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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mr. Bear has worked for Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company for almost 30 years and has seen many changes in the northeast of Saskatchewan.
- Building of the Churchill River Dam: how he was recruited, how he learned English; work he did, etc.
- His travels: north to Churchill, down to the U.S., east to Ottawa and Montreal, west to Victoria.
- The treaty party: Annual visit of Indian agents, policemen, and doctor.

Janet: I am speaking with Angus Bear from Sandy Bay telling about what he has done, his work and his travels around the Churchill River.

Angus: Yes, I have been working for a company in 1927. September 5, I came here with the engineers to see the Island Falls. I showed them the road. I know the road; I had been here long before that. We used to trap around this area all the time. There wasn't nothing here then; it was just the falls we seen, Island Falls. But there was nothing here then. There was the campground on that island here and that point but there was no house of any kind here then. So we went to Island Falls, looking at it; stayed there a couple of days. We had to go back to Flin Flon again. So after I got back in Flin Flon I just stayed one day and come back again with more men to stay there for the winter and survey these falls. And I was a

mailman after that for them. I stayed in Flin Flon and come every week with mail for them. Okay?

So I did that all winter until 1928 in the spring. We started making barges and bringing all the stuff we needed. A lot of men was coming. Even horses came on a barge, [?]. I won't start with them. That is all he had, no tractor of no kind in Flin Flon that time. We just moving everything with horses and barge. They run barge on the lake and horses, they were boarded over in the stock.

Well at that time, we came here in the fall and they came in the spring in 1928. He took the stuff first for temporary power in Duck Lake and he built a power house there with two small units. And we run the power line to Island Falls, to use the power for working. We would use that power and they worked some electric dinghies, with railroads all over the dams, for hauling dirt and all that. That is from the start. Then he run a barge hauling sand. And he had about four saw mills making lumber for the camp for the homes for them, the workers. There was over 700 men there then from Montreal. I think he knew what he was doing because he had done that before; that is the same bunch that was in here. They call him a bridge engineer. He was taking a contract for a company at that time. And I was here at the time too. I have been here most of the time. I seen what is going on. I worked for the company 28 years after that.

Janet: Which company was it?

Angus: Hudson Bay Mining. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company. Yeah, here he was working. They called it Churchill River Falls, CRP. We still call it that now. But that is all one company now. It is just different name on the places that is all.

Janet: I guess you have seen a lot of changes since 1928 when you were working here with horses and barges, eh?

Angus: Oh yeah, I seen all that changes they make. At that time in the fall in 1928 they had tractors then, six of them they came to see. Little ones, 'Fortune' they're called, just slow ones. They had six horse power, they said, and they were not very big. But in the fall of 1928, the others came in. There was 12 tractors, that was leg tractors they called them. A lot bigger than the others, they were the ones that hauled the heavy stuff, bring it in on barge. There was a lot of stuff, tons of stuff. We was going day and night to bring all that stuff, steel and cement. And all of that steel they bring and cement and hundreds. They used that.

And they took gravel, haul the gravel over there from the bay. They had a dinghy running over there in the bay. And the railroad track, he had power for that, hauling the sand. Make some blocks, big blocks for the power house. And I watching that. I'm not doing that but I watching him a lot of times because I was doing something else myself. I mostly was

helping engineers and carrying metal at the time and I was busy myself. But here, there were a lot of men here, about 700 men, white men and mixed. There were some Indians came in here then. Lots of them from Pelican, some of them from Pukatawagan. Us guys who come from Pelican, we were here again. Started making a village here. Built houses to live on, you know, while we were working. He started that time 1928 in the fall. Started building houses. The same thing across here Island Falls. He was making houses, I don't know how many it would be, thirty. But it was all logging camps then. Used the lumber. They cut a floor and a roof but he used logs for, to lift her up you know, to raise her up.

Janet: The walls?

Angus: Yeah, the walls. He used logs and he just built the houses like a rough board. Just a rough board cut in a saw mill. He didn't smoke it. Well, some of them maybe he do, but he made lots of forms from that, hundreds, for the dam.

Janet: That was in 1928 when they built this Sandy Bay here, the old houses, eh?

Angus: Yeah, the houses, he built that four in 1928. He built them himself with the logs and everything. They had the old lumber from across here for the roof and stuff and like that. But all log houses here, they built that. There was no house of no kind here before. When we came in 1927, there was no house of any kind here then. There was nobody around. There

was houses over here about four and a half miles down. We call that Sandy Bay; that one was Sandy Bay, not this one here.

Janet: What did they call this place before?

Angus: This was called Churchill Bay, Churchill River Bay. And they called Sturgeon Creek in this creek there at that time. But the other one, it was Sandy Bay.

Janet: You have seen a lot of names. You know, that was Sandy Bay down the Churchill. When they moved they called this Sandy Bay and you had another name for this place before that. You have seen a lot of changes in that to the name, different names to the places we knew before. And we get lost sometimes where they mean, you know. They call it Sandy Bay here but that was Sandy Bay and that was Churchill Bay and Sturgeon Creek or something like that. They have changed all of those things?

Angus: They have changed all that. They put the Sandy Bay here now but it is still Sandy Bay there. That is where the people used to be, right there.

Janet: Do you think we should keep the names where they were before?

Angus: That is what it should be, yes. Because this is, they call it the Churchill Bay and Sturgeon Creek there. That is

the main road when we come from Pelican, that was a road and this creek they called it Sturgeon Lake or whatever. That now is here. There is no sturgeons here. It is just a name on that creek and they named the lake too.

Janet: But they were before, weren't they?

Angus: Yeah, they were before for years and years since I went. But now it was Sandy Bay there, it was the Hudson Bay company in there then. But it is not their steady, not there in the summer. But in the fall they come and when the freight keeping it there and one man running it. Trappers all over these hills here - when he was short something he would come to Sandy Bay and buy stuff while they were here. In the spring-time they are all going home and the Sandy Bay closed to Hudson Bay. They just do that in the winter, supply stuff for the people. You are all in it too.

Janet: I wonder what the people did after they close in the summertime? Where did they get their groceries?

Angus: You would have gone to Pelican. We all went home to Pelican or some of them lived in Manitoba, here or Pukatawagan. Long way that too. Some stores, forget how long in Pelican, big stores there. That is where we stayed in the summer. You just come here to trap in the fall. Nobody around in the summer then. That is what we used to do. We do that, my father and all that. You know that the people used to trap here, further north here; some of them south of here, Sturgeon Lake, Barrier Lake, Duck Lake, all over those places. We used to trap there; people lived there trapping in all that area. At the river, down the river, north of here, a hell of a lot of beaver in them days.

Janet: Did lots of Indian people help building this dam here that's...?

Angus: Oh, at least there was about fifty, sixty of us. We were helping them then.

Janet: Helping the engineers, you know, they tell you what to do and stuff?

Angus: Yeah. They had a bunch of foremen and so many men in each foreman. These guys work on lumber and the other guys were the riggers. The other guys were brick layers, and about ten foremen, each one doing this and that. Each foreman doing their own work, and the other guy and the other foremen doing their work.

Janet: They did certain work, bricklayers, lumbermen, that is a carpenter, and the others? Saw mill too?

Angus: Saw mill too. They had eight different foremen around that, each.

Janet: Taking their turn?

Angus: Yeah. Some of them piled steel and they poured cement in that. They stand the steel like that about two inches around, steels like that over [?] and we lay it across like this and then we pour cement in. That power house is still there and never moved because the steel holds it. The solid cement.

But the carpenters and the divers were working in the front of it. He built a poplar dam with the logs, fill it with sand and rocks. So after he built that like the house like this and he closed it. He don't want to drain any more water inside but they pump all that water dry and they put the steel and pour the cement and they going across Churchill like that. He had about six, seven divers doing that on the bottom, the carpenters

doing it on top. He had the telephone there, but he got that in his head. And they telling him what to do, send something down and he need it. Those guys, and they told him he wants to come out and have another rest and he got the phone on his head all the time. Anyway, he wanted to do it, he would just tell them this and that. I used to sit in there or standing sometimes watching them doing it, when I had the spare time. In our spare time, about an hour, and I would go there watching those guys. That is why I know.

I guess I'm the only one - well, there is one more - I think there is two more men that is here now, fellows that was working there. That would be Etienne McDonald and Peter Bear. Those guys was here helping on this. But I was the first one on the seventh. I started from Sturgeon Landing. I was working there trapping geese and the guys came by, the engineers, looking for a man to know Island Falls. No one knows. So, the guy and tell me, he says, "You come from over there." I know, I worked in that area. He says, "You better go over there and talk to those guys. I think they will take you." So I did. It was a steamboat they came in and those engineers was there. So I met them. So they take me up right away, work in Flin Flon. Flin Flon was only a logging town like here. There was no lumber house or nothing there then. There was no town at all; it was just a bush. They had, where the lake was, they called it Flin Flon Lake. Now you don't see the lake anymore. They dried that lake and they put all that place there and there they poured it.

Janet: I saw it, it looks terrible.

Angus: Yeah, no more lake there.

Janet: No, they spoiled that lake.

Angus: Yeah, they pumped all the water. He took all that dirt and mud in there, and they picked up a gold in there. They cleaned all that dirt. They go through in there and smelt there.

Janet: That is what they call tailings, I guess. You know, the waste they threw in that lake.

Angus: Yeah, they poured that in. They put that in there out there in the middle. They just dump it on each side. It is like a water red hot. But that is a waste of stuff. They tried that with the smelt, all waste and rubbish, or bad waste. Gold go this way, and the zinc goes that way, and the copper go this way, and if they have a little silver, it will go this way and that thing there. It is full of everything they would put out. This one, just like a water boiling. Come down that

pocket and it goes around like that and they drop this way and that, you see. It was kind of - you won't believe it, you know. Some people here don't believe it, but it has happened. That would boil about, oh it would be about, I don't know how many tons. When the ore came up from the ground, you goes there by them falls, big ones. He looks like this and crushed all that rock like a bulb. And the rubber, you know rubber things there, that is where they dump. And then they goes to there, right through them and go all up.

Janet: And that is where they separate it?

Angus: Yeah. After it gets in the smelter it goes in and that hot stuff then. And they melt everything like water, red hot. And then it goes to another bucket and it goes around in there like I told you, those things that don't...

Janet: Yeah, see that separates the zinc and the silver and the copper and the others - gold.

Angus: And the waste iron this way, you know, and they throw away nothing.

Janet: Oh, that is the one that goes into that lake, that waste.

Angus: Yeah, that waste. But the other good stuff, they go separate ways and they come out the other end and they are about three feet long, about ten inches wide and that thing is solid. Marked Hudson Bay Mining. And they ship that to sell. They ship all they got this there. Anything, zinc, copper, gold, all layers pile up like that goes, too.

Janet: When you were working here at the dam in 1928, how much an hour did you make? Do you remember how much an hour you made?

Angus: Oh, I remember. I first started at that time, it was pretty low. I was only making 42 an hour and twelve hours. And after that I was running a motor and stuff like that, they gave me 60 . I had the same price as any engineer. Some carpenters, 60 ; the riggers, they worked with the steel, he gets 75 . And I think the foremen, they got 75 , too.

Janet: That is an hour?

Angus: That is an hour, yeah. And steam shovel driver, he made \$1.00 an hour, him. And also, divers working under the water, the divers, he was making \$1.00 an hour. That is the best wages they had here then, 1927 and 1928 and 1929. But

stuff was low. You can dive but you are only making about three dollars a day on that you know. But there was still left over to buy stuff. Twenty-four pounds of flour was a little better than a dollar then. Bologna, the big one like that, less than a dollar. Overalls, working pants, a little over a dollar. You see, that makes gibits. Now, you making about fifteen and twenty dollars an hour and those guys are nothing.

(laughter)

Janet: Yeah, that is right. When you buy groceries for \$50, you can hardly fill up two bags and it is fifty, over fifty. It is a lot of difference, a lot.

Angus: I bought some stuff a while ago. I got a little box about two feet long, about a foot high, it is not even full; that is thirty-five dollars right there. That is today. At that time you see, that three dollars, you don't even spend it, you got what you want to eat and then like, you buy flour and twenty-four pounds for a dollar and it lasts you one week. You see that help that way then.

Now, at that time it was 1927 in Flin Flon, I hardly talked English. I can't understand everything then, because I haven't been to school one day in my life. But I was talking pretty good French and my mother's tongue. But now I just about forgot the French. Now, but I was talking Cree good. He learned me English and I learned him Cree myself and those guys I used to work with. So then maybe, I make a mistake a little bit all right but that is the trouble because I haven't been to school one day in my life. I just picked that up. It took me about three months when I was in there in 1927. I lived with the guys in a bunk house. There was seven, eight with me. None of them talked Cree, none of them talked French. Every time they talked, they had to talk English. So when I wanted to talk with them, I had to talk English too. It took me three months of talking with them and I was talking with them just as good as I am now. Is that all right?

Janet: I heard from someone telling me that you travelled to B.C. one summer too?

Angus: Yes, I went to B.C. to visit my daughter who lives over there and stayed with her two weeks. And I had the meeting for power dam. The second one up the river, he was told about it. He took the guys from here to go to Ottawa and I went to Ottawa. I went up myself from Sandy Bay and went from Pelican. All of us guys, there was 26 of us. We went to Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal. Gave us two weeks on that trip for that

power dam. And I've been in the United States for the sports

show, for the fishermen you know, the tools?

Janet: Yes.

Angus: In the United States, I went there for the sports show. I stopped in Minneapolis. And after I fly out from there and I stop in Omaha, Nebraska. And they call me Omaha now. (laughs) Yeah, I been in Omaha and I came into Kansas City back to, what you call it, Aberdeen? Aberdeen or Gaberdeen, one of the two. That is in the United States too. Come back that way and I hit Brandon and Dauphin coming back. I went through Winnipeg going and I came back through Brandon and Dauphin, back to Sandy again.

Janet: You sure have seen a lot of country.

Angus: I have seen a lot of country. I have seen a lot of things too, I have never seen in my life.

Janet: You have never taken any pictures of the places you have been?

Angus: Oh yeah, yeah. There was about five of us. We would take enough pictures. We stopped and went through the mountains and past Alberta in the mountains and never seen anything like that, all the way through there. Pretty dangerous there. And I spent how much money, they spend how much money to make that highway through. Seen a railroad track down below about three thousand feet and up, you looking straight down at it. And on the side hill there, on the highway, sometime the rock pointed like that on a hill and you go right straight through under the rock. Come out on the other side of the mountain.

Janet: Were you ever scared going through those mountains?

Angus: Well, I wasn't scared too much. But there was a couple of them I went with that had to fly back from Victoria to Calgary. They didn't want to come back through the mountains.

Janet: They were scared of the mountains then?

Angus: Yeah, we meet a car right in the middle of the highway, couldn't get out of the road until we passed them about five feet. I told this lady, I says, "Look at the car, got no room to get by." She don't even look, she just sitting down and puts her head down all day. She didn't want to look again. Oh yeah, that is another thing, after getting over and when we get there we had to go to Victoria. We were waiting for a ship

and I asked those guys, I said, "Where are you going to leave the van?" We got to leave it, I thought we got to leave it, but we didn't leave it. When the ship came in, that front of it, this long dock, we'd drive right in. About fifty cars went right in.

Janet: Right into the ship?

Angus: Right into the ship inside. When we get to the other side at Victoria, I do the same thing, drop that thing and we just drive out.

Janet: What did you think of that? Driving inside a ship and coming out on the other side?

Angus: That was good, that was something I had never seen in my life before. I heard about it though but I wasn't - we had to drive in on the ship then while we were waiting. I was just wondering when he was going to leave that van. Yeah, after we came back, we had one more lady to see when we got in Vancouver. So we came back from the United States, came back to Seattle, stopped there one day and coming around to Spokane. We come through Spokane and from there Alberta and then from there, that was a long ways. Right early morning till about nine o'clock at night. We got in Alberta then. That is a long ways between Spokane there.

(End of Side A)

(Side B)

Angus: Mostly people at that time, boats now. Medium, small, and large ones. But at that time, we travelled in the Churchill River quite a ways up from here. We used only canoes at that time. And we went to Stanley Mission, check that water, how much it come...

Yes, we used to see treaty party. Those guys and I know about, at least three anyway, the Indian ones. The guys used to come through there in Pelican, just once in the summer, go through there from La Ronge, maybe Stanley, Ile a La Crosse. Some boys used to work for the Indian agent and used to be five or six canoes in a party because he used to work the policeman there, a doctor, and a secretary, an Indian agent and a guy who talked good Cree. He could speak to those guys for him.

Janet: Interpreter.

Angus: Yeah, interpreter, yeah. So I see them all. Every summer. Some are the same guys, some are different guys and I seen them. I first remember see those guys, that was about 1920 there sometime. There were only a few trips he had York boats from Prince Albert. I have only seen two that I can remember. But those guys were Indian agents. I know those guys. But I don't know how many live now. When I seen them, some of them would be around 35 or 40 or something. They was lots older than me then. I was only a kid and I can remember this. Indian agent, we used to call him McKay, one of the Indian agents. (Cree) And Taylor, Bill Taylor from The Pas and the other one was Sam... well, it was Sam anyways. I don't remember.

Janet: His last name, eh?

Angus: Yeah.

Janet: Do you remember the names of some of the men that were with this treaty party?

Angus: Yeah, I remember some of those names all right. Like Angsford Drott(?). I remember him good because he was with us here a couple of years one time after that. And those guys from The Pas, some of them from The Pas, I know them. Those two, that was Henry Plumfield and uh, what's the other guy's name - it is easy to forget them. I remember Henry all right, he was from The Pas. And the nickname, maybe you know, the guy used to go through there from La Ronge or, I don't know. We used to call him Seegoose.

Janet: Yeah, that was Seegoose. Alfred Sanderson was his real name but they used to call him Seegoose.

Angus: Yeah, tall guy.

Janet: Yes.

Angus: Yeah, I remember him all right. Some of the names I couldn't remember now. I forgot; that is quite a while ago. Of course I, I never do this before like that you know. That time there was nothing like that like we are now. That time in Pelican Narrows I am talking about, I seen white man that time, go through. Very few trappers. Maybe, two, three different bunches. That is all we seen of the white man that time. Sometimes policeman come around, maybe twice a year. That is the only time we seen white man out there at that time. Not very much.

Janet: Did they ever take someone away to jail in Prince Albert or somewhere in those days?

Angus: Take him from here in this area?

Janet: Yes, or go through?

Angus: I don't remember that but I think they do. I think I heard something about that before but I don't remember now. I might not be at a time in there when they take them. You mean quite a while ago, I guess, eh? So I don't remember that. Well, they took some people who wasn't all there, too.

Janet: Yes, yes, yes.

Angus: They took them to Prince Albert and they took them to, what do you call them there, Brandon?

Janet: North Battleford.

Angus: Yeah, in somewhere they took him there. I remember those. But who was going to jail, I don't remember that.

Janet: They only saw the doctor once a year in those days,

when the treaty party went through?

Angus: That is the only time, yeah. That is the only time we seen a doctor. Well, there was a doctor but you had to go all the way to The Pas, in Manitoba. That is a long ways from Pelican and no transportation. You got to paddle all the way, no motor. And when you went there you got to drive dogs to get there; that is the only way. That was the only transportation we had in those days. I guess that is why I don't go around there much then.

Janet: And this doctor that used to go with this treaty party, he did everything, you know, operations on your tonsils or things like this, and he used to pull teeth too?

Angus: Yeah, he was pulling teeth too. And oh, he did everything, what he could do. You see, he go over there in a special tent there and somebody come in to see a doctor, they go there. And they had a man there to talk for him, too, you know.

Janet: Interpreter?

Angus: Yeah.

Janet: And this doctor, he did everything, give out medicine, examine you, and he pulled teeth. He had so many things to do, just once a year?

Angus: Just once a year, only about two days or three days to stop there. And they go over to the next place north. That is only about three days they stopped there. I don't think he ever seen everybody for that. I am not sure if he gave medicine out, you know. I'm not sure either, I didn't see that. But I seen that, he pulled a tooth all right. But I don't know. I didn't see that. We never seen a doctor after that for a whole year. Just once in the summer. That was only once at treaty time at summer. And after a while here, not so long ago, we got two different parties from The Pas, a year now. Not so long ago. (Cree)

Janet: Is that right?

Angus: Yeah.

Janet: Oh, yeah.

Angus: And one year.

Janet: And today now, you have a nurse in town here?

Angus: Oh yeah, we got two here now and not so long ago we had a nurse here. Yeah, just a man and his wife was here and her husband was working across at the well. And then she was a nurse here alone.

Janet: And now when someone is real sick, you fly them out to Flin Flon?

Angus: Now they do that, yes. Yeah. The nurses, they can't handle them, they send them out right away. By plane, by any way at all now.

Janet: You have a lot of help now, healthwise, you know. If you are sick, you are taken care of.

Angus: Oh, yeah, yeah, we got a lot of help now. But that time hardly nothing. But now everything we got here, even we got a highway now and we go any time we feel like it. Planes and everything now. So, we got two air strips here now. See, the company used to have the air strip and still using it. Now there is a new one here by the bush, a big one. Using that now too. I took a ride here on that to Prince Albert about two weeks ago.

Janet: You went shopping?

Angus: No, I went to that exhibition. Then I was shown a little bit of everything there. I was there for that. I had a good time there.

Janet: I am glad to see you old people now, have a good time seeing you have worked so hard all your lives. Now you have to rest and take it easy and go and visiting way far away. It is so nice.

Angus: Well, some people do that now you know. Getting to do a little bit of everything now. But at that time you can't do that. No way to go, no transportation. That time, no highways, when I talk about 1927 and that, hardly nothing. It is just a train. It came to The Pas. And in 1927, there was no train in Flin Flon. There was no train running through Coal Lake but at that time they started coming in north and by Cranberry, there was nothing there either. But they used a station there. It goes through Sherridon/Cold Lake, and come into Flin Flon at that time. We had to have a lot of men there then at that time. That was - I think it was 1928 the train came in in Flin Flon. In town, they started to build a town, too, then. Coming everything that time. Like you said, those guys had the mine found it in the south, that is true. The white man who wasn't find it. An Indian find it and he gave it away, nobody knew anything about it that time. Right now I find something, the white man, he won't have it till he give me the money. But at that time it was different.

Janet: You have learned a lot about rock since Flin Flon came around here and I supposed if you found anything you wouldn't hurry to a white man to show it to them so they can take it away from you.

Angus: Not until I am ready for that, because I was prospecting for a company too at that time. That was about three hundred miles north of here, prospecting for company. Staking claims for them. I was with them, too. I had a little bit of share in

that.

Janet: What was the name of the company?

Angus: Hudson Bay Mining. That is the same company we were working for. Yes, that time, I think some people found the stuff that time but I had been looking for the last about ten years now. Ought to find good stuff in this area someplace. I never touch it. I look sometime but I might be in the wrong place but I know that guy and I got a sample from that guy. That was one of the best samples I have ever seen. There was something there. Where in this area I don't know just exactly where it is. I am still looking.

Janet: Well, someday maybe you will find it and you will be a millionaire. What will you do then?

Angus: Well, stop going around in the bush then. Stay home and take it easy. No more jobs. I got a pretty good idea how to dynamite things. I can handle dynamite. Any way you want to break a rock or ground or muskeg, anything at all. I can handle the dynamite. I learned in Flin Flon. I worked underground two years. In 1928 and 1929 I was underground. So, I learned all those things.

Janet: Just by watching, eh?

Angus: And watching and helping. No, I was helping them because I was in the mine myself. I was a drill helper. Start, shovel first and finally I got job to help those drillers. That is the time I learned how to work on that dynamite. Because he handled it when he finished drilling and I helped him load it and load the caps and all that. And I got it in my head still. Because I have been using dynamite quite a bit around here.

Janet: You people that can't write and stuff, I always wonder how you can keep all these things in your head. I have a brother that can't write or talk English and his wife will tell him so many things on her hands to get at the store in La Ronge and he comes down and takes them and takes them home. I don't know how he keeps them.

Angus: Well, that is what it is. Like me, if I was schooled, at least grade 10 or something, I would have been quite something then, that day.

Janet: You are worth more than some people that went to school all their life, Angus, I am sure of that. You have done a lot more than they ever did. Those people that went to school.

Angus: Very few people have been in the country where I have been. I have been to lots of places. I went down the river to Hudson Bay. What they call Hudson Bay, Port Churchill. I have been through there.

Janet: Oh, over there.

Angus: I have been through the mouth of this Churchill River. There is a train over there.

Janet: You went by train then, eh?

Angus: No, no, I went by plane. As far as Indian Lake and then we went by boat from there. We come back by train to The Pas. One trip that time. Here at Churchill is good because close over there for the last fifty miles is pretty dangerous. Fast water and narrow and you just have to watch yourself there. One place there at the falls, there about a hundred foot drop. You see the whole pile of bones and the river crooked a little bit like that. That caribou hits right there. And it is spoiled there. Could be that high or maybe higher, straight bones, caribou bones. They come down on the steep, eh, and break his neck and all that and then they hit that bang over there and they stops there. Talk about bones, just the bones and horns and everything. The caribou swimming across, eh, and the water is so strong, some of them they couldn't - they just go in there, eh.

Janet: They just drop off the drop off.

Angus: Well, anybody would drop off, not only caribou. You won't live anyway. Not the way that looked like anyway. Yeah, then I went, one prospector, he wanted to see up north, see those guys over there, and I went with him. That is about 700 north bushy, Red Deer Lake, north there. It is a prairie over there too, no rock, just sand and muskeg over there, no rock at all. The same as south here. Past The Pas. Something like that, and Prince Albert. The same thing up north here only cold in the winter. That is why those caribous coming this way. When it gets cold in the fall, everything is ice, couldn't eat nothing and they come this way to feed. The same thing with chickens. Those ptarmigan, white chickens, they live some north. Now it will get cold this fall, all the things is icy. You can't eat nothing so you have to come south here to get feed.

Janet: Yeah, you have done a lot of travelling and lots of work.

Angus: Oh yeah, years ago it was a lot of work. Now you travel, you got the motors to go. You want to go south, you got a car to go or a way to go, plane, by plane. That time there was nothing. Not even Johnson motor or nothing. You just had to paddle and pack the canoe across and everything you got. That is the way you travel that time. That 1927 in the fall, we packed our stuff and crossed the portage before we bring the horses and all that, we packed canoes across. Have all the stuff and go again and, until we get here. And then go back for some more. That time we didn't stop one day until the freeze up. All the guys stopped but I didn't. I was still walking for, walking a line for mail. First class mail, not the second class, just the first class. About 12 pounds. I had

that every week.

Janet: By dog team or...?

Angus: No, just walking. And after it froze strong enough, you can drive dogs on the lakes. Many used dogs then. But that time you can't go by boat, by canoe, you can't go by dogs, you have to walk.

Janet: You walked from here to the Pas?

Angus: No, no, I walked from here to Mile Thirteen - thirteen miles out of Flin Flon. There is a guy come there by horseback. He meet me there where the house there, I was camping there myself with him. So he gave me the mail and I gave him mine.

Janet: Oh, you exchanged mail, eh? You came through town and you would bring it out?

Angus: North, myself. Yeah, that is what we were doing.

Janet: Do you have a moose license there? You are going hunting I suppose, eh?

Angus: Well, I am going to go hunting now. I have time. I think I am going tomorrow. Now, I will look and I might get back here three days time with the meat. I hope so. I had to pay that twenty dollars too.

Janet: You had to pay twenty dollars for this?

Angus: Yeah.

Janet: I thought trappers got theirs free, I thought.

Angus: Maybe some do, some of the guys do. You come down the less, every year. I don't know why they want to do that for. Now they only got seventeen free.

Janet: These ones?

Angus: Yeah, they only got seventeen free ones.

Janet: I thought old age pensioners got their fishing licenses and hunting licenses free.

Angus: No.

Janet: Oh.

Angus: Well, this one I had to pay it. I had free last fall but now they said those people, they got a big family and they need more meat than I do. Something like that, you see. I guess that is why.

Janet: There is something else I wanted to ask you. Do you think they will ever make an old folk's home in town here? You

know, houses for you people on old age pension?

Angus: No. They haven't but they got it now. They are making it. I don't know if they can get enough money to build those houses anymore. But he is just waiting to get enough to build it. They built that one home for two people. You see like one on this side, one on this side. They enclose it half. Half of this one, half of the other one.

Janet: That is the kind of homes they have in Lac La Ronge, and they really like them. You know, they can visit each other close by.

Angus: You can talk to each other or anything.

Janet: Yeah.

Angus: Yeah, that is what they are going to do with us now.

Janet: They are very nice homes we have in La Ronge. I am very glad to see those old folks living in there now.

Angus: Well, that is what is going to be now.

Janet: They have had such a hard life before now. All they have to do is turn a switch and you wash. You have your washing machine and drying machine, your toaster and your stove, electric stove, you know. Everything is given to them.

Angus: Oh yeah. Well, I guess that what is going to do. I don't think they can do different here and do that over there.

Janet: But you have to get your own beds and couch and stuff. You have to buy those yourself. But the other stuff they put in there. The washer and dryer and stove and fridge, you will get all those things.

Angus: Yeah, you pay so much a month on that.

Janet: Yes, and it is not very much, they said.

Angus: No, he told me how much and that was not too bad. I think it will be all right.

Janet: Some old lady here, she told me, she said, "I might freeze this winter because they haven't built homes for us." A lady behind where you are. Annie Richard?

Angus: Yeah.

Janet: Yeah, I went to visit her.

Angus: Oh yeah, they got the house there but I don't know, it might be too old the house. But anyway, as far as that goes, as long as they can get wood. I think nobody will freeze to death because that house down a little bit over there, is close to here a lot. They are warm. But that is only one I guess. Just about only one you got there, the oldest house. You don't

get very many of the oldest houses around here now. Yeah, they are supposed to build that but they better hurry if they want to do it because it will take them quite a while to build one house, you know. And now they started assuming they might finish before Christmas. But if they don't start at all, it might not happen until next year. A lot of houses here just about take one year before you can go in. The way they build it. Building it for two, three days, and they leave it and they build the other one over there and keep moving like that. Why not making it just one, finish it, and then go to the other one?

Janet: See, that is what is wrong, you know. They should build one house and finish it so the person can go in, and then start the other one and finish that one.

Angus: Just gang up on it. Not two or three different bunches will work there for a little while, work that one for a little while, and all that. It takes time and acting. I think they just gang up about it, about ten men, carpenters. Well, they are taking their time, eh?

Janet: Well, I guess that is it.

(End of Tape)

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