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HIGHLIGHTS:

- general account of his life

Brenda: What was, what was life like for you from the time
that you were, from the time you, you remember?

Maxime: Well my life was (inaudible). The only reason we was
making our living was in the bush. See I, I was 14 years old
and I was working the bush to be able help myself, to help Dad.

Brenda: So from when you were 14 you were working full time?

Maxime: No, not full time. See, I went to school till 16
years old, but I could have went more but I didn't have a
chance because I was the oldest one in the family and I had to
help Dad, you know.

Brenda: So you went, you left school when you were 16 years old?

Maxime: Sixteen that was my last year of school.

Brenda: What, what grade was that?

Maxime: I was in grade seven, I was booked into grade eight but I just couldn't.

Brenda: Was that here in Duck Lake?

Maxime: No, that was... I went to Duck Lake a little while, not too long, we had a country school out in the country.

Brenda: That would be...

Maxime: That would be eight miles out of Duck Lake?

Brenda: Little country school. What was the name of the school?

Maxime: Magnolia School.

Brenda: Magnolia?

Maxime: Yeah.

Brenda: And that's eight miles from Duck Lake?

Maxime: About eight, yeah, about eight miles.

Brenda: And you, you started working after that?

Maxime: Yeah, and then I started to be able to do what I could. Just whatever I would be able to get working for farmers, or if I didn't have more work at home then I'd be there.

Brenda: So you worked as a farm laborer and...

Maxime: Yeah, right. But those days that was very cheap wages.

Brenda: What was the wage?

Maxime: The wages was, oh... I'd go in the bush cutting the wood, didn't last very long that and the cheapest I ever cut wood was 50 cents a cord. Imagine, 50 cents a cord. Well, you had to cut two cords a day to make a dollar. We last about one or two years that way.

Brenda: So all, so a monthly wage when it came it would be...

Maxime: All the cords of wood went up \$1, \$1.50 and kept going.

Brenda: So it was 50 cents a cord...

Maxime: But he didn't last very long there. That's cutting in the bush. If he haul it out, well to haul it out, you had 25 cents haul it out and then you make 75 cents if you haul it out of the bush. Just cutting and tailing you'd get 50 cents a cord in the bush.

Brenda: Was there other kinds of work that you got into?

Maxime: Oh well, yeah, there was a little when in the fall you'd go... There's a few farmers there, we'd go out and maybe threshing for them, but that didn't last very long, only a couple of weeks, maybe two weeks. Already there was a few small farmers when I was young, not big farmers like now. Well some people they'd seed maybe about 20 acres, then pigs (inaudible). There was no combine or nothing, just threshing machines, small ones.

Brenda: So you worked, most of your life was working...

Maxime: (inaudible) in the bush most of the time like this. And after when I grew up, old enough then already there was some going in the city.

Brenda: Did you ever move into the city to go and work?

Maxime: Didn't, no, but I stayed there for quite a while in the city, P.A. and Saskatoon.

Brenda: Doing, working (inaudible)?

Maxime: Yeah, I work in different jobs. I worked at Burns for two years and a half, and I worked at creosote plant with the ties there. And then I went to Saskatoon -- oh that's a long time ago -- when they were paving the streets, like, and parking lots, like paving, like, you know.

Brenda: Yeah. So you, so you worked out of... worked in the cities too.

Maxime: Yeah, and weekends I come home.

Brenda: Did you move with your wife and family when you'd move?

Maxime: No, I wasn't married.

Brenda: Oh yeah.

Maxime: I wasn't married, single man. I heard two children working. How much you were getting? \$10 a month. Is it \$10 a month? \$8 a month?

Brenda: Oh, that was big money in those days. (both laugh) Sure is a big difference now.

Maxime: God, yeah.

Brenda: And... We're talking about, we're going through... we're talking about your daily life. Your family when you were growing up, did your, you didn't have running water then?

Maxime: Oh no, no, just wells.

Brenda: Just wells. Everybody used firewood?

Maxime: Mostly, I guess.

Brenda: No coal?

Maxime: Well, some people did, but never had the money too much to buy the coal heat.

Brenda: Where did the people... If there was no wood around here, no bush, where did the people get the firewood?

Maxime: How they would make... you know, they go into town but they maybe wouldn't have stayed here. There's good wood in the bush, eh, because... See, for hunting again, wild, well see, that's one thing how we're making our living quite a bit too is the hunting. Indians and Metis people they still doing it but it's more or less like a sport now. They don't have to go hunting. They have cattle all over. But like us guys we used to in the fall. It was hunting whatever game there was, lots, you know, some birds, prairie chickens, partridges, rabbits, and we make our living quite a bit on that, you know. You had to do that, just keep going. Like, they kill a few deer and you get the meat, you know. But we had cattle but not too much. We own our own milk, make our own homemade butter out of that and that was a lot of help. Maybe raise a few chickens, people didn't have to buy eggs in the summertime.

Brenda: Did your family do berry picking too?

Maxime: And berry picking, Mom done that. And after we got married the wife did the same thing. In the fall when the berries started to get ripe we start picking and Mom did the same thing. We used to pick... there was a lot of chokecherries, they'd pick lots of chokecherries. She used to use a stone, like, and we'd bang these cherries until they are nearly mush, crush them, like, but now we do it with our fingers and you crush, like. What do you call that? Meat chopper, no, grinder, like. But Mom used to do that, for days and days she'd do that. And we used to put them in little -- flatten them up, like -- little bannock and you dry them, eh? And they dry, like, lots. Then what we used to do then, put that in the bag and when the weather comes, when it comes to cook them we'd boil them in a pan, put sugar in it stir it a little bit and cook them in there and then you eat that, eh.

Brenda: You eat that crushed chokecherries.

Maxime: Crushed chokecherries. Well, you heard that for when you're... you would eat that for... you're supposed to eat

that for (inaudible). I still like it, I like it and I always will. And then, see, all those things -- like, there was raspberries, pick all the raspberries you could; and there's strawberries, wild strawberries, only wild berries them days. Today some of you see people putting in raspberries like we have, eh? But people want more, it's more, it's more, make big gardens. you know. But we always had put in the crop and we mostly always made a garden. I think my grandmother she thought she had better food. That was a lot of help too, gardening. We had the potatoes and that was a lot of help.
Brenda: So you had all this home grown stuff so...

Maxime: Most of it, yeah. We tried to buy the less we could, eh. Sugar, we had to buy that, and tea, we had to buy that, but the rest -- all of us tried to save as much as we can.

Brenda: Like you'd naturally have your, your own meat. You'd go hunting for your food.

Maxime: Yes. See then we had that meat. We made our living on more or less on wild life, and those days people were lucky. Just happen there was lots of partridges, and lots of rabbits, and lots of prairie chickens. It's funny, we don't see that any more. I don't know if they... when they fertilize in the fields they eat that so it kills them, I don't know. You don't, you don't see that any more. Yeah, there was... And another thing what they used to do, well, Mom used to do that, they used to dig seneca roots, sell that, you know. Seneca roots, that's Indian medicine but it was cheap. I don't know if it was 25 cents a pound. Imagine after they dried they... you had to dry a bag like that to make a pound. And I used to help Mom. Mom used to say, "Well, we're going to pick a few pounds of seneca roots; make a few dollars." And we'd go, we made like a little shovelling, we make a whole, we make a whole dollar with a bag of seneca root. I used... Dad made me when I was small, when I wasn't very big -- about 12 years old maybe -- he made me a small, like, it's like a little shovel, it was sharp. Then you push under with your feet -- there was kind of a side there, little steel in the side or something solid. So you'd push and then you lift it up and you pull the seneca root out of the ground and shake a little bit. You had a bag in here like an apron, eh, tied behind here, it was kind of funny. And there was hundreds of people, around the (?) there used to be a lot of people way back. There was a whole land, there was a whole lot of seneca roots. And blueberries, like in the fall where blueberries, people saw blueberries were ripening and then see like tents all over the place. And they pick blueberries and they'd make jam with this.

Brenda: But now all those patches and...

Maxime: Well blueberries there's lots yet. Oh yeah, we were... last year we picked quite a few, but see there's blueberries. They grew more or less in the game reserve where the people don't farm, eh. And then in the old place, like where the trees are growing, like jackpine and all that, they grow more or less in jackpine, not too much where there's

spruce and hemlock.

Brenda: And this, this seneca, seneca root?

Maxime: Yeah, seneca roots. Well, they make medicine with that, eh. What kind of medicine they make, well, you know, I think it's, I'm not sure if it's \$10 a pound; but there's none here. I don't know, there may be way up north where nobody bother them and nobody (inaudible).

Brenda: It takes forever.

Maxime: Yeah. I know there's one family -- they were a big family, they, they dug for days, days trying to dig seneca roots. There was many people there and they was making money for it. But there was about 15 of them.

Brenda: Did, did your family have land? Did, did they, your dad or...

Maxime: Yeah, Dad had a quarter of land.

Brenda: Was that, like your dad, was he... He was Metis, eh?

Maxime: Yeah.

Brenda: Your dad, your whole family was, eh?

Maxime: Yeah, the whole family.

Brenda: Everybody, everybody was Metis.

Maxime: Really Metis on both sides.

Brenda: Metis through and through, eh?

Maxime: Yeah. Oh yeah, we're Metis too, like, like through my grandmother and my dad -- same thing, you know. But my own family it's different now because they're different nationality. There's more different mix there.

Brenda: They owned land, was that scrip?

Maxime: No, no, no, no, that's...

Brenda: They bought, they bought their own land?

Maxime: Well, no, they didn't buy the land. They were homestead, but it cost you \$10 for your half title notice... to give a chance the people have of owning it. Like myself I didn't have much of a chance because already the law was passed on it. I had a quarter of land, well I had two quarters of land... My uncle used to have scrip, yeah, when he had to go to... he went to city... city in the States there... Montana someplace, that was common living. They got \$600 each and scrip there. That's a long time, that's before my time.

Brenda: Did they, did they... oh, okay. So you, you, you weren't...

Maxime: No, not me. That was out there.

Brenda: The land, the lot that you're staying on now, you bought this yourself?

Maxime: Yeah, here. Oh yeah, definitely, we had to buy that. And the land we had on the farm, I sold my farm and I had to buy it.

Brenda: So you were never given, you were never given a scrip eh?

Maxime: No, not me. No, I never had that. I mean maybe there was some coming to us. See, a lot of things now, they discover lots of things we didn't even know then we... there's something coming to us, money or something for native people. Indians, they are supposed to have it so now they know it's coming to them. And us, well, we didn't know. They just discover a lot of things not too long ago. They still had it, like they go to big meetings, like Ottawa, the big meetings now. And now the people are getting smarter because they all went to school. They got pretty good education and they discover a lot of things that the white people are very surprised. See what I mean, well, you know that yourself. See, but when I was young, my dad, he could barely write his name, my mom the same thing. How could you fight things like that you don't know what's going on? You take whatever they give you. If they want to give you a hard time they'll give you a hard time. And well, I was younger them days. There was no way, there was no welfare and all the people would say P.A. afterwards 70, 75 if you had hard time to work. The young generation they don't want to help their grandparents and imagine how they were living then. They'd say... like now, there was no pension them days, and not too long ago there was... first pension I knew was my grandmother got it -- all it was \$15 a month. So that's, well, that's a few years already -- it was before we got married. Then it went up \$20, \$25 and now they get up to \$500 a month, eh. You have to because, well them days was no pension in P.A. If you were poor you were poor. I seen guys who were over 80 years old and they took an axe tried to cut the cord of wood to buy something, can you imagine. (inaudible) he was 82 years old, poor old guy he'd walk with his axe on his back and he'd cut wood in the back here to try to make a few dollars to buy something for himself.

Brenda: Everybody had to help themselves or the community had to help these people, the really old people I guess, eh?

Maxime: No. No, no, no, no, no they didn't help, they didn't help you at all. It's like I'm saying, the old people if they couldn't make their living it's up to the young, the young generation. See, if you had a nephew, if you had sons they're the ones... Like for myself, I'd be 80 years old and to be like them days be up to my boys to carry me. Well, I wouldn't live if I couldn't make a living myself. If I didn't feel too

good (inaudible) couldn't expect you been working since 20 years old, eh. When he was 98 and no welfare and you couldn't, say, walk up to the municipality and say, "I want this," because they wouldn't even look at you, because everybody had to be on his own.

Brenda: Those times were rough I guess.

Maxime: Times were rough and farmers didn't have no money to hire, to hire the city youth, to hire farm people for laboring. You could get a guy for \$5 a month, \$5 a month! And the government would give this farmer \$5 to help the farmer, that this guy was getting \$10 a month. And he had to work -- not only standing around, you had to move for \$10. They put you where be hauling wood, they put you feed the cattle, clean the barns out and steady work for \$10 a month. I seen that.

Brenda: Ten dollars was a lot of money, though. I mean...

Maxime: Well, \$10 them days was like, it was like \$100 today, I would say, pretty close anyway. Well see, you go in the store and buy meat for \$1 -- you'd get a chunk of steak and maybe today it would cost maybe \$25. Then a box cigarettes 10 cents and the guys were smoking. And it went up 15, 20 cents and yet they were smoking. And Mom used to sell butter for 10 cents a pound, I remember that. To make, she used to make... See, they weren't shipping cream them days, you had to sell butter. She'd make her own butter, she'd make maybe 20 pounds, see, that was \$2. But she made her shopping with the \$2 for 20 pounds of butter. And the eggs was the same thing. I remember for a while it was 5 cents a dozen. Five cents a dozen, then it went up 10 cents. Well, if you make a \$1 you had to make 10,000 [sic] eggs to make \$1. And maybe sometimes they had a hard time to sell the eggs. Everybody was wanting to sell eggs for 10 cents a dozen because they want to make a few dollars. And the same thing, I used to haul the wood into Duck Lake for \$1.50 a load of wood -- make 8 miles. That's 16 miles, eh.

Brenda: (inaudible).

Maxime: Yeah, \$80. And what, what was happening a lot of times those people buying wood from me, they were just as poor as me. Sometimes they didn't have the money to give me \$1.50 for... One time I brought a load of wood here, there was a guy had a bakery making bread, and I couldn't sell my wood. Nobody wanted, nobody had the money. I could unload my load someplace if I could trust the guy OK, I say my (inaudible) he has money maybe he would take a load and turn all my wood, I won't never see my \$1.50. I didn't want to do that. So I sold my load to this guy by the name of Paul -- a French guy -- so he gave me 10, 15 loaves of bread for a load of wood. So that was something, you know, except I didn't... (interruption) Well, I said, "I had to do something. I didn't want to bring my load back," I said. I said, "I couldn't sell my load." See how people would sell things.

Brenda: The way things had to be then, I guess.

Maxime: Well, you never see... see, like the little boy here,

well you seen them kids today they have \$5, \$10, \$20 maybe, spending money. Years ago if you had \$20, well, you had to run into a guy who's a big shot. Them days (inaudible) and you go to the sports if you had \$2. You had to work like hell to go to sports for \$2 because to go into sports (inaudible). In Duck Lake here used to cost 25 cents for a kid to go into the sports and now they charge at \$7, \$7, \$7.50, you're an adult, something like that. Imagine, and it used to go in... like a little boy, they used to go to sports... years ago if you had 25 cents you could go to sports, and maybe if you had \$1 you had 75 cents to spend in the sports, like. Boy, that was a very hard life, I tell you. It was kinda funny way to live.

Brenda: Were you ever involved in politics?

Maxime: No. That's one thing that... Well I was a Metis but not involved with (inaudible) little bit like that. Sometimes they ask you, like Metis meetings, like when they start these Metis meetings, like that way we go to Metis meetings. You know, the different meetings we used to go to Saskatoon where these contests discovered things and they would fight the government to get some things and it worked. That was important. They were good down there.

Brenda: How long...

Maxime: How long ago is it?

Brenda: How long ago did you start working in this?

Maxime: Oh, it would be must be 10, 15 years ago when it was started.

Brenda: Do you, do know any of these people here? These are the names of the people that were involved in politics in the early 1930s. One of the guy's names was Joe LaRocque. Do you know him?

Maxime: Joe LaRocque, no, I used to know...

Brenda: Did you ever hear of Joe Ross?

Maxime: No, that's before my time. Well, I heard Jim McKenzie but I didn't know that guy. But I know, I tell you I know one guy years ago, he was Sam Dennis, he was a very smart person. He had very good education and he was going to start this Metis program then like we do now. Like those locals, like different locals, they got locals all over -- this is Local No. 10 we have here, P.A. I don't know what (inaudible) all over different locals, eh. And he had, he went around and he wants to go and fight the government to get help to get land, and you had to be a member like (inaudible). And, you know, he couldn't make it because there was not enough people. He didn't have the pull enough, and he didn't have the money, and he had to go to Ottawa for that. But he, if he would have made it them days it would have been a lot of help for the people that are having a hard time. That's what he wanted. He was saying to the people -- he made a little meeting, we went to that, and he said he'd be able to make it. He said,

"There's a lot of money sleeping in Ottawa for the Indian and Metis people," he says. If they would have discovered that -- I don't know how he found that out, but a lot of people, he said, they figured he was just more or less talking to the post, like here. And you know what I mean, that a lot of people they didn't want to believe him. He said they figured it was... but all the time it wasn't, because it happened after.

Brenda: Do you remember his first name, Dennis?

Maxime: It was, yeah, Sammy. He was a Metis guy, but he was pretty smart. He went through school, he knew what he was doing but he didn't have enough pull on that like we do now -- but he tried. Well, the time they had those scrips, the time my uncle went and them days that's where they went, that's where they went and they were grateful they had those scrips then. It wasn't too much money but them days a lot -- they added \$600. (inaudible). Forty or 42, they went to Lethbridge and they made a big meeting. They gave them each \$600. (inaudible).

Brenda: Do you know the people that went to that meeting?

Maxime: Yeah, well yeah, see they... there's a guy pick up the names here and I don't know who did that. It was somebody that knew about those politics and what's coming to them. See, this money was coming to them for what reason, I don't know. And before that it's like what I say, when he wanted a quarter of land there it was \$10. This money is paying for probating the title. What after that it worked out. But then, like when my uncle went to Lethbridge, there were over 40 of them, I remember that.

Brenda: What was your uncle's name?

Maxime: Joe Parenteau. He died quite a few years ago.

Brenda: And he was, he was involved, was he?

Maxime: With this scrip. And there's quite a few of them, Pritchard (inaudible) like old Joe Fisher went and George Pritchard, not Albert. you know, though, and Joe -- your uncle Joe, Joe Pritchard -- and Jim, he was involved in there, and some other guys. Well, there were over 40 of them went and they all went there and they came...

Brenda: I wonder, I wonder if they got back their land or did they just take the \$600. Did they take land too with them, or do you remember?

Maxime: Well, that's one thing I couldn't tell you exact, hard to work. Maybe there was something else involved there, maybe. And I always figured myself, maybe there was some land was supposed to come out and they give the money just to please them for one reason. I think there was a catch there someplace, but maybe nobody had ever discovered why did they give them money. Somebody should have said, "How is it all the country giving that money? Is it something that you discovered

this money is coming to us?" I don't know how it happened they give that money to them. They must have had a reason for doing it. But they, like years ago, like I would say... like when they fought this Rebellion here, you know, well the Indians and the Metis they got together and they fought there, the rebellion war. See, they wanted all the people to go in reserves, eh. They had to put Metis people in the reserves same thing as an Indian. Oh yeah, that's how the big trouble starts. So the Indians, they didn't want to go (inaudible) but they... then they start fighting, they help each other, they make this rebellion. But anyway, when the war was over he told the white guys to go to the Indians, you go on the reserves, but they didn't put too many people in. Why they didn't put them in a reserve I don't know, but they was supposed to and that's how the trouble started.

Brenda: You yourself weren't involved in any Metis Local stuff? You attended meetings...

Maxime: Oh yeah, yeah. I was there at meetings. I bought all the membership cards a lot of times and we still do. Like even if we don't have to, just to help them out. Like Len is the president of Duck Lake here, and (inaudible) brother, so when Leonard's got those membership card I buy them, even I don't... just to help the Local, like.

Brenda: Do you... Like when you go to these meetings do they kind of voice their opinion? Do you voice your opinions? Do you tell them how you feel and how they... what you think they should be looking out for or...?

Maxime: Well, we had meetings, yeah, exactly what you see... When you go to meeting, well every citizen, people, they, they have the old problem, you know what I mean. And there's always something you figured that should have been done even if it is a little late...

(END OF SIDE A)

SIDE B

Maxime: What these meetings, what they do, like, they have memberships and all that. There was a lot of times we went with the wife and we were very interested. I think it's a good thing. They help a lot of people, you know. Like when they first started they were giving -- how you call that (inaudible), you know. But depends who's running again. Some people they were overdoing it. Some people they want more than the next guy. See, that's not right. If I was, you see, if I had something to do, what I would do is to give the people all even share so everybody would be treated all the same, not to give say twice as much to one person, even he doesn't need, you know what I mean. But the people who is giving, they're the

one, they had something to do, like Saskatoon or big wheel from Regina or Ottawa, well those people don't know. They just put, well, see, me and you, see, we'll run (inaudible). We'll say, okay, we'll get this person there so much. Maybe all this time we give him half and we give half to the next guy because they both need about the same thing. But a lot of times (inaudible). It's quite a problem there and we got (inaudible) the people... I was telling Leonard, but Leonard is very careful on that, he's pretty good with them, Leonard. He's very honest on all his people. He was one of the best presidents I ever knew where people were, they were surprised. We vote him in, well I vote him in in the first place. I tell them we'll try Leonard. I says, "If he wants to." Well Leonard says, "It's up to you guys. If you want to vote me in," he says, "I try the best I can." And he did.

Brenda: How long has he been in?

Maxime: Oh he's been there, he's been there for the longest where it's quite a while ago already. But he's smart. He help (inaudible) Tom, he help his own people more than he did himself really. See a lot of people, what they do they be a president would say like, would say, like myself, I was president, well I take more for myself, to hell with the other ones, like, you know. But Leonard don't do that. He help less for himself than he help all the other guys do that. That's why the people think quite a bit about him. And I fancy Leonard's pretty good, that's why they keep him in there. But we seen different local in P.A. (inaudible). There was something fishy in that. They're helping maybe, like okay, you wouldn't (inaudible) my brother-in-law, my brother, well they push everything to them, you see. All this time they shouldn't be like that. Don't matter if it's your brother. (inaudible) That's what Leonard does.

Brenda: Leonard's a fair guy.

Maxime: See, he's pretty fair on that as far as I know. And he's done a lot of things. He's got (inaudible) here this summer, like from the government for native people, so they have people going there. Well it's a little feed -- lunch, a full course meal, drinks, cigarettes, all that. (inaudible)

Brenda: Is that the one that's just ...

Maxime: Yeah, the Calvin Grill they call it.

Brenda: That's run by Metis people.

Maxime: Run by Metis people and I'm glad he did that. And what he did again, he built the hall. We make bingos there and make meetings. You know, that's nice. He's the only one did that. The other ones, they never got that far and what he did again he applied for grants to the government so the people could go to school to learn something, upgrading, cabinet course, or sewer course, all these kinds of (inaudible). He go to meetings and ask for that. But not only one, maybe somebody

else different don't think so. But I think it's a good thing, you know. Some people they wanted like the sewer course or the cabinet course. They have a chance to learn to do something.

Brenda: Discrimination. Were you ever shown any discrimination as you were growing up?

Maxime: Oh, I know what you mean, like something that means.. what you say there. Like if they do something to you that they're not supposed to. Am I right? Is that what it is?

Brenda: Yes.

Maxime: No, we didn't have no problem with that. We did enough to other guys. But maybe they did, certain people, like different, maybe people, maybe Indians. No, I don't know. It could have been. I couldn't say.

Brenda: But your family was, like you were here...

Maxime: My own family?

Brenda: Your own family, they were always in this area?

Maxime: Yeah, most of the time, see. But my own family, we had a better chance. We all went to school and they went through trades so they make a better living than I did because they were in school and they took a course. Like some of them were brick layers, my family, another one they're... well, there's one still going to school. My youngest boy for, what's this he's doing?

Brenda: Electronic.

Maxime: Electronic, eh? That's our youngest boy, he's learning that. Well, he'll make a better living than me, for sure, and some other ones is painting. They took a course like painting, see. Years ago we didn't see that. We never had a chance. Well, like me anyway, because I never learn them trades. I paint but to my own experience whatever I do, like. Nobody ever showed me.

Brenda: For your community, like, did you have dances?

Maxime: Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah. For that, like in my day when I was young, you mean?

Brenda: Yes.

Maxime: Oh yeah. But those days it wasn't like today again. See, most of the time at parties... See, years ago people were more happier than they do now. I don't know why. They were all (inaudible) still were happy. It don't matter if you make a guy work all day and make him dance all night he doesn't even care, 'cause he was still happy. All the parties was... it was very very seldom we made a party in the hall. They made those house parties. They had their own music and nobody was

paid. They played free and most of the time years ago they played violin, violin music, and after a while when we got growed up my brother bought a guitar so we start playing guitar and violin. For a long, long time they did that.

Brenda: Do you still play violin?

Maxime: Still play violin.

Brenda: You wouldn't want to play a little tune for me, would you?

Maxime: Well, I could play a tune here.

Brenda: See, if you could, like, if your children or your great-grandchildren, you can tell them about this tape and say, "Your grandfather is playing on this tape and it will be in the Archives," and it is something that you can pass on to them. I'd like to get more people playing at a funeral or... (voice interruption)

Maxime: I'll just play a tune (inaudible) I think this is the one, this is the one (inaudible) was named after with Garnet there. See, my boys they played guitar, eh? And I play violin. Let's see. (MUSIC)

Brenda: Did your family teach you? Did your dad play a little music?

Maxime: Yeah, my mom start me up for playing here. She used to play. When I was eight years old I started playing -- a long time and I'm still playin', eh? And my dad, he was a wonderful player, yeah. But dad, he didn't show me very much. Mom says "You're going to learn. That's very good music and I hope you're going to learn." And I did.

Brenda: And you taught your children?

Maxime: Yeah, after that. But they weren't too much interested by the violin but they were very interested in guitar, eh? 'Cause violin is very hard instrument to learn. You got to be like, I would say, more or less like natural to you, like it's right in you, you know what I mean. All those good violin players and that, that's really in them. It's got to be. A guy who's not, he don't like it too much, he likes the guitar, well, he never be a very good violin player, because he more or less likes the guitar, like.

Brenda: And you went more towards music, to the violin.

Maxime: Well most of the time, yeah. Well I used to play guitar myself but I give up a little bit on the guitar and then go straight on the violin 'cause you got to go only one kind of music, eh? Well, some violin players, they play guitar too but I was more interested, I like better violin. I like guitar, somebody chords for me, I really like that 'cause it makes better music, eh? (MUSIC)

Brenda: Did the church play an important role in your family life? Did your family go to church when you were young?

Maxime: Well, yeah. We're Catholics. Well, we miss once in a while, you know, for one reason. You're not supposed to. What happens then I don't really know. But as for me and the wife, we're Catholics.

Brenda: Did the church have a great influence in your life? Like, if it wasn't for them, you wouldn't be where you are today type of thing?

Maxime: No, yeah, could be that thing, eh, Ma? Well, church, well, they more or less put you always in the spotlight, to guide you more or less on the better way to live or, you know what I mean. Is that what you mean? Well, like the pilgrimage, yeah. We have a pilgrimage. Maybe you do come there once in a while? No? You heard about it maybe? See, that we very seldom we do miss unless for one reason, for... we don't miss too much.

Brenda: When you were younger did the church, or the priests, go and visit your family?

Maxime: Yeah, he did, yeah, yeah. At least once a year. Visit all the people more or less, too, different farmers, wherever they live he go down, bless a place like more or less for luck.

Brenda: But they weren't interfering. The priests, they didn't interfere with your life or they didn't try to tell you how to live your life? They were there more or less just to guide you.

Maxime: No. Well, they did. There was some priests that talked things that I don't know what people was tellin' them, like, eh. Like Father Capiora, he'd tell you a lot of things maybe. A lot of times he'd think me, I was puzzled up, I was puzzled up with him because I didn't know where he got that. And a lotta times there was somebody else that told him that. You know, people are kinda funny, you know what I mean. They could say something of a certain person that other folks say, "That's not right." But some people doin' that. And maybe they would tell the priest. A lotta times, especially years ago, the priests were -- they were not like right now -- they used to find out things. What kind of people. What kinda life they were making. If they were... Get along with... Couple were married, see if they were very honest to each other, do you work together and they were making a good livin', eh, Mom? A lotta time the priest did that. And how do you raise your family, you know, and all this stuff. It was very good. Well I didn't mind that. I mean, the priest always put you on the right road anyway. It will guide you right along, you know, 'cause that's what they're for, eh?

(END OF TAPE)

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