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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mr. Gallivan has farmed alongside the Sweet Grass Reserve for many years and has had considerable contact with the residents of that reserve.

...um, several more, I can't just think of their names at the moment. But it always amazed me to see their mode of travel at that time was a team of horses, a lumber wagon, usually a flat bottom with a plank up on each side and they sat right on the bottom of the planks. They never seemed to have anything much in the bottom for to sit on, they sat on the planks. But, you would see an old Indian sitting in the back of the wagon and his legs crossed and usually the horses had a slow jog. They not very often let them walk. But the horses would jog along at a sort of ploddy gait and the wagon would be bouncing and the Indian would be bouncing but they would ride for miles this way. It never seemed to tire them. Perhaps this was a comfortable position that they had got accustomed to. I know that I have tried it and found it very uncomfortable. I would be pretty sore if I rode that way very far. But however, this

was something they had developed, I guess, from this position most comfortable to ride in. We often felt sorry for their horses. Many of them didn't, were not good feeders. If their horses had any life at all, they soon took it out of them by letting them travel as fast as they wanted to go on the road.

My own relationship with the Indians as I got older and got into business for myself, still continued having the friends as I knew as a child, John Albert, Sam Swimmer, Baptiste Albert, many of these. And today if I meet many of these people in town, I haven't seen them for two or three weeks, we usually have a good hearty handshake, pass a few words of greetings and discuss different aspects of what happens to be going on, whether it is reserve business, gossip, or so on. And I hope this friendship continues because I value some of these people's friendship. We always try to make them welcome when they come to our house and I think they feel this that when they do come, they are welcome. We do have many of them come to our house.

We have had many Indians working for us different times. We had one Indian in particular, David Whitecalf, who has worked for us for 17 years and we've had a wonderful relationship with Dave. He has got along awfully well. He is very trustworthy. We never had to worry about anything being misfed or taken care of. Any job that he done, he done well. If he fixed fence, you never had to go to look to see if it was fixed properly because it would be, there was no question about that. It didn't make any difference what came up, how tough the job was or how different it was, Dave was always willing to do it. He always had lots of jokes with the children; this little girl is very fond of Dave. It is the only person that she remembers coming from her childhood is being here every day.

And Dave was very fond of her and she always had to have something special for Dave. Other than the members of the family, Dave was never forgotten in her mind. If she went to town, she would have to bring something back to Dave. And we have had many young boys working here. One thing that you might say that the - we never were concerned about any time we ever had Indians here, go away and leave them on their own. Dave was always a reasonably good cook. He cooked for any helpers that were here besides himself and sort of bossed the job. And we never would be concerned about leaving the house locked. It was always unlocked. We never were concerned about leaving valuables around on sideboards, dressers, and so on. And as yet we still have to miss our first article of any kind. The workshop was always open, tools were scattered around the yard, and we have still yet to knowingly or have any reason to believe that any Indian ever took anything. This is more than I can say for some of the white people that you do have. Some of them are very untrustworthy and we wouldn't consider trusting them in the same aspect as we do the Indians.

We have had several Indian girls working for us at different times, ever since the children were first small. There has been several girls here at different times. We have

had some very, what we consider, wonderful girls. We have developed a friendship with them throughout their years carried out working for us. We always tried to treat them as a friend as well as a worker. And we hope that this got across to them, that they weren't a servant of any kind and that they were doing us a service by coming to work for us.

We had one girl in particular that we were very, very fond of. That was a Poplar girl. When she first came she was a small, thin, very small, very thin, little girl. I asked her father one time when we were hard up for a girl. My wife was behind with the work with the small children and so on, usually some help around that had to be cooked for. So I asked him if there would be a girl available down on the reserve anywhere. So he says, "Well, we got one down there that has quit school and can't do very much but she can maybe scrub the floors and make a little bannock." So I said, "Well, bring her over." So, she did, and she was very shy and very withdrawn but we never had a nicer person in the house than that girl, Sandra Fineday I think she went by. And we still continue our friendships. And she has left, she has gone to Swift Current or someplace. We have gone to visit her in Swift Current and when she has come home to visit, we are always very happy to see her when she comes to spend a few minutes. She has got a very lovely, beautiful baby. The children are very fond of this baby because they were fond of Sandra. We look forward to seeing her whenever she can come and we hope that she enjoys coming here. She must or she wouldn't come, I guess.

We also had a Dressingman girl from Red Pheasant, I think it was Leona Dressingman, and we found her as a very good girl. She was with us for quite a long time. We always tried to encourage these girls to further their education, to better themselves so that they would be able to take their place in the world, compete with the rat race that is going on today when you are trying to make a living. We haven't heard that much about Leona since she left here but of course we keep in contact with Sandra. She went to Swift Current and she has bettered herself considerably by taking courses that were offered. And Sandra was very smart to learn, especially in the household here. When she first come she kept a sharp eye on what my wife did and it wasn't three weeks that she could bake as good a bread as anybody could set down to the table to eat. She could serve as good a meal as anybody could possibly set down to the table to eat. There was never a miss in Sandra's cooking. Everything was delicious. There was no half-done potatoes or half-done meat. She always had everything just in perfect and delicious to eat. The children were very fond of Sandra, too. She always catered to them by trying to meet their requests with cookies. She got to be a good pastry cook. She could make some very delicious cookies and follow a recipe book without any further instructions, she would go ahead on it. She never seemed to have any problem with any of the electrical appliances in the house which was shown once, that was all that was necessary and Sandra was able to take it from there. We never hesitated a moment about going to Saskatoon for the day or other places for the day and leaving Sandra in

charge of the household. She never seemed to be concerned the least bit about taking it over and being responsible for it. And get home and the kids would have their homework done and away to bed and Sandra never seemed to have any problem making them mind. She seemed to have a manner that was very mild and easy-going and when her request was made, they abided by it. We certainly hope that our friendship with Sandra will continue throughout the years.

I might mention we also have a good relationship on the reserve among the Indians. We have attended several funerals, several of the Indians attended my wife's father's funeral, some of them attended my mother's funeral. Some of these Indians have known my mother for many, many years. And some of them had known my wife's father, George McLean, for very many years. Several of them had worked for him throughout his lifetime on the farm. But we have been invited to weddings on the reserve and we are always treated with, as what we would consider, distinguished guests. We are certainly made very, very welcome. We were invited to the Acheman wedding which was as nice and well-organized and as beautiful a wedding as anybody could possibly attend. The dinner that was served

after the wedding was the most gorgeous meal that you could possibly sit down to. We were asked to sit at the head table but felt a bit reluctant because we felt as though the relatives should be sitting at the head table. We also attended a fiftieth wedding anniversary, Baptiste Albert, we were made very welcome on that occasion. Asked to sit at the head table on that occasion also.

And there have been many other social functions we have attended on the reserve. Our teenage daughter, when she first started dancing, going to, wanting to go dances, she and two or three other teenage girls thought they would like to go to Sweet Grass. We went one night, I took them, and they found out that they were made very welcome there. Everybody treated them with courtesy. Certainly I was made very welcome myself too. And it is the only place I think that you can go that a teenage girl will come and grab you by the hand and there is no refusing. You are not going to sit it out, you have to dance. Regardless of what you can do, you have got to get up anyway. We found this relationship as being very friendly. When you once get involved with them in this respect, you seem to develop a closer friendship. More so than by just meeting them every day.

There are other young girls on the reserve that we have, are friends with, that do come to see us. We had Agnes and Lillian Pooyak. Agnes was here for a long time; we thought an awful lot of Agnes. She always comes to see us when she returns from Vancouver where she is living now. Julia Whitecap, Tom Whitecap's oldest girl was the first Indian girl to attend the school in Cut Knife when they started integration and she had to come here to catch the bus. And we thought an awful lot of Julia and felt as though she could certainly go places in this world. She had the desire to learn, the desire to further her

education but of course, misfortune struck. Her mother was killed instantly. This left Julia as the oldest member of the family, more or less in charge. She had to kind of give up her schooling and take charge of the household and we still have our friendly relationship with Julia when we do meet her in town. She has got a very cute, lovely little boy. Do I ever just love to just get ahold of him and hold him and hug him up. We saw Julia just recently and she has taken an upgrading course and plans to make use of it. And she has been recently hired as secretary or something to do with the new school that they are going to build on Poundmaker and Little Pine.

I still wonder just how this integrating into the schools is going to work out. Perhaps now, we are just beginning to get some of the students that first started to school in Cutknife, integrated school at, like they started in grade one and now they are getting up towards grade twelve. One thing is that the attendance is very much better now among the Indian children than it has been prior to this. When they first

started, the attendance was very poor. But, now it is beginning to improve considerably, I suppose, due to the children getting more interested in school and going to the one school all the time. And there is always seeing the competition for not to miss school. Perhaps as they get a little bit older, they see the value of not missing school and endeavor to try to get there. Perhaps their parents are better educated now than they were twenty years ago, we'll say, and parents see the value of education and put more pressure into trying to keep the children attending school regularly. And I can remember different occasions a few years ago and it didn't take very much of an excuse to keep an Indian child at home. They would stay home because they didn't have any lunch to take with them. And this is another thing that our children have noticed in Cut Knife, that many Indian children will go to school without lunch. They will stay all day in school without any lunch. Just never make no bones about it. They didn't bring any lunch and that is all there was about it. I don't know whether, what the reason would be for this, but I think as years go by, there is going to be improvements. We certainly hope so anyway. We do know that there is a drinking problem in many of the homes on the reserves. This causes trouble with the children attending school. Some of the older ones are kept home to babysit. However, I suppose this happens in all segments of society. We don't only have it in the Indian areas; we have it in all the other areas as far as that goes. Especially when you get into the cities where the poorer class of people seem to get into a sort of a slum area and find this as a way of life. They don't know of any other way of life other than living in the conditions that they are in.

It is a far cry now from what it was, say thirty years ago, forty years ago. I can remember going to the reserve and their log houses would be perhaps, poorly chinked, cold and drafty, dirt floors. And their children would be sick, I suppose from the drafts, drafty floors and cold floor, so on. And now, see the beautiful homes some of them have. And the majority of

them are getting in propane heating, oil heating, got the power, water is available close by. It won't be long till they have pressure systems in. Certainly these things should encourage them to work to try to better themselves to meet the obligations that are necessary to have these things. Many of them are driving new cars; they care for them better now. Perhaps they have a better understanding, more mechanically minded. Certainly some of the younger Indian boys are very clever when it comes to mechanical work on cars. They can change motors from one car to another. An ordinary mechanic would tell you it would be impossible to make it fit. However, they seem to know all the answers to these things and can put a

different motor out of a different car into different chasis and make it fit and make it work. And I guess some of them can do a reasonably good motor overhaul now. Certainly some of them are very good at tuning up, keeping them running in this respect. We have got several of them that are taking courses now in automotive engineering. We have got electricians, we have got plumbers and so on.

I would like to see some of the girls take up teaching. This is a profession that they should strive to get into. It would not only be good for themselves but it would be better for their people. We have one friend that will be getting her teacher's certificate this coming summer and we are hoping for the best for her. We would think likely that she should make a very nice teacher because she is a very nice person. She may be just too mild. However, when she is getting teacher's training, perhaps she will overcome this and find out that she has got to put a little more pressure on to make children mind and so on. And I think she will have the ability to get across to the children. Certainly keeping our fingers crossed and we are going to be hoping for the best for her. That is Anna Albert. Francis Albert, her father, is another very good friend of ours. All of the family are good friends of ours. And Francis and his wife, we have developed a friendship over the years with them and we are always glad to see Francis drop in. He has always got a cheerful note. Francis is a hard worker. No matter where he works he does a hard day's work for the wages he receives. He takes a lot of responsibility no matter where he works. He takes good care of machinery wherever he works, takes good care of livestock. He can be depended on. And right at the present time he is laid up with a knee injury that happened many years ago. He had surgery on it and we hope that it will get back to as good as normal because Francis has got many more years of active life ahead of him. And his wife Jenny is a real artist at leatherwork. She has made moccasins for our children ever since they were babies. And when Jenny makes them, they fit like a glove. There is no two ways about it, they just are the most beautiful fit. We think that she does one of the nicest jobs that is done in this line of work. She made a buckskin jacket for me. My wife gave it to me as a surprise, had Jenny make it and gave it to me as a surprise for a Christmas present and I prize this jacket. I have had it now for several years but many, many times I would be asked, when I am out, who made it. And the

many people admire the workmanship that went into this jacket and certainly has been very well done. And this is Jenny's handywork. I think she has handed it down to some of the family too. All of Francis's family has done well. Francis, I guess, he and his wife, neither one got very much education and they see the value of education of where people, of what people

can do with education and didn't want to see their family go through what they have gone through, through lack of education. And they have pressured all of their children into getting as much education as they possibly could. Three or four of them have gone quite far in school and are still learning. I hope they continue to do so. I must be soon coming to the end of my half hour tape and it has certainly been a pleasure to have been asked to do this. I hope some of the things I have said have been what - I didn't get really much idea of what I was expected to say on the tape but I hope some of it will be of benefit to someone somewhere along the line. I might add before we come to the end that I would like to see more and more improvements in respect to the Indians. I feel as though they are entitled to it. I felt for many years that their health services were not as good as they should have been. I felt as though perhaps their educational facilities were not as good as they should have been when they were on the reserve. Perhaps I might be wrong in saying this but...

(END OF SIDE B)

(END OF INTERVIEW)

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
ALCOHOL				
-abuse of	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	6
CREE INDIANS				
	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	2-8
EDUCATION				
-advanced	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	7
EDUCATION				
-attitudes toward	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	7,8
EDUCATION				
-integrated	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	5,6
HOUSING				
-log houses	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	6
MARRIAGE				
-ceremonies	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	4,5
NON-INDIANS				
-relationships with	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	2-5
TRANSPORTATION				
-horse and wagon	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	2
WORK				
-for wages	IH-084b	GALLIVAN	25	3,4