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SASKATCHEWAN
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Victoria: March 29, 1984, I'm interviewing Mable Hunt of Cando, Saskatchewan. Mable, could you tell me where you were born?

Mable: Turtle Lake, Saskatchewan.

Victoria: And how many was there in your family?

Mable: Oh there was nine of us.

Victoria: How many boys and how many girls?

Mable: Five boys and about four girls.

Victoria: What type of a house did you live in when you were growing up?

Mable: Oh, we lived in a log cabin.

Victoria: Did you have running water and electricity?

Mable: No.

Victoria: About how many rooms did the house have?

Mable: Oh, we had three bedrooms and kitchen, well that was our front room too, eh, the kitchen and everything.

Victoria: And what did you burn for... how did you heat the house?

Mable: With wood.

Victoria: What type of furniture did you have?

Mable: Oh, we had cook stove, and...

Victoria: Was your furniture... was it homemade or was it boughten furniture?

Mable: Well it was boughten furniture, you know, like beds and things, you know.

Victoria: Did you, did your dad own his own place?

Mable: Well, we just had a home, he just had a homestead up north there, north of Barthel.

Victoria: And did you have livestock of any kind?

Mable: We had horses, and cattle, and pigs, and chickens and...

Victoria: Were you very far from your neighbours? Were they, was it in sort of a town or was it out in the country a ways?

Mable: It was out in the country.

Victoria: And how far would you nearest neighbour be?

Mable: Well my sister, they lived, say about two miles from us.

Victoria: And was there any other Metis people that lived close around where you did?

Mable: Mostly all my relatives were living back there.

Victoria: Have you ever heard the term road allowance people? Do you know what it means?

Mable: Yes, I know what it means. It's people that lived along, you know, along the road allowance. That was their homes.

Victoria: What type of work did you kids have to do, you know, when you were growing up? Did you have chores at home?

Mable: Well we done all the chores at home.

Victoria: What all did you have to do?

Mable: Well we had to cut hay, and feed the cattle. Well us, we haul water, two miles for our water, you know, and to water to our horses and cattle, and pigs whatever we had, you know. And then in the wintertime we'd cut cordwood and we used to take it to town about 12 miles, I guess, in the wintertime. That's what we lived on in the wintertime. Used to go in the bush and cut all that wood and bring it home, and saw it up, and load it up and take it to town. We used to get \$2 a cord.

Victoria: How did you haul it?

Mable: With a sleigh and horses.

Victoria: Did your family do things together? Like, did they go camping, or hunting, or anything like that all together?

Mable: Yeah that's what we used to do. We used to go hunting and...

Victoria: How about berry picking, did you all...

Mable: Oh yes, we used to go berry picking all the time. We used to... in the fall my mother used to can all that bunch of fruit, and make nice big gardens in the summertime and save all that for the winter.

Victoria: How did you keep your vegetables and that?

Mable: We had a roothouse.

Victoria: What is it like? What is a roothouse like?

Mable: Well a roothouse, you dig that, you know, you make a, the same as a basement, eh, only you dig it underground and you put all that sod on top. You put a door in, you know, a good-sized place and that's where we'd store our vegetables.

Victoria: And it kept them good, it preserved them good?

Mable: ...they were fresh in the spring just like, you know, we used to put sand in there, you know.

Victoria: And did the sand help keep the vegetables good?

Mable: Oh yes, yeah.

Victoria: Did you ever note anyone or any of your relatives that did storytelling? You know, they sort of kept you entertained by telling, you know, stories about different things?

Mable: Well we used to play cards a lot and things like that. Them days we were a lot happier, a lot happier them days than we are now. You know, we had a pretty good life.

Victoria: Did your parents, grandparents live around where you were?

Mable: No, no. My grandmother died when I was 4 years old. Then my grandpa died here I don't know how many years ago, I just forget now, well I wasn't here when he died.

Victoria: That, them grandparents which would that be? Would that be your mom's..?

Mable: That's my mom's dad.

Victoria: How about your dad's other dad?

Mable: I don't, I don't remember them. My dad's parents died, I think, quite a few years back.

Victoria: Was there anyone, you know, of your family members, like I'd say probably your aunts and uncles, or your grandparents or something, that you especially liked better than the other ones? Somebody maybe that you were close to while you were growing up.

Mable: No, the only one I used to be close to is my sister Annie.

Victoria: Is she quite a bit older than you or...?

Mable: Oh yes, yeah. You see I was the youngest in the family.

Victoria: And she was the oldest, eh?

Mable: Yeah, she was the oldest, yeah.

Victoria: So she probably more or less looked after you all the time?

Mable: Well she did, she did look after me a lot when I was a kid, yeah.

Victoria: Were your family really, you know, have strong ties? Were they always really loyal to each other and, you know, sort of stuck up for one another?

Mable: Well, I can't tell you that part. I'm an old lady.

Victoria: While you were home your family was close? Was it a very close family?

Mable: Well pretty well, yeah.

Victoria: What did your father do for a living?

Mable: Well as I said, in the summertime we dig seneca root, you know. Then in the wintertime I said that we haul cordwood, you know. And they used to go threshing and...

Victoria: How did they dig seneca roots? What is it? What is the root used for?

Mable: Well, it's used for penicilin as far as I know, isn't it? Yeah, that's what they used it for. It's a medicine, eh.

Victoria: And how did you... where did it grow?

Mable: It grew all over out in the open prairies, you know. It grew all over then. I don't know about now, for how many years I never seen any of it, so...

Victoria: How did they fix it before they sent it away? Where did you have to send it to?

Mable: Well we used to sell it in the stores.

Victoria: And was there any special way that you had to fix it before you could sell it?

Mable: Well we just cut the tops off, and sometimes you dig by green or dry. Some of it we used to dry and they'd buy it for some of the green.

Victoria: About how much was it worth back then?

Mable: That time we used to get, I think, 50... I think it was 50 cents a pound dry, and 25 cents a pound green.

Victoria: And I bet you, how much did it take to make...

Mable: Oh, we used to dig sacks full of it so it used to come to quite a bit.

Victoria: Yeah. Did your dad do, you know, like cut firewood? Oh yeah, you said he cut firewood for... for... to supplement the income. How about hunting, like for wild meat and that?

Mable: He never done much hunting, it was us that all usually do all the hunting.

Victoria: Oh, you kids did?

Mable: Oh yeah.

Victoria: So you were...

Mable: I used to go trapping, trapping all the time, too,

and I used to hunt too.

Victoria: How about fishing?

Mable: My brother, well I was close to my brother, Oliver, eh. He used to show me how to hunt. Oh, I've killed deer, and we used to go trapping.

Victoria: But what kind of fur did you get when you went trapping?

Mable: Oh, weasels and squirrels and rabbits and whatever. We used to get 5 cents a hide for rabbits that time. I just don't remember now how much we used to get for weasels and stuff.

Victoria: When you were growing up you had a big garden, did you?

Mable: Oh yes, we used to put a big garden in.

Victoria: What all did you grow in it?

Mable: Everything -- marrows and pumpkin and everything you can think of, you know. Carrots, potatoes, peas, well, everything that grows in a garden.

Victoria: And your livestock, about how many did you have on the farm?

Mable: Well, at times we had quite a few and sometimes Mom used to sell them, you know. But we lived pretty good, you know.

Victoria: What did you aunts and uncles do, you know, for a living back then?

Mable: Well, they weren't around there so I don't know.

Victoria: Just your...

Mable: Just our family like, you know.

Victoria: Was there ever a time that you can remember when your dad didn't have a job?

Mable: Well, my dad and, my dad and his brother used to dig wells. They used to make a living on that too. They used to use the horses, you know, like the horses would go around and around, you know, and...

Victoria: And how did they dig the well?

Mable: (Inaudible. Both talk at once.)

Victoria: How did they dig the, did they have a machine or something like that...

Mable: Well, they had a machine, yeah. That's how they used to dig wells for the farmers and... at that time anyway. I don't know, it's a lot different now than it was then.

Victoria: Would it have paid a pretty good money for a well?

Mable: Oh, they used to get paid pretty well, yeah.

Victoria: What was your first paying job? Your first job that you ever worked out and got paid.

Mable: Well, I used to go herding cattle around (inaudible, both talking at once) and I used to \$25 a month.

Victoria: So that was good wages. What all did you have to do when you herded cattle?

Mable: Oh, I used to... well, I used to have a horse I used to ride and I'd go out in the pastures and just sit around there and watch the cattle so they didn't get astray, eh.

Victoria: Did you enjoy that type of work?

Mable: Yes I enjoyed that very much.

Victoria: Did you enjoy outside work better than you did housework?

Mable: Oh yes, I always did all... I used to work outside all the time because I didn't like working inside. My sister Evelyn, she used to work inside all the time, but me I was always outside.

Victoria: When you worked, like say, the jobs that you had while you were growing up and that, and even after you grew up and raised your family, was it regular work? Like, was it a job where for a long period of time, or sometimes was it just seasonal work, like?

Mable: Well, I used to work in North Battleford there. I worked in the hotel there, I was a cook there in the hotel. Two places I worked there in a hotel.

Victoria: What was your jobs there as a cook, eh?

Mable: I was cooking.

Victoria: Did you do waitress work at the same time or just straight cooking?

Mable: No, no, I just... where I worked... well, I done the cooking like and I run the dining room, you know, for the staff like, you know, working there.

Victoria: And was there any other jobs that you did while you were...

Mable: Well I used to do housework. And after I left... I

left North Battleford 1945 and I went to Vancouver and from there I come back to Edmonton.

Victoria: What language did they speak at home when you were growing up?

Mable: Oh mostly they used to speak Cree and English and... but my dad couldn't speak Cree, eh.

Victoria: French, any...?

Mable: Yeah, they, yeah, it was mostly French, you know.

Victoria: With Cree mixed?

Mable: Yeah.

Victoria: Yeah. What did you learn to speak first? Was it Cree-French mixed, or English, or which?

Mable: Well, I guess both, you know.

Victoria: So everything mixed, eh?

Mable: Yeah. But Mom used to talk to us. Well mostly, it was mostly mixed quite a bit with French, eh. I don't know where I learned my Cree, but I learned it anyway and never forgotten it.

Victoria: Yeah, just probably everyone speaking it and you just picked it up or, you know.

Mable: I know my sister Annie there she can't pronounce Cree like I can, you know. I don't know why but...

Victoria: Did the people around your area, did they think of themselves as being Metis people, or just, was it just a point of nobody even saying anything about it and just knew you were?

Mable: Oh, I don't know they just, oh, they were just breeds, half-breeds. That's all they were I guess.

Victoria: So nobody ever said anything about it. They just were and that was it?

Mable: That's it, yeah.

Victoria: You said that there was nobody that you knew that had done any storytelling or anything like that, eh, not even about Metis history or, you know, a lot of them, about... see, the Rebellion was close, eh, and Duck Lake and Battleford...

Mable: Well Mom used to talk about it a little, you know.

Victoria: Was there anything that you remember?

Mable: We never paid too much attention to it, you know.

Victoria: When you were young, did the people in your area where you were raised there, did they ever have, you know, big social events like weddings, or holidays, like Christmas and New Years?

Mable: No, mostly they used to just have a dance once in a while, you know, some places, you know. And they'd go to those dances, you know.

Victoria: They didn't celebrate Christmas very much?

Mable: No, they never celebrated Christmas they used to celebrate New Year's.

Victoria: What did they do on New Year's?

Mable: Oh, they used to start out early in the morning about, I'd say about four or five in the morning. They'd hook up all their horses and they'd always have great big meals, eh, from every house, from house to house they used to go. I remember that when I was a kid, you know. I used to tag along, eh, and we'd go to these places and we'd eat there a little bit, and go to the next house and eat some more. Well, the older people used to drink a little but not, not like they do now, eh. They used to enjoy themselves. That was their celebration was New Year's.

Victoria: How about weddings, were they a very big thing back then?

Mable: No. No, mostly they just got married and, but they never had big weddings like they do now.

Victoria: Do you remember if your dad or your grandparents, you didn't know them very well but you may have remembered, did they wear what they call Metis clothing?

Mable: No, I don't remember that.

Victoria: The men used to wear a big sash, you know, it was a big wide sort of a belt made out of cloth material and it was tied around their waist, and it used to hang down on the sides.

Mable: No I don't remember that too much, but I remember my mom used to wear those, those high boots and my aunt used to wear them. I think there were buttons down the front of those high boots. I remember my aunt wearing them.

Victoria: How about the men? Did they wear the moccasins, like they called them leggings, I think? It was wrapped around. Those high moccasins?

Mable: Yeah, most of them, yeah. That's the way they used to dress.

Victoria: Do you know if your mother or your grandparents, or

even your aunts or uncles there that you knew of, did they do any beadwork or any tanning hides?

Mable: My mother used to tan hides all the time.

Victoria: Did you ever watch her?

Mable: Yes, I used to watch her.

Victoria: Do you know how to do it?

Mable: Well, I think I could if I, you know, tried, but as I said, I was quite young, you know, and then I left home and...

Victoria: How did she do it? Can you maybe describe a little bit for us?

Mable: Oh I remember she used to soak the hides.

Victoria: What were they soaked in?

Mable: Just, they soak 'em in water and then take them out. She'd soak the hides with the fur on, you know. And then after she'd take them out of the water and spread them out and if she

had a scraper there she'd scrape all the fur off the hides, eh. Oh, that was quite a job. Then she'd... oh, I don't know what else she done. She'd pound them or something, you know, till they got soft and then she'd soak them again and then after she used to smoke them in kind of a smoke house, you know, she had there.

Victoria: What did she do with them after she got them...

Mable: Well, they used to moccasins, moccasins and mitts. She used to make mitts for us, you know, like in the wintertime that's when we used to wear.

Victoria: How about beadwork? Did she do beadwork too?

Mable: No, she never. I think my grandmother used to do that but my mother used to tell me, you know. But Mom never used to do beadwork but she used to make a lot of moccasins and mitts and stuff, and gloves.

Victoria: Did your parents do much dancing, like jigging and step dancing, that type of stuff?

Mable: Well, I never went with them very much when they used to go dancing, you know. I was too young.

Victoria: How about you? Can you jig?

Mable: Oh, I used to try. (laughs) But I used to like watching them when they did, you know. Of course, my mother was pretty strict, eh. She never let us go dancing alone like, unless she was along.

Victoria: Was there anybody in your family that could play fiddle?

Mable: All of them did, yeah. My brothers and...

Victoria: Every one of them?

Mable: Every one of them, yeah.

Victoria: How about your dad?

Mable: No, he never. (Inaudible, both talking)

Victoria: Anybody play the guitars?

Mable: Yes, they all played guitars. (Inaudible) my brother Harry and my brother Joe, they used to go play for the dances.

Victoria: Do you know if any of them used to sing any Metis songs or French songs?

Mable: Mostly they used to sing French songs, or English, you know.

Victoria: Do you remember what any of the songs were about, what they meant?

Mable: Oh gee, I can't (inaudible). I remember my brother Oliver used to sing a lot, those old songs, you know. Sometimes I hear them and I can remember when he used to sing them all the time, you know.

Victoria: Did your family get along good with the white people in the community?

Mable: Yes, they did.

Victoria: They did, eh?

Mable: Yes, they had a lot of nice friends up there along Deer Lake there.

Victoria: And do you know of anyone or anybody in your family, or anyone around where you lived that used Indian medicine?

Mable: I used to hear my mom talk about it.

Victoria: Do you remember some of the things she used to say or talk about?

Mable: Well, she used to use pretty well all that medicine all the time.

Victoria: Do you remember what some of it was used for?

Mable: Well, different things.

Victoria: But I mean, like the stuff that she would go to get, I know a lot of them dug roots and that, eh.

Mable: Well, that's all my mother did. She never believed in a doctor. She never believed in no doctors. She used to doctor all the children up north there. We never seen a doctor when we were a kid. There was no such thing as a doctor. I never seen a doctor, oh, until I moved to North Battleford.

Victoria: Did you ever use it yourself, I mean...

Mable: Oh Mom used to give me medicine yes.

Victoria: But you never tried doing, making any of the stuff, like, that she made?

Mable: No. That's all she used to do is go and dig different kinds of roots, you know. I wish I'd a... lots of time I wish I'd a asked her, you know, what it was -- I'd do it now. There's lots of it that I don't know about, you know, but I never bothered to go, to go and bother digging it, eh.

Victoria: What... do you remember any real serious illnesses that they used to have back then? Like, a lot of the people had tuberculosis, eh, and that type of stuff. It was never, like they never went to doctors and that.

Mable: Well my mom used, she used to tell me she used to go and dig some kind of roots and she used to cure that.

Victoria: Uh-huh. You don't remember what she said it was?

Mable: No. Well I can't tell you the name of it.

Victoria: Yeah.

Mable: If I tell you in Cree.

Victoria: Well tell me in Cree.

Mable: You wouldn't understand it anyway. (laughs)

Victoria: Well that's okay. Say it in Cree if you can.

Mable: Oh, I just can't remember right now what... it was different things.

Victoria: Well if you think of it before we're finished, you tell me.

Mable: Well, as I said we lived happy, eh. We never had no, we never had no problems because we worked hard to make a living. There was no such a thing as welfare them days.

Victoria: Yeah.

Mable: We just worked hard when we were kids. We worked

hard and made a good living. At least I thought it was anyways. I'd like to go back to that life now.

Victoria: When you had dances and that and, you know, the social events that they used to go to, did some of the white people around go to the same dances and that?

Mable: Well it's most, some of them used to put them on, eh, and all the breeds used to go there, because they were all close eh.

Victoria: Do you know of anybody that was a Metis person or a half-breed, did they ever, did you ever hear of them having a job, like the same job as a white person, and yet get paid less money for doing the same job?

Mable: Gee, I couldn't... Well at that time, you see, most of the them, they were just threshing, you know, one thing another, picking stones whatever, you know. There was nothing up there where we were.

Victoria: You were never denied a job at all because of being Metis?

Mable: Well, not me, no.

Victoria: Do you know of anybody that ever was?

Mable: No, I don't remember now.

Victoria: Did anybody ever discriminate against you because, you know, because you were Metis or a half-breed? Did they say anything because of your nationality?

Mable: Well, nobody ever believed that I was a half-breed. Because when I speak, when I used to speak Cree when I lived in Edmonton nobody'd ever believe me. All the Indians used to talk about me and I'd know what they were saying because I could speak Cree, but nobody'd ever believe I could speak Cree.

Victoria: Did you ever have any bad experiences with government agencies like welfare, or the police, or different businsses, stores, you know, or businesses that are run?

Mable: No.

Victoria: How was the Metis community back then, like where was it Turtleford or Livelong where you lived?

Mable: Well, we used to live in Livelong too, and then Fairholme, north of Fairholme.

Victoria: Did the people in the town ever, you know, try to force Metis people away so that they wouldn't be living in town?

Mable: No, we all got along good with all the, all those

storekeepers, you know.

Victoria: How about the church? Was church a very important part of your family's life while you were growing up?

Mable: Well, my mother, she was a very strong Catholic, eh, at that time. She used to go to church...

Victoria: How far was the church?

Mable: Well, the closest one was twelve miles. That was in Fairholme.

Victoria: Did the priest ever go out and visit the homes, you know, in the community?

Mable: No. Not that priest we had there in Fairholme anyway.

Victoria: Do you think that the church has helped Metis people, you know, when they had problems?

Mable: Maybe years back but I don't remember too much about that.

Victoria: Do you think church is different now than when it was back in the old days?

Mable: Oh yes, they are. They are very different.

Victoria: How, how do you see them as being different?

Mable: Well, I see them different. Now a lot of church people try to help, help the young people now, you know, that's got problems. But But at that time we never had very many problems so nobody ever bother, ever bothered to try to get help because we all, as I say, we never had that kind of problems like they do now. So now the churches, they're all trying to help the young people, you know.

Victoria: Do you think that the church had more influence over people, though, back in those days than it does today?

Mable: Well, I don't...

Victoria: About the same, you figure? Like, did the people listen to what the priest or what the church said? Were they really influenced? Like, the church would have rules, eh, and did the people, do you think, listen back then better than they do today?

Mable: Oh yes, they did, yeah.

Victoria: You never went to school did you, Aunt Mable?

Mable: No.

Victoria: Do you wish you would have went to school?

Mable: Yes, I wish lots of time I did.

Victoria: Would things have been different, you think, in your life if you would have went to school?

Mable: Yes, they would have been, yes.

Victoria: How do you think it would have changed it?

Mable: Well, probably got maybe a decent a job, you know, and...

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Victoria: Have you ever heard of the old Metis Society, I think it was called The Saskatchewan Metis Society?

Mable: No, I never heard anything about that.

Victoria: You had never the names like Joe LaRocque, or Joe Ross, Tom Major, Joe McKenzie?

Mable: No, I never heard anyone talk about them.

Victoria: How about Solomon Pritchard?

Mable: Oh well he, yeah, Mom used to talk about him a lot.

Victoria: But you never, you didn't, you knew him like before, or your mom knew him before he was involved in the old Metis Society, eh?

Mable: Yes, well Mom knew them for years, eh. But we never, we never, we never lived near them. Well (inaudible) all from Willowfield here. Well, that's what they it called then.

Victoria: Yeah, I think it was called Willowfield and I think it still is called Willowfield.

Mable: Yeah, but they got their own colony there and that's where they all, all lived.

Victoria: When you look back on your life, you know, and everything that happened what kind of a life would you say you had?

Mable: I think I had a pretty good life when we were kids.

Victoria: Would you say it was interesting?

Mable: Well it was, yes, but we loved that life, eh. We loved hunting and...

Victoria: And life of work.

Mable: Yes. I used to like riding horseback all the time,

Victoria: Do you think your life was better than what your mother's was?

Mable: Well, like I don't know about that.

Victoria: Maybe about the same, do you figure?

Mable: Never did ask her what kind of life they've had.

Victoria: But do you think you had more modern conveniences than what she maybe had?

Mable: Oh yes, yeah, I think we did, yeah.

Victoria: What are some of the things that have really mattered the most in your life, things that, you know, that has happened to you, maybe, during your lifetime, or things that you wanted to do and done? Really, really important things that you've done in your life that you, you know, really liked.

Mable: Well, that's what I used to like, living out in the country and, I didn't care too much for... Well, when I was a child I never wanted to go anywhere, eh, because I liked the country and used to look after our cattle and horses, and things like that. I used to enjoy that. Help Mom put the gardens in and... Victoria: So your sort of a home person, eh?

Mable: Yes, and hunting I used to love hunting. All I do now is sit around home here. I don't enjoy my life like this.

Victoria: You're not involved in any of the organizations or anything around?

Mable: No.

Victoria: You know, in the Metis... like, there are quite a few native people that live here in Cando. What are some of the things that they need the most? You know, is there something that you think they really need, whether it be good or bad?

Mable: I don't know because they, they don't seem to be interested in anything.

Victoria: Do you have any idea why, you know, why nothing interests them?

Mable: I hate to say it.

Victoria: Say it, say it! It's, you know, it's whatever you think.

Mable: Oh, there's nothing interest them. All they're

interested in is just... most of them just drinking that's all.

Victoria: You figure that drinking is a problem for them, eh?

Mable: Yes, it is a big problem.

Victoria: What do you think a person could do to help them?
What do you think could be done?

Mable: Gee, I don't know what you can do.

Victoria: Do you think if there was something that created more employment here would that, would it help? Do you think maybe lack of employment in the town is what, you know, what may be causing the drinking, or something like that?

Mable: Well it could be, yes. It would be nice if they'd have... it would be nice if they'd have something for the children, you know, something they, you know, they could... children, that they could do, you know, and different things like...

Victoria: They don't have anything?
nothing here.

Mable: They haven't got

Victoria: No recreation of any kind?

Mable: Nothing. They ain't even got a decent skating rink for the kids. I often say that they should have something for the children that's growing up, you know. (Inaudible)

Victoria: Do you think life in the city is different from life in a small town?

Mable: Oh yes, it's very different.

Victoria: Do you think it's good, better or worse?

Mable: It's worse. See I used to love the, I used to love living in the cities, eh -- now I can't stand the city.

Victoria: What, what, what do you think is the problem living in the city?

Mable: Well there's so many things going on and so much noise. Before it never bothered me but it does now. I like to be out in the country where it's quiet.

Victoria: Do you think your life would have been different if you would have been born a white person or maybe a Treaty Indian?

Mable: No, I don't think so.

Victoria: You think it would have been about the same?

Mable: Yes.

Victoria: If you had a chance to be born all over again what would you, what do you think you would have done different than what you've, what your life was?

Mable: Oh, there's lots of things I'd do different.

Victoria: Like what?

Mable: Well, I don't know what I'd do but I mean there's... I would like to have my life back when I was a child, have it back, you know, what we did before. I said we were happy, eh? We never had no problems. We worked hard for a living but we enjoyed it. I used to enjoy working. Victoria: Do you think that maybe if your life would have been different, you would have gotten more schooling, different jobs, or anything like that?

Mable: Oh yes, yes. Don't like to (inaudible) lots of schooling eh.

Victoria: What do you think is going to happen in the future, like for yourself now. You know, at your age do you see anything that's going to be different for you in the future?

Mable: Well, I don't know. I just like to, I don't think there's gonna be too much changes but I just like to have a comfortable home.

Victoria: How about the community do you think it will change any?

Mable: Well it never changed very much for the last, the last ten years that I know.

Victoria: So there wouldn't be any change either for the better or the worse, you know, than what it is now?

Mable: Nobody seem to make any effort of doing anything about anything, you know. Might see some changes for the young ones, you know, the young children.

Victoria: Do you think that native people are going to be better off, you know, like in future years, will they be better in the country, or in the cities, or maybe up north somewhere? Where do you think the best place would be for them?

Mable: I think the best place for them is out in the country.

Victoria: How do you think it would be better for them?

Mable: Well, the city's no good for young children now. Like, I'm raising my grandchild. I mean, I would never raise her in a city. I'd sooner raise her out in the country.

Victoria: Is there any experiences that you've had in your life

that, you know, you could tell us about, something that's, you know, you've done that has been really outstanding?

Mable: Oh, I don't know. It would take me quite a while to tell you that.
Victoria: Well, how about your children, you know, when they

were born or anything like that? Is there, you know, something that has happened to you when they were born? Like, when you were raising your family, did you live in town, or in, out in the country?

Mable: Well, when my first son was born, or before he was born there, we lived out in the country and I was all by myself. And I took sick about six o'clock in the evening, and my sister lived two miles, about two miles away from us. So I got kind of scared and I took my horse and I rode it two miles and my son was born at twelve o'clock that night.

Victoria: Did you know what was happening to you?

Mable: No, I didn't. I didn't know.

Victoria: How old were you at that time?

Mable: I was... I was pretty near... I was 18. At that time, you know, our parents never told us anything, you know. And I got to my sister's and they all got scared because I was riding this horse. But anyway my son today he's big and healthy. (laughs)

Victoria: That's all that counts. And that's a...

Mable: But nobody'd ever believed me, eh, if I told them that, but my sister and them, they know.

Victoria: That is a great experience.

Mable: That's for sure. I never seen a doctor all the time I was pregnant.

Victoria: Was there a doctor around where you lived up there at all?

Mable: No, there was just, there was just a nurse there. But I never did see a doctor or a nurse. Then I was healthy -- I never was sick.

Victoria: Well that's a great experience. And thanks a lot for the interview.

(END OF SIDE B)

(END OF INTERVIEW)