HIGHLIGHTS:

- Some of the history of the Hobbema Reserves.

Re: Bobtail Reserve

Jacob: With the reason why, previous to it that he came now transferred. Our grandfather raised his nephew Ermineskin and they were small, their father died quite early you know. The Ermineskin's brother. That's my grandfather and then somehow he wasn't too kind to the boys as they were growing up so they left. Then they went to stay with first chief, you know, of the Samson band. Samson.

Joe: Oh, Samson.

Jacob: Yeah, they grew up and was given your grandmother to him as a wife. Old Chief Samson's brother, so they were married. That's how come they were at Samson reserve you see. This is quite a history you know, a long history, and this land, Bobtail Reserve, I blamed Father Lacombe. He was the one that persuaded to those old people to take scrip. The chief you know, he..........one of my uncles. Mr. Grandfather, little Peter, he was under his rule over there you know. So this reason he came to the camp. He went to talk to the chief and he told him that "Chief, if you take scrip you'd be better off than those that took treaty."
Joe: That was Bobtail?

Jacob: Yeah, this is a proof because my uncle used to tell us about it. And Ana na tay kat oo (here is not quite clear) was a chief and came home with my uncle, your uncle too. Peter and my son, "You willing to take scrip?" There was two kinds of scrips. He used to tell us you know. Money scrip and land scrip. In the future you'll be better off than those treaties. They were treaties. But he was just persuading them to take scrip you know. So he told them, "You wait for me till tomorrow." So uncle went, got up early in the morning and went in the bush to go and pray. And he heard a voice like you know, "Don't take it." So he came back to the priest in the camp and told him, "I can't take it. I can't take it." So he didn't take scrip you know. But the chief did. Oh, it was just too bad you know. And then after they settled down, old Ermineskin the chief, our grandfather, he had to go after his brother because he was getting hard up over there. It was a crime the way those priests treated the Indians. And whenever I think about it I get so upset. (My goodness) Those people didn't understand nothing you know, the time the treaty was signed. All they wanted was to agree, to nod their heads and there was a lot of misinterpretation given to them. Oh I get so I don't know, get so upset when I think about it.

Joe: The white man have harmed us greatly.

Jacob: Anyway, this land, this Bobtail Reserve, my uncle came and was admitted to Samson Band. Our uncle Chief Bobtail his land, his boundary lines, was where Paul Green lives. That line was up to that far. That's as far our grandfather had his reserve, but your grandfather was transferred with that land and a few others. I believe one of them was Cutknife.

Joe: Yeah, Cutknife. Who was the people?

Jacob: His dad, Cutknife, and my grandfather Mackinaw and my father Augustine. One Indian spelled name Ke a ke kay poo (That Sits Permanently) but this was an old lady. We were told that today.

Joe: How about Wahkeenow?

Jacob: He was from there, too. (Wahkeenow) Crooked Man or Curved Man. These names were on that list that he brought from Ottawa and if supposing we were to be successful on this matter. It would be nice timber land.

   It's quite a long story you know. I don't remember what year, you know, when there was people from Saskatchewan. Most of those people that went to the States were from Saskatchewan, you know. And then I don't know what year they rounded them up, all Canadian born Indians to be brought back to Canada. So that way they were brought to Bobtail Reserve. But at that time you know the interpreter, Peter Erasmus told us that land was under Samson. (Here I can't make out what he said at the end.) I guess John McDougall was the one. He had a lot to do
with that too.

Joe: Yeah, that name appeared on the list.

Jacob: And First World War that was surrendered to the Soldiers Settlement Board of Canada. There was a lot of their farms there, you know, on that reservation.

Joe: And those mineral rights were not sold with the surrender. It states on that paper.

Jacob: Oh, you have to really look into that.

Joe: They are going to bring this matter up with I.A.A. lawyer over there. (Someone says not his time in the background.)

Jacob: I heard that Roddick is not working for I.A.A.

Joe: No, no, there is another one now. It is a new guy.

Jacob: I can not remember that.

Joe: Where they said it was a surrender, Bobtail Reserve to the government. Before the government gave to the Soldiers Settlement Board?

Jacob: I'll tell you if you go to Arnup's, he did work on it. He wrote to Ottawa about it you know. But I don't know what reply he got from Ottawa. If you drop in there for a few minutes you can ask him, your (Kee chew wam) cousin. We did put down one time in our claim, you know. Bobtail Reserve, Buck Lake and Sharphead. That's west of Ponoka.

Joe: That's where those Firingstony's came from on this Sharphead, and Harry Rain came from Buck Lake.

Jacob: But Harry Rain was transferred to our band here that time and it was after the flu in 1918 I believe it was. See all the rest of those people that were living there died with that flu. Just Harry Rain and the family, their dad also died. They had to come back you know, their mother was from here originally from Samson Reserve.

And I often said all those stories should be taped, people that know these stories. There are not very many old people now.

Joe: University representatives are coming there, too. They are trying to get interviews.

Jacob: They never owned that land, those were on there.

Joe: This is what they used to say. They were leased that in 1885 after the rebellion. This is what my grandfather used to say. They ran to the States and I don't know why old people didn't know but again those Canadian born people brought back here. These people are from all over, most from Saskatchewan.
Jacob: Most are from Saskatchewan. But a lot of them went back after they were brought here, brought back. You know lot of them took off.

Joe: For instance, on that they were loan this land to them. This is what the story goes. But now they don't believe it.

Jacob: Our best is to look into it you know, (yeah) I'd advise you to drop in at Arnup's for a while.

Joe: Maybe we'll see him tomorrow.

Jacob: You going to stay overnight?

Joe: I saw him at the office. It's him who sent a phone here.

Jacob: We left quite early this morning to Rocky.

That's all.

(End of Interview)

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