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MRS. SINCLAIR
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INTERVIEWER: MARGARET STOBIE
INTERPRETER:
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tells how his family came to their present residence.
Margaret: You were born at York Factory?

Mr. C: Yes, I was born in York Factory.

Margaret: And how old are you?

Mrs. S: He thinks he is 93 or 94.

Mr. C: Yeah. I was born in York Factory. I don't know what
year it was.

Mrs. S: He said that, he was telling us that they came to Norway House after that treaty was made, you know. But he didn't know how many years they had treaty there before they came. But then when he said they, they had to walk. They travelled from York Factory to Norway House, you know. (says something to Mr. C. in Cree)

Margaret: I want him to speak to me in English.

Mr. C: I don't want to talk English. (laughs) We went to about, oh, I don't know. In the winter, you know, the old canoe was burnt, you know. They didn't slack the fire right, you know. I guess the canoe was burned right around and he went to that place there and oh, everything was burnt. My dad's (Inaudible), everything. And they have to go back to York Factory, I don't know how many days. Maybe a week, I don't know. I don't remember. And again he brought three dogs, three husky dogs and a toboggan and a load of something, you know. Not much flour, just tea and something, you know. And we started again from there with the dogs in the winter. And in the spring again.

Margaret: They were still travelling?

Mr. C: And in the summer again. He left the toboggan and everything. One of the dogs ran away after they were here, you know. We lost that dog. They carry the packs and the cooking kettles, that husky dog. After being here, we lost that dog. And then we had two dogs now. Them husky dogs, they can't live in this country, you know. Them dogs, in that summer again, that spring all them husky dogs died. And my dad had to carry the stuff with the toboggan and then he said, "I tracked a man and he had the snowshoes." And that is the first time he tracked a man on this side of the country. And again, we followed that track for that man and we find a wigwam, you know. We find a wigwam. There is nobody there. Nobody there. That's at Split Lake, the end of north of Split Lake. I don't know if it's one winter in the summer. Anyway, we travelled

from York Factory to Split Lake. That's the first lake we found there on this side. We, and my dad, he stopped that man there. There was only one man, they had no children, just only one dog, and he had a wife but they had no children. We found that man there at the north side of Split Lake. After they build a canoe again with that fellow, for us, you know. It was not summer yet. There was lots of ice here. After he finished the canoe, it is getting summer now. There is no ice and the man says, "All right, you can go now. The lake is open now, you can go west side." Oh, we stopped and we found lots of people, you know. We found lots of people from Cross Lake, some from Norway House -- that's our friends, you know. We stopped there, oh, I don't know how long. We started from there to Cross Lake now. I don't know how many days we travelled before we get to Cross Lake. And we went around this way, we come again to Norway House. I don't know how many days, how many weeks we travelled from Cross Lake to Norway House with a canoe. And that is the end. Actually we stayed

there but I don't know how many years. Maybe over ten years. Mr. Simmons is a minister there. Mr. Simmons is his name, Mr. Simmons, the minister, you know, in Norway House. I guess you would know Mr. Simmons, I guess you see his name.

Margaret: I don't remember his name.

Mr. C: Mr. Simmons, he is a minister, you know, and he, I don't know if he's one time in here too. Mr. Simmons is a white man, you know, he is a minister. But he talks a good Cree, you know. He stayed on at Norway House, he talks pretty good Cree.

Margaret: Did you spend most of your life in Norway House then?

Mr. C: Oh yes. Over ten years, I guess, over ten years. No, all my mother's brother, he started from York Factory before us, you know. He got treaty, we never. He got treaty. But that's the first treaty at Norway House. That was a long time ago.

Margaret: Did you work with the Bay, the Hudson's Bay Company?

Mr. C: No, I was a boy, you know.

Mrs. S: He was small.

Margaret: But when he grew up?

Mr. C: About fourteen or fifteen.

Mrs. S: When they left Norway House.

Margaret: Did you come here then from Norway House?

Mr. C: Yes. We just come in here about, oh, about 15, I guess, I was age 15 when we got in here. We stayed here for how many years now? Fifty, fifty, maybe sixty years. It was over sixty years, I guess. Fifty years too, I spent. Oh yes, over fifty years.

Mrs. S: He wanted the treaty. About fifty years ago. They were outsiders, you know, they didn't get no treaty.

Margaret: What have you done most of your life? Were you a fisherman or a carpenter or what did you do most?

Mr. C: Oh yes, I fish all over. I fish in a sailboat, in Norway House, Landing too, and all over this side. I fish all over this way too. And I went in a skiff three times to Norway House with a skiff. And I fish all over in the wintertime, I fish on the lake. I fish, hunting, trapping, everything.

Mrs. S: Cutting cord wood.

Mr. C: Cutting cord wood. First it went to 90 cents a cord. (laughter) The last time I chopped a cord of wood, I got a dollar and a half a cord. And when I started to work in the mill, twenty-six dollars a month, a dollar a day. (laughter) And that was seven to six. Seven o'clock to six. A dollar a day. I went around to with a skiff to Selkirk. I went out to sell cord wood at Riverton with my family. I went around this way again.

Margaret: Well, did you go hunting in the fall and winter too?

Mr. C: Oh yes, I'm hunting. I killed moose sometimes. I killed, one time, in three or four hours, I killed seven moose. (laughter) It's about three hours. I sat there hunting there and I killed seven moose in about three hours. Oh yes, I am a moose hunter.

Margaret: You certainly are.

Mr. C: I am a fisherman, trapper. That is one thing, I didn't bother girls, that's all. (laughter)

Margaret: But you got married?

Mr. C: Yes, I am married. I am married for 59 years. Yeah, 59 years to one woman. I never hit once with my hands for 59 years at my wife. She didn't hit me once for 59 years. And I

am living alone now. All my friends, all my sisters and my father is gone. I am just alone. I am pretty sure I am 92 or 93. I'm going to be 94.

Margaret: Well, you've seen a lot of changes on the lake then?

(End of Interview)

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