

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: JOE NOSKIYE 1  
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: LITTLE BUFFALO  
ALBERTA  
INTERVIEW LOCATION: LITTLE BUFFALO  
ALBERTA  
TRIBE/NATION: BEAVER  
LANGUAGE:  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: MARCH 3, 1976  
INTERVIEWER: DAVID STARR  
INTERPRETER: DAVID STARR  
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD  
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS  
& RESEARCH  
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA  
TAPE NUMBER: IH-311  
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Area of land covered by trapper.  
- Family connections between various northern settlements.  
I'm in the home of Joe Noskiye in Little Buffalo. The date is March 3, 1976, the time is 11:30 p.m.

I'm going to interview him this evening and get as much history as I can of his travels in this area and other places. I am David Starr and I'm with the Treaty & Aboriginal Rights Research (T.A.R.R.) out of Edmonton under the directorship of Mr. Richard Price. So, I'll go ahead and ask him questions as I go along and pick it from there.

David: I guess you remember when I came here before that was the time my recorder didn't work. The things we talked about then will be the same today. The things my boss wanted to know are about your travels in this country where you are now living. And also what they will want to know your age and where you were born. When you can first remember about things when you were very young. The reason for this interview is about our land claims that they are trying to get for us to have proof that we were here in this country since we were born. Also to get history from you elders that's been passed on to you from our grandfathers. Even if you yourself had not been in the areas you're going to tell about but someone had been there for reasons of making his living like trapping or hunting. We would also like the names of these lakes, places, if you can remember them, and the people you mention. Could you give us their names, Cree or English. Also this place where you are now

living and any place away from here could you give directions, say north of here or south of here etc. (Unintelligible)

Joe: What was it you were saying? My age is 72 or 73. Seventy-two winters.

David: Where were your parents living before? Where were you born?

Joe: Over there, someplace at Trout Lake.

David: Were your parents always living at this place where you just mentioned or did they live other places too?

Joe: Oh, they lived at Goodfish Lake. That's at the end of Peerless Lake. That was their real home years ago but they have come to Loon Lake at times too and stayed for a while. But Goodfish Lake at Peerless was our home. That was where I was raised.

David: Now, these places you just mentioned, although, I know where it is. It's for my bosses they would like to know which direction from here it would be?

Joe: That would be towards where the sun rises (east) from here. We had lived in the Trout Lake area for as long as I can remember, then when my parents all died I went to Fort Vermilion. That's north of here.

David: So, from Trout Lake or Peerless Lake from there to Fort Vermilion you say you went how did you travel?

Joe: I went down the Wabasca River by canoe.

David: And you travelled this way until you got there?

Joe: Yes, we stayed there (Fort Vermilion) a long time. For about 16 years we lived there.

David: Then you were married already at this time?

Joe: Yes, I was with her (his wife) by then.

David: That means you must have been how old?

Joe: About 25 winters old or 30 winters, around there.

David: Now while you were over there, did you ever go on further north for any reason?

Joe: No, not me. There are people from Fort Vermilion who used to go further north but not me. I know a lot of men that used to go as far north as Caribou Mountains we call them. They used to go trapping in those hills, but as for myself, I used to (Unintelligible).

David: Now you say, between here and there, could you give me

some names of these rivers, or lake, where you used to hunt?

Joe: There was the Buffalo Head hills, lakes, these were about half way there, and also I used to trap around Raspberry Lake. Also around Long Lake area. These three lakes were where I used to do my hunting most of the time. There's where the 25th base line is; that's how far south, I used to come from Fort Vermilion. I didn't come any further this way (south) because there were other trappers that used to come from the south up to the 25th base line.

David: Now this will be easy to find in the map. Is this area where you trapped still north of here and north of Trout Lake?

Joe: Yes, north of the base line.

David: Let's see now, now later on, since you've been back this way, how far east have you been in that direction?

Joe: Let's see... when we used to go towards the Wabasca River, do you remember (asking his wife)? Toward Little Red River, east of there, we called the place Burnt Cache.

David: What was this, a lake?

Joe: A river, this is across the Wabasca River (east).

David: Now say, you didn't yourself, but have you heard of any other people going farther east yet?

Joe: Yes, there are people that went as far as Fox Lake that's still east of here, there are still people there from Trout Lake and Wabasca, that had moved there and are still there now.

David: These people had moved there and are still there?

Joe's Wife: Yes, like I have an uncle there yet, and his children are living there now.

David: What was his name?

Joe's Wife: His name was Alexan Seeseejeven (Cree). He had many children there at Fox Lake.

Joe: (Unintelligible)

David: Now, when you wanted to go some other way not by the river how would you travel then?

Joe: With dogs, only dogs. Like I'm telling you the time we left to go to Fort Vermilion. I never seen anybody use horses for trapping in that country at that time except dogs. Everybody used dogs, never horses, nobody had horses then. Not for trapping. It was later years when people started using horses.

David: What you were telling me about was north and east so far; how about south? That way. How far have you gone in that direction?

Joe: I've been to Wabasca.

David: Wabasca. How did you travel then?

Joe: That time we rode horses not by wagon just by pack trails. There was not even wagons around then. So, there were no wagon roads. We hadn't even seen wagons yet. This was the time we went to Wabasca.

David: Good, these are things we want to hear about. Now say this place where you are living now, say, from Trout Lake which direction would we be now? Say, from Trout Lake?

Joe: We are towards where the sun sets (west).

David: Good, now is this place as far west you have gone or have you been farther west yet?

Joe: Yes, we've been west to Peace River town and we came all the way down Peace River from Fort Vermilion. This was the time fire boats (steam boats) were still running and we came on one of these. We have never went across the Peace River though.

David: Good, because this is as far west as we want to know about as that is the border on our land claim.

Joe: So, we have been as far north as Fort Vermilion on the Peace River but we haven't been to Fox Lake. So this is as far I've been in this country as far as I can remember.

David: (Unintelligible)

Joe: There are all my aunts over at Peerless Lake. All the Okemow's. They are my mother's relatives. Also in Loon Lake, Albert Laboucan's (Lynx) wife. She is my aunt also and also Fisner's wife in Slave Lake and Louie Auger's wife at Loon Lake. She's an aunt of mine also. They're all my relatives. And men, there's George Netanantanum at Peerless Lake. He's my brother. He's the only brother I have. We are the only two living from the family.

David: This is fine. So, this ties up these three settlements by relationships. This is good to know. Now, another thing have you heard or know anything about the treaty commissioner coming to this area getting the old people to sign any paper, giving up the rights to this land and taking scrip or treaty? Have you ever heard of anything about this?

Joe: No, I never did. No, never.

David: Well, that's about all. This is the same answer I've received from other settlements. That the land commissioner

didn't come into these settlements. So, that's it for now and

I want to thank you both for telling me these things. Thank you again.

(End of Interview)

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