This is the first tape that I made outside of Winnipeg. The opening of it is children's voices of Grade I, Scanterbury school. It gives an excellent example, in the children's careful and artificial enunciation, of the painstaking work of the female teacher in ironing out all distinctive speech sounds, to arrive at 'standard' Manitoba speech. This is why,
throughout the province, the Indians who had been sent out to school (and white children too) had little or no trace of 'Bungi'. The other side of the tape is of a mother's meeting at the Indian school where they, together with the teacher, were planning a school picnic. The white male teacher's voice predominates, but the conversation as a whole is a confusion of several voices. Useless.

A friend of mine, Margaret C., who knew Scanterbury took me to see Herbie Sinclair, a very old man, who was living in a little shanty behind an Indian home, whose family obviously looked after the old man with some affection. The young woman who came with us to talk with him was called Sally. There is some interest in the contrasting voices. The little one-room place was airy and clean, the door open, and the birds can be heard every once in a while. Herbie is difficult to follow, hard of hearing. Generally a poor tape.
Sally: Tell her about when you used to go fishing and that, and where you used to stay.

Herbie: One night we fell in that creek.
Margaret: You fell in?
Herbie: We were coming along, and we fell right through the creek.

Sally: You used to play at dances, eh Herbie?
Herbie: Yes. (Inaudible) I had a good time there. Used to... Pat's wife would come and wake me in the morning and I would go and wash my face, and wash. Told them it was too soon to wash. (laughter) They had me in a chair -- big chair -- I don't want to turn it, turn over that chair. I had a good time there.

Sally: He used to play for weddings. You've played for lots of weddings, Herbie?
Herbie: Yes.

Sally: Who's weddings did you play for?
Herbie: Oh, lots. Can't remember the name of it. (Inaudible)

Margaret: I wonder how old Herbie is.
Sally: Some people say he is about 97 or 98, and he said he is about 102. I believe that. He's the oldest man on the reserve. Because he was already married and had kids and this captain that was here was young and getting married.

Margaret: You don't play for the weddings any more now?
Herbie: I am too old for that now. I can play, but I don't go to dances.
Margaret: Do you fish much along the river?

Herbie: I don't fish, no. (Inaudible). I went to the Moss River and I was coming back, I fell in, fishing. I caught a willow and I got out and I fall in again another place! (Inaudible) I was sick here, once.

Sally: Do you have lots of visitors?

Herbie: Oh yeah, sometimes. There is a fellow comes from Selkirk, to come and see me. There is a fellow, my grandchildren are nearly all killed. Gordie.

Sally: Oh, yes.

Herbie: Fall down in a trap, and the boys, there was four boys.

Sally: Is he in the hospital?

Herbie: He's out there yet. His brother went to go and see him today, the other day.

Sally: Did you ever get in any fights, Herbie? Any fights when you was young?

Herbie: Yeah.

Sally: Did you used to fight guys when you was young?

Herbie: Oh yeah, lots of times. (laughs) I only got a black eye once, at Selkirk there. I was working there in Selkirk. I had a place there, and that Baker, they were looking for a man there. They put that man under the seat there like, (inaudible). I never seen him.

Sally: Tell her about the time you played all night at Johnny Cannes.

Herbie: Oh, at the wedding?

Sally: Yeah.

Herbie: I played all night long.

Margaret: Is that right?

Herbie: I had a man holding for me in Selkirk. And John Northrop was there and when I come back I was that tired that I was (inaudible). By golly I was tired. (Inaudible).

Margaret: Did you have something to drink to help you along?

Herbie: No.

Sally: No? You didn't have any home brew?
Herbie: No. Oh, of course I drink at that wedding there, John Northrop.

Margaret: Yeah.

Herbie: Yeah.

Margaret: I guess you would, yes.

Herbie: Used to come and give us a drink while, once in a while because my partner was called, my partner was also called Northrop. Got drunk. By gosh, I was tired and had to go now.

(Inaudible)

Sally: This woman wants you to talk Indian for her. Talk to me in Indian and I'll answer you back. Talk Indian, she wants you to talk Indian for her.

Herbie: (Indian).

Sally: Some more.

Herbie: (Indian).

Sally: Talk Indian, Machoom, she wants you to talk Indian.

Herbie: (Indian).

Sally: Some more. Tell us something in Indian, tell us a story in Indian.

Herbie: I got no stories.

Sally: Well, tell us something you used to do but say it in Indian. Tell us something you done a long time ago but say it in Indian.

Herbie: I never done anything.

Sally: (Laughs) What did you used to do a long time ago when you were young, but say it in Indian.

Margaret: Tell him about fishing.

Herbie: Oh, I used to skate.

Sally: But say it in Indian.

Herbie: (Indian).

Sally: And what's fishing in Indian?

Herbie: Fishing?

Sally: Yeah, say it in Indian.

Herbie: (Indian).
Margaret: We don't want to worry him.

Herbie: I stayed at Selkirk a long while.

Sally: What did you do in Selkirk, Machoom?

Herbie: I was sick. Course I got better. This fellow come along from day to day, come and see me.

Sally: What about trapping, Machoom, talk about trapping.

Herbie: Oh, it is gone. That's trapping. I used to trap.

Sally: You lived here a long time?

Herbie: Me?

Sally: Yeah, all your life?

Herbie: I lived over in town, north here.

Sally: Yeah, but in Scanterbury?

Herbie: Oh yeah.

Margaret: Were you born here?

Herbie: No.

Margaret: Where?

Sally: Where were you born, Machoom?

Herbie: At, what do you call that place?

Sally: Selkirk?

Herbie: Yeah. Born there. I used to go and play at dances, play all night. Play all night I get seven dollars.

(Inaudible). Oh, I used to have good times. I used to see them people that are sick, walk around, fine old time there. They sent for me last year to go and visit. I didn't go. Yes, was all over, I was north too. I was in the boats, yes.

Sally: Did you ever go to Grand Rapids, Herbie?

Herbie: Yeah, went all over in the boat. And the (inaudible).

Margaret: Thanks very much for seeing us.

(End of Interview)