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HIGHLIGHTS: Because of the poor quality of the tape, large parts of the interview are incomprehensible.

Ray: The conversation with 77 year old Jonas Clark, in La Loche, Saskatchewan.

Ray: ...from here down to Ile-a-la-Crosse, eh?

Jonas: Not me.

Ray: Who took it down there?

Jonas: A lot of people they took it down from here to, to Hudson Bay. A Dogrib, he come from way down Aklavik. He come

down in the old days by, you know, boat, and he always brought the furs. Then they took the furs, this is in the springtime. Then from here, they took them to Hudson Bay first. I've been waiting all summertime, this is for Dogrib, people. When he come down on the freight, you know, in the fall, close to fall, they freight that on, what do you call the...?

Ray: The boats?

Jonas: No, no.

Ray: Bulls and wagon? Oxen?

Jonas: That's it. They used that, you see. One on each, one each. Then they freight all from this side to Clearwater. After they finish all the freight, they went back to Aklavik, you see.

Ray: Aklavik?

Jonas: Oh yeah.

Ray: All the way up there?

Jonas: All the way, boy. All the way from here to Hudson Bay too, all summer you're down there you're working, all summer. You go in June some time, go back in September. All the way to Hudson Bay, way down there, you know, that...

Ray: Rowing it, rowing the boat?

Jonas: Yeah, paddle it. One side sit, one side sit all the (inaudible). The captain at the back. Sometimes you go to sail, put the sail. No (?) those days, cook bannock. On the springtime go down in (?), kind of soft you see. Then they put a burn of willows, put in fire, willows, you know, hot. And they put all this birch in the fire.

Ray: To put the ashes on their hand?

Jonas: Oh no, not ashes.

Ray: With the willows?

Jonas: Willows, willows. When they burn it's hot, and they put right here, see.

Ray: And they hold onto it?

Jonas: Hold it, gotta be holding see. Kind of soft. See, my hands are soft. I'm not working right now.

Ray: So it makes your hands hard, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, when it's hard then it's all right.

Ray: You don't do that all?

Jonas: One fellow, porter, one person, he got ten, ten hundred pounds. He have to clear that all the way down there too, one person. After he finish that then it would be like dough. Before that boy, every fellow he had ten thousand pounds to carry a hundred pounds. Some of their strong men they carry two hundred, beside that three hundred, I heard that.

Ray: One man carry three hundred pounds?

Jonas: Three hundred pounds. You got two hundred here, on your back; and then a shot, you know, shot. You see that shot there? Yeah we loaded ours then, see. That time was an empty shell. We loaded black powder first.

Ray: Black powder, eh?

Jonas: And then after that put a little stick, then after that we would put the shot. And that a hundred pound this one, shot one side a hundred pounds, eh, he use by (inaudible).

Ray: He carries a hundred pounds in each hand?

Jonas: Yeah, two hundred pounds. See, a strong fellow. Some of them used to buy (inaudible) something like that.

Ray: Go to sleep right away, eh?

Jonas: You want to help somebody, you help them all right. Some of them feel not strong they couldn't do nothing, see, tired quick, slow. Sometimes you feel, you help them that way. And you got thousand from each man to take across the portage, you see.

Ray: How about the boats, did they take the boat across?

Jonas: The boat just went this way. They use a rope, you know, right here.

Ray: To pull it, eh?

Jonas: To pull it, and some of them canoes they steer. They watch for the rapids, you see. They do that all the time.

Ray: Yeah. But what about across the portage, did they take the boats?

Jonas: They don't take it that way.

Ray: No. They left the boats here, eh?

Jonas: From way through rapid you use that one, you see, from here. Not this one.

Ray: So they didn't carry the boats across?

Jonas: They didn't carry the boat at all, nope.

Ray: They were heavy boats, eh?

Jonas: Well, one side six men, one side six men. Let's see, about twelve foot, I suppose. That paddle, we call the paddle the big one. Up to here, you see. That big one, two like

this (inaudible), and then two there like this -- same thing what they do, the same thing. Not before, one's behind (inaudible) -- the same thing.

Ray: They all go together, eh?

Jonas: All go together.

Ray: Did they used to sing when they were paddling?

Jonas: They sing too.

Ray: Sing lots, eh?

Jonas: Lots, oh yeah.

Ray: Do you remember any of those songs?

Jonas: I remember that, I remember that.

Ray: Do you remember the songs they used to sing?

Jonas: I remember the song, but I can't sing it.

Ray: No. Why not?

Jonas: I don't remember, you see.

Ray: Can't remember the song?

Jonas: One old man has (inaudible), Charlie Johnson, (inaudible).

Ray: Charlie knows you?

Jonas: Charlie Johnson, but he's sick now. From Hudson Bay when he'd load them up, go back to this way (inaudible) before he leave, you see. So they'd (inaudible).

Ray: Did they used to wear special clothes, those guys?

Jonas: Oh yes, oh just like army men do, they people, you see, (inaudible). There are people that try to do nothing, you see, not working -- you see that. I'm telling you there's some (inaudible) fishing, trapping, you see that?

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: Even I can't do it, but what I was doing all my life, I like to do. All the farmers same thing too. They can't make it but they still want to do that. What he'd been doing all your life, when he even get old, you really can't do nothing much, but if they want to do it. Some pilot, towards Green Lake, he's pretty near blind now. He's still pilot.

Ray: Yeah?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: Pilot?

Jonas: Arney Buffire knew from (?), way down (inaudible), Great Slave Lake. Yeah, he just pilot that's all, somebody, boy with him, when they load (?) they load for me, they still flying.

Ray: And he's almost blind?

Jonas: Not blind, but close to it, I suppose.

Ray: Yeah. What's his name again?

Jonas: Arney Buffire.

Ray: Arney Buffire.

Jonas: This is the first time plane has come here, RCMP. And he fly in here, right here. C.C. MacNeil too, the one that crashed there, someplace down there, Carter or someplace, he crashed. He was a good pilot.

Ray: Those are the first pilots that came to La Loche, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, the first. First time I seen the plane, you know, was in McMurray. There's two planes flying just (inaudible) that way, you see. There's (inaudible).

Ray: No pontoon?

Jonas: Nothing, you see. Oh take a lot of people down to see it, they look what inside that just for... You see nobody seen before that plane.

Ray: What did the people think?

Jonas: They think (inaudible). Well, I of course thought it was somebody here that, when he cut and fed in the prairie, you see, for cattle and horses in the winter. Everybody down there they working and they never heard that anything, plane. When they heard that, god-damn it everybody said, "The war is going." Somebody took out his beads and praying.

Ray: The plane.

Jonas: (inaudible). If we get all the war is going to be 36 year, see that.

Ray: They didn't know what to expect, eh.

Jonas: Nobody know that, you know, something fly down. Well, people here says that sometime Jesus going to come, Abraham, see. From heaven. Maybe they figured that when (inaudible) (laughing). Boy, oh boy, lot of fun in those days, boy. First time we comes to that motor (inaudible), we call it engine now.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: You can't lift from the back, you see, it's like this. That was the first one.

Ray: You can't lift?

Jonas: You can't lift, not this end.

Ray: It's straight down?

Jonas: It's straight down. (laughing) (inaudible) that's all.

Ray: Is that right?

Jonas: No (noise) nothing.

Ray: Really slow, eh?

Jonas: Really slow, oh boy (inaudible) first time we start that motor.

Ray: Who got that first motor in La Loche?

Jonas: Joe Gun.

Ray: Joe Gun?

Jonas: Joe Gun got the motor, had the first one, he had that.

Ray: And the people thought it was funny, eh.

Jonas: Oh yeah. But everybody liked that old day. Not much money, but everybody worked.

Ray: Everybody was happy, eh.

Jonas: Everybody had a little tent, nice tent, and the birch bark canoe. He had a rifle, shotgun, everything, nice big roof, dog too, nice dog too.

Ray: Maybe we better use dog teams then, eh?

Jonas: Everybody look after his dog in the summertime for

the winter, trapping, you know, no work. In the wintertime, October, get ready for trapping, all winter trapping. I've been trapping all winter. I left sometime in the middle (inaudible) went up to Morris Lake, went trapping. I trapping, we get up there October, but it's ice already.

Ray: You walk up there?

Jonas: We walking in the middle of dog pack, you see, from here to Morris Lake.

Ray: And a dog pack?

Jonas: And dog pack, lots of dogs -- maybe ten, twelve dogs sometime I use them, dog pack. They carry quite a few stuff. And took it ahead, a day, and then you leave it on the freight trail and come back. Next day go down there and do that. And sometimes I'd see moose and make dried meat and then we made a cache, you know, in the stick there. But sometimes that ground, sometimes buried there still that meat, you see. One time I was with my old lady, I got lots of moose, lots of moose I killed that time. Oh dear, my old lady made lots of dried meat. And New Year's day we get that meat, lots of dried meat, lots of pemmican.

Ray: You pound it, eh?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: You made it into pemmican?

Jonas: Yeah. It was Christmas time, New Year's day. We had dance there and then I feed all the people dry meat there.

Ray: They came there to see you?

Jonas: Yeah, and there were two, three dog teams to pick up my meat, you see, sack there, my old lady dried in there, in the cache in there.

Ray: But the people came to see you from all over?

Jonas: Right in the other village I do that, and I move it there, party.

Ray: Other village.

Jonas: Yeah, party. And we don't drink nothing. Mind you, all -- my old lady took a lot of food, we feed them lots. Bannock too, I think, at that time. And everybody after that danced there, which was nice. Now today, drinking, men fighting. You don't get nothing out of it. I don't like this way.

Ray: When you had a dance, who played the music for that?

Jonas: Oh friend, or somebody play the music, fiddle the song. No guitar, nothing.

Ray: No guitar?

Jonas: No. Just fiddle, just one. Somebody call.

Ray: Square dancing?

Jonas: Square dance, that's all. No waltz, nothing like that.

Ray: No.

Jonas: Indian nothing, just some (?), you know, that's all.

Ray: Yeah, old time dancing.

Jonas: Old time, yeah.

Ray: Some jigging too?

Jonas: Oh some jigging, yeah.

Ray: Some people are good at jigging, eh.

Jonas: Oh yeah. I did jig myself too, my days.

Ray: Yeah. Do you still do it now?

Jonas: Oh, I can't do it now. A lot of people just dance jig, well some of it good bar. Do you know Archie LeMay from across the lake? Jigging out there, he's been doing it too. And Jimmy Herman too. Johnny LeMay. Well lots of ways of jigging that time.

Ray: Where did they learn that from? The old people.

Jonas: Well, the old people you see, the people there (inaudible) floor dancing anyway. And there were two fathers there together, but it was nice. Now today a lot of them, no fun for me. What they think these young people funny -- no fun at all. Well they drink and poker and that's all, you know.

Ray: Not as much fun as...

Jonas: No, no, no. The old days they by driving dog nights, looking this bell.

Ray: Bells on the dogs?

Jonas: Oh yes, around that ribbons (inaudible) nice looking. Now today when there's (inaudible). Now today for me, for young people there's this good for him right now, eh. But if you do now...

Ray: They think that.

Jonas: They think that, but me I don't seem to have a good time. But them old days, trapping. Sometimes Joan and I leave -- Joan, my old lady -- we get up there till the end of September sometime, but we come back in June.

Ray: You stay the whole year?

Jonas: Whole year, sometime we come home, Christmas time. (?) stopped down there, through this way. Well those days, no family (inaudible) you got to work for your family. You don't work, you don't trap, what are you going to do for food. That's why me, I don't care now. I have little fish and potatoes, tea; that's all. I don't care about sugar and things like that. Now today when there's no money, what are you going to do with the young people. He can't snare rabbit, he can't set, he can't hunt, you don't know nothing -- see that -- that's why I'm going to take my little boy down there to show him how to trap. I took it nine days already. This time I'm going to tell the teacher. Like when they after they go to school finish, after no job, no work -- well he can go in the bush, he can trap, he can live a lot of it. I figure that will do it.

Ray: That's good.

Jonas: Yeah, and I'm going to tell the teacher I am going to take that boy -- he's nine years old already.

Ray: Sure he can learn, eh.

Jonas: Oh yeah. (inaudible). It can't be forever this way, lot of money. I know that very clear. There'll be one day when (inaudible) young people.

Ray: Gonna starve, eh?

Jonas: Gonna starve, you gonna steal them, you gonna bring a story, you going to do something, do a lot of... gonna break a lot of law. He's going to go to the store; he's going to break in. When he's hungry, because young people they don't... they gonna do that, a lot of young people, I know that.

Ray: Do you remember any times when it was a bad year when people didn't get enough food, or some people got, you know, went hungry?

Jonas: Oh yes, we do that.

Ray: Lots of time?

Jonas: Lots of time. But this, you know, when a good trapper, he don't get stuck much, you see. We worked in the wintertime trapping, trapping. The season would close then we would get them some food from the store, all summer, no limit. I do that myself. And then in the wintertime when I'm trapping, then I pay up, my bill. Same thing all the time, you

see I make a lot of money, I trap, that's they trust me, they give me everything I want. But from there I have seen a lot of poor people too, you see. They is hungry I know that. I fly sometime, oh boy 2,000 pounds (inaudible). I pay that in the springtime all the time. One time I (inaudible) beaver, otter. Oh boy, lots of them. But that's hunter meat all winter I kill that one. Do you know how much I get for it? That's a good meat. Twenty-four inches, \$5.25.

Ray: Each?

Jonas: Nothing, some small one in the spring, you know.

Ray: Five dollars.

Jonas: Five dollars is just like a fifty dollars these days. Remember that one pack of tobacco at ten cents with the cigarette paper, see that. A dollar -- ten pack of tobacco, ten pack of cigarette paper those days, no tax, nothing. Now today \$10 when a 100 pack of tobacco 100 pack of cigarette paper and you get that one. Now today \$100, eh.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: See that.

Ray: That's right.

Jonas: You paying \$100 for that. In those days a bag was \$1,000 just like now today it \$10,000. And you getting five dollars, a dollar to get something them days. A dollar, five dollars, you don't get nothing today, too high. And then on top of that, this on welfare (inaudible) he said, he told me, you make a lot of money that's why you don't get (inaudible). This what Harry told me the other day. Well, it's okay. A fellow who's lazy he don't try nothing, and then when he get easy, eh, that money in the welfare -- and me I'm trying hard. See that. I'm 77 years old and still I don't give up trapping. I make quite a bit of money all right, you know. But I don't get all the money myself. All the boys gonna half that, he get that half he get that, you see.

Ray: Why do you still trap? Why, do you like, you like trapping, eh?

Jonas: Me?

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: I'm gonna die that way. I'm used to it, you see. I never done that before, just trapping, and fishing that's all; before I went out fishing we don't sell the fish. And after not long ago when they started buying fish, you see, not...

Ray: Oh, that wasn't always the case, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, that trapping, when I started out trapping I

was 10 year old. (inaudible) I can remember that, I snared in a rope. We would just be using rope in those days, (inaudible) see the water, you see. You don't use -- just like a rabbit used those days. I snared one in the river. I can remember. I like it.

Ray: You were happy, eh. Did they have a party for you? Your mom or dad.

Jonas: No, no, no, they don't do that.

Ray: Celebration?

Jonas: That trapping would sometimes (?) all right. Fish, I did it that's all with a trap line. Outside, no tent, nothing.

Ray: No.

Jonas: No.

Ray: Sleep outside, eh?

Jonas: Outside, you sleep (inaudible).

Ray: How come you didn't get cold?

Jonas: No, just like a dog in those days. Nobody got sick then.

Ray: You must have had a good sleeping robe, eh?

Jonas: Oh no, no, not real, but it's not bad at all.

Ray: Did the women make the sleeping robe?

Jonas: Sure, after that, before the rabbits came. We needed that; but it's cold out.

Ray: Rabbit skin blanket, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, and then after that fur, duck fur we use it and then they put (inaudible). And nobody (inaudible).

Ray: What did they use before a parka?

Jonas: Oh, just coat that's all.

Ray: Did they make the coat?

Jonas: No, no the coat just like a suit. Not this one.

Ray: With a hood on it?

Jonas: Yeah. (inaudible). We like it, no cold, nothing.

Ray: Did the people make, a long time ago, did they wear clothes made from moose and caribou at that time?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: Hide?

Jonas: Yeah, Hudson's Bay blanket too, you see. Make it that way.

Ray: Make it into a coat, eh?

Jonas: Yeah. You use it. Moose hide, you use it for tipi too.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: Yeah. That's a two year, a year at the most -- that was light, you see. Seven moose hide and then you make one big tipi, you see. Then you have a fire, that's all. You don't need a stove.

Ray: And you used to carry this, carry all the hides?

Jonas: Carry it, oh yes. Lots of dog, good dog too to pack it, you see. All the people they use it just for bag to carry everything.

Ray: Just on their back, eh?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: It must have been heavy.

Jonas: Oh, even heavy but a lot of people they strong just walking. You know, that's why people is tough. Bones hard. White people, some of them, they go to their office. From this place they go to office to car. Then sometime they fall and broke his bones. They don't work, you see. Me, I work and I work, walking, walking you see that. That's why I'm strong.

Ray: Yeah, that's for sure, eh.

Jonas: Doctor told me I'm 70 year operation. "How old are you?" "I'm 70," I said. "No sir, you're a 50 year old," he told me. Why? "I never saw a tough old man like you," he said. Well I told him what happened. I've been driving dog, running the pack of dogs and that's why. And I told him the same thing too about the white people. Some of the white people is working, that bone's hard too all right. But somebody don't work in that he's soft, you see, when they fall down in '70 he broke his leg. I seen them in hospital down there.

One fellow, he come from old country, and then he go to one fellow. Then he treat rough to one fellow, (name), he treat rough; and then that white man he don't like it, but he can't

say nothing; he's got no place to go. And then I see that. I'm trapping those days Dunn Lake, and I see that he don't treat right the other trapper, you see. And then he told me, "You don't mind to stay with you until the spring." I don't mind, but you have to tell him, that fellow, that trapper," I told. Well, he told him. That trapper was made, you know. And then he come to me, then I keep him to the spring, that fellow, (inaudible).

Ray: You taught him everything, eh?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: How to trap?

Jonas: Yeah. And then next winter he went out by himself, trap. That fellow he make a lot of money on trapping -- when the season opens he goes. He made a lot of money. He go to old country too sometimes. The (inaudible) someplace he's trapping now (inaudible). When I see the (inaudible) sometimes give me \$50 and he know that if it wasn't me he can't make money.

Ray: Is he still alive that man?

Jonas: I think he's alive yet. He don't die.

Ray: I wonder where he's living.

Jonas: I don't know, maybe (inaudible). By the Yukon someplace where the... far down there, way down someplace. My, he was a nice fellow.

Ray: So he was a good trapper after you taught him, eh?

Jonas: Yeah. And then after that trapping, and after he come back here, and after he quit, went down Fond-du-Lac. Then he come here to fly down there to McMurray, have a good time. He went in the winter, old country one summer. If it wasn't me he wouldn't do that, but the other fellow don't treat right, you see. Mind you he like that too (inaudible) trapping. White people, see, mind strong.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: Yeah.

(END OF SIDE A)

Ray: It goes right out the chimney, eh.

Jonas: Yeah. (inaudible). And then after you don't have light, you see, put a little stick there in fire, light in the fire; coal oil, nothing. And then after that you don't have nothing (inaudible), you use a bitch light it's called. You use that with oil, fish oil.

Ray: That comes from the liver?

Jonas: Yeah. Fellow he got lots (inaudible). Pipe like this and then you put a little cloth there, sometimes put a little bit (inaudible).

Ray: Just like a coal oil lamp?

Jonas: Oh, just the same thing.

Ray: What did he put the fish oil in?

Jonas: Well, you know that...

Ray: A little can, eh.

Jonas: And after that put the cloth, you know. (inaudible) More light, you put a little more (inaudible) for more light.

Ray: It's cheap, cheap light, eh. Doesn't cost anything.

Jonas: Yeah, no, it's a cheap light. And after that coal oil is come and light coal oil lamp, you see, (inaudible).

Ray: So bright, eh.

Jonas: Bright, and then after that gas lamp. Now power. Now today power. But in the olden days that's nice, boy, I like that.

Ray: Called it bitch light, eh?

Jonas: Bitch light they call it. (inaudible) when you got no light you have to put in. Yeah, it's a nice life, boy. Now today all kind of money, people's poor, everybody loses senses, they lose their mind, they drink too much, you see. In those days there was no liquor or nothing, mind good all; now today, we sit right here, we drink one glass or two glass, our mind -- we change right there, eh.

Ray: Yeah. This kind of, in the fireplace, what do you call this? Log, a log fireplace?

Jonas: No, no, we don't call it. No stones, rock, you see, you turn a rock between those rocks and put a clay.

Ray: How do you cook on that?

Jonas: You cook right here, you see, cook right here.

Ray: Right in front of it, eh.

Jonas: And right here too, on some bars sometimes, lead bars. You put like this, you see, and you got a hook there and then you can put a hook there. Tea pail, water, kettle you put there sometime. Put some meat, fish -- you cook right there.

While sometime you got, you know, two irons here and you just put like this, and you put some fish here and just like a, you know, (inaudible) and it was tied up.

Ray: Yeah, and it stand up in front of the fire, eh?

Jonas: Same thing too, bannock there, you cook there.

Ray: You just lean it up like that?

Jonas: Yeah, and you cook there. And then turn it around. Corn is good, and then potatoes we cook, you know, the hook that something like that to keep all the time, you know. You put something in a pail.

Ray: Did they used to use... In the tent, what kind of fire did they use?

Jonas: Oh just a, no tent, no tent -- tipi.

Ray: Tipi, eh.

Jonas: Yeah, tipi, you see. And right in the centre, in the middle, make their fire. Smoke goes up, and you got a couple of, windows folds down this way (inaudible).

Ray: The flap on top, eh.

Jonas: Yeah. You don't do that smoke like that.

Ray: When did the people first build cabins? They used to live in tents, eh, a long time ago? In tipi?

Jonas: In tipi.

Ray: But when did they start to build cabins?

Jonas: I don't know, I can't remember.

Ray: That was before you, eh?

Jonas: (inaudible).

Ray: You were going to tell me about that rabbit skin blanket. How did they make that? How did they make that blanket?

Jonas: You can make it a blanket all right, but if rabbit hide you can cut. You got to stretch you see, rope like. You can cut lots and you can cut there however much...

Ray: How many would you need for a blanket?

Jonas: Oh, it would be quite a bit, quite a bit rabbit skin, you see. And then you have to do this way, you see.

Ray: Wind it?

Jonas: Yeah, and then (inaudible) just like this, this one, just like this, do it that way.

Ray: Wearing it, yeah.

Jonas: Yeah, this way. And then it makes a coat too, you can make it. But no cover -- if you don't cover -- lots of hair. In the morning you get up then there's hair all over (inaudible), all rabbit's hair.

Ray: Because it falls out, eh.

Jonas: Yeah. (laughs) (inaudible).

Ray: Yeah, your hair will go white.

Jonas: Yeah, it's funny.

Ray: You be an old man in the morning.

Jonas: And then after that you put it something to cover it, see. And then you cover it and you just rabbit skin, kind of hard too, its hair has come up, you see, not hard rabbit skin, rabbit hair, you see. Easy.

Ray: It comes off?

Jonas: Yeah, it come off.

Ray: Did they tan the hide?

Jonas: No, we don't tan it at all.

Ray: Didn't worry about it, eh.

Jonas: No, no, no (inaudible) you can't tan rabbit hide.

Ray: You can't tan it, eh?

Jonas: No, no. Can't do that.

Ray: One time you were telling me, yesterday you were saying about you brought three horses from Big River the time

when there was no roads. How did you come? Which way did you come?

Jonas: Well, you see that route all right, but not gravel yet that time.

Ray: Just a trail, eh?

Jonas: Just a trail from Ile-a-la-Crosse, that hard to come there. Yeah, no trail.

Ray: From Big River you...

Jonas: From Big River to La Loche that route. Oh it was a long ways, you see.

Ray: That was in the summertime?

Jonas: Yeah, summer, summertime. August, I think. No, September I come home. I got a boy there who lives there. All the people they look for job there, poor jobs there, everybody is (inaudible). And after I got a boy, two boys there they live about two years something like that (inaudible) Jack, and one brother. (inaudible) And then after that October sometime they come over logging here. (inaudible).

Ray: So there was a trail from Big River to Fort Black, eh?

Jonas: Yeah. Moose trail.

Ray: Or did it, it went to Green Lake, eh?

Jonas: From Green Lake to Meadow Lake is two good roads there, gravel already that time. But this one from Green Lake to Big River and then gravel today, from then gravel to south. And then after that then they gravel, you see. Mud hole, boy oh boy. And lots of rain too, and dam there at Big River. And dam no water (inaudible) they make a dam there. Sometime the water down river and then they open that then lots of water.

Ray: From Green River, from Green Lake to Fort Black, was the road good there, or not?

Jonas: Oh just a road.

Ray: Just a trail, eh?

Jonas: Well, I use wagon you see, horses, team horses. From Green Lake we get there one day and move out, you see, 60 miles. In the winter too, horses. Long trip.

Ray: And you were walking?

Jonas: No, the horses. We were riding the wagon. We used a wagon.

Ray: Wagon, yeah.

Jonas: I bought a wagon too. And set of harness for horses and then just riding, that's all.

Ray: And then the road came over to Fort Black, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, and then from there, ferry.

Ray: And you would take a ferry?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: What was that ferry like? Was it (??)?

Jonas: You see that boat?

Ray: Yeah. Like a barge, eh?

Jonas: That barge, big barge you see, horses, truck and everything. (inaudible) I work in, we worked in there, me and Jack. Pulp wood.

Ray: At Big River?

Jonas: Yeah. This side of Big River. A lot of people cut pulp wood, eh.

Ray: Pulp wood, eh.

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: It's for the sawmill?

Jonas: Yeah for, you know, plywood too, pulp wood.

Ray: When was that when you worked with these guys to open up this new road from Buffalo?

Jonas: I don't remember that. I don't know what year is that.

Ray: No.

Jonas: I was a guide at that time, (inaudible), you know. You see I've been trapping all of my life, just from here to Athabasca Lake. That's why I know the country, you see, good.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: Yeah, that's why I was guide at that time. Rough, I took it, first then we went to the (inaudible). We went 50 days from Descharme to Athabasca.

Ray: Fifty days?

Jonas: Fifty days.

Ray: That's a long time, eh.

Jonas: Yeah, a long time, just a brush cut.

Ray: How did you know where to go?

Jonas: Well, I've been trapping all my life that country.

That's why they took me there, see. I was a guide. But I walking. They put in the newspapers that I walk 600 miles I was walking, you see. (inaudible) what they have, sometimes nighttime there I didn't sleep. I was getting \$15 a day, that's all. But even I don't work I get that much, but no tax, nothing. Fifteen dollars a day was a lot of money those days. You see package of tobacco, package of cigarette paper used to be ten cents those days. And ten pack of tobacco, a dollar, and cigarette paper too. Ten dollars for a 100 package tobacco, that's a hundred package of cigarette paper. Now today it's a \$100. (?) see that, more than that.

Ray: So, you were a rich man at that time.

Jonas: Yeah, just like a rich man. Five dollars you get something out of it; now today, a dollar, you can't get nothing; ten dollars, you can't get nothing. Too hard, oh boy, it's too hard, boy! And \$10 you go, (inaudible) you can't get good meat out it, not today.

Ray: No, that's for sure.

Jonas: Yeah. Long my days I can remember that \$3 for a hundred. And then there was no taxes in those days. Sometimes not work, but \$3 something like that -- shoes. One time south one old man he told me, me and my partner went walking (?). And one of my partners had really bad shoes, you see. He went to the store and he got a dime, ten cents, he got a good shoes. And sometimes he says, 15 cents you can go to a show for 15 cents and you get lunch too, those days -- 15 cents. Not today. Well, \$10,000 just like back there to a \$1,000 there.

Ray: Yeah, that's right.

Jonas: Oh boy about \$100,000 and the old days \$10,000 and with \$10,000 you get a lot of stuff, you see. (inaudible) If you keep it all the time it's all right, but if you're going to buy something out of it... See that, I bought a truck, about \$15,000 somewhere, right now; but in them days that was (inaudible) boy. It wasn't \$2,000. One time, a motor, Keyhorse motor power that time, Johnson.

Ray: That was the first motor, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, not after that. (inaudible) they want \$300, see that.

Ray: For the canoe and the motor?

Jonas: Yeah. How much money do you think? About \$3,000.

Ray: When did those Revillon guys come? Were they here before you were born?

Jonas: Oh yeah, before.

Ray: Long time, eh.

Jonas: Long time. And after, the Hudson's Bay bought them, you see. And then the Hudson's Bay, West La Loche there they had to be, they come across there.

Ray: Who worked in that Revillon store?

Jonas: Who at that time?

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: Lots of them.

Ray: Lots of people change, eh?

Jonas: A lot of people change. Halfway from Ile-a-la-Crosse (inaudible). Some come from Descharme and then Tarabine(?) name.

Ray: Tarabine?

Jonas: (Inaudible) them too, you see.

Ray: Where, at West La Loche?

Jonas: Oh, Descharme.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: Yeah, (inaudible) and a lot of people trap. All the people that trap in (inaudible), you see. And this Revillon Hudson's Bay just collecting fur, that's all. No job those days, nothing at all.

Ray: Everybody was trappers, eh?

Jonas: Just trapping.

Ray: No other jobs, eh?

Jonas: No jobs at all, and some of them don't do nothing. In fall of some year, working.

Ray: Did some people work for the stores? Cut wood for them and catch fish.

Jonas: Oh, some of them.

Ray: Take care of the horses?

Jonas: No, just cordwood, that's all. Last time I had to work was in Descharme for Hudson's Bay that's all, last time. And then after that nothing, and then after that we do people there, Descharme for a while. Our people they come down, they come back to there, you see. I bet you a lot of people they go down there after white people they come from south here.

You'll see.

Ray: Yeah, that's right.

Jonas: (inaudible). Me, I can't stay with white people. I don't go to school, nothing, you see. Maybe I can go to Descharme. I like too in the bush, you see. I been travelling all my life, I don't want to stay here in the village. A lot of people, you know, a lot of young people they don't try to live (inaudible), oh boy. I'm 77 years old right now. You see me, what I'm doing, trapping, fishing.

Ray: Yeah, lots of things.

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: That time when you had the outpost there at Descharme for the Hudson's Bay, was there lots of people there?

Jonas: Not many. Not very many but before me there used to be lots of people that's why all (inaudible). From here took it the freight and dogs, you know, in the winter.

Ray: Yeah, up north, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, Descharme. And then from there all over trapping people. Well, summer they took it the dog team pulling flour, tobacco and lard and not many sugar, lump sugar. And mile, too. Thick.

Ray: Milk?

Jonas: Milk. That's just thick. That time you (?), you see.

Ray: Little can, eh?

Jonas: Yeah, can they got to open. And you got to open all these. When you open them a bit they kind of stiff and they don't come out much. And then you use a spoon (inaudible).

Ray: Big lumps, eh.

Jonas: No, but...

Ray: Oh, small ones.

Jonas: Yeah, small.

Ray: So somebody went out and traded their furs, eh?

Jonas: ...September, and that's why you had outpost there. And freight from here, you don't have to come here all the time then.

Ray: So then you could stay up there all year, eh?

Jonas: Stay all year, got things for staying, and then Easter come. But oh boy nice and the fish were still here.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: Lots of dog.

Ray: Everybody had dog teams, eh?

Jonas: Everybody dog team. Lots of bells too.

Ray: Bells?

Jonas: Yeah, on a chain.

Ray: It must have sounded nice, eh, hearing the bells.

Jonas: Was nice, but all night it would driving dogs and the boys, all night, Christmas night.

Ray: All night?

Jonas: Till church, (inaudible). Them dog when he's hollering you can't hear nothing. There's too many dogs there.

Ray: Yeah, they're all barking and howling, eh?

Jonas: All barking.

Ray: Did they fight, the dogs?

Jonas: (inaudible) look after his dogs you see, he likes his dog. Yeah, I use lots of dog, boy. Boy, it's nice to have them (inaudible).

Ray: K(?) all over the place.

Jonas: (?) all over from here to (?). Christmas, in the evening, the fellows come from West La Loche all the dogs. Boy, lots of dog team. And then all the people they're watching there, them dogs. (inaudible). A dog hole too, we call dog hole. (inaudible) oh five dogs, every one of them. (?) stick there. Nice bed too, with a cover about that big too. They use in beads, dog.

Ray: Yeah, a beaded cover on them?

Jonas: Yeah, for their back. Just put a dog bed there. Oh, they look nice, boy.

Ray: What about the sled, are they the same kind that they use now?

Jonas: Oh yeah. I got a sleigh this one. This one, they don't use this one. Somebody (inaudible).

Ray: Not curled enough, eh?

Jonas: No, but it looked nice.

Ray: So they have a fancy front on the sleigh, eh?

Jonas: Yeah. And sometimes rockers -- you know rocker? -- sometime moose hide smoking, we use all summer. Oh yeah it's really nice looking. Now today (inaudible) harness. Sometimes there was rope he used to harness (inaudible). (laughs) Yeah, the old days I like it. Nice that. Now today a lot of money -- no fun.

Ray: When was it your daddy came here?

Jonas: A long time ago.

Ray: A long time ago eh.

Jonas: Over 80 years, that's for sure. Many years ago, I suppose, to Ile-a-la-Crosse. (inaudible).

Ray: What was his name?

Jonas: Sidney Clark.

Ray: Sidney?

Jonas: Sidney Clark, he come from Scotland. Hudson's Bay hired all the Scotch people, you see, and then my uncle, my daddy's, my sister too. My daddy's sister when he died there in (?), you see.

Ray: What is her name?

Jonas: What?

Ray: What was her name?

Jonas: I don't know.

Ray: You don't know it, eh, your dad's sister.

Jonas: Yeah, Tom McCarr's name, her husband. My dad's name is Sidney Clark (inaudible).

Ray: Mary Marasky?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: That's your sister?

Jonas: Yeah, Mary Marasky.

Ray: Where does she live, Flin Flon?

Jonas: No, Prince Albert.

Ray: Oh, Prince Albert.

Jonas: And then my dad (inaudible). His mother that's where he had two kids there, but he didn't marry the girl. Then they married Marasky boys, my sister and mother. That's why they called Marasky, my sister. My old brother brush, that brother (inaudible) Arnold Marasky. I didn't see him.

Ray: That's the man you want to go see, eh?

Jonas: That's the one I would like to see. From (?) maybe somebody drive me down there I suppose, maybe (inaudible) in the truck too (inaudible).

Ray: It might be okay.

Jonas: Yeah it would be okay. That's why you see if I'm going to help me down there, maybe we do that we'd be all right.

Ray: Yeah, I would like to go sometime.

Jonas: I can help you on the gas, I suppose, if I had any money.

Ray: So your dad he came to Ile-a-la-Crosse?

Jonas: And then after that he come here West La Loche first, and after that he went back to Ile-a-la-Crosse, and then after that he went back to south, and then after that come back again.

Ray: To La Loche again?

Jonas: No.

Ray: To Ile-a-la-Crosse?

Jonas: Ile-a-la-Crosse. Then he stay there. And then after one time RCMP, you see, worked for the RCMP for a while too. And then after that he went to war, not last war, before war. And then after he come back to this country, he moved all over. He worked some mining down in office in Flin Flon. He died there in Flin Flon.

Ray: It was the First World War?

Jonas: First war, not that last one. My daddy I saw twice, that's all.

Ray: That's all?

Jonas: That's all.

Ray: That's hard, eh? Did he, when he was here he met

your mother, eh?

Jonas: Oh, he met my mother that's why when he go to (?).

Ray: What was your mother's name?

Jonas: Adelaine.

Ray: Adelaine.

Jonas: Adelaine Park. My brother, my half-brother, he's Joseph Park.

Ray: Yeah.

Jonas: That's why my mother, she raised him (inaudible) that's why he called him Park, you see, my own (?) that's why.

Ray: How come the name was changed from Clark to Park?

Jonas: My mother, my stepfather he married to my mother, you see, my stepfather. Same mother but me and Joseph was the same mother, but wasn't the same father. And then my boys...

Ray: Your stepfather's name was Park?

Jonas: Yeah, and before me, before he married my mother I was born already. (inaudible) And then after that my mother...

Ray: Your mother was Chipewyan, eh?

Jonas: Oh yes.

Ray: She was from here?

Jonas: French people, I think, all French people.

Ray: Everybody is from French backgrounds, eh?

Jonas: Yeah. And then he raised that my boy and married my mother. That's why he called Park, you know, stepfather (inaudible). My stepfather -- he came from Winnipeg, I think.

Ray: That Park?

Jonas: Yeah.

Ray: What was his first name?

Jonas: Archie.

Ray: Archie Park.

Jonas: He married one time already, (inaudible).

Ray: Did he work in the Bay?

Jonas: (inaudible) we stay there (inaudible). These days (inaudible).

Ray: Did some people make their own? Their home brew.

Jonas: Not in those days.

Ray: No, not in the old days, eh?

Jonas: Not the old days, no.

Ray: They didn't have any liquor in the old days, eh?

Jonas: Oh just, no liquor all the time, I think.

Ray: In the old days?

Jonas: In the old days until that (inaudible). First time he come, horses just come from (name) they brought the liquor, you see.

Ray: Some people would drink liquor all the time, eh?

Jonas: All the time. There was a lot of people they'd have, just like water from the lake you see(?).

Ray: But they don't drink it, only when they are sick?

Jonas: (inaudible). Now today when you get all the guys up to here you drink. You (inaudible).

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