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ALBERTA
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ALBERTA
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- This 80 year old man tells how, when presented with the choice of taking treaty or scrip, his family took scrip.

Inter: Julian Gladue, how old are you?

Julian: 80 last fall.

Inter: 80. The date is January 17th, Trout Lake. Time is 7:20. Do you take treaty?

Julian: No, I am a scrip man.

Inter: Aye? Oh, you accepted scrip?

Julian: Yes.

Inter: But you would remember the treaty at that time?

Julian: That's what I said, when the treaty was first made, the Indian treaty, that I don't remember. When scrip was being given out for two years, is only what I remember. When scrip was being given out for two years, is only what I remember. But I remember that though. I am not bragging what I am saying right now. A salesman brought in a box made of cloth. Also a saw for lumber. I thought that was a lot. I had nothing.

Inter: Yes.

Julian: And one old lady that we lived with, she was Metis, she also accepted scrip. She had put it in her bundle. Long ago, there were those striped blankets. White blankets. That kind, she put into her bundle. That was all of her scrip.

Inter: She carried that bundle?

Julian: Yes. She carried that bundle. Only that and she wasn't overburdened.

Inter: Yes.

Julian: That was scrip.

Inter: Were the people given a choice if they wanted?

Julian: Yes.

Inter: To accept Indian treaty or...

Julian: At first they were given a choice so some of them were from Elk Lake. Only a few understood the transaction. Just

like my father was one of them. About three others were here from Elk Lake. From there only a few knew what it was. They had heard of it. So, some of them didn't accept right away. They discussed it a lot, I think. The next time they arrived later because there was treaty every year for the treaty Indians. Later on some people arrived. They were special representatives of scrip. They were Metis people from Elk Lake, who followed up on scrip. They carried money with them. Nobody know what money was here. I heard some of them folded the money in half and then counted it. Then they said it was so much money. The Indians didn't know anything about money. This was the first time some of them saw money. Later on, he know about it. Right from the beginning the people faced hardships.

Finally it was said that we were going to get assistance. This was quite a while ago now. That is the time that I am referring to. What I have often talked about is these old women who haven't any husbands, or an old man who isn't married. There were no food rations. Only the annual treaty money for treaty Indians. After that they would carry in a small bundle. That wouldn't last them for one year. It was five dollars for every person. This wasn't enough for a year, that a person could carry on their back. Even though this was their assistance. Some of us just got scrip. For a long time there was nothing.

Finally, there was some assistance coming, it was said. That wasn't very long ago, so to speak. I had already been here for a long time. Finally, old age pension arrived upon me. I was given a little over two hundred dollars which included some back pay. At first it was only twenty-five dollars was

given out. This is old age pension. Yes.

At first it was only twenty-five dollars, why I know is because we used to live with one of my grandmothers. We used to live with her and her husband. My grandmother got her pension first before my grandfather. I used to travel for her, that is why I know. Not long after that, there was an additional amount. Finally it was 30 dollars, and so on. This still exists in increasing amounts. We did not get an equal amount at first. And like I mentioned earlier about feeling sorry for the elderly people, the old women should ask for a little more assistance, because they can't help themselves in any way. All they can do is pay for their bill at the store.

There are no food rations. There has always been hardships on earth for these type of people, ever since I can remember.

Inter: Yes, for these elderly women.

Julian: Yes, more so, for these elderly women. If they don't ask for a little assistance, then what can they do?

Inter: Then they will starve.

Julian: That's what I remember of the earlier times. That's not too long ago when I was already a full grown boy. That was still in existence.

Inter: I guess there were many people who didn't know about scrip, and what it was.

Julian: That's what I mean.

Inter: They didn't know they were selling their livelihood.

Julian: That's what I mean, they didn't know. Some from Lac la Biche knew about it. There were about three elderly people here from Elk Lake, my father was one of them. So these three people knew about this. They were the interpreters at first. And for the people here, they knew less. Those were the interpreters that told the people about the treaties. At the beginning, there were more people who accepted treaty. There weren't that many Metis, and still today. There are many treaties.

And what I always say, it isn't because there were many people that there are that many now in Wabasca. There couldn't have been more than ten men. Now look at the number on Wabasca. I don't know if there were more than ten men in Wabasca. Those ten men's descendants now fill up the town. That's how much the population has increased. That's what I always say, there are many of them.

Inter: But many families broke up by some members of the family accepting scrip, and the others accepted treaty.

Julian: Yes, that happened here. The same thing happened here. That has often been mentioned here.

Inter: Yes.

Julian: We hear of it occasionally. They often talk about that. And when a treaty marries a white man, meaning a treaty woman. That is often discussed. Some wish to get off the reserve and some wish to get in.

Inter: Do you remember or were you present at the signing of the treaty?

Julian: Do you mean only when the scrip was being given?

Inter: Yes.

Julian: I remember only from there. But the signing of the treaty, no.

Inter: No?

Julian: That is what I remember but I wasn't going to go and stay there. I was only there when they brought in the scrip. As soon as it got dark we children were called in so we wouldn't hang around.

Inter: And were you one of them who was given scrip?

Julian: Yes, and two of my younger brothers, no, one younger brother, my mother and father. I was the one that my father gave me scrip.

Inter: Hmm, hmm.

Julian: No more than \$60.00 a person. That's how much each was worth. Some were 40 dollars. I guess they were the ones who didn't know anything. Metis, treaties both went after scrip.

Inter: Hmm, hmm.

Julian: Some became just like Kings from that. That's the way it has to be.

Inter: Yes.

Julian: But nobody became rich from that, the only thing is they cheated their fellow man. They committed a sin, I guess.

Inter: Yes. (laugh)

Julian: I guess that will be all.

(End of Interview)

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