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HIGHLIGHTS:

- General accounts of their lives.

Malcolm: Did you want to hear that too? Oh. Well, my mother
told me my granddad used to trap north of Prince Albert there,
Candle Lake they called it. And my dad and mother took my
grandparents, and on the road... I was born and I didn't hear
whether they continued. She had to walk for a long ways
anyway, herself, because the wagon was just loaded, you know.

And that's as far as I know, that part. But then after they come back, I remember my mother, she was in bed sick for seven years. My dad had to look after us.

Mrs. U: Tell her about when you landed here now.

Malcolm: So, I got to be a man after and I worked. I surveyed up north, Prince Albert to down east, for five years, five summers. And when I finished that I come down here -- 1913. Started to work for her uncle. He had a store down the Umpherville River lodge, buying fur. And I used to go up north, Herb Lake, north of Herb Lake. He was dealing with Nelson House people. I was up there about a month and I brought the furs down. And while on our way, from Mile 86 on Hudson's Bay railway, the train capsized. Of course we were all right but the horses... I think there was one car below because the road was not perfectly fixed. One box car went over and they cut that box car into pieces to bring the horses out. Finally we made it to The Pas, oh, around twelve o'clock at night. Of course, that time, the train used to travel any time, you know. What? Well, (inaudible). Well, I was just (inaudible).

And then in 1915... Oh, we got married in 1914, first of January, that's 1914. That's quite a few years ago. And I started to work around the trading store. I worked there up to 1916 when Cicely took over and then I started to work for old Cicely ever since. And I worked up to 1967. And then I finished in September, last day of September I quit. Now I'm a lazy man.

Margaret: You don't sound it.

Malcolm: Well, I guess that's all, eh?

Margaret: Did you ever go fishing yourself?

Malcolm: No. No, that's one thing I never did.

Margaret: But here, you can catch a lot of different kinds of fish, eh?

Malcolm: No. I never done any fishing at all. Angling or fish nets.

Margaret: Well, what kind of fish do they collect here mostly?

Malcolm: Well, when I was working at Woods warehouse there, frozen fish was coming in all the time, mostly whitefish. And then after a while they started to operate fresh fish down in the garage. I used to go down there and help the boys. I was idle, kind of idle in the warehouse there, you know. In fact, I was down there quite a bit in the summertime because there is not much to do in the warehouse in the summer here. I was counting all the materials and pieces of equipment, you know.

Margaret: So that you were in on the beginning of that industry here, the fish industry here?

Malcolm: Part of, part of the whole fishery, yeah. Of course, I think Armstrong was trading hands a little bit too. Some were around river fishing, but I don't know how much they got. I didn't see that.

Margaret: Well, in the wintertimes, did you ever go hunting yourself?

Malcolm: Me? No. No, I never did go hunting. But there's one thing I will tell you. Up on the Saskatchewan River, they call it Saskewan(?) Lake and I went out with my brother-in-law, Jim. (Break in tape)

Mrs. U: Albert Valentine?

Malcolm: Albert Valentine, yes. I'm telling my story here. And Gerry Fiddler, and my brother-in-law took the gun and he says, "I'll do the shooting." So he done the shooting and I was, every time he knocks a duck, I go and get them, you know. And on towards evening it was getting dark, you know, so we went to our canoe and we loaded up. Just when I was going to step in the canoe myself -- of course, I had those canvas waders, you know, up to our hips -- and I stepped in a muskrat hole. Down I went (inaudible) and my left leg here was water. I didn't bother taking it off. We come home. And I got cold on the way home. My knee was kind of numb. Well, I was working around here, worked back and forth, my knee was sore. That's the rheumatism, you know, way down to my ankle and up to my hip, and half way on my back here. And the work there, the fish -- this was about November. I just can't remember what, pretty well end of November anyway. And I could not sleep at night. I wake up around about two o'clock and just the way I

was dressed I used to go and stand outside, you know, on the doorstep there, at two o'clock in the morning. Well, when I get cold, I go wrap up and I fell asleep after I get warm. I done that three mornings and on the fourth when I woke up, I was well. Never any more bothered me. I always tell that to anybody, you know, in case anything happened to them like that, you know. I didn't use no medicine. Maybe... I think Dr. Jacobs gave me a little rubbing medicine, you know. I used that and maybe that helped me at the same time. I could not say but so far it didn't seem to help until I started the other system. (laughs)

Margaret: So then you've ranged from Nelson House around to The Pas?

Malcolm: Nelson House?

Margaret: Well, around that area down to The Pas?

Malcolm: Well, just north of Herb Lake. That's as far north

as I went. Yes. But we were dealing with the Nelson House people. They were trapping, fine fur. No muskrats, all fine fur. Beaver, otter, lynx, red foxes...

(End of Side A)
(Side B)

Mrs. U: ...went to Selkirk and lived there for eight years. I don't even know how he looked like. I was just about a month old and he died over there. My mother come back here in The Pas when I was just a little girl. And I went back once to Cumberland after I was grown up. Just once, that's all. I don't know much people down there. I've been living here ever since. I just went to (inaudible) once. That's where I lived when I was a little girl. We used to have about four kinds of (inaudible) on both sides. Used to put the net down and get lots of goldeye. Them days nobody, they can fish any time they want. Then when you get the fish -- get a big tubful like that -- used to go and sell them and get milled... The old mill was running yet that time, sawmill. When we used to go to fish we get a lot. We used to get about five dollars, you know. And then first thing in the morning we'd go picking berries (inaudible) and we'd get wood. I used to get wood, even in the summer months. And we went up mostly with the dogs to get wood for ourselves. Find an old tree in there, you know, (inaudible) I'd fish in the river in the wintertime, I did everything.

Margaret: Did you drive dog teams?

Mrs. U: Oh yes. Took them and get wood in the bush. I never begged. I used to go in the bush there, rabbits -- I only got lost once.

Margaret: What happened then?

Mrs. U: Oh, I went out in the afternoon -- it was in the summertime, about four o'clock. (Inaudible) I had four kids at that time. I put one baby (inaudible) and the two older boys was about... not very big. I went out. I must have turned around somehow in the dark night. I stood there -- course I had my gun. I thought I'd go and get a (inaudible). Well, I got lost, and when I knew I got lost, I could hear them on the other side. So I get on walking, going all the time, meeting this old road, you know, for getting wood. I went the other way, I turned back. I come out across the lake from here, so I wasn't far from my way. I never went out after that by myself in the bush. Funny feeling when you know you're lost. And the thick bush that time, you know, thick, thick bush. Well, I took my .410 and when I got home I just threw it away.

Malcolm: She's still got it.

Margaret: You have?

Malcolm: Right here.

Mrs. U: After that, after (inaudible) be there all day long, and go up to the highway (inaudible) strawberries. Stayed there all day.

Daughter: That's the one she carried in the bush years ago.

Malcom: .410, gauge .410.

Margaret: Were you a good shot?

Mrs. U: Oh, I used to be. I used to be a good shot. Never missed, even at trees. There would be a bird sitting way up on the tree. But I never shot when they were flying, when they were, only one...

Margaret: That's a beautiful gun.

Malcolm: She's had that a good many years.

Daughter: Now they have shorter barrels, haven't they, for the .410. That's what she shoots off every New Year's.

Margaret: You do?

Mrs. U: I do yet, you know. Every New Year's I got up there and (inaudible) up in the air.

Daughter: Well, they got married on New Year's day, mother and dad.

Mrs. U: We got married January 1, 1914. I had seven children. I did lots of work for them. (Inaudible) A trapper away up the valley, trapping.

Daughter: He was a white fox trapper. I've got one of the white foxes that he caught, you know. He made a collar for me when I was six years old. But I have it packed away. I don't really know where it is.

Margaret: Well, that gun would be a museum piece, you know.

Malcolm: That's the shell. Shot shell. All she does now is fire it at New Year's, New Year's morning, New Year's night.

Margaret: Well, were there big celebrations on New Year's?

Mrs. U: There used to be years ago but not now.

Margaret: Well, years ago did they come in with their dog teams with ribbons on them and things like that?

Mrs. U: Oh, years ago I used to see that, and even the bells.

Daughter: They still have the bells here. What did you do with them? Did you give them away?

Mrs. U: The boys have the bells. Small ones. There was so many there. I even got an old chair like this. (Inaudible) And then I got another (inaudible) when my mother used to...

Margaret: Well, you people who have built up the north have done wonderful things. This is what we want to record.

Malcolm: There's a picture I took. I sent it to head office in Chicago because I was signing cheques that time and they wanted to see my figure, I guess.

Margaret: That's a fine picture.

Mrs. U: You had the position (inaudible) how many years in the (inaudible)?

Malcolm: Oh, it must be 52 years. Pretty close anyway.

Mrs. U: (Inaudible) He's going on 80, he'll be 80 his next birthday.

Margaret: Well, the Booth Fisheries, of course, in town. We buy frozen fish from Booth Fisheries all the time. It's a great, huge firm now.

(Inaudible)

Daughter: Mother has some special meat she cooks up very well. Fixes it up, you know.

Margaret: How do you cook it?

Mrs. U: I put it in the fire, scrape it till it's really white like, you know. I cook it in hot water, and I scrape it and scrape it till there's nothing left of (inaudible) about four pounds of it, and I boil it for about four hours, just like pork. We used to have beaver tail soup.

Margaret: How do you prepare that?

Mrs. U: Oh, you have to skin them. You have to put them in hot water and take the skin right off. Oh, they're white, you know, after that. (Inaudible) Yes, he used to make caviar.

Margaret: You made caviar?

Malcolm: I used to make some but I forget now.

Mrs. U: That's years ago when they had plenty of sturgeon coming (inaudible).

Malcolm: Frozen. They come from Pelican Narrows. Transport used to haul them.

Mrs. U: They used horses them days. I don't know how long it would take them there and back, a long time.

Malcolm: Well, they load them (inaudible) and take them down to freight and they would come empty or whatever they could take on the way back. That time there was lots of sturgeon.

Mrs. U: They bought sturgeon but they had places where they had to portage and all that.

Daughter: How long would it take them?

Malcolm: Oh, it would take a long time. Must be about 18 days anyway. Was just horses walking.

Margaret: Did they camp then along the way?

Malcolm: No, no. They had their own tents.

Daughter: She means did they stop over.

Mrs. U: Oh yes, they stopped over, that's what I mean. They had places where they had the horses' hay and food, you know, to feed their horses. They don't carry all that. And they take home... (Inaudible).

Margaret: Changed now, isn't it?

Mrs. U: Now just take about an hour, two hours. (Inaudible) And I never went in a plane, never.

Daughter: You should tell her about the time (inaudible) you went down the river there.

Mrs. U: Oh yes! (Inaudible) And I went down the river, they wouldn't go in the water though. (Inaudible) I've still got that water (inaudible). It's still there. You went to look at it and there is nothing in it at all. I never opened it. I still keep it.

Daughter: (Inaudible)

(End of Interview)

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