

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: DAN CALLAHASEN  
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: LITTLE BUFFALO LAKE  
ALBERTA  
INTERVIEW LOCATION: LITTLE BUFFALO LAKE  
ALBERTA  
TRIBE/NATION: BEAVER  
LANGUAGE:  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: MARCH 6, 1976  
INTERVIEWER: DAVID STARR  
INTERPRETER: DAVID STARR  
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD  
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- This 84 year old man has lived at Little Buffalo Lake for 55 years, raising cattle and trapping.

I am in the home of Daniel Callahasen in Little Buffalo. Today is March 3, 1976. Time 10:00 p.m. My name is David Starr and I'm with the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research (T.A.R.R.) out of Edmonton under the directorship of Mr. Richard Price.

I'll be interviewing him in how long he has been in this area of Little Buffalo and try and go back as far as possible in how far he had to go in the area for his livelihood in the early part of his years since he has been here. So, right now I'll go ahead and ask him his name.

Inter: That's it. Now that I've explained that I have to ask you your name. As these people that sent me wants the person to give his own name and age although it is sometimes hard for me to ask an elder to say his own name. They also want to hear about the first time you came or this that you first remember the early days within this area. Now, what is your name? And your age? If you know, where were you born? These questions first. So, could you tell me these things first?

Dan: Dan. Dan Callahasen.

Inter: Your age?

Dan: Eighty-four winters.

Inter: Where were you born before you came here or were you born here?

Dan: Grouard.. A place we call Prairie Echo across the lake from Grouard. That was where I was born.

Inter: Now, which direction is this place from where you are now? This is Little Buffalo and this other place Prairie Echo?

Dan: Grouard. Prairie Echo. Toward where the sun sets (west).

Inter: Why I have to ask you which direction is we have to try and find these places on a map. As you go along in your story. The directions of these places from here. So, we will know where that is. North, west, or south. Now, you told me where you were born. So, how many years ago was it since you first came here?

Dan: Fifty-five years ago since I first came here and I've been here since.

Inter: Fifty-five years ago. Then you were a man already then when you came here?

Dan: Yes.

Inter: What did you come here for or what were you after?

Dan: I came trapping. No, I came to raise livestock. I came to raise cattle here in Little Buffalo. That's why I moved my family here and I had horses too.

Inter: But you just moved here? You must've seen it first or did you hear about this place?

Dan: I came to it first to look it over.

Inter: Good, this is what we want to know.

Dan: I came to see it first and that's when I thought I'd raise cattle here.

Inter: How did you travel to this place? Did you walk?

Dan: I used pack horses. We came through Whitefish Lake and by Prairie Lake and finally got here to Little Buffalo. I was alone except for my wife. Just the two of us.

Inter: You were already living with your wife then?

Dan: Yes, already.

Inter: At that time how were you able to make a living with

the stock you brought or did you have to go around this area and trap to help you make a living?

Dan: Oh yes, I had to trap too, when I first came. But I really came to raise cattle. So, I was given piece of land here by a whiteman and this is why nobody is living on this piece of land where I am living now. I was given this land here to raise cattle on. There was only me and my wife. She used to feed the cattle and I used to trap.

Inter: Right there now, how far within the area did you travel to do your hunting and trapping and in which direction?

Dan: North.

Inter: Now, the places or lakes you used to trap on, what did you call them or what were they called?

Dan: Oh yes, there was Fish Lake and Cow Lake (Bison Lake). These lakes were within this area where I used to trap.

Inter: These lakes are they north of here?

Dan: Yes, north of here.

Inter: Now, were there other people around this area already? When you and your wife moved here?

Dan: No, there was nobody. Just the two of us. There were people across the lake which was call Prairie Lake then but not here.

Inter: Now, this Prairie Lake which direction is this lake from here?

Dan: That lake is only five miles from here. That is this end of it. That lake is about seven miles long and it is south of here. It was on that lake where there were some people living. There were some old people there then not here but they are all dead now.

Inter: But these old people were in this area already then?

Dan: This was their land before, they used to live at Fish Lake, too. I guess there were about three houses years ago and they had lived here at one time, too.

Inter: These are the things we wanted to know and hear.

Dan: Oh, things before or after?

Inter: Yes, things you heard about even if you weren't here yourself then.

Dan: Around here?

Inter: Yes, around in this area. Trappers must have gone

quite a ways out to go hunting. Can you tell me how far north some of them had gone?

Dan: All over. To the Wabasca River also north to Raspberry Lake. A long way from here.

Inter: Good, these are the things we would like to know. Now, towards where the sun set (west) how far in that direction have you heard people have gone from here?

Dan: There used to be people living in that direction, too. A lake they called Runaway Lake (west). There was a road going there not too far away but those people were from Grouard and had moved there to that lake.

Inter: Now, towards where the sun rises (east) how far that way?

Dan: All the way through to Loon Lake and there is a lake we called Weasel Lake in between. All in that country people from here have been there.

Inter: There's also another thing we would like to know. It's about relationships. Are there anybody's relatives living, at Loon Lake or any other settlements besides this? We want to show that people in all these settlements have blood ties in one way or another and can you give me some names?

Dan: There's one old man over there (Loon Lake) his Cree name is Lynx, Albert Laboucan. Well, most of these people are all related to people in Loon Lake.

Inter: This man now who is his relation here?

Dan: Felix Laboucan, this is his nephew.

Inter: Does this man live here now?

Dan: Yes.

Inter: There is also another thing. We won't go too deep into this subject but it's about the Treaty Commission years ago. Did they ever come here to this place to have people sign up to be treaty Indian or Metis? Can you tell me anything about this that people here gave up this land in exchange for treaty rights?

Dan: No, no, I never heard that this was done.

Inter: Well, I think this is about it. These were things I came to find out from you. You said you were here 55 years in Little Buffalo and there wasn't anyone here when you came?

Dan: Yes, 55 winters. There was nobody here except me and my wife. The people that were here before that were all dead by then.

Inter: So, I thank you for telling me these things and for answering my questions. Thank you again.

(End of Interview)

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