- Mentions certain stories told to her as a child.
Evelyn: What is your ancestral history? The previous generations.
Eva: I don't remember. (laughs) Religion.
Evelyn: Pardon?
Eva: Religion. Just something like a...
Evelyn: Your ancestors?
Eva: My aunt?
Evelyn: Your ancestors, your great-grandparents, your great-great-grandparents, their great-great...
Eva: Oh, they were good. Them are the ones that always taught me, eh, for everything. Like, behave. No wrong, nothing. Don't do that, don't do this, do that, do this. Mostly the church, that was most part of it. I used to go up
there all the time, like the clubs, homemaker's clubs. My auntie and I, we used to go down, you know, house to house trying to, everybody would be faint.

Evelyn: Do you remember anything about, or heard anything of your previous generations?

Eva: No.

Evelyn: So your granddad never said anything about your great-granddad.

Eva: No, no. Not my, only my great-great-grandmother. I hardly remember her though, I don't. That's the, only the necklaces that she made -- that's the only thing I remember.

Evelyn: So you never heard any stories about them?

Eva: No. My grandma used to tell me that she wasn't from Cutler, or Serpent River, or whatever they call that. They were from the United States somewhere. That's all she told me; she never told me, you know, what place -- maybe she don't remember either, you know, that's all she told me. And my great-great-grandfather, he was around in Winnipeg, so I hardly remember him. He used to lay on the floor but he never wanted to lay on the bed, you know, he always wanted, I don't know, the hard floor. I guess he got cold from on the trap line. But I used to sit there when I was just a little girl. I just don't remember him saying anything. Either my great-great-grandmother. That's all I remember is that she made me necklace, that's all.

Evelyn: So, what is the name of your reserve again?

Eva: Serpent River, Serpent River Indian Reserve. It's around in Cutler area.

Evelyn: How did the reserve get it's name?

Eva: That's... reserve from... that supposed to be Indian reserve, like at Cutler, well, they used to put a station there. So they called that Cutler, I think that probably that's why.

Evelyn: That wasn't the reserve you were born on?

Eva: No, no, that's on the other side of Sudbury. And my auntie -- I went and visit her that time, not so long ago. So her and I went for a walk. So she told me that there used to be a little place here, "This is the place where you were born," she told me. That's all she told me, she never says anything about my mom or...

Evelyn: So you never stayed on a reserve, right?
Eva: No. I was adopted by my grandma right after my mom died. Then I hardly remember her, 'cause she was in coffin(?). Ever since then... Then when I come to again I forgot all about my mother, and I call mother, there, my grandma.

Evelyn: What was your family's reaction to the War?

Eva: Well, my dad was in the army, the First War, and he went overseas. And he come back, then met my mother. No, I don't remember that there. My grandma never told me what was happening, you know, she never told me.

Evelyn: So it didn't affect you...

Eva: No.

Evelyn: ...you very much.

Eva: Like, this way. My grandmother married this guy, that's Joe, that's supposed to be my grandfather -- no, was supposed to be my uncle, that's my grandfather. Because my grandmother married him. And then my grandma had a son before she married, and it was my dad. And then my grandma had a sister-in-law, her husband's sister, and that's my mother. And then my grandmother didn't like her son to marry. It's like a, she thought it was all in the family -- that was my grandma's sister-in-law was my mother. And my uncle, that's supposed to be my real uncle, yes. But just that my grandmother married him, and my grandmother's son, that's his stepfather. So my grandmother didn't like my mother, so one day when she had me, then I guess they went away someplace, on this side Temagami -- that's where he had a job, Skeed(?) they called it. So, then my auntie told me there was my sister there, but I don't remember her, and she was only nine months old when she died -- before my mother, then my mother passed away -- no my dad went and got my auntie (phone rings)...

Evelyn: Your mother's auntie...

Eva: No, no. My dad went and got... Well, my dad went and got my cousins, my auntie, my other auntie. Went and got her I guess to work for my dad, eh. I guess my mother was pretty sick, so I guess, well, she was there. My auntie came, so she looked after me. And then my sister already gone, she died, eh. So I guess my mother passed away, then they went back, and they went back to Cutler and that's where I was living ever since. Like my grandmother didn't want her to marry her son, eh, that's supposed to be her sister-in-law. So, like, my grandma hated her -- that's my mother. It's my mother's brother married my grandma. I don't know, there's so many ways that we...

Evelyn: It gets confusing. Was your, were you affected by the Depression?

Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: How were you affected?

Eva: What do you mean by that?

Evelyn: The Depression, after the War, there was a very...

Eva: No, no, I don't remember that. No, no, I don't remember that.

Evelyn: Why do you think you weren't affected?

Eva: No, I don't think so. That was something, I don't know, geez, I don't know.

Evelyn: You were trapping and you had enough food?

Eva: Well, I don't remember there, no. Well, my dad was working, well, that was before the War was over. She had me after the War -- before the War, I don't know anything about it. When he come back from overseas, then he met my mother. That's all I remember, I don't know anything about it. I know that my dad went overseas, I know that.

Evelyn: Did you have any sort of festivals that you celebrated?

Eva: Celebrated for what?

Evelyn: I mean, with you and your grandparents. Did you celebrate any festivals at all?

Eva: No, no. We never did, not that kind.

Evelyn: So you didn't have any sort of holidays?

Eva: No. First, after we come back from the bush, then we stay at home, well, from the garden then. And then we went picking blueberries -- we never had a holiday, no.

Evelyn: So you never had anything like Christmas?

Eva: I don't even know what you call that Christmas. The only thing that I remember is getting dolls or something. Dad drinking, fighting.

Evelyn: So you didn't have anything like Thanksgiving?

Eva: I don't remember that either.

Evelyn: Did you have any sort of day where you -- maybe your parents did something, your grandparents did something extraordinary?

Eva: No, no.
Evelyn: So no traditional practices at all?
Eva: I just, that there, what I told you, that's all. That's all I know.
Evelyn: Did you ever learn any Indian songs?
Eva: Just one.
Evelyn: How does it go?
Eva: It's just something like a hunt song, like not to go that, not to go... Be nice to people...
Evelyn: Is that what it means?
Eva: Yeah, and watch your soul, don't... It's something like a, don't hurt it, you know, that's all.

Evelyn: So, your parents never tell you any sort of stories as a way of legends and things? Did you ever learn any legends?
Eva: Well, she told me, it's a long, long time, stories. This one we had for sitting down, like, maybe after meals, you know. That's just something like you, for you to look ahead, like not to go wrong or anything like that, just like... Well, I had a stepmother that really hated me.

And there was a stepmother -- she hated that little boy. And then when he was hungry and he wanted something to eat, that stepmother just threw that plate at him, right in the sand, all the sand went and, you know, through it. So that boy just walked away and he disappeared forever. And they find out that the sun took him away, because the stepmother threw that plate at him.

Something about, you know them old days there, there was no priest. Just like when you give up or something, or maybe a spider, you want to be, like a good faith, eh, and can't do nothing, you can't steal, you can't do anything wrong. That's what you call (inaudible) you give up for something, your spider, whatever you want. If you want to give up a spider, so these days maybe if you're strong enough to be faint, then you'll be able to go up right on top of water, just like a spider. When you're involved in the story, eh.

And there was another long time ago there used to be killing there, a long time ago. And this man here, he wanted some more drinks. I guess they made their own, you know, I don't know what they used, I never find out about it -- how they drunk, you know, and where did they get it. When you want to buy (inaudible) family, you know. So they didn't want to give it to him so he got mad and he shot himself.
And this other family, and this woman here was so jealous, her husband doesn't want to go to work or anything like that, you know. And she's there all the time, even where he works. She'd go there and sit there and this guy, husband, you know, he used to be ashamed, so embarrassed, you know, his wife's sitting... And when he went home, I don't know what happened there. So I guess they must have an argument. So I guess she was going to run out and the husband kill her and shot himself.

So the only thing in the old stories that she used to tell me a long, long time ago is when they used to live in tipis. They never had a house like this, or a log house, whatever. So she even told me that, I guess, my grandma's mother -- when they first come, that white man first come here, they all run away, hiding someplace way out in the bush, you know, when the white man come. They had a hard time to get to know the Indians or the Indians to know the white man. And those bad guys, and then they come around, they sold a gun to the Indians. And some other guys, they getting worried, then some other guys, they sold the drinks to the Indians. Sold them, like the Indians, Ojibways, and the Iroquois, or the Mohawks -- they used to kill each other all the time. They used to, they would never get along, like, the Ojibways, like Iroquois, and Blackfoot, Cree, and Mohawk. There's seven nationality in natives; they used to kill each other. We used to have all kinds of meat, and then I think it was an Iroquois, or a Mohawk, and all they had was corn. And they used to come down there, you know, trading the meat. You know, like moose meat, or fish, whatever -- they used to come down over there. The Mohawks or Iroquois kill a lot of Ojibways. So then, I guess, finally, we had that, I don't know how come, I never heard there, but finally they had a Indian Agent then, eh, a white man. So they had a big, big meeting, you know. I guess they heard about the... kill a lot of Ojibways. So then they had a big meeting -- they should get along, you know, different nationalities.

There's a lot of old stories she told me. So, as... We belong all along the shore, there. And the Iroquois and the Mohawks, they belong way back in the bush. When I used to go out trapping, you know, not so long ago, they still dressed that, you know, those little things there, that Iroquois. Nothing on there and little (inaudible) about that high and the feather here, two feathers. They were still dressed like that not so long ago, I met them way out in the bush.

Evelyn: They dress like that even now?
Eva: I guess so.
Evelyn: With a leather skirt?
Eva: Yeah, no, well, men they just cover that like that, eh.
Evelyn: Oh, leather right there.

Eva: Yeah, at the back. That's how they dressed. That's not so long ago. Way back, way I don't know, past somewhere around Timmins, anyway. Cartier, they call that, on the other side of Cartier. I still wonder if that was an Iroquois. And one time there, he come then down to Spanish River, they call it, Spanish, Ontario, not so long ago. You already have the log houses. They had that reserve there and they come down. They got Joseph McGregor's mother, the Iroquois took her -- wherever they took her and the other two ladies, they cut their tits off and left them to die there on the shore.

Evelyn: They cut their breasts off?

Eva: Yeah. And the baby.

Evelyn: Killed the baby?

Eva: Stabbed it; just saved that Joseph McGregor's mother. I don't know if she is still alive, maybe she's still in the Iroquois Indians. That's what they used to do, they used come down there and steal somebody else's woman.

Evelyn: They don't do that now, though?

Eva: No, it's pretty strict now. One time, I don't know where, this Iroquois Indian, oh, Iroquois I think is the worst. Oh he says, "I had (inaudible). So you want to kill me?" (laughs) You kill all the people, my people." He never said a word, he just walked away fast, because he really got scared. I should have never told that, but he was kind of a haywired drinking. You know, every time I walk on the street there, especially where the Sally Ann is, I walk around there. You see one Indian girl, Cree Indian. Oh boy, sitting on the sidewalk, drunk. Try to take her home, couldn't take her home. Kind of feel sorry, young girls, you know, when I see them. Oh, maybe they don't even know how to be sociable drinker.

That's all I know, like up in that, what you call, Sault St. Marie, Michigan, the Sault St. Mary River, there. We see all them there, where all them Indians come down -- Ojibways, Chippewas and Ojibways. There's a reserve there, nobody lives there -- it belongs to the Indians. Right on the river, that's the Canadian River on this side, and States, Sault St. Marie, Michigan River over there on that side. It's right in the middle of there, it used to be, Indians used to live there a long time ago. There used to be a lot of history there; what year they come down, what year they were living there, they tell you everything there. I go there sometimes, but everytime I went to (inaudible), you see that big boat coming in there. When they coming in, they go down, they come in.

Evelyn: Like docks.

Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: Barges.
Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: Locks.
Eva: Locks.

Evelyn: So that means these were things that were told by your grandparents about the relationship between Indians?

Eva: Yeah. I don't know if she was Ojibway -- maybe she was a Chippewa. My grandma's mother. (Tape is shut off)

Evelyn: That's when you first met?

Eva: Well, yeah, my uncle and my grandfather. (laughs) Yeah.

Evelyn: What made you move to Toronto?

Eva: Well, she always calls me sister, and she was adopted by my grandma. Her name is Edna. We were raised together. And then she came to Toronto a long time ago -- oh, about maybe thirty-five years ago. Well, now then I won't bother her. She's not my real sister. I remember when I come to, when I remember, just like waking up... She used to slap my face every, after school, she used to beat me up all the time. She was really jealous of me, just over that red ribbon -- my grandma put a red ribbon on me, in my hair, and ever since that she hated me. Even today, the same thing, never change.

Evelyn: So, you moved to Toronto because of your so-called sister?

Eva: Yeah, but I didn't stay there very long. And I met the people from my home town, they were living in Toronto. Then I met Jo-Anne -- that was my dad's second wife's sister, Jo-Anne. Jo-Anne's sister married my dad.

Evelyn: What were the stories you heard about Toronto before you moved here? Did you know about...?

Eva: No, I didn't know anything about Toronto.

Evelyn: So did you come here with your so-called sister?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: What was your first impression?

Eva: What do you mean?

Evelyn: What did you think the first time you came? Were you
scared?

Eva: Oh, yeah. I was scared. So then I went for a walk one time. I seen a friend of mine from my home town, so he asked me to go to the hotel with him -- with her. Then she left and I was still sitting there, so this guy come along -- he was a white man. Then I didn't know what to say and I was scared to go home. And still I was scared of him either, I didn't trust him. And anyway it was only about $.40 street car that time, so I got on anyway. I don't know where I'm going, just to run away from that guy, anyway. Then I got off at Pete and Matthew. So there was the Indian woman I seen in the... She says, "Are you lost?" I said, "Yeah, I'm lost." "Oh, I live here," she says, "come on in." She's an Indian woman, she's from Wikwemikong. She was nice. And then after a while she says to me, "Why don't you stay with us? Me, I got a bad leg here, I can't scrub. At least you can scrub for me, anyways." "Oh yeah, I'll do that," I said. And they don't have very much money. "Oh, I'll get a job, anyway, some way and somehow," I says. I'd like to, I don't even know where the Unemployment Office is. So she took me over there, before Christmas, I guess. The end of November -- that's when I was helping them tie those Christmas cards in the Post Office.

So I went back home, not home, I went back to Sault St. Marie. So, I was well known over there. I was there about two or three years. I was staying with that Theresa Moore. I didn't stay there very long, then I come back again, I went someplace else. Then I didn't stay here very long I stayed up by Ellis (?) for a while, didn't stay here. Then I went to Hamilton and that's where I got a job. So I worked there for four years.

Evelyn: Did you like Hamilton?
Eva: Oh yeah, it was nice.
Evelyn: Did you like Toronto?
Eva: Well, now, then, I'm getting used to Toronto.
Evelyn: But back then, did you like it?
Eva: Getting used to Toronto, I know how to get around now.
Evelyn: When you were younger, did you like it?
Eva: Oh no, no. I didn't even stay here very long when I first come with my sister, my foster sister, I might as well call her.
Evelyn: What did you think of all the high buildings? Have you ever seen high buildings like this before?
Eva: Yeah, the person that used to live, I used to go and
visit Olie(?), my head just go like that.

Evelyn: Dizzy.

Eva: I was glad I got this, I got this place in emergency, after I come out of the hospital. Fist time I moved in here I didn't have nothing, I slept on the floor here.

(END OF SIDE A)
(END OF TAPE)

INDEX

INDEX TERM              IH NUMBER    DOC NAME    DISC #      PAGE #

CITIES
-impressions of         IH-OT.031A  EVA OWL #2  119      13,14

FAMILY
-extended               IH-OT.031A  EVA OWL #2  119      4,5

STORIES AND STORYTELLING (GENERAL)
-intertribal warfare    IH-OT.031A  EVA OWL #2  119      9,10,11

PROPER NAME INDEX

PROPER NAME              IH NUMBER    DOC NAME    DISC #      PAGE #

CUTLER, ONT.             IH-OT.031A  EVA OWL #2  119      3
SERPENT RIVER RESERVE, ONT. IH-OT.031A  EVA OWL #2  119      3