Martha: My father was working on one of the boats (inaudible) and that is where we stayed for one winter and started to cut wood there. And from there he made up his mind to move over to Jackhead so we moved to Jackhead. We stayed there for two years and there was no schooling for any of us and I never had any schooling, you know. I only went two years in Selkirk and I've never went in a school since. And then my mother says one time, "Would you like to learn to read and write Martha?" I says, "I sure would." They wanted me to go to school when I was 14 but I was too big. I said I didn't want to go because
all the other ones are smaller and then she said, "Well, you can learn." So I started to learn out of a newspaper and it is surprising how much I can read and write, you know. Of course I guess I don't word a letter like I should but...

And then from there we moved to Fisher River and we stayed there for one summer and from there we moved across to the narrows here. And that is where we stayed and that is where half of my sisters and brothers were born, across there. Twelve of us in the family. I'm the oldest. And then we moved to Matheson Island and that is where the kids got their education, here.

And then I got married to Mr. Walter Bennett here, in 1927 I got married. And then we raised a family here. And then my children went to school here and then they couldn't go any higher and we couldn't afford to send them any other places, because my boy is in the airforce and he went to grade 10, but we had to go by correspondence. And my youngest daughter attended school and then from here we had to send her to Rapid(?) Point. She had to take correspondence and she is a qualified teacher today. She is married and lives in Riverton and that is where she is teaching. She has been married for two years now. And then another girl that was, they have all... I am pretty sure that it is a help, you know, to have the high school here. I am sorry to know that it is not here any more. It was taken away.

Margaret: It has been here?

Martha: Sure, there was high school here. First class high school teacher. And they took him away now. Now they have to send the children now to this Cranberry Portage. Yes, and a lot of the families are against it. They don't want it there because my little grandson has to help his mother, you know, and he is up to thirteen years old now and he is quitting school. And she had got a few cattle and my son works away all the time, so that is the trouble now. Now she doesn't know what to do. And there is other ones on the island too that don't want to send their children so what are they going to do for an education?

Margaret: I didn't realize that they were closing down something here. I thought it was just a new...

Martha: No, no, they got the high schools and everything here and they are closing them down. They had a petition sent in but the Dr. Johnson said that there was just nothing he could do. Now he already bought that site out there for the children to attend there. And the people are against their children going away from home anyway. They can't... They need them home.

Margaret: Well, of course, most of them do have to. I mean, that's not... As I was telling you, I was at Berens River,
Norway House, Cross Lake, Wabowden, Churchill. Well, they all have to send their children to Portage(?) Point so that it is not the same thing for them.

Martha: Yes, yes. Well, I know from long ago that there was loads of children from home, but seems to me that those children from those homes, they don't really have nothing to stay home for anyway. They have nothing to, you know. They're going to school and have their education. But in certain places here, the children are needed home. Like my son's child there, he is really needed home because his mother has no other help, when your father is in the bush all winter cutting pulp.

Margaret: I didn't know that. I've noticed the fine-looking school.

Martha: Yeah. It is a sad thing to know that they are closing up the school, I say, because there is a lot of children that I suppose aren't going to their high school this year, after all going through all this, going up this high into school. And some of them can make use of it I'm pretty sure. And some of them will make use of their schooling anyway. Maybe not all of them. But some of the children just love to get away anyway to go, you know. Like Pine Dock, there are families there that they need, they don't need their children home.

Margaret: Do the Pine Dock children come over here?

Martha: Yes, yes, they were coming over here and going to high school here. And of course every weekend they could go home. But these other children are going away and they are not coming home until Christmas and then not getting home until Easter again, you see. I don't know how it is going to turn out. I'm hoping that for my side, that the kids could continue on here. There has been educated children leaving here, you know, from these schools. I say right in even Selkirk there is a lot of children that don't go through their schooling there. I know my brother Charlie, you know -- that's the one you were talking to -- his girls, they had high school here and they went to town but they didn't continue on with it. They got work, you know, started working. But I say that, as much as I know... I never had no schooling but I can see how my daughter is really joyous in her work, teaching school. She is, and Warren, my second oldest son, he is in the airforce. Well, he just, he was good in school, and my other son Johnny, he was really good in school too, but there was no high school at that time around here and couldn't afford to send him any place, you know. Costs to send them away.

Margaret: Oh, yes it does. Well, you came here then about 1930? Is that right? Or earlier?

Martha: Oh no, it is more than that. My brother was here yesterday and he told me he was 42 years old and he said that he was born across here. And that is how long we have -- you
see I am 60. And I was just only a kid of nine when we came to
the lake first and then we lived in Fisher River one year and
Jackhead for two years and then we moved across here and that
is, I would be about 12 years old then. And then all the rest
of the children -- there was only four in the family when we
moved to the lake here. No, there was six of us, two girls and
four boys. And then my mother had six more children after
that. And my father died on the island in 1944 and my mother
died four years ago now, she died.

Margaret: Well, how many of you are there living on the island
year around?

Martha: Oh, gosh, I don't even know that, but there is quite a
lot of families living around here. I couldn't really know.

Margaret: Two hundred? Three hundred?

Martha: No, there wouldn't be that many, I don't suppose.

Margaret: Well, how do you manage in the wintertime? I suppose
it is all right when the lake is frozen.

Martha: Yeah, cross on the ice.

Margaret: Tractor trains, bombardiers?

Martha: Yes, yes. Cars have been running back and forth now
for two or three years on the island here.

Margaret: With skis on?

Martha: No, no, just a car. The ice, the snow never gathers.
Oh, yeah. The snow don't gather on the ice very much. It is
just when it drifts up and then they come across right up the
hill. No, they've been having the cars running back and forth.
After the storm last year my son went and plowed the road out.
Made a good road for the cars again, like he has a big tractor,
you know. And he plowed them all out.

Margaret: And in the summertime, you get boats coming here?

Martha: Oh, yeah, lots of them running back and forth all the
time. There is no danger of can't get out. You know, one
thing about it, it is awkward lots of times. They were talking
about putting a ferry across, you know. But first they would
have to get the roads fixed up on the island if people wanted
to come on the island with their car, but it could be much
handier. Anyway there is a lot of people comes but they put a
stop to that so I don't know.

Margaret: Well, I understood that there was a road that I
could come across here, just as you can go on to Hecla, you
know.
Martha: No, they didn't put that yet. They didn't put it yet. They were supposed to put it but people are hoping that they will put it, you know. Because if we wanted to ship cattle in off the island, there would be nothing to get them across, you see. But this way you got to drag them down on a boat and drag them off of it. But if you have a ferry they just walk them down on it and walk them off. It would be much handier. The truck would come right on the island for them, you see.

Margaret: Who are some of the older families on the island?

Martha: That's living here?

Margaret: Yes.

Martha: Well, Mrs. Whiteway is one old lady.

Margaret: Oh, has she got a brother at Berens River?

Martha: Well, that wouldn't be her brother. Her people really comes from Loon Straits here -- her sisters and her brothers. I don't know if she has got -- oh yes, she's got one brother across here, Ben Monkman.

Margaret: Oh, that's her brother.

Martha: That is her brother, yeah. But that's a younger family, you see.

Margaret: The Whiteway would be her husband's family?

Martha: Yes, yes, that's right. I think that is her relations at Berens River through her husband.

Margaret: Well, he took me all around by boat at Berens River. He was awfully good. He knew the, you know, the people that lived there and took me around and chatted with the people.

Martha: Old Mrs. Everett down here is another old lady. She will be nearly ninety. And she has been living on this island just about all her life.

Margaret: Has she?

Martha: Yeah.

Margaret: There are Everetts in Berens River too.

Martha: Well, that is where her husband was from. That was her husband came from Berens River, yeah. He is dead now. She lives down here. She is about near ninety now, I think, the old lady. She is quite smart. She has got a little red house a way down there.

Margaret: Would she mind if I dropped in and chatted with her?
Martha: Oh no, she wouldn't. You know Mrs. Ben Monkman across there, the big grey house?

Margaret: No.

Martha: Oh, you didn't, well that is her daughter.

Margaret: They were away today. Was it a Mrs. Johnson who lives over there too?

Martha: Mrs. Settee, Raymond Settee's wife.

Margaret: No, I think she said her name was Johnson. She had just been to church with her grandchildren. And...

Martha: That is Mrs. Monkman. She brought her grandchildren. Mrs. Monkman came over here with her children this morning. That is all her adopted children, you know, the welfare children. She came over. Well, that is her mother lives over here. They were at church this morning too, yeah.

Margaret: Well, are there other Settees here too?

Martha: Yes. You see we were raised on this island and we made homes, just as my son bought the place from my brother Charlie, he lives over here. My brother Clifford lives up here. My brother Gilbert, the oldest brother -- he is out working in Ontario now along for the summer -- but his home is up here, you see. There is nobody home there. He took his wife out there and family is all grown up now and so, that's all there is.

Margaret: Well, the Monkmans and the Settees and...

Martha: Johnsons are on the island here too, yeah.

Margaret: Johnsons.

Martha: And then the minister Smith. That is mostly... Oh yes, there is lots of Mowatts on here too.

Margaret: Oh, I didn't... I wanted to meet some of them too.

Martha: Yes, the Mowatts.

Margaret: That is another... I've had this strange feeling, the more I travel around, all of the north is one big community. And there's somebody's cousin is married to somebody else's cousin.

Martha: You see, Mrs. Mowatt, the mother of those children, was my first cousin. Her mother and my mother were sisters. And they moved out here because my husband had a little fishing business, you know, and they came out. They were so hard up on the farm I guess, you know, and they wanted to come out and
fish. And Mr. Mowatt was a very smart man and so was all his boys, very wonderful workers, you know. And one of them is building a new home right now beside of us here -- Allan Mowatt. Of course that is the oldest boy, I guess. And he has got his wife and that is all, they don't have any family.

Margaret: Well, I would like very much to visit them around again, to kind of get a sound picture of the whole thing like. Because, I mean, after all this is fairly unusual. The island is up at the end here and it's not the common everyday little town that you find. How many families would have been here when your people moved over? Do you remember?

Martha: Well, except the Mowatts, there was no Mowatts here when we moved here. But all the rest of them were all here.

The Johnsons weren't here either. They moved here about ten, twelve years ago, I guess. And just, we were the first Settees. And Monkmans, there was always Monkmans on this island as long as I can remember. And the Thomas's and different ones like that.

Margaret: Now the Settee family is very well known and has been... It's one of the early families of Manitoba.

Martha: Yes, it is. My father, his grandfather was an Anglican minister.

Margaret: Yes, the Reverend Edward Settee.

Martha: James Settee.

Margaret: James Settee.

Martha: Yes, and my father's father was married to an Irish woman, Miss Todd. And they had -- my father was a twin, and one more son they had. And one of the twins died and then my grandmother died. And then my grandfather got married again. He got married to a halfbreed woman with lots of Indian blood in her, you see. And then they raised another family. But once in a while I see a piece in the paper about them too, you know, in the Anglican paper. And then they taught all over. This is how my father could talk Saulteaux and Cree and very well because he travelled around with his grandfather, you see. Yes, all over Norway House and all over. He went all over. And he could talk very, very good. He could talk... My mother couldn't talk though. She was Scotch, couldn't talk no Cree.

(End of Interview)

INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDEX TERM</th>
<th>IH NUMBER</th>
<th>DOC NAME</th>
<th>DISC #</th>
<th>PAGE #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>