extra work, like, to bring in extra money so that, in order to feed the family then?

Eva: Yes. Well in the '30s there was one year there was nothing at all. I remember I always liked to make garden. I was just, you know... and I went, and Grandpa got a place by the barn there plowed up for me and I made a garden, and the only thing that grew there was one big vegetable marrow. And I had to get some water from down the hill, you know, with pails and water that thing every, well pretty near every day it was so hot, and all the grass was all yellow, all turned yellow, and the garden everything that come up would just dry out.

Brenda: Everything had to be watered constantly?

Eva: Yeah. It would have had to be, but then being so far from the water you couldn't very well do it, eh?

Brenda: What kind of vegetables did you grow?

Eva: Well, mostly potatoes, carrots, and peas, and beans, and you name it, you know.

Brenda: And they all... after you looked after your garden and everything else all summer did you have some to eat?

Eva: No, not that year. I don't know I think there was a few potatoes but I only had this vegetable marrow. Everything else dried out. And we even had a little calf that was born in the wintertime and it was born in a log barn, and there was planks on for a floor. And I guess this calf had its little foot caught in between those planks so it froze its foot and the little hoof, well, we didn't know what was wrong with it, you know. And Grandpa said, "I don't know what's the matter with that calf, it's limping." Later on the little foot come off, you know, it come off right up to the joint pretty near and it healed up like that. So we used to take this calf and tie it up in different places in the yard, just in the yard, like, that's to try and get a little bit of something to eat but the grass was all yellow, you know, it was burnt from the heat, I guess, and no rain.

Brenda: Was that the only calf that you had...

Eva: Oh no, there was some others but then the others would just let go with the cows or some would milk, you know, milk the cows and have the calves in another place. But that year there was no, the feed was scarce.

Brenda: What did the people eat? Were there a lot of people going hungry then?

Eva: Well, kind of, because then the government was sending herrings, you know, salted herrings.

Brenda: In cans?

Eva: No, they were dried, they were dried herrings and you had to soak them overnight and then you tried to cook them the next day. (laughs) They were so salty.

Brenda: I was going to ask you what's this vegetable marrow, you were saying? I don't understand.

Eva: Oh, a vegetable marrow is something like this, that's one of them. That's one, like, that's one of them but the one I raised that year was a lot bigger than that.

Brenda: Oh vegetable marrow. Is there another name for this?

Eva: No.

Brenda: No, this is what...

Eva: No that's what you call your vegetable marrow.

Brenda: How do you cook it?

Eva: Well, we usually take the peeling off there and we just cut it in little squares and let it soak in sugar or something overnight, and then you cook it. You can use it for a vegetable or a dessert.

Brenda: And this is what you grew then?

Eva: You can just cut it in half and then fill it with some meat as a..., you know, ground beef or something, spice and...

Brenda: And you grew some in those years in the '30s and they were...

Eva: Yes, one great big one. That was all, that was all I got out of my garden. Oh yes, and then there was sometimes, too, they send some... (phone rings) I guess I gotta answer that phone.

Brenda: (I didn't have this thing going all this time. I'll just go on from here.) I was asking you about your family life, I think, you said you had a... Did your family do things together, like go camping, and go berry picking and things like

that?

Eva: Oh yes, went berry picking all right, lots of times, went with horses and picked blueberries out in the forest. (laughs)

Brenda: With your family? Your whole family go together?

Eva: Oh yeah.

Brenda: Did your mother do any canning out there?

Eva: Well, yes in the later years. Yeah before that well I don't know if there was that much canning, I don't think there was that much canning.

Brenda: How did they, like when they went picking berries before, your family, did they just pick them and bring them home and eat them as they picked them, or did your mom cook some right away and do a lot of baking right away and put things away?

Eva: Oh, no, we had some like that but we tried to put some away. I remember my mother picking highbush cranberries and she'd save those big wine jugs, you know, and she'd fill them up and put cold water in them and seal them tight, and they were just as fresh, you know, in the summer and winter. It was good.

Brenda: Oh yeah. So that was how your mom was able to put away some berries.

Eva: Yes, because there was not too much canning that I can remember those days, but later in the years well she did. Mom done some canning then.

Brenda: Did you ever go hunting or camping or things like that with your family. or were there stories...?

Eva: I went and got a rabbit. (laughs)

Brenda: You know how to snare rabbits?

Eva: Eh?

Brenda: You went snaring rabbits or...

Eva: Yeah. Oh yes, I used to go across the river and put some snares wherever there's little rabbit trails. And I'd go back and see, and I'd get some. I wouldn't get that much, because there was lots though, you know, but maybe I just didn't put them right. (laughs) And worse than that, one time I had, I went down the hill with a slingshot. And here I notice a rabbit in the bush there, in the bushes, and I got pretty close to it and the rabbit never run away. So I take the slingshot, I had my little stones in my little bag, and I took a shot at it. Didn't I accidentally shoot it! (laughs)

Brenda: You had rabbit for supper?

Eva: Well, I'm sure it wasn't because I was a good shot. But it was just an accident, I guess, that I got this rabbit, you know. And it fell and it was kicking away there and I went and I picked it up off the ground and took it home. (laughs) That was my best shot ever.

Brenda: How do you remember your mom and dad? Were they... do you have fond memories of your parents? Oh I guess that's kind of a difficult question to answer. Like I... do you remember fond memories of your family like doing things with them and going berry hunting... berry hunting, I mean berry picking and camping and things like that?

Eva: Yeah. And Grandma used to snare some gophers. Well, that's not snare really, I think it was little traps, you know, those little small traps. And I had gone along with her, there was a little prairie, like, on the other side of the barns and there was lots of those gophers, so...

Brenda: Is that what your family ate?

Eva: Yeah, they ate them.

Brenda: The gophers?

Eva: Yes. And then Grandma would make a little fire and bring a pail of water and she'd wet the fur, the skin there, she'd wet them, kinda dampen them, and then she had a knife with her and she'd scrape them, you know, she'd put them on the fire and then by scraping them like that they come really white.

Brenda: Oh, so you just put the gopher right on the fire?

Eva: No, no, they hold it there some way.

Brenda: But the fur would be wet first and then scraped off?

Eva: Yes. And then that just came real white just like a little pig or something.

Brenda: How was the meat, was it...?

Eva: Well, those days we liked it. She'd cook a big pot of it and we'd eat these gophers.

Brenda: How did she cook it, just boil it, or roast it?

Eva: Yeah, boil it.

Brenda: And that was food in those days. They must have been rough times.

Eva: Well, yes, different things, I ate ground hog too.

Brenda: How about for community life, did... there were a lot

of dances, Metis dances?

Eva: Oh yes there was lots of that. They used to have, well everytime there was a birthday or surprise party or whatever it was, you know, people would all gather together and then they'd make those bees, they called them. I don't know if you ever heard of it. That's when people go and help the other people to do their work, or help one another.

Brenda: Building homes and...

Eva: Yeah, anything. If they had a bunch of wood they wanted to haul out to town and get a car loaded or something, the men would all get together with their teams and haul the wood in, helped his neighbor, whoever he was. And after that the neighbor would make a dance, so everybody enjoyed themselves then.

Brenda: And they'd bring out the fiddle and...

Eva: Oh yes. Well really, I think that's what the Metis people, they're a fun people. They like to dance and jig around. And they like music, and singing so that's...

Brenda: So that's how people got together. Did the Metis people then, did they wear the traditional Metis sash?

Eva: Oh I remember Grandpa Arcand, he had a thing like that there -- I don't know what you call, I called them a scarf. (laughs) Always wondered because there was another old man, that was old man Fleury, that was Earnest Fleury's dad, he used to have one like that too, one of those red sashes.

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Eva: Oh I don't know what they're made of those things, I don't know.

Brenda: Wool?

Eva: There's some wool in it, for sure, but then they're not pure wool, I don't think.

Brenda: Are they... is it embroidery?

Eva: It's more like cloth of some kind, those sashes, and there's fringes on them.

Brenda: Did your mom, did your mom dress in Metis dress or did she...

Eva: No, no.

Brenda: She wore just...

Eva: She tried, she dressed up quite nice and... but she had those long boots that you had buttons on the, buttons on the sides there. (laughs)

Brenda: Oh yeah those were beautiful shoes, beautiful boots.

Eva: Yeah, and then she was awful fond of wearing a suit, you know, she had different suits.

Brenda: Do you know how to jig? Did you jig too...

Eva: No, I never did.

Brenda: Did your parents or... did they do any jigging?

Eva: Not really.

Brenda: But they did dance to fiddle music?

Eva: Oh yes.

Brenda: Your community, was it all Metis people?

Eva: Yes, I think most of them was, all that right from Batoche to, well, right down to St. Louis. Well, there's a few more whites in St. Louis, I guess, than what there is, but along that river it was all half-breed houses. And the land there is two miles long, so it makes a long narrow strip so it goes right from the river up the hills. I don't know how many chains wide only.

Brenda: Chains?

Eva: Chains, yeah, they used to call that chains, I don't know. It's the width, I think, the width of the land, and then it's two miles or something long.

Brenda: Is that how scrips were given out?

Eva: Oh I wouldn't know that, no.

Brenda: Did your family practice any of the Indian religions like the medicines and stuff like that?

Eva: No, the only thing that, when somebody, when I had a cold or something they'd give me this mint that grows along the sloughs and along the lakes. We used that. And then seneca leaves. if you want to get cleaned up or something, you know, they'd give me seneca leaves.

Brenda: And this, do you remember last time we were talking about this (inaudible).

Eva: (inaudible) oh yes.

Brenda: Was that used for medicinal purposes too?

Eva: Well I think, I think when a person wasn't feeling good they'd give him a little piece of that (inaudible) and you'd chew it, you know, and just...

Brenda: Just keep it in your mouth?

Eva: Yes and you're suppose to feel better. (laughs)

Brenda: So you were shown discrimination then when you were in your early teens when you were out looking for work and you couldn't...

Eva: Yes, I know.

Brenda: You couldn't...

Eva: But I was kind of lucky compared to some of them. I always got by somehow.

Brenda: So because you were in a Metis environment all the time you weren't shown any discrimination or... like, you were treated like everybody else?

Eva: With them?

Brenda: Yes.

Eva: Yes. Oh yes.

Brenda: But when you got out it was... like when you left, that's when you were...

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: If you weren't careful then you were shown discrimination?

Eva: Well, I think so, yes.

Brenda: Did the church play an important role in your family's life?

Eva: Well, we used to go to church. I think really people were more religious then than what they are today.

Brenda: Like they went to church every Sunday?

Eva: Yes. We were quite a ways from church there. We had to go, well, seven miles with horses, you know, seven or eight miles I guess it is, and we'd hitch up a horse and away we'd go with the buggy to Batoche, and that's about seven or eight miles.

Brenda: So your family went to church quite regularly?

Eva: Oh yes.

Brenda: Did the priest ever go and visit your home, to just go and visit?

Eva: Yes. And during Lent we always prayed.

Brenda: Every day, like?

Eva: Well, every night, we'd say our beads, prayer beads. Grandpa would start and we'd answer. And anybody that came in, that I can remember, while we were praying, they just could come in the house, kneel down with us and join in the prayers.

Brenda: And this happened every year with Lent?

Eva: With Lent, yes.

Brenda: When the priest came to visit you did he, was it a visit or was he there to more or less go and help or go and offer some help?

Eva: No. They'd come once in a while, go around all the neighborhood, you know, visit every person or something.

Brenda: Did your family ever have to go the priest for help, like for financial or food or something?

Eva: No, I don't think so.

Brenda: Your family always provided, your dad always provided for his family?

Eva: My grandpa, you mean. (laughs)

Brenda: Your grandfather, yes.

Eva: You forget what I am. (laughs) I can't help it, but that's something that's very embarrassing at times, you know, when I went to school, because kids ask you, "Who's your dad?" "Who's your mom?" and so on and, "Where is he?" and then the teacher comes out with a card and she says, "Well, get your mom and dad to sign this." Well, I only had my mom to sign it. So it was sort of an embarrassment.

Brenda: Well, today now, there's a lot of that going on today, but I guess in those days it was something that everybody frowned on. Did the church help Metis people around this area of Duck Lake, St. Louis, St. LaRonge and that area, did the church really help Metis people?

Eva: I couldn't tell you. Being that we never, we didn't get any help, I don't think, not that I know of. And there was always a sports in Batoche. They used to call it la fete des Metis,

Brenda: Which means?

Eva: Which means the... like the half-breeds' sports like or something.

Brenda: How do you say that again?

Eva: La fete des Metis.

Brenda: I'd like to learn how to speak French. When you were going to school, did your parents encourage you to do well in school? Did they encourage you to keep on going to school?

Eva: Yes, but I started school so late and I was tall and slim, and then I was just about the tallest I guess in the class and that discouraged me.

Brenda: Being the tallest one and...

Eva: Yes, because then the teacher would think that I was, you know, stupid or something because I was so old and hadn't started school yet.

Brenda: Is that kind of the reason why you left school?

Eva: Well yes, I was darn glad to quit.

Brenda: Get away from the pressure at school.

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: Were you comfortable at school? I guess you would be uncomfortable...

Eva: No, no, I was never.

Brenda: You didn't really like school then?

Eva: No, I never did like it. I think maybe if I'd 'a went at an earlier age, you know, I could have got on better.

Brenda: With the students, did you get along with the other students?

Eva: Well, yes.

Brenda: They treated you all right?

Eva: Well, at times, and at other times, I don't know...

Brenda: Was it because you were different from the other students, or...

Eva: I think so, I think maybe I was different, because maybe I was brought up too much alone.

Brenda: And the other kids, they had...

Eva: Yeah, the other kids were big families and so on, eh.  
And some...

Brenda: Were there all Metis children where you went to  
school?

Eva: No, that was mixed.

Brenda: Indian and Metis?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: No white students though? Were there white students?

Eva: Oh yes.

Brenda: So it was everybody, Indian, white, and Metis.

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: And that was in this school here?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: Stobert?

Eva: Uh-huh.

Brenda: Did you ever vote, or did you have a political life?  
Did you ever get involved in any political organizations, or  
with the Metis Society? Were you ever involved...

Eva: Well actually I belong to it, I got my card here, I  
don't know, but since I got old enough to get the pension,  
well, I never got no card. My brother said, "Oh, you don't  
need one anymore. That's supposed to be for life or something.  
I don't know, I got a card but I don't know what it tells me.

Brenda: So were you always a member of the Metis Society, the  
local? Were you a member of this local here in Duck Lake?

Eva: No I was in P.A.

Brenda: So you were...

Eva: Yeah, I was in there for a while. I got cards from  
there. And then when I come up here, well then, my brother had  
been in it for so many years. Ever since they started with the  
Metis Society my brother's been in it.

Brenda: Which was?

Eva: Leonard. Leonard Pambrun.

Brenda: How many years ago was that?

Eva: Oh gee, that must be, I'm sure, a good 10 years, eh.

I don't really know what year it started, but if I have some of my old cards I could tell you, got some up there but I don't know what year it is. But him, he was in there a long time before I did.

Brenda: Your brother, he was with the Metis Society...

Eva: Yes, he was always involved in something, or selling the cards, or talking people into it or something. Well, he's the president now.

Brenda: Of this local here?

Eva: Yes.

Brenda: This is Local 10?

Eva: Yeah, Local 10.

Brenda: So your family, your family has always... like your family, were they involved in politics or just your brother Leonard?

Eva: No, just seems to be Leonard that's in, well all the Pambruns now are... Because you see my brothers and sisters, they're Pambruns, my half.

Brenda: Your three brothers?

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: You have three brothers.

Eva: There's Leonard and Harold. See Leonard is the president here and is the coordinator or something. He has a bunch of men working; he gets jobs for them. And Harold, well I don't know, Harold was at the meeting here in Battleford. I don't know what kind of meeting they had. Did you hear about that?

Brenda: In North Battleford?

Eva: Yeah, in Battleford anyway.

Brenda: This weekend?

Eva: No, that's, oh, a couple weeks ago, I guess, there was a big meeting up there and Harold was up there.

Brenda: Was he involved with Metis, with the Metis Society?

Eva: I don't know. He must, he must... I don't know how come he went to it.

Brenda: Maybe his brother asked him.

Eva: No, no because that's a different, this is a different local. This one lives in Crotwell.

Brenda: How?

Eva: Crotwell.

Brenda: Like that? C-r-o-t, Crotwell?

Eva: Yeah, and my sister Yvonne, well she's got a group home.

Brenda: Where does she have a group home?

Eva: In Mission, B.C. She has a group home and she takes those girls that's got problems, all kinds of problems. So she's had that... she's been looking after kids there for many, many years. It must be 15 years anyway or more that she's been keeping children.

Brenda: And you have one more brother? You have three brothers: you have two of them here.

Eva: No, that was three all together.

Brenda: Oh, I see.

Eva: The one is the girl, you see.

Brenda: Okay. When you were growing up did politicians or did anybody ever come and visit your parents regarding politics, somebody coming over to try and get your dad's vote or your mom's vote.

Eva: Oh yeah.

Brenda: Who did your family vote for?

Eva: Oh, I think they were mostly Liberals.

Brenda: So would that be the direction you'd vote too, would you vote...

Eva: Not always. (laughs)

Brenda: Depends on what's happening, eh?

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: So when it came time to vote, would anybody influence your vote?

Eva: Oh yes, at home.

Brenda: Oh yeah, your family?

Eva: Oh, they wanted me to be Liberal like them.

Brenda: But you made up your own mind, did you?

Eva: Yes, that's right.

Brenda: And did your family ever take an active role, besides Leonard, did anybody else take an active role in politics? Did anybody else ever do more than what your brother is doing?

Eva: Not that I can think of.

Brenda: So you have one brother that's interested in politics?

Eva: Yeah.

Brenda: Did you ever hear about the Saskatchewan Metis Society in the 1930s? Did you hear about it then?

Eva: Well I think that's when he was... no, it wouldn't be. No, I haven't. In the '30s, you said?

Brenda: Yeah.

Eva: No.

Brenda: No, eh.

Eva: No, I didn't know that at that time.

Brenda: Did you ever hear about any of the leaders, like some of the people? Joe LaRocque, did you ever hear that name?

Eva: No, I haven't.

Brenda: Joe Ross?

Eva: No.

Brenda: Tom Major?

Eva: No.

Brenda: Joe McKenzie?

Eva: I've heard the name but I don't...

Brenda: You never made any connection with him to politics or anything like that?

Eva: No, no.

Brenda: Sol Pritchard?

Eva: No.

Brenda: Did you ever go to any of the Metis meetings, like the local meetings, did you ever go to them?

Eva: Yes I did. I used to go every time there was one. They'd send us, they used to send us a little note every time

there was a meeting, but now they don't do that, well, not to me anyways. I haven't received any.

Brenda: Otherwise you'd still be going to the meetings?

Eva: Well, I don't know. I kind of feel like I should be, I'm out, or something.

Brenda: You feel like you don't know what's happening out there anymore.

Eva: No.

Brenda: So you went to meetings, and was history ever discussed at any of these meetings, like the history of the Metis Society?

Eva: Oh I think there was, but I can't just think of what about.

Brenda: Well I think, Eva, I think this is about all the questions that I really have to ask.

(END OF SIDE B)

(END OF TAPE)