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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mr. Lonesinger was born on the Red Pheasant Reserve in 1888. He attended school and then began farming, married and moved to the Sweet Grass Reserve. He is a good singer and storyteller (For biography see IH-052, p. 11).
- Story of a woman captured by enemy warriors. She betrays her husband and brothers to her captors and so brings about her death.

There once was a very handsome young warrior. His wife was very beautiful. They had a small boy and his in-laws. He had five brothers-in-law. His wife was the youngest in the family and very beautiful. One day the women went berry picking and didn't return. When morning came they still hadn't returned. The chief told the young men to go and search for the women. The enemy probably found them and killed them all. The men went out to search and found all the women dead on the ground. All the women were killed, except for the brave's young wife. She was nowhere to be seen. "She has been kidnapped," they said.

They went back to the camp and told what had happened,

"All the women were killed and one was kidnapped. They must have crossed from there." By now the little boy was crying for his mother. When the uncles of the baby came in, the father told them, "Take him home to your mother. He might rather be with his grandmother." Alas, the little boy didn't like his grandmother and kept on crying. The father couldn't sleep, hearing his son crying. It was the same the next night; the little boy was still crying. The man thought, "I will look for my wife. I will find her and bring her back." By the third night, the little boy wasn't crying so much. The young man told his brothers-in-law to take the little boy home and bring him back in the evening. "I want him to get used to his grandmother." The grandmother carried the little boy around on her back and pretty soon the little boy forgot his loneliness. She took him to his father's tipi and the man told his brothers-in-law to come and get him in the morning. "I am going to get ready and look for your sister. I will find your sister and bring her back." His brothers-in-law told him that they were going with him. "We will all go with you. We won't tell anybody. We will leave secretly. We will go home and prepare ourselves for the journey." They took their nephew home with them. The little boy by now had forgotten.

The men decided to leave at night. They got ready for the search and left. They soon found the trail the enemy used and followed it. They tracked them to the mountains. "We will find them before long." They travelled in places where they wouldn't be seen. In the evening they came to a steep towering mountain. Below the mountain ran a small brook. Beside this other mountain was the camp. They saw women coming out to fetch water from the brook. He told his brothers-in-law to wait near the brook. He was going to wait for his wife somewhere yonder. "I will bring your sister back and don't get impatient waiting," and he ran down the mountain. He hid under some willows near the brook and waited. The women came and went but his wife wasn't among them. Later in the afternoon his wife came down the path, singing as she came. The woman started filling up her water carrier, turned around and saw her

husband. The man told his wife "I have come for you. Our son misses you a lot. He is very pitiful. He cries a lot for you. I came with your brothers. They are waiting up that mountain. They are watching us now." His wife said, "You came with just my brothers? I have to go back to the camp to get my bag. I have something very precious to me in that bag. You wait here and I will be back. Don't go away, I might not be able to sneak away soon." The woman left and the young man went back to his hiding place. His brothers-in-law lay up there and waited.

As she entered the village, she pretended she was crazy and spilled some water as she was walking. The people cried, "The chief's wife is insane!" The chief was very scared. "What's wrong?" he asked. The wife said, "Over there on the mountain, there are five men given to me and there's one lying under the willows. The Great Spirit gave them to me and it's the one that's making me go crazy." Her husband thought she

had great spiritual powers. Then the chief said to the young warriors, "You will ride up there and kill them all. The rest will sneak up and get the young man, because she wants him. I don't know what she's going to do with him. If you don't do it, she will kill us all because her spirit from the heaven is powerful." The young warriors jumped out and started riding around the mountain. They snuck up around the mountain and started shooting. Then they grabbed the young man. He couldn't do anything because there were too many. They brought him back.

In the meantime, the young woman was getting better because they were burning some incense from some sweetgrass. They were all so crazy about this spiritual woman. "She said the spirit gave these men to her and I don't know what kind of people they are," the chief said. Then he said, "Why don't you get an interpreter to tell us what to do with him?" A real old lady crawled in and she asked, "What's wrong grandchild?" Then she turned to the young man and asked what the trouble was. The young man replied, "I came with her five brothers to come and get her, because our little son is very pitiful." Then she said, "I don't understand him. I don't have any brothers. The spirit told me to use the peace pipe and tie him a certain way and dance. Tie him by the legs and give him nothing to wear but a breechcloth." Then the old lady said, "They are going to torture you and I feel pity for you." Then they took his clothes off and started tying him. He started to smoke a lot. They left him there for four nights. On the fourth night, they all moved and left him there on the ground with no covers or blankets. He was very pitiful.

There was an old woman and she had lost her son in the fall. Her son was very handsome. But she had other young men. This old lady had a dog with big ears and the dog was spiritual. The people knew her and she talked to the dog like a human and the dog understood her. The dog was very old. Then on the second night, her son said, "I'll go and peek at the young man, the one who's being tortured." The old lady answered, "Don't go. The young lady is spiritual." The old lady's son said, "I'll run and sneak back and she won't know me. It's getting dark." "Don't stay long then," the old lady replied. Then the young man sneaked up to the tipi and peeked in and he saw the young warrior being tortured. He saw they were using fire and the young warrior was making faces and moving around. When he saw the young warrior, it reminded him of his brother, because he looked just about the same. He just about broke down in tears and then ran back.

On his way back, he started to cry and when he got in, he started to cry harder and he was tired from crying so much. Then the old woman replied, "I warned you that she was spiritual. Don't go any more." Then the young man wiped his eyes and said, "Mother, he looks like my brother and he's the same size. He looks just like him. Too bad she's treating him like that. That's why I'm crying." Then he told his mother, "She's using fire. He was lying there with pain in his face.

I don't like it at all." He was crying, sitting silently.

The next day, everybody was moving to the east. In the morning, the old lady woke up early and asked her dog inside. The dog came in and she told him to eat some meat and soup. Then she told her dog, "You go over there to the edge of the bushes. Go in the bushes, stay there all day. Then try and save this young man who's being tortured, and when everybody is gone in the evening, try and bring him here where we're staying. I'll call you, but don't come until there's nobody around. Then come after everybody's gone and try to do something for him. Beside the little slough, I'll go and leave the pemmican. Take him over there and try to do something for him and take his clothes and shoes along."

Then after the dog finished his meal, she told him to go. After he finished his meal, he left while everybody was busy. The dog looked around to see if anybody was watching him leave, but nobody was looking. Then the dog got ready slowly. There were four young men guarding the place where the young man was lying and he went nearby there.

Then the old lady left, walking here and there, looking and calling for her dog. Then the young men came riding on their horses and asked the old lady what was wrong. The old lady said, "I scolded my dog this morning and I lost him, and I was looking for him. I must have made him angry because I scolded him." She didn't want to leave the dog behind, but she had no choice but to leave him and move on. And she said, "I was to keep him till he died of old age. Maybe he'll come along after he calms down and then we'll leave." "You'll come around this way, where this young man is lying," and the young men rode far up the hill. Then the old lady left, and as they were travelling by the young man, she saw he looked like her dead son. The old woman said, "He looks just like your son. We'll see him before the night is over." Then she started to pray. She was praying to her dog.

The young man lay there all day and when the evening came, he saw a dog coming and the dog circled him, making a crying sound. Then the young man thought, "He wants to eat me. Let him eat me. Let him kill me; I'm going to starve here anyway." He had an aching sore, and the dog sat down and licked his sore. The young warrior felt very good after the dog licked his sore, and he cleaned it very good. The young man felt very good after. Then the dog tried to untie the rope, but he couldn't chew it off because he was too old. As he was chewing, the rope got wet and when he pulled the rope, it ripped off. Then the dog sat down. The young man got up and untied the rope and then he stood up. The dog ran towards the slough, stopped, and looked back. Then the young man thought, "The dog wants me to follow him." And the dog would run ahead and he'd look back at him. The young man thought, "He's asking me to go with him." The dog ran down the hill and when he had reached one place, he started to scratch the ground. He went a ways, turned around and sat there.

Then he found a pair of shoes and some pemmican the lady had left for him to eat. He hadn't eaten for five days. After he finished eating, he put the shoes on and got up. When he got up, the dog started running again and stopped to look back at him. Then he thought again, "He wants me to follow him again." The dog was running beside him and when the dog went ahead he'd stop and wait for the young man. When he caught up, the dog started to run again. He would keep on running and the young man thought again, "He wants me to follow him."

As the night was falling, he turned and saw the tipis in the night - it was late at night. There was room at the door and the dog moved inside and sat down. Then the young man thought, "He wants me to go in." And he went in. The young

man and the old lady were sleeping. "Wake up," she said, "somebody came in." They had camped quite a ways behind from the rest. The old lady lit the lamp and she saw the young man sitting there smiling at them. Then the old lady woke her son up and told him, "Your brother is home." There was a light in the tipi and the boy saw this young man. He jumped up and hugged him and cried. The old lady said, "We'll stay with your brother forever, and you'll see your brother every so often, if he cuts his hair." Then the young man cut his hair so his relations wouldn't know him. They gave him some clothes and a knife.

Then he put his clothes on and the man was talking to him, using sign language, because they had different languages and couldn't understand each other. This young warrior was a Saukteaux and the other man was from another tribe from farther south. Then the woman was telling this young man her story about her deceased son. "My son was wounded and it killed him. You look just like him. My son, this is your younger brother." Then she told him that the boy went to see him and he told him what the old lady did. "You're saved." The man told him, "We have got lots of relatives. They're all scared of your wife - even her husband. Her husband is a chief."

"You'll go home so many nights from now. There is a river and a cliff beside it, and there's a hill going down at the end of the river as it flows into the lake. Some will be camping there on that night. And up the hill the rest will be camping there the next night. That night, you'll go home and get your relatives and look around. They think much of your wife, she's frightening. You go home and bring lots of company, and that night I'll live farther this way with my relatives there, the rest up there, the chief's people. There are thirty tipis of our relatives. They'll camp some place else - I'll tell them anyway. When you get there you stay over night there and run over and tell me. I told our relatives this plan already. Don't kill them yet, but kill the rest. There, your wife is a chief's woman, she rules the people. You go home right now."

And the old lady made him some lunch and he had a gun with him. The young man said, "I'll go home and we'll be coming,

riding on horseback. It will be faster that way. On that night we will cross the river and I'll come over. And your relatives - tell them not to go with the enemy across the river. On that cliff, we'll be waiting for the enemy and they'll stay over on that side and after they cross, tell them to block their way. Then we will kill them there and then you'll have lots of burying to do after. Sure, we don't have

too many horses but I'll go home anyway and I'll bring the people. My father-in-law is the chief, not me, so I'll go home and I'll come back on that night," he told his brother. "And don't get lonesome. I'll be in peace after if I live through and I'll come with our relatives." Then he said, "I'll leave now." And he ran leaving.

Later, when he got home he went in and took his lunch. The important people started coming in and also his father-in-law. Then he started telling about what happened. He told that they had killed all his brothers-in-law. Then the young man's father-in-law, the chief, said, "I thought she was a human. But she's a she-dog that I have raised. Okay, young men, help them for me. Get ready and get lots of help, lots of men. You'll all be happy and you'll have pride."

The young men were happy to go and the chief was thinking of what to do. The young men all left; they went on horseback, they went fast. On that day they all saw the tipis and they crossed the river where they wouldn't be seen. They waited beside the cliff. The young warrior told them, "You wait here and I'll go and finish the plan. I'll come back and bring the news to you all. Don't any of you go where you'll be seen. You'll have lots of fun tomorrow. You'll have pride and hasten to me. Keep one another and don't let anybody be seen, because you'll ruin our plans. I tell you, you'll have fun in the morning." Then he left, running up the hill to the tipi and he went in. The old lady got up right away and lit the lamp and she said, "Our son is here." She woke up her real son, "Wake up. Your brother is here." When he saw him, he jumped up and ran to him, hugging and crying. Then the young man said to him, "Don't let our relatives move." The old woman said, "I told them already today. All these tipis on this side are our relatives." The young man said to his adopted mother, "Early in the morning when the sun comes up, you'll hear war. There's lots of us." Then he went back to his friends.

When the morning came, he told his friends, "You go and wait over there and don't let anybody be seen." The young men were all singing. "Don't go anyplace where you'll be seen until they come to the river to fish. Then you'll go riding towards them and stop there and shoot them, and make a howler sound. Then you'll look at one and when you've reached them you'll ride this way. Because I'll be the first one to go across the river."

He was with his younger brother. His young brother said to him, "I'm going with you, and I'll give you a song and also a name." They rode on fast horses. He was trying out his

horse. And he said, "I'll grab my sister-in-law and I'll hold her horse. You grab the chief, her husband, and beat him up. When we come to the place, I'll sing. I'll sing your song," he said to his brother. "Then let's gallop our horses away to catch up to them." Then they left.

They were far up ahead and they had just about reached the place. The young man was first and he had a knife with him. The chief was surprised to see him and he just about stopped his horses. And he looked at him and the young man would sing and holler about his brother. The chief didn't think somebody was sneaking up behind him. Then he'd think what's wrong, his horses were stalling when they heard his hollering. Then the chief stopped his horses and the woman too. When the young man was close he stabbed the chief with a knife. He saw his sister-in-law and her real husband. "Get off," the young man said to his wife. And over there there was lots of noise and hollering. They cornered them beside the cliff. They were stabbing them and they killed them all. The rest were all standing on the hill watching them. The old man would holler from there. The young man said to his wife, "Get off," he said, "Get off." The young lady got off and she was struggling. The young man said to the other young man, "Bring all the sticks and burn them all." The young men were hauling the sticks and wood. They burned them and the flames burned high. He grabbed the young lady by the arm and brought her there. The young man grabbed his wife by the neck and pushed her, she jumped over the fire. They pushed her again. The young man grabbed her again and pushed her. The young lady cried, "I love you, my dear husband." The young man said, "Yes, you love me, you made me kill so many people because you love me." They kept pushing her back and forth and finally her clothes caught on fire. She fell down on the fire and burned there to death. The young man said to the people, "Get ready and move back." They all got ready to leave and they moved to the top of the hill and camped there. They camped there and the old man came to spend the night with the young man.

They would sit all day. There were many of their relatives. Then the young man said, "I'll stay here for so many nights, Father. Anyway, if I want to see you, Father, I'll come over. There's nothing to be scared of now. Okay, Dad, I did my part in getting even." The young man loved his brother very much. The old man said, "Don't ever let anybody come looking for us, you just about killed us all. We'll try to grow many more of us. So don't try to hunt for us, but if you want to see your father come over, because I'm too old and I can't go. You can come anytime you want to and you can bring as many as you want. The young man said to his father, "Yes Dad, I'll be coming back and forth." Then they left for home.

When they got home they had a victory dance and they enjoyed celebrating. They had just about killed the whole village of people.

(End of Side A)

(Side B)

Note: This is the same story as told to Alphonse Littlepoplar on Tape IH-061, on transcript Lonesinger11. Refer to this document for the story.

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
FAMILY				
-extended	IH-064	LONESINGER14	18	2
STORIES AND STORYTELLING (GENERAL)				
-animals	IH-064	LONESINGER14	18	4-6
STORIES AND STORYTELLING (GENERAL)				
-treachery and revenge	IH-064	LONESINGER14	18	2-9
WARFARE, INTERTRIBAL				
-prisoners,				
treatment of	IH-064	LONESINGER14	18	3-5