DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT:	ALEX OUELLETTE
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:	209 4TH AVENUE WEST BIGGAR, SASKATCHEWAN
INTERVIEW LOCATION:	209 4TH AVENUE WEST BIGGAR, SASKATCHEWAN
TRIBE/NATION:	METIS
LANGUAGE:	ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW:	03/05/84
INTERVIEWER:	JUDY M. THIBODEAU
INTERPRETER:	
TRANSCRIBER:	HEATHER YAWORSKI
SOURCE:	SASKATOON NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOC. & BATOCHE CENTENARY CORP.
TAPE NUMBER:	#IH-SD.36
DISK:	TRANSCRIPT DISC #156
PAGES:	20
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- general account of his life

Judy: ...in Biggar, Saskatchewan, and we'll be discussing Metis history. Do you remember what kind of house you lived in when you were growing up?

Alex: Yes. Well not... I sort of say yes. I don't know what kind of a house we lived in when I was born, you know. But when I was in Round Prairie we lived in a log house, big log house. Yeah, and we lived there I don't know how many years, then we moved to Saskatoon, we lived on 3rd Street I think, Nutana. I went to school, you know that school there. Then we moved across a little bit further near there on Avenue R., we lived there quite a few years. Then we bought a house there, see.

Judy: Did the houses you lived in, did they have running

water and electricity?

Alex: Oh yes. Yeah, had running water. But there was no gas, you burned wood and coal them days in Saskatoon.

Judy: How about your home in Round Prairie, did that have running water and electricity?

Alex: No, had an old pump, you know, like. But they had no gas there when we moved to Saskatoon. We burn coal and wood there, the whole city, eh.

Judy: Was your home in Round Prairie, was that made out of lumber or was that made out of logs?

Alex: No, made out of logs, log house. Everybody had log house them days. (inaudible), you know. Yeah.

Judy: Can you tell me about a regular day that you would have when you were a young boy?

Alex: What's that?

Judy: A regular day, an ordinary day you would have when you were about 8 or 9 years old.

Alex: Well, I went to a Catholic (inaudible) there, the boarding school at Qu'Appelle, Fort Qu'Appelle, you know. But I wasn't that old, I figure, well, I would only be 7 years old. And that Father Canora, it was a Catholic school, board school, eh, but I was too young so they send me home again. Yeah. Well I went to Round Prairie too, you know, me and brother Red. We had to walk 3 miles to go to school, only we didn't go in the wintertime, just in the summer. I think I went there two

summers, like, so I didn't get much schooling, you know. Like now you go steady, them days just the summer though, you had to walk.

Judy: What do you remember about your teachers in school?

Alex: Oh gosh, I don't know. I guess you know for here in Saskatoon...

Judy: Were they good people? Did they treat you good?

Alex: Oh they were, yeah. They were a Catholic, eh, I went to Catholic school. Well, you know, maybe that there St. Mary, that's where I went. Me and my sister.

Judy: Did you have any trouble with the white kids calling you names?

Alex: No, no.

Judy: No.

Alex: There were no trouble then. Only trouble we have maybe we go see some tobacco, we used to go and smoke down in the basement. (laughs) Yeah.

Judy: In your, in your home in Round Prairie what type of furniture did you have in there?

Alex: Oh, we had good furniture there, you know, had good furniture.

Judy: Was it hand-made?

Alex: No.

Judy: Was it bought in the store?

Alex: Yeah. Right here in the store. Yeah, we had good furniture, I know that. And that store was set up -- now it's over here at Green Lake -- that's the range that dad, grandpa bought. There's still that old beggar up there, I wish I could get that back. I don't know, it must be ninety years old anyways. But he sold it to way down in Green Lake, you know, when we wasn't... In Green Lake that store was sitting there, a bunk house when a guy come over, you know, and he sold it to him. Like I mean these damn stove we got here now, they are all gas.

Judy: Did your father own the land in Round Prairie?

Alex: Yeah. Yeah, quarter of land, yeah.

Judy: How long do you remember living there for?

Alex: Well, let me see. I guess it's that time we come from (?) you see, you know, we... Let's see, we move out of there 1912, must have lived there eight, nine years, you know.

Judy: In Round Prairie?

Alex: Yeah.

Judy: And then you moved to Saskatoon from there?

Alex: Yeah, yeah.

Judy: How long did you stay in Saskatoon for?

Alex: Oh, we moved here in 1912 and we move out of there in 1919, we went up north. You know, rest up there for a while.

Judy: Up north where, by...?

Alex: That's that Midnight Lake. Yeah.

Judy: And how long did you stay there for?

Alex: Oh, stayed there, let's see, 1919, and then, well, we

were ranch up there these (inaudible) and I left home, went to work for a big rancher. And I left home there, I used to go home once in a while, but I got married there in Cypress Lake, I got married 1923. 1923 I got married, the September 5.

Judy: And you have how many children now?

Alex: Well, with my first wife, Madeline, you know her here, she died here about two, three years ago. Well, we had the first one we had twins, but we lost the twins. And there's Carl, and Mable, and Violet, they live in Saskatoon here.

Judy: Did you ever hear the saying road allowance?

Alex: Eh?

Judy: Did you ever hear the saying road allowance?

Alex: No.

Judy: No, you never heard that saying?

Alex: No.

Judy: What were your chores at home in Round Prairie?

Alex: Well, I was too young, but I used to like the farm, eh. I'd be around the horses and I got a horse. There were quite a few in them days. At that time -- I still like that. (laughs) Farming, you know, ranch.

Judy: When you think of family who all does that mean? Does that just mean your mother and father, and your brothers and sisters; or does that mean your aunts and uncles, and grandparents?

Alex: What do you mean?

Judy: Family, the word family, who does that mean to you?

Alex: Oh, that would mean a lot to me, yeah.

Judy: So that would mean all your relatives?

Alex: Oh yes, yeah. My grandfather, grandma, and all the relatives. Yeah.

Judy: What things do you remember about your grandfather?

Alex: Well, on my mother's side?

Judy: Yes.

Alex: Well, I remember she done good. They live in Batoche that time. That's where they live, grandfather and grandmother, my uncle and auntie. They lived there in 1885,

the time the Rebellion they had there. My mother she was 12 years old when when that Rebellion they had here. Rebellion, eh, (?) age 5 in 1885 she was 12 years old then, the time they had that massacre there, you know. They fought that time, she was 12 years old, Mom, she used to tell us.

Judy: What kind of things did she tell about what happened during that time?

Alex: Well there, she (inaudible) a bit from the south till they finish, eh. My grandfather fought there, you know, my two grandfathers, Riel and Gabriel, and my mother's dad's name is Edward, you know. But his two brothers, Riel and my grandfather were brothers.

Judy: Your grandfather was Louis Riel's brother, is that what you're saying?

Alex: No. Riel, Gabriel Dumont and Edward Dumont, they were brothers.

Judy: Oh I see, okay.

Alex: My mother's dad, you know, was Edward. Well, we always called him Ed, you know, them days (inaudible). Yeah, oh she used to tell us lots about it but when you're young you didn't care, you know, to listen at that time but, you know, they used to ask somebody what's what, you know.

Judy: What do you remember about your father?

Alex: Well, I told you the time I remember, you know, like when we was moving I was too young till we got down here in Nutana -- in Round Prairie. I already told you when I was in Montana I don't remember it, you know.

Judy: But when he was in Round Prairie you remembered him homesteading in Round Prairie?

Alex: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. All the way to... he farmed there in '98, yeah, when he got, we had 40 head of cattle when he sold out. He had 40 head of cattle, 15 head of horses, I know that. And he farmed in '98, but when we left that we was only about two miles from the river, Saskatchewan River, eh, and there's a big swamp on the south side. We was in the middle and that was the first time my mother... she had rheumatism -- sometimes she never moved a finger there for a whole month. So we take her to Saskatoon doctor. Doctor says there's too much fresh air in the evening, eh, that's why dad there he sold out.

Judy: Oh, because your mother was...

Alex: She had too much fresh air and the doctor said too much fresh air. Well, that was in between swamp and the river. In the evening it was cold, eh.

Judy: So that's, that's why you moved to Saskatoon?

Alex: Yeah. After we left there my mother she never had rheumatism. Well she was laid up maybe a whole month and never move a finger when we was there.

Judy: Are there any other people in your family you remember really good?

Alex: Oh yeah, quite a few. My uncles, I don't know if they're living. He's not from my dad's, you know, they were all dead, you know. Well I got some uncles here -- they're cousins of grandpa, like my dad, because they are still living, some of them are in Prince Albert and Meadow Lake. But I never heard of them all if they're still living or not, but I got cousins I know in Prince Albert and Meadow Lake, Garder in Montana. I know she's in there for years, I don't know if she's still living.

Judy: What did your father do for work?

Alex: Eh?

Judy: What did your father do for work?

Alex: Work? Well when we came here he was waiting, eh. Well after that I just thought about it, after that he used to herd sheep, work on a big ranch of sheep, you know. I don't know how long he used to work there for those people.

Judy: How old were you when you got your first job?

Alex: Well, when I got to work steady, that's the time, 1918. That was steady work, you know, I got work before that, you know, like help Dad or something. I drayed there for quite a while too one summer, I guess, I drayed, then Dad had three teams when we moved to Saskatoon. He done the draying and I drove one of the teams.

Judy: So your first job you were a team driver?

Alex: Yeah. Well not steady like, you know.

Judy: How much did you get paid for that, do you remember?

Alex: Oh, I don't remember. Dad used to take contract for new cattle, coal, draying, you know. He charge so much, you know, like taking, you know, you're living something for the people, you know. I don't know what he used to charge. He had three teams he owned.

Judy: What other types of jobs have you had?

Alex: Eh?

Judy: What other jobs have you had?

Alex: Well, as I was telling you, well I had five or six different jobs, you know. (inaudible) Ranching, I was telling you there, I worked there I guess for two summers. (inaudible) oh, getting jobs, driving team.

Judy: You worked for the Early Fruit Company?

Alex: Yeah.

Judy: That was for driving team?

Alex: Drive a team, you know, delivering. Me and my brother Bill we was together working in Early Fruit Company. Delivering groceries, fruit, eh, to all these stores here. There was no trucks or nothing them days.

Judy: And you said you worked for the CN Railroad?

Alex: Yeah I was, you know, repairing cars. I was working that job.

Judy: And you said you also worked for the T. Eaton Company?

Alex: Yeah. I drove horse and team. Used to walk right to the Grand Trunk up there three miles, three, four miles from there.

Judy: What language, what language do you remember your parents speaking at home when you were young?

Alex: English. Well there was more French like, you know, but they mixed it -- Cree, French and English, eh. Yeah.

Judy: So Cree, French and English?

Alex: Yeah.

Judy: What language did you learn first?

Alex: Well it must be French and Cree, eh, as far as I can remember.

Judy: When were you first aware that you were Metis?

Alex: Beg your pardon?

Judy: When were you first aware that you were Metis?

Alex: Well, all my life. But really now since they're organized, you know, I don't know how many years ago now. Always were Metis, eh. Although I know a word they say we're a breed, eh, them days, but now we're Metis.

Judy: Also you didn't know that "breed" and "Metis" were the same thing?

Alex: No.

Judy: Oh I see, okay. Were your parents proud of being Metis?

Alex: Eh?

Judy: Were your parents proud of being Metis?

Alex: Oh yeah, yeah.

Judy: Do you remember your grandparents or perhaps other relatives telling you stories about Metis history?

Alex: No, not at that time, you know, just like I was telling you about that Rebellion, you know, in '85. Oh I used to call them, you know, Metis, eh, you know, French, eh, Metis. French before they talk mix, you know, we talk mix French and Cree, a bit of English with mostly Cree/French, eh.

Judy: So other than your mother telling you about the Riel Rebellion you didn't hear any other stories about history?

Alex: About Riel? Louis Riel?

Judy: Yeah.

Alex: Oh yeah, I was telling you he was there, he was 12 years old, he seen Louis Riel. My dad used to know him good too in Montana. Yeah, you know, dad know him, Louis Riel's mom, mother in Montana.

Judy: So your father knew Louis Riel when he was in Montana still?

Alex: Oh he knowed him good, yeah. And Louis Riel's mother, dad know her good. That was in Montana.

Judy: Do you remember the Metis people getting together for special occasions such as Christmas or New Year's?

Alex: Oh yes. You know, like well they never much talk about, about Christmas, eh, but New Year's, eh. Oh they had a heck of a time. For two, three weeks, you know, they smoke, you know. But they don't, not much on Christmas when they were kind of earnest, go to church, I mean church what they call midnight mass, yeah, old people them days. We didn't, we didn't know what really Christmas, only dad would say, well, they'd say midnight mass they had to go, eh. You know, it seemed like now, you know.

Judy: What sort of things would they do to celebrate New Year's?

Alex: Oh they sing, you know, eat, you know, every house

you go you got to eat. And they have a dance there, big dance, you know, at night. I remember good that.

Judy: Did your mom and dad know how to jig?

Alex: My dad. Yeah my dad used to jig, my mom never did.

Judy: How about you do you jig?

Alex: Oh yes. (laughs) You heard about me, eh. Yeah.

Judy: Do you remember your father wearing a Metis sash?

Alex: A what?

Judy: A Metis sash, it's a leather belt with beadwork on it.

Alex: No, no he never did. No.

Judy: Did anyone in your family play the fiddle?

Alex: No, there wasn't any. I used to but now I quit all the time. I used to play the saxophone with Alex Crotchier when he got killed, you know him. We used to play years ago, you know.

Judy: What kind of songs did you used to play?

Alex: Oh I, you know, all kinds, you know...

Judy: Did you play any Metis songs?

Alex: No, no. Well they are, you know, the old-time music like, you know.

Judy: Did any of the people that you can remember, did any of them believe in Indian medicine?

Alex: Oh yes.

Judy: Did any of them practise it?

Alex: Oh yes. I'm one of them too. That's why I never go to the doctor, I don't believe in a doctor. I go my, you know...

Judy: You still practise it yourself?

Alex: Well I use it myself, you know. Because I don't believe in the doctor. They dope you all this, you know. But see the law that put this herbs is in my Bible, is in the Bible, herbs, because they say that's the roots, you know. Indian medicine they call it, herbs. And he said the Bible is right, well I must be right. It said if you help yourself I help you. See. But the people today they don't get anything,

they don't believe it, they don't believe anything like that.

Judy: When you were growing up in your family did you get along with the white people?

Alex: Oh yes. It's not like today. Them days they -- it's like brother and sister -- supposed to be that way, you know, on the Bible now we're just like brother and sister like today, eh. Well mostly the white people they say, well it's an Indian, or a nigger, or Chinaman, Black, lots of people get that way, they don't want to associate with them. White people -- not all, you know, but you see the odd ones, but they got to know now, you see. You heard what the Bible has said. In the Bible we're all brother and sister, and it says, help one another, and love one another, you know, like, that's it. Like brother and sister.

Judy: So when you were going into stores and so on when you first came to Saskatoon, it didn't bother you ?

Alex: What's that?

Judy: It didn't bother you when you came into the stores and the other busnesses in the city with all the white people, it didn't bother you?

Alex: No. I deliver groceries there too, you know, for two winters, you know, the city. And I hauled mail right from the west side there. Nephew of the other guy that I worked for he's a rich man, he had a contract to pick up mail, you know,

all through to Regina -- I used to do that. And I had to get back in the post office nine o'clock sharp, two-wheeled cart and drive one horse, took me two hours to load that work and I had to get back right in time to the post office with the mail. Then unloaded and every day, well, I drove the team through town and unload maybe a quarter of a car load of mail that time from the CPR, yeah, every day.

Judy: How old were you then, do you remember?

Alex: Oh yeah, I was, I must have been, well, you know, I didn't have them steady jobs, I must have been around 18, 19, eh. Yeah, I didn't work really steady them jobs I was telling you, you know. And I drove the delivery teams from Sutherland -- that's a little town there, you know, them days. (Inaudible) but now it's all a city, eh. And I go deliver team, you know, there's no catches. Team and a buggy.

Judy: Did any of the towns that you went to did they ever try to force the Metis people to move away?

Alex: Not that time. No.

Judy: Did you ever have any problems with unemployment insurance?

Alex: There was, no, we didn't know anything about that.

Judy: How about welfare, did you have any problems with that?

Alex: Welfare, no. Well, no, not when we were there, but, you know, the welfare, let's see. In '30 we didn't get it in the hard times but I think it was in '40 we got a little bit when we lived down here at (inaudible). We got a little that time.

Judy: Did you ever have any problems with them?

Alex: No, not...

Judy: What kind of help would they give you?

Alex: Well, they used to put us to work, you know. You know, cut willow branches on the road allowances -- that paid pretty good. We had to work that and they gave us that welfare, eh. Well after there was nothing like that, for a while it was straight but we never got very much. There was four of us in the family, my wife and two boys, we got $10 a month. Ten dollars a month we got. But them days $10 a month,

what was it, everything was cheap, eh; like today you couldn't buy a meal now today.

Judy: That's true. Did your parents believe in the church strongly?

Alex: Oh yeah. Catholic. There was lots.

Judy: How about you, do you belive in the church?

Alex: No, not really. I was brought up to be Catholic, but I ceased. I went to communion when I was sent, when they sent me to school, eh, go to church. You go Saturday they go to confession, Sunday we go to communion, that's it. Never gave us nothing, we didn't understand what for, we just pray like that, we didn't know there was a Bible, they never give us a Bible. And we met the pope there one time, I don't know where the hell he come from, we went and meet him anyway.

Judy: Do you remember what year it was? How old were you when you met him?

Alex: Oh that must have been, around there when we first moved to Saskatoon, 1912 I think. (inaudible). No, I don't believe in the Catholic, no way.

Judy: Is there another religion that you believe in?

Alex: No. But I go, I went to quite a few of them, well not quite a few, I went to United, I went to Forsquare, you know, just to see what it's like and Catholic, I quit Catholic in '40s, I know it wasn't right. But you sooner go anything

that is not right, you just can't continue to go that way, you know, when it's not right. You see there's no place in the world that could take your sin away from you. You haven't got, you haven't got, you know, they just never did, God never did give, you know, what to do that. There's only one. (telephone rings)

Judy: Do you remember if any of the priests ever visited your parents' home?

Alex: Beg your pardon.

Judy: Did any priest visit your mom and dad's home?

Alex: Yeah, yeah, I remember that.

Judy: Do you remember what they talked about?

Alex: Well, you know, God and certain, certain sin...

(END OF SIDE A)

Alex: My God, if you die you go to hell, if you're brought up. See, that's all bull. Well you see, when you know something or if it's not right well you, you can't stay with it if you know it's not right. There's no use, you might as well get off it. That's the way with the Catholic I was. I know it wasn't right. Because the priest wouldn't give you, you know, from God, you know, you know, they gave him the power to do that, the priest take your sin away and they never gave you a Bible, eh. I said to stick with the religion like that, any religion in 19--, 1958 there when I lived in Cando. There was a fellow come from Saskatoon selling Bibles, Catholic Bibles and see they never gave us, they never told us there was a Bible or anything like that. And they come around there, you know, salesman like for the Catholic selling Bible -- it's only $6 for a Bible, but we already had Bible. I used to send the boys to Sunday school and they gave them, you know, we had a Bible. I was glad when he come to visit me there and I told him off. I said I didn't know the Catholic religion had a Bible, I said. I went to school there and we didn't know there was a Bible. He want $36 for a Bible, you didn't have the money or you gave him $6 and he'd finance at $30. I listened to it, Boy! I rub it into him. Well I said, no. I said, I don't got that kind of money, you know, and I didn't want to buy it. Why should I buy it, I said is all the Bible alike. Yeah, it's supposed to be, so went and got two big Bible, never cost one cent, I said. I said, all the time I went to school in Saskatoon I didn't know there was, you know, to manage about a Bible, I said. And you go to a hotel, I said, them days years back there was a Bible, I says, in the dresser -- it didn't cost you nothing, I says, but they don't have it now, you know, Now you never see a Bible in a hotel now. But, you know, there was a Bible in the hotel in the dresser, eh, and it

never cost you nothing. So he said, I said I got no money anyway. Well, he said, I'll come back again, he said. Well I said, you can come anytime, I said, but you'll make a useless trip to try and sell me a Bible, I said. He never did come back again.

Judy: Were you or your parents ever involved in the Saskatchewan Metis Society?

Alex: No.

Judy: No. You were never involved you never heard anything about it?

Alex: Well that's... I only the times there, you know, that Rebellion they had see, you know. They said... well, I don't know what kind of a mixed up that time they want land, you know, they sold this, you know. They turned down the, these, these colonies, you know, like these, you know, like the Indians they called them the reserve, they turned that down. Well not my grandpa, he want to sell you that. He made two trips from here to Saskatoon, he tried to gather up the bunch, eh, them Welshes -- that was his son-in-law, you know. And then he went to Prince Albert, he did the same thing, he made two trips. But dad and them they didn't want to go, eh. He said, how we going to make a living up there? You know, we got a big reserve up there. Well, we'll just go to that place there.

Judy: What, what year was that in?

Alex: Oh, that was around about '15, 1915, somewhere up in '15 or '16, somewhere around there. The second trip he made he went to Prince Albert from Saskatoon. Then he was going back there and he dropped dead in Weyburn.

Judy: He died in Weyburn?

Alex: Yeah.

Judy: While, while he was trying to recruit people to go up to this colony?

Alex: Yeah, yeah he was going back up there, you know, well I guess he dropped dead.

Judy: Do you remember where this colony was?

Alex: No I don't remember. I think I know one guy knowed it. But, you know, I forgot now.

Judy: Have you ever heard of the Saskatchewan Metis Society in the 1930s and '40s?

Alex: Oh yes. Oh yes. We had, we had meetings about that, you know, started, you know, dad and Pritchard. Sam Pritchard,

maybe you know him, he was 106 when he died.

Judy: Sam Pritchard?

Alex: Yeah. That was Pritchard's dad and my dad, you know, we had meetings about that -- that's for this land, you know, they gave us, you know. (Inaudible).

Judy: Did you ever talk about discrimination at these meetings?

Alex: No.

Judy: No. How about Metis history, did you ever talk about that?

Alex: Oh yeah, a little bit, you know, but (inaudible) they were too damn crooked.

Judy: What about the white people at that time, what did they think about that organization?

Alex: Well, lots of time, you know, just half and half, eh, which we, why we should get that land, you know. It would be like the white people, well that's where we are, eh, like the white people, we homestead. And them days, well lots of them used to get work there wasn't, like they (inaudible) was entitled to get that land, eh.

Judy: Were most of the Metis people involved in the Metis Society at that time?

Alex: No, not too much, no, no, not too much.

Judy: Why do you think some of them weren't involved?

Alex: Because they didn't, you know, they didn't care, you know. They did't care too, just all broke, you know.

Judy: Do you remember the name Joe LaRocque?

Alex: Joe LaRocque, I know him.

Judy: What do you remember about him?

Alex: Well he used to, you know, he was sensible, you know, About the Metis society, something like that (inaudible). I know him. Well it's the same, you know, they didn't care, you know, the people, you know.

Judy: So he was going around trying to organize?

Alex: Yeah. Yeah, he went way down up north too.

Judy: How about Joe Ross, do you remember that name?

Alex: Joe Ross, yeah, I remember, yeah, old Ross.

Judy: What things do you remember about him?

Alex: Oh not very much, no. I wasn't really interested, you know, because, you know.

Judy: How about Tom Major?

Alex: No, I don't know.

Judy: Do you remember Joe McKenzie?

Alex: I remember, but you know, like, yeah.

Judy: How about Sol Pritchard?

Alex: Who?

Judy: Sol Pritchard.

Alex: Well that's the one I was telling you, Sol Pritchard. We call him Sam, eh, but it was Sol Pritchard. That's the one I was talking about. I know Pritchards, my brother Red -- he was his father-in-law. Sol, they called him Pritchard, yeah.

Judy: Was he, do you remember him being actively involved?

Alex: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. I don't know how many years but he never got nowhere. Yeah.

Judy: What types of things do you remember him doing?

Alex: Well he was fighting for his rights, eh, to get that land, eh. Railroad. They went to Regina, and they went to Ottawa and everything (inaudible) and Sol.

Judy: Nothing happened?

Alex: Nothing happened.

Judy: Did this organization, the Saskatchewan Metis Society, did it help the Metis people find jobs and stuff like that?

(Several minutes interruption with noise of a blender in operation.)

Alex: Oh, not too much. Well yeah, nobody, nobody ever traced it, eh. Just what they say. And they pocket that money. Just gave a few of them, eh.

Judy: Do you remember what political party your parents voted for?

Alex: Yeah. You mean the old guys?

Judy: Yeah.

Alex: It was Liberal.

Judy: Liberal.

Alex: Yeah.

Judy: Did they get involved, like did they campaign for them, help out, or did they just go and vote for them?

Alex: They just go there and vote.

Judy: Do you remember if any politicians would come to your mom and dad's home and talk to them?

Alex: Well that's the only ones I know, you know, those Liberals.

Judy: Oh, the Liberal candidates used to come up?

Alex: Yeah, yeah.

Judy: How many times did they use to come?

Alex: Oh, every four years, every time there comes an election, eh. Well some here, they come here and all them guys they were Liberal guys, I seen them before. And after the meeting, well, then shook hand with us. Well, I told him myself -- and I was half cut -- I said, we'll shake hands another four years from now, I told him. (laughs)

Judy: What kind of things do you remember them talking about -- the politicians?

Alex: Oh, just what they're going to do, this one, they're going run for that, everything, you know. Just like today, you know. But I don't vote, I quit a long time. Because I don't believe that there's only one who got a vote -- Almighty God. See you took this way, my girl, there's God, eh. Well now these people (inaudible) they're trying to run this work -- it'll

never work, never, they fight like dogs, eh. But it's only one who deserves a vote, Almighty God and I don't vote for the other ones.

Judy: The way you talk about religion it sounds like you still strongly believe in God but you've lost faith in the church itself.

Alex: I don't believe in church, Catholic church. The same that the faiths were. The preacher used to be there. I know more than he did. And (inaudible). And they hold you on the head to heal you. That's all a bull. There is no priest, preacher that could heal anybody -- only the Almighty God. You

take Roberts there, Billy Graham you heard, maybe some times all them I used to get in touch with them and get a magazine, but I don't believe them, I don't believe they can heal. It's just one another he pray or hold a television, something, he going to heal you. I know people like from this when old Pritchard's in the hospital, she went to see Roberts up there to heal. Well how can a preacher, Roberts, can heal a sinner, we got to do it ourself. There's no priest or any that could heal you. You got to do it, we're all sinners. We got to do it ourself. But they, they're, people today they believe in that way, well-educated people they can't see that, they can't see that.

Judy: Do you know if the church was ever involved in politics?

Alex: Who?

Judy: The church, was it ever involved in politics?

Alex: Oh yeah, that old Sol he used to, he used to be help the priest eh, what you call it, the church (inaudible). He was a strong Catholic and he read the Bible. But in a way those... last when I talked to him, no, he didn't, you know, he (inaudible) but he read the Bible, he was a well-posted(?) sick man.

Judy: So, so the priest at church would get involved in politics, would he get involved in politics?

Alex: Who's that?

Judy: The priest.

Alex: No.

Judy: No.

Alex: No, no. He know it was right but he didn't want, man of his age, he didn't want to jump in the side, eh.

Judy: Did the, did the Metis people see one political party as being the best for the Metis? Did, did they think that one, one party was good for all the Metis people?

Alex: What do you mean?

Judy: Like did they think the Liberal party was the best party?

Alex: Well like I said, that's it, you know, I just thought I said, you know, the Liberal, Conservative, and all this, you know, it's pretty well all talk today. That's why they can't run this world -- because they fight one another like dogs, you know. That's it, then they'll never run this world, never control this world because God never gave a power to do it. But they make the people believe, eh, they're going to run

this. How many years now I've seen them, you know, Trudeau and all this and that, Joe Clark and all them guys. Maybe if he was alone he try to do something but there are too many of them, eh. Too many of them. When one want to do something the other one kick, you know, or they go and put this down gas and all this, put that down and they raise something else.

Judy: But when, when your parents were voting did they favor one party, like did they vote for one party all the time?

Alex: Yeah, well it's the Liberal. There's all the Metis people, they were mostly Liberal, you know.

Judy: Is there anything else that you would like to talk about?

Alex: No, no, not too much, you know. I kind of forget, you know, like.

Judy: Okay then, thank you very much.

Alex: Well thanks very much anyway, I'm glad.

Judy: Okay.

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