

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: MRS. CRAIK
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:

INTERVIEW LOCATION: FISHER RIVER

TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: MARGARET STOBIE
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TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: MARGARET STOBIE TAPE COLLECTION
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TAPE NUMBER: IH-MS.013a/.025a
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 41
PAGES: 7

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Deals with the remodelling of the local church.

Mrs. Craik: Our United Church?

Margaret: And what you've done in it, the changes, and you.

Mrs. Craik: It was rebuilt, remodelled about two years ago.
It was such an old church. That was put through by Princler,
our minister then. At the same time he asked for this new
education hall. That is how come we have our hall today.

Margaret: Oh, good.

Mrs. Craik: He sure really talked for it. He was a good minister but a lot of people didn't like him. But we really liked him. He was good for us anyway. He really worked hard to get our church remodelled and it was done and we had the opening in the fall and the new name was given, Stephen's Memorial United Church -- for the minister that was here for forty years. He was back in the church and his wife was invited and she came -- Grandma Stephens -- she is quite old. But she came with her daughter too, Marguerite. She really enjoyed that day she was here.

Margaret: And you've played the organ there how many years?

Mrs. Craik: Oh, about thirty years or more. (laughs) Thirty years or more.

Margaret: Do you practise with the choir?

Mrs. Craik: Well, once in a while we do but very seldom. There is a teacher here last year, we did a lot of practising with her. She is really good. She really likes that, you know.

Margaret: When did they decide to remodel it?

Mrs. Craik: This old church? That's about two or three years ago. You know, there was the pews, wide pews in the middle and there was short pews on each side and just two little aisles and it used to be so awkward for weddings and funerals. It is so much better now the way it was remodelled.

Margaret: And then there is that fine hall behind.

Mrs. Craik: Oh, that is a lovely hall.

Margaret: And the kitchen.

Mrs. Craik: And the kitchen that was built for us. It is a little too small but still it is a nice kitchen. We all work together in there.

Margaret: You have socials and...?

Mrs. Craik: Oh yes, we have little parties in there. The young people came out this spring too, from Winnipeg. There was about twenty students that came out. And they had a little evening there. Some students and some other missionaries and they served that, the ladies served that.

Margaret: And tomorrow you do the ironing for all the washing you did today?

Mrs. Craik: Some of it, after we get through with our work. What we're going to do across there. We have to get the community hall all cleaned up for the Agent. That is where he

pays the treaty money, you know.

Margaret: That is where they are having the show tonight?

Mrs. Craik: Yes, that's where. You didn't go in there today?

Margaret: No, we didn't go in there.

Mrs. Craik: It is a lovely hall too. We got new shorty drapes for the side windows.

Margaret: So there will be a big celebration all next week.

Mrs. Craik: Oh yes, yes, all next week. (laughs)

Margaret: Well, what goes on during the daytime?

Mrs. Craik: Oh, nothing much. That's the day, in the days, that is when they get their treaty money. I think the Agent gets there around ten o'clock and they pay out the treaty money to half past eleven or so. Then they go to dinner and then they open again at two till five. That's only, they only take a day and half.

Margaret: Oh, is that all?

Mrs. Craik: That is all.

Margaret: But it goes on for a week?

Mrs. Craik: Oh yes, the people keep it going the rest of the week. And on Friday, they are going to have nomination, they are going to have the new chief and the councillors. The election day will be on the 20th of August. They have that every two years. They elect a new chief and new councillors.

Margaret: Well, how long has the present chief been in?

Mrs. Craik: Two years.

Margaret: Just the two years?

Mrs. Craik: Yeah. I guess he will be in, if they vote him back in again, I guess... You know, long ago they used to have this election every three years, I think, or every five years -- something like that. But just lately they elect new chief and councillors every two years.

Margaret: And who votes in that, everybody?

Mrs. Craik: Everybody from 21 years of age.

Margaret: The women too?

Mrs. Craik: Oh yes, the women. Anybody can run for councillors, even the women.

Margaret: Have you any women councillors here?

Mrs. Craik: We had one two years ago. But not just lately. I don't think the men like that very much. (laughs)

Margaret: You haven't been a councillor?

Mrs. Craik: Oh no, I wouldn't try that. (laughs)

Margaret: I think you would make a good one.

Mrs. Craik: I have too many, too much work. I was holding too many little jobs. I was working in the store and I'm a steward of the church and I'm a secretary of the United Church, so what... I'm the organist. (laughs) And I am the secretary again for the community hall. My husband is the president. (laughs) Of course, no pay coming in. (laughs)

Margaret: Well, you do your share.

Mrs. Craik: We sure do. He wanted to give up that job, looking after the community hall. But they didn't want to let him go.

Margaret: They knew a good man when they had one.

Mrs. Craik: I hope he is. (laughs) But he really is, for us anyway. For me and my family, he is a good man. He really is good to us.

Margaret: And were you born here?

Mrs. Craik: Yes, I was born here. He was born here too, I'm sure. All my children I had, all my children, I only had two children born in the hospital. The rest at home. My mother was a midwife.

Margaret: Oh, I see. Well, that helps.

Mrs. Craik: And now no one would have a baby at home. They have to go to the hospital.

Margaret: There have been a lot of changes in many ways.

Mrs. Craik: Yes, there sure was. A lot of changes in a lot of ways.

Margaret: Well, do you do washing like this more than once a week?

Mrs. Craik: Twice a week. (laughs) Especially after my family comes and visits us. I really have to wash after they leave.

Margaret: Do the people around here ever go out on boat trips around the bay?

Mrs. Craik: Oh yes, sure, there is a lot of boat, motors, you know. They go for rides.

Margaret: I suppose when the beach was there there would be picnics and that sort of thing.

Mrs. Craik: Oh yes, on Sundays. That's when they usually run out there.

Margaret: Your daughter was telling me this afternoon the names of people as we passed by them. Murdocks, Sinclairs, and so on. Again the sort of Scotch background. This is Norway House, isn't it? The Norway House people?

Mrs. Craik: Yes. I think all of them, they all came from Norway House. I couldn't say that part. They must have.

Margaret: Well, whoever did the designing for the redecorating and remodelling of the church did a very good job. It's very attractive.

Mrs. Craik: That was done by a man from the city, from Winnipeg. They came out and remodelled the church.

Margaret: It has such a nice feeling of space and light. It's most attractive.

Mrs. Craik: Everything seems so good since we got the electricity out this way.

Margaret: When was that?

Mrs. Craik: Oh, about ten or fifteen years. Maybe not that long. They just used to use the side lamps hanging on the side of the church. It is so good now when you just put the lights on. Lights on the electric organ too. That is what I like. You don't play at all?

Margaret: Oh, I used to a long time ago. And you play the electric organ?

Mrs. Craik: Yes.

Margaret: Is it any different from the other? Much?

Mrs. Craik: Well, I like the organ I used to pump. It seems so better for me. I don't know. This organ is so small. There is not enough keys like, you know. It is just the sort of... Did you see it today?

Margaret: Yes, I did. I noticed it but I didn't think.

Mrs. Craik: But still it is a good sounding organ. We have a piano towards the back end of the hall.

Margaret: So you can have singsongs there?

Mrs. Craik: Yes, at the back. When we have a social evening.

Margaret: Well, the whole community gives me a very pleasant impression. You might not notice it living in it, but coming into it...

Mrs. Craik: Our minister that was here for a year, he just left the end of July. This minister that's here now, that was his first Sunday here last Sunday. The other one just left the week before that. That was Mr. and Mrs. Graham. They went to Nova Scotia.

Margaret: They went a long way away.

Mrs. Craik: They sure did. His wife was a teacher here. They had two boys. They were out north too for two years, I think. Further than Norway House. Is there a place called Gods Lake? I think that's where she said they were.

Margaret: That's really north.

Mrs. Craik: They have two boys.

(End of Interview)

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