Evelyn: The following is an interview with Eva Owl of Naughton Reserve. The interview is being conducted in 14 Spadina Road on July 26, 1983, by Evelyn Sit.

Evelyn: When and where were you born?

Eva: I was born in Naughton Reserve April 7, 1920.

Evelyn: Do you have a Indian name?

Eva: My name is Nidanasanook.

Evelyn: And what does it mean?

Eva: It sounds like, Nidanasanook, "summer" like, you know, it's in the summer.
Evelyn: Who told you about this?

Eva: My great-grandfather give me that name, you know, as a little baby.

Evelyn: How were these names given?

Eva: Like the old people used to say that when you were small you used to be sick all the time. Pretty near died at that time, you know. And just my great-grandfather came over, you know, to give me a Indian name. He only put me on seven days for me to get better, or not get better, but for me to get better, seven days, and I got better -- I was dying when they gave me that Indian name.

Evelyn: Is there normally a ceremony when you're given a Indian name?

Eva: I think so. I don't know that much, but my grandfather used to tell me that, what really happened to me. It would have been a long time ago. I was sick all the time.

Evelyn: So there was a ceremony. Do you know who was involved in it?

Eva: My great-grandfather.

Evelyn: Were there normally people that come from the community?

Eva: No, it's just my grandmother, and my grandfather, and my dad, and my auntie, and my great-grandfather's wife.

Evelyn: Why was it important?

Eva: Well, like I said, they wanted me to live longer. They even said that, "She's going to live a long time. She's going to see her grey hair." And I already grey hair.

Evelyn: How big was your family?

Eva: Eh?

Evelyn: How big was your family?

Eva: What do you mean by...

Evelyn: Did you have brothers and sisters?

Eva: No, I just got one, that half-brother.

Evelyn: So what was your home like?

Eva: My home... my grandfather used to be a trapper, we used to live in cabins all the time.
Evelyn: Were you treated strictly?

Eva: Oh, we were raised pretty good, not strict.

Evelyn: Could you describe it?

Eva: What I, I used to be happy where I was living, you know. Nothing to it when I got... weren't poor, we always had something to eat.

Evelyn: What were the roles of men, women, and children?

Eva: Eh?

Evelyn: So were you given a lot of chores?

Eva: I did everything I can for her. I used to love my stepmother as much as I can. I never used to let her scrub and, well, I was only young, eh. I did everything for her. When my brother was born, I was only about fourteen when my brother was born and I did everything for her. And I don't know, she used to hate me. I don't know why she married my dad, because she seen me walking around. She hated me for no reason.

Evelyn: So, were you treated well?

Eva: Oh yes, my grandma, yeah, my grandma and my grandfather.

Evelyn: So they took charge of you?

Eva: Yes.

Evelyn: So what did you do on a typical day, as a way of duty?

Eva: Well, I used to... Like I said there, when the visiting... Like, maybe I go and see some sick people there, and I help them every ways I can.

Evelyn: Even when you were a child?

Eva: No, I was about twelve years old.
Evelyn: Did you have any sort of chores involved in the trapping season?

Eva: Oh no.

Evelyn: So if you were the only child under your grandparents' care, so did you help them?

Eva: I helped them a lot.

Evelyn: By doing what?

Eva: I learned a lot from them, too; making a garden, sometime I go up with my grandfather, going out trapping, or maybe set snares for rabbits, or set the traps for beaver, or everything. I've learned everything, lots. Maybe I can sit here one week and maybe tell you the whole story. And I've learned how to skin a beaver, and learned how to skin deer, or moose. First... Where I started, I used to set the trap for the squirrels, that's where I learned, that's when I was a kid, that's where I learned all that. And I even learned how to make them buck skins.

Evelyn: What did...?

Eva: You throw a, that deer skin, you know, you soak, you clean that and, you know, scrape all that hair, eh. And then you soak them over night, and then you stretch them, you work on it. And then we make a small little tipi and we make a fire, and then we put that skin there to make it nice and brown.

Evelyn: So when you said you set snares...?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: How did you do that?

Eva: Well, we just brought a stick and wherever the tracks are, you know, where they go, just like us, there. We're walking on the street here, eh. Well, same thing with them -- rabbits, or raccoons, or wolves, or fox, or even beavers.

Evelyn: So what did you use to snare them?

Eva: We used a trap for beavers. Snare wires we used for rabbits, or foxes, or sometimes wolf -- I don't know, I never see that, I didn't go that far. But foxes I get.

Evelyn: So how do you... Are there different traps for different animals?

Eva: Oh, yeah. Where you know, we know where they are, eh. Like maybe a beaver, they're in one spot or somewhere -- the same thing with the rabbits, same thing with the fox, or wolves, you know. They only go one trail there, they don't go
Evelyn: So they're pretty easy to catch?
Eva: Yes.
Evelyn: So when you, how do you know where they are?
Eva: Well, we see, sometimes we see their tracks when we go out for a walk like, you know; the same thing with deer. Sometime we chase them.
Evelyn: You taste them?
Eva: Yeah, try to touch them.
Evelyn: What do you mean by tasting them?
Eva: Well, we wanted deer meat. (laughs) You know where there's some of them small little islands -- that's where they sleep. Or maybe some certain spot where they can have for a good meal for them, you know. They always moving one place to another, you know, just like us here, you know -- we don't stay in one place there, we move to another place. Well, it's the same thing with them.
Evelyn: So, you said that you used different traps for different animals.
Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: What kind of traps would you use?
Eva: Well, we use the... I don't know how big they are though. Well, for a raccoon, like, they're about that size, eh, when you open that one up.
Evelyn: Let's, that, that's about...?
Eva: That's, when you open that trap, eh. You step on that and you open it and then you put that...
Evelyn: The middle.
Eva: Yeah. Just like a, you know, them mouse traps? Well, the same thing. Then when they step on it -- you put a little bit, maybe leaves, you know, so they can't see it. Then they step on it and they get caught.
Evelyn: And is that the only kind of trap there is?
Eva: No. There's a, well, fox, I think they are about that wire, about that big, you know.
Evelyn: About, what is that?
Eva: I guess...
Evelyn: A half a centimeter?
Eva: Yeah, I guess so. But rabbit, use the small ones, they are just like this.
Evelyn: So that's about two, or three...?
Eva: Just put that, twist it like that and you put that in there. You put the stick there and then you tie it up, then you put the sticks all around so they won't go that way -- they just go in there, then they get caught.
Evelyn: Go right through it.
Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: So there are a whole bunch of little sticks?
Eva: No, you just put a stick there and then you just put so they won't smell you, or your fingers, or whatever, you know. You got, sometime we wash our hands with that cedar.
Evelyn: Before you lay a trap down?
Eva: Yeah. Yeah, that's lots, some of them, I almost forget now.
Evelyn: Are there any other sorts of traps that you made? Were there any traps that you made?
Eva: No, we bought them in the store. I don't know, I never used to go, my grandfather, where he used to get them. And one time we set a trap for bear. Oh, the chain was about that long.
Evelyn: How long is that? That's about what, four meters?
Eva: Yeah, then you open that -- it's about that big.
Evelyn: You would try to catch a bear?
Eva: Yeah! Papa and I. Oh, I used to call him Papa.
Evelyn: What was the purpose of catching a bear?
Eva: Well, they were good to eat, too.
Evelyn: Oh, the meat.
Eva: Oh, yeah -- maybe we made a floor mat, you know, put that bear.
Evelyn: Oh, a rug!
Eva: Yeah. Sometime we used that, you know. So every
time we're camping someplace, you know, we used that, eh, so we
wouldn't catch cold from the ground, like.

Evelyn: So what could you prepare with bear meat? How would
you prepare it?

Eva: Well, we do everything with that. Maybe made a fat,
like, you know, made some kind of a... What do you call that
sauce there? (Inaudible) the fat from the one you put in the
oven there, they make a lard out of it. Yeah, they made a lard
out of it, you know. They used to make up pie crusts with
that, too, out of that bear fat. Gee, was it ever good.

Evelyn: Out of bear fat you would make pie crusts?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: And what else could you use with the bear?

Eva: We made soup out of that too, you know, like maybe a
corn soup, you know.

Evelyn: You used the meat?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: Were there any other ways?

Eva: My grandma used to roast it. I used to love a bear
paws. I could eat right today again. It's just like a, what
you call, pork hocks, yeah, same thing.

Evelyn: What other animals did you catch besides bear?

Eva: We used to catch wolves. We didn't get very much,
but they'd steal our rabbits, our meat, deer meat or something,
when we made a, where you put some kind of a... We didn't have
no fridge at that time, you know. We used to dig it
underground and keep it nice and cool. Or sometimes we smoke
them fish, I mean fish and meat, so it won't spoil.

Evelyn: So how did you go about smoking them?

Eva: Well, we cook them really good, you know, after you
smoke them. Same thing with fish, or sometime we get salt
water, you know, you soak that in, that fish for all winter,
yeah, for all winter.

Evelyn: And that would give you what, salt fish?

Eva: Yeah. We soak that when, when we ready to cook that
we soak that overnight. Take all that salt, you know, then you
washed it good and then you boil it, or maybe you fried it.
You just put that pepper on it and no salt. It's already
salted. It's good.
Evelyn: How long would something like a bear last you for?

Eva: We used to have... We didn't bother them too much, you know, because they -- too much fat on them. And then that bear grease and then you put on your head, and they never did that to me.

Evelyn: Bear grease?

Eva: Yeah, you put it on your hair there, you know. They say that you'll never have a grey hair.

Evelyn: If you put bear grease on your...

Eva: But they never did on mine. But they did, well, I'll say that she was my foster sister. My grandma adopted her before they adopted me. She was the first one that was there. She must be about sixty-six years old now.

Evelyn: So they put bear grease on your hair?

Eva: Yeah, and you'll never have grey hair. My grandfather, he never had a grey hair. He died when he was fifty-six years old. Same thing with my grandma, she never had a grey hair.

Evelyn: So when you... What were your other basic diets?

Eva: Well, I don't know anything about that. Well, I never learned that, no.

Evelyn: I mean, like, what did you eat? Consider what your basic diet was?

Eva: Oh, we never used to get fat -- only moose meat makes you fat, yes, but any other meat, no.

Evelyn: Did you ever have bannock?

Eva: Oh, yeah.

Evelyn: And what other Indian foods?

Eva: Sometime we mixed that with blueberries. Fried it or we'd put it on the side of the fire, there.

Evelyn: What other Indian foods did you have?

Eva: Flapjacks they call that. (laughs)

Evelyn: Pancakes.

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: And you had corn soup?
Eva: Corn soup. We made garden there, too. We had some potatoes, enough for all winter; carrots, cabbage, cucumbers -- we made, all kinds of pickles, chow chows, dill pickles, corn pickles. Oh, we had everything, we never starved. My grandfather never used to work, we had enough for our trapping line. Sometimes he made about ten hundred dollars, maybe twenty, for all summer. Then in the spring, then, we get ready for garden. Then we stay home for the summer, or we go out picking blueberries -- they used to be $.25 a basket that time. We made good money there, too, all of us.

Evelyn: Well, how about the furs you caught.

Eva: Well, they sell that. Well, that's what the ten hundred dollars alone, you know, that's fur.

Evelyn: How much would each fur sell for?

Eva: Oh, sometimes $25. for one, sometimes $50. It all depends on how big they are.

Evelyn: So, if there was some sort of rip in the furs, would that sell less?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: How much less would that be?

Eva: Oh geez, I don't remember that. The fisher, they call that, and that's a lot of money, that fishers. They used to sell them for $150, one.

Evelyn: For what?

Eva: For one pelt.

Evelyn: For one pelt of...

Eva: A fisher.

Evelyn: What's a fisher?

Eva: They look like raccoons.

Evelyn: Were there very few of them? Is that why...

Eva: Oh no, no. They're small, well, pretty near the same size of ground hogs. I don't know if you ever seen ground hogs.

Evelyn: That's awfully expensive for one pelt.

Eva: Yeah, $150. Now it should be about, oh, ten hundred dollars now.
Evelyn: Why are they so expensive for that particular animal?

Eva: Well, you know how much they buy, like, fur coat, eh. That's over, it's almost $1,200 right now, or maybe more. I seen one in the paper there for $25,000. for that one fur coat -- that's that fisher or raccoon.

Evelyn: So fisher got the most money?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: What were the cheapest ones?

Eva: Gee, I don't know. They had to have either about twenty or twenty-five pelts to make one coat, you know, they were small. And raccoons, same thing, they are small.

Evelyn: But did it sell for just as much?

Eva: Yes.

Evelyn: How far back did a fisher sell for $150.?

Eva: Well, that used to be cheap at that time, eh.

Evelyn: When was that time?

Eva: Oh, I would say about 1928, '29, and 1930, somewhere around there, and right up to 1940. But after 1940 they start getting expensive.

Evelyn: How about minks?

Eva: Minks, that's another one there. They used to sell for $10. for one.

Evelyn: That's a lot cheaper than fisher, isn't it?

Eva: Those were only small, the one I remember, it's $25. But the other were big ones there, were they ever nice. And beavers, not too much, maybe $25. now. But when I look at the paper, their fur coats are not very expensive -- not like the others. And rabbit, true rabbit, they're not very expensive there either. They're only $29.95 for coat, shorty coat, like, you know.

Evelyn: How much did the furs cost when you sold them?

Eva: You mean anything? Or a rabbit, or...?

Evelyn: Yeah, rabbits.

Eva: Well, they should be about $1. anyways, or maybe $.55 for one.

Evelyn: That cheap?
Eva: Yeah, well $29. for one coat, eh, just a coat -- not a long coat, $29. Just like those guys, they working on it, those guys that want to make, you know, fur coats, they make good money. This maybe beside their wages.

Evelyn: So, okay a coat that's made out of fishers...

Eva: Fishers, that's a $1,000. that one there.

Evelyn: That's a $1,000., but $150. for a pelt?

Eva: Yeah, $150 -- one.

Evelyn: $151?

Eva: I'll say $200. at least, you know. It all depends how big they are.

Evelyn: Did you ever sell bear?

Eva: I sold one for $25. to make a floor mat, and that's about all.

Evelyn: That big huge bear you sold for only $25?

Eva: Yeah. That's nice, though.

Evelyn: That's really cheap.

Eva: $25. I don't know about now, that was a long time ago.

Evelyn: But when you compare -- a bear to a fisher, it's really cheap.

Eva: We had to sell that, we had to working on it, you know. And then we put, like, potatoes bags, used to be a... Now we can't see them potatoes bags no more -- we used to put that in lining like, you know.

Evelyn: You sew it on?

Eva: Yeah, (inaudible).

Evelyn: So it wasn't worth it?

Eva: No, it was too much work. Like those guys, when I thinking about those guys, the one... they, they buy the belt, you know, like belts, eh? So those guys, they're working on it -- that's why they make good money when they make fur coats, or fur jackets, whatever. Call me... That's what they were doing, you know. I used to like living in the bush all the time, you know, with my grandfather and my grandmother. Never was lonesome, never starved, and I was healthy all the time. Like, they used to catch that skunk oil, I mean that skunk, and they
get that oil, I don't know where they get it, it's just about that big.

Evelyn: How big is it? That's about two, five, three centimeters in diameter?

Eva: I think so, yeah. We get in a spoon, we each get that, us kids, you know. We don't get a cold all winter.

Evelyn: What do you do? Drink it?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: Skunk...?

Eva: Skunk oil.

Evelyn: Skunk oil? Did you have anything else like that that you had to eat and drink?

Eva: Well, we had some skunk meat there. It's good, you can't catch a cold. If you happen to go and see our (inaudible). Wherever, you got a flu or... you go and see them, you don't catch it. Just like, after you eat that, you know, or drink it, just like when a cold, it hits like a flu, you know, it goes around like that, it just stops like that. Back out again. You never catch a cold.

Evelyn: If you have skunk oil? Or eat some...?

Eva: Yeah. It's good for one year, all winter, like. They used to give us every fall.

Evelyn: One dose of skunk oil.

Eva: I never used to be sick and I was healthy all the time. Even now, just like here, I just got hurt, that's how. One time there I had rheumatism fever; that was the last time. But I didn't get no, they couldn't get no skunk that time, so I got a cold that time.

Evelyn: Were there any other sorts of things, like skunk oil, that you had to take, or anything from any other animal that might have to take?

Eva: Oh, sometime our medicine was, like, cedars, you know. Oh, maybe, they good for maybe, fever, or everything. Or any other spruce, like maybe we make like a castor oil.

Evelyn: And you made it out of spruce?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: So how do you make that?
Eva: They boil that.

Evelyn: They boil the spruce trees or what?
Eva: Trees, I mean, you know, that...
Evelyn: Bark?
Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: You boil that.
Eva: Yeah, it's all oil there, you know, all them lumps there, on that tree -- that's the oil, there.
Evelyn: And you boil that, and you drink that?
Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: And what does that do?
Eva: Well, we have, like, our bowels move.
Evelyn: What?
Eva: Bowels move. We never used to have, we never used to carry medicine from the white man. We always use things from the bush.
Evelyn: What other sorts of medicine could you get from the bush?
Eva: Oh, geez, I don't know all of them. I wish I could remember the way they used to call that, like a fever or a cold, or like maybe get that for bowels move, or even a cut there, you know. You put that oil on there and it goes away very quick.
Evelyn: Oil from what?
Eva: From the trees -- spruce, or pine tree, or, not pine tree, spruce, and that balsam.
Evelyn: Balsam tree.
Eva: Yeah.
Evelyn: You boil that?
Eva: No, you take that out there from that, you bust that, take that oil, use a spoon, and then you put that on wherever your sore is.
Evelyn: So on a balsam tree there's sort of little lumps, or bumps and there's oil in that?
Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: And you just apply that on your skin?

Eva: Yeah, it's good for not to get those poison, or something, you know, or something, infection, there.

Evelyn: Were there anything else natural that you took and used as medicine?

Eva: There's all kinds of them. Like they make, so they use that, everything. Like maybe they have rheumatism, eh. They put that on there.

Evelyn: What would you put on there?

Eva: There's all kinds that, mixed with that, from the wild woods.

Evelyn: So what sorts of stuff would you use to put on your, for rheumatism? What sort of things?

Eva: It's like a, when somebody has a... A lot of people, I don't think they know it. Like myself, I almost got that rheumatism like, you know. But I always took that in a hot pot of water, or maybe with cedars, eh. You boil that cedars and then you put your hands there, real hot, when you can barely enough, you know, feel that, and it goes away. You know there's all water in there, that's how come they separate.

Evelyn: And you'll never get it again?

Eva: Well, if it comes back, well, maybe I'll use it again.

Evelyn: But what do you do, boil cedar?

Eva: Yeah, boil cedar, maybe make a great big pot, maybe just enough to get in the bathtub and stay there for, till all that...

Evelyn: So this is the cedar oil?

Eva: Well, not cedar oil. There's no oil on that cedar. Just that balsam and the spruce.

Evelyn: So with cedar you cut down the whole tree, or what would you do?

Eva: No... Some of them, they do, some of them, they cut it down. But we never did, my grandma and I, no.

Evelyn: So you just took a branch or something?

Eva: Yeah. I had a book, there, you know, from what do
you call that? You know, and that's where I lost that in a fire, eh. I don't know where I got that book from. It's from the wild woods trees. What's good for, you know, everything, like. For sickness or anything. It tells you there everything, you know. And I read all that and I forgot all about it, and then I lost it.

Evelyn: So all these ways of curing certain things that you had, were they passed down to you, or did you mainly read them? Did your parents practice it?

Eva: No, I don't know where my grandfather got it from. He gave it to me on my birthday.

Evelyn: He taught you how to...

Eva: Yeah, because my grandfather couldn't read, eh. So I guess this guy must have sold it to him. So on my birthday he gave it to me. It was a great big book like that. It tells you everything, here, what kind of tree, you know, all that.

Evelyn: So, your grandfather, when he, or your grandmother, when they used these medicines, did they read this book or was it passed down to them by their grandparents?

Eva: Oh yeah, I guess so.

Evelyn: Which one?

Eva: He didn't tell me. It was an old, old book, and I had it for a long time. And I had it... My auntie kept it for me, well, she studied herself, too. And all them... Especially with those guys that drinking too much, they get that diarrhea. It doesn't even stop or anything like that, you know. And my grandfather knows that medicine, so he tried that to help this white man when he had that diarrhea because he was drinking too much, you know, maybe beer or whatever that caused it. So my grandfather made that Indian medicine, but I never wanted him to cure him for his alcoholic.

Evelyn: So where did he learn, where did your granddad learn this from?

Eva: I don't know.

Evelyn: But he didn't learn it from a book?

Eva: No, I don't think so.

Evelyn: So, the ones that you've been telling me about, about rheumatism and the oils for bowel movements, did your grandparents...?

Eva: Even I used to learn how to make that now. It's so far to go and get that, you know, it's only certain place where you could get that, call that, little red branches, they call
that. And they would just scrape that off. So it's a long ways from the bush to get it. So we have to have lots of it

and that spruce. And pine tree and the other tree there, I don't know what you call that -- spruce, balsam, there's another there, there's three. And that other tree there, you get that from the tree, from the inside, you know. It's only about that big, so we split that wood eh, that log. We break that and then we take that off.

Evelyn: The centre.

Eva: Yeah, the centre, yeah. And you have to have four of them, like. So we cure it up for the one, the people that got consumption, T.B.

Evelyn: Oh.

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Evelyn: Okay, when you talked about this red branch, to cure T.B., where do you find it?

Eva: You got to mix that with that red branch, balsam, spruce -- there's another one there I can't think of; there's four.

Evelyn: Four sorts of trees that you have to mix.

Eva: You know, this woman here, her name is Irene, she was a pretty sick girl that one. She couldn't lift her broom, and my grandma save her. That's T.B., that's what cured her.

Evelyn: Where can you find something like a red branch?

Eva: Oh, the only place I know is way back from Cutler. They call that Windy Lake, I think. I went over there one time -- it takes about three days to get there by walking, three or four days.

Evelyn: From where?

Eva: From home; you go up there to get that. So my grandfather used to hang around there all the time, he used to bring them down. And sometimes he goes up there alone. So my grandma and I we stay home, well, I had to go to school. So, like, maybe Christmas holiday, then I go up and we're gone about two weeks.

Evelyn: Were there any other sort of trees or leaves?

Eva: Leaves... One man I know, you know, that little baby sometimes they break on their lip, some kind of a....
Evelyn: Cold sores?

Eva: Yeah, no, no, that break on them. Like maybe some people they don't wash good for the baby's nipples, like, you know -- when they use the baby's bottle and they break that. So this one had a small little leaves like that. And then she boiled that, just put it on her (inaudible) you know. That cured her, yeah, just little leaves, only about smaller than that. It was like wintergreens, you know, but they are a little lighter.

Evelyn: Do you know what the leaves are called?

Eva: Well, same with the old people, you know, they got sore or whatever they call that, just like a boils or blisters, you know. Is it ever good that stuff, that they use that.

Evelyn: Did you ever use any roots?

Eva: Roots, if you want to have a steam bath, there's roots there, you know, smell nice. We used to have balsam, you know, them trees, like the branches. And we'd put maybe a big stove like that and then put that stuff on top and steam come there. And then you sit there, eh, and all that sweat come out there and you feel a lot better then. A long time ago my people used to work hard. They never sit and they always got to do something, like my grandmother. Anyway she used to carry -- you know how big that moose hide, boy, that's heavy, or a team of dogs. We bring one whole moose home -- good for all winter. Well, sometime people they come over and trade maybe, they buy it off of us.

Evelyn: So what do you do with the moose hide?

Eva: I don't know what... Oh, my grandfather used to make, what do you call them, skin... When you're making a mess or something, smoked them and I used to watch him.

Evelyn: Like moccasins and things?

Eva: Yeah, make moccasins. I learned that but I never learned beaded work.

Evelyn: So your grandparents made bead works?

Eva: No, we never see that bead work. Just lately it come out. I remember my great-great-grandmother make necklace for us, but I was only small. She make them necklaces.

Evelyn: What does she make them with?

Eva: Them same thing what they have over here, those little...

Evelyn: Beads?
Eva: Yeah. I got one over here that are nice. Oh, geez, I done one, the very first, that I didn't want to lose it, or...

Evelyn: Oh, so did you make this?

Eva: No, my girlfriend made them. That was a long time ago. That's with the leather they used that -- we call that skin 'leather'.

Evelyn: Did your grandparents make any crafts?

Eva: No, the other people were, they made, oh, geez, oh they made everything over on the reserve. Like they make baskets. I even went out with them; I tried to learn how to make baskets. We used to go out in the bush there, we'd cut the tree down.

Evelyn: Which tree? Ash?

Eva: Maple, ash, it was like maple to me. We pound it, we stripped it, you know, and then we pound that, pound it the whole day. Maybe we get about six strips.

Evelyn: Six strips, pounding the whole day?

Eva: Six strips, yeah. Well, three of them, maybe, a log maybe about that big, maybe. And then we made six strips. And then it's about that long, well, maybe longer.

Evelyn: Two meters?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: You could be pounding for the whole day for six strips.

Eva: And then we cleaned it.

Evelyn: With what?

Eva: And then we cut it in half and just use our teeth there. (laughs)

Evelyn: To split it?

Eva: Yeah. And then we dyed it, we buy dye, any colors. Or maybe sometime we use that, oh, maybe about that wide, you know.

Evelyn: How wide is that, that's about...

Eva: Round like, you know, and then we cut that...

Evelyn: Two centimeters?
Eva: Yeah. And then we cut that, potatoes, shaped it, whatever you wanted to shape it. And then you dip that in the dye and just put it under.

Evelyn: Oh, you stamp it. Potatoe stamping, on baskets?

Eva: Yeah. That's all I learn out there. It's too bad, you know, I can't... I pretty near lost my voice there one time, and I tried to bring it back, eh.

Evelyn: So your dad, your granddad made moccasins?

Eva: My grandfather.

Evelyn: How do you make moccasins?

Eva: Well, you cut it, you use the cardboard first, you know.

Evelyn: Cut a pattern?

Eva: Yeah, then you use that. So we then make the other one, little, little one. And then you start it from there, then you make it pleated, like, you know -- just sew them like that, make it pleated, like that.

Evelyn: Oh, you made little pleated in the sole.

Eva: Yeah, around. Just got to watch that.

Evelyn: What were the best kind of skin to use for moccasins?

Eva: Moose.

Evelyn: Moose.

Eva: It's thicker, it's thicker than deer.

Evelyn: Did you ever sell these?

Eva: Not many, anyway. I just made my own. That's what happened there one time. I was going out -- I was only about fifteen years old. I used to go out hunting for rabbits. And I just had moccasins on and socks, slacks, heavy sweater on, and went out in the bush. I didn't want my dog to come with me, I want to go alone. So I went and got lost. I was missing for four days, just before Christmas, pretty near was frozen.

Evelyn: How did you manage to survive?

Eva: Well, I found a match in my grandfather's pocket, matches. I never used to smoke at that time -- tried to make a fire, I was played out then. I was always (inaudible). My feet got frozen, I think that's why my feet are bad. And nothing to eat. And I hit that one partridge there with a stone. Went and got it, wring his neck, clean it, middle of
Evelyn: A cave?

Eva: A cave. I went in there, the fire was still going. (Inaudible) Then when I come to, you know, I could feel something, you know. My head was going up and down like that, you know. It was so warm, except my feet were frozen, and I can feel that fur. And I don't want to yell or scream. No, that time, that was a bear, the one that saved my life.

Evelyn: The bear? It was hibernating?

Eva: He was already sleeping.

Evelyn: Oh, it was hibernating! And you slept next to it!

Eva: And next thing, then, I was sitting down there, and I didn't have no more match. So I could hear that, something, anyway -- an airplane. I was listening there. I couldn't get up no more 'cause my foot's frozen. Here's that little dog, I could hear him barking. Then I screamed. Just the next thing I remember, I fainted, I guess. The next thing I woke up, there was that licking -- that was my little pup. And start barking there, barking for help, eh. Soon all those guys came and found me.

Evelyn: In the bear's cave?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: The bear never woke up?

Eva: Never woke up, never bother us. And when Papa come in there, he was with three others. So (inaudible), it wasn't very far from the lake there. I guess the plane must have landed; so they had to carry me, took me in a hospital.

Evelyn: And that's when you went out hunting?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: And you got lost.

Eva: I was only fifteen. Then my grandmother came over and oh, geez, her eyes was just sore -- from crying, I guess.

Evelyn: Is it very hard to get lost, I mean, is it easy?

Eva: Well, I don't know what happened to me. Maybe I was thinking about something, maybe I was thinking about where we used to go picking blueberries or something. It was all rocks there, flat, you know. I don't know how, well, maybe I went
the wrong way, maybe I had and I lost that trail.

Evelyn: Did you have any other experiences like that?

Eva: One night that we were out hunting, I don't know, I was about -- a little girl. Well, I used to follow my grandfather all the time, every place he goes, I go. I used to like that canoe ride, it was that in the evening. And then the canoe, you know, he used to put a stick there. And I asked my grandfather why he put a stick there. "Well, we're going out for moose hunting, we're not going out there for nothing," he says. So I got the answer. Then I guess he must have heard something over on the shore. He just point the gun over there, so he shot something. And the moose came right at us and tipped our canoe.

Evelyn: So you never caught it?

Eva: It was way down there in the water.

Evelyn: It ran over you.

Eva: (laughs) Well, I suppose, I don't know about me... Grandfather, well, he's been out in the bush there ever since he was young. I guess he was raised there, I don't know.

Evelyn: What kind of experiences have your grandfather had?

Eva: Well, he was always in the bush.

Evelyn: I mean, like, in the experience wise, were there ever any sort of adventures?

Eva: One time he was in the down, like, maybe in Sudbury, or in Blind River, maybe one or two days, just go and sell his pelts and then go right up again.

Evelyn: Did he ever tell you any of his experiences?

Eva: Oh, he told me all about it. Like, just like you, your boy friends, maybe, oh, in the family over there. It's the same thing with the beavers, especially beavers. So one time my grandfather -- that's before he was married -- then he used to live in a shack. And I guess he used to go just down the lake there. He used go down there and set traps. So the next thing, I guess, he was having supper, he was sitting down, and there was that woman standing there by the door, a woman. And that woman says to him, "You know that lake there." And my grandfather must have told her, "Yeah." "Don't bother, don't bother people there. They're all my family." That's a beaver -- just like a fish woman, you know. So he never set a trap there no more, he got scared.

Evelyn: Because she was scary.

Eva: Well, I don't know. Well, he's going to kill all his
family, you know, beavers, like.

Evelyn: So she considered the beavers part of her family?
Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: Did your grandfather think she was crazy?
Eva: Well, I don't know. It's way up in the bush, she's there all by herself -- you never see a woman over there, you know. It's just like that beaver turned to, like, a human being, you know. He used to tell me all the old stories, what happened to him, you know.

Evelyn: What other ones did he tell you?
Eva: The other one there -- he used to make canoe one time, extra canoe. Make that, you know, and put them all, that cedar, and all them strips there. Then he used that barge [bark?]. Then he used that, he cooks that balsam, that oil, makes into that, just like a paste. Just like that oil there, they call that, they put on the cement there, just like something like that, they cook that when the balsam... My grandfather told me that.

Evelyn: Is it like a sap or something?
Eva: Yeah, yeah. Then he used to pass that up in wherever looked like a barge, eh, strips like, patch it up like. You know, it's sort of a nice little finish. So then one time he was doing that canoe, that there, he was there all by himself. Maybe he was about nineteen, seventeen, eighteen years old, and there was that woman standing beside him.

Evelyn: The same one?
Eva: No, I don't think so, he didn't say. But brought him fish, you know, in a dish, made the dish out of barge, eh. So lots of food there, eh. Then she made, like, wild potatoes. Wild potatoes, they're like, they're about that big, eh.

Different, funny looking leaves there, on wild potatoes. But they are good. Like, when we used to stay in the bush there, we never get sick or anything. So, when my grandfather, he got cold, so he never went back. That's -- way after he back, he got married. I remember that time he was pretty sick. So when he got a little bit better, when he used to go up by himself, and he used to come down maybe two or three days, he used to come home, never stayed in the bush no more.

Evelyn: Then did he live on the reserve?
Eva: Well, my grandfather was a white man, but we were allowed to stay on the reserve. But my grandfather was coming there, my grandmother she was Treaty, like myself, I was a Treaty before I was married.
Evelyn: So your granddad was white, and your grandmother was an Indian.

Eva: Native, I guess.

Evelyn: And yet you learned all these Indian ways from your grandfather?

Eva: Oh yeah, yeah. Like I said, at night, my mother was still living -- I would never learn how to talk Indian, never. I learned how to speak Indian real well. I had a hard time when I went to school, I couldn't even say "no" or "yes". I didn't even know what that means. (laughs)

Evelyn: Yeah, where did you go to school?

Eva: In Cutler.

Evelyn: Cutler. So what was the school's name?

Eva: Well, it's only a small school, only a small school there. And then after a while -- I was in Grade Six -- we had another new school teacher. Then I was smart, then I studied harder and went to Grade Ten. So, that time, we didn't have no money for me to go to high school, we didn't have no money. Nowadays, now, all the young Indian people, they're lucky, they go to high school wherever they want. In my days we didn't have it.

Evelyn: So when you went to school, did you go to a residential school, or did you live near there?

Eva: I lived near there. Or sometimes, well... My grandfather, well, I... he said it in Indian, but I understand a little bit, you know, like say it in English. So I ask him, "What does that mean?" So he'd explain it to me and I knew what that means in English. And I used to have that dictionary and that other book there, I used to get it by mail, every week.

Evelyn: Correspondence courses.

Eva: And every time my grandfather comes down, then he used to take it down and bring another one again. Just like go to school. So I just teach maybe about two, three hours, because I was always in the bush.

Evelyn: So you never, so when you were at the bush you never stayed at a school?

Eva: No.

Evelyn: But you did go to school for a while?

Eva: No, I just went to school for a while, that's all.
Evelyn: So how long did you go to school for?

Eva: Well, I would say about five years.

Evelyn: So how did you get to be in Grade Ten then? Through these correspondence courses?

Eva: Well, I went back after -- when my father took sick and I went back again. Like I was in the Grade Five, then I skipped two grades every time. I studied hard then.

Evelyn: And was that at Cutler or was that a different one?

Eva: Oh no, the same.

Evelyn: So, what were the teachers like?

Eva: Well, the teacher, Miss Bush, well, she was good. She pushes us, you know, to study a lot. And at night I used to go to visit her; she used to teach me at night.

Evelyn: Just you, yourself?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: Why did you go there at night?

Eva: Well, I guess she used to like me, I think, because I was the only girl, like my grandparents' pet, eh, I was the only one. But they had a big family. The first I went to school was a sister and she used to make me sit beside her in a desk. Sister... I forget her name now. And I used to be a good relative(?), I still am, you know.

Evelyn: So your teachers were pretty good?

Eva: Oh yeah.

Evelyn: They were all native?

Eva: No, no, they were white people.

Evelyn: So Miss Bush was white?

Eva: Yeah. Miss Bush, and the other there, I don't remember. That's when I was in Grade Five, but when Miss Bush came, oh geez, I learned a lot. She was very good school teacher.

Evelyn: So in your class, was there only one grade, or how many grades were there in the class?

Eva: Four of us.

Evelyn: There was four students?
Eva: No, no, no, no. There was others, there were about forty of us, big class, you know.

Evelyn: And four grades?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: Did you find that you could get a lot of attention?

Eva: Well, I used to skip two, like, you know.

Evelyn: How were you treated?

Eva: Pretty good, I guess.

Evelyn: How were the other students like?

Eva: Because, I don't know. They don't want to listen to her, one of them, I guess. And the other one, I don't know, she was very slow. Every time we used to get prizes, that's why I study hard, she used to give us something nice, or maybe big chocolate bars, or maybe a nice sweater, or anything, but we got to study hard, you know. We do that, like especially that memorizes, eh. Oh geez, long ones, too. If we make one mistake, well, that's it. And I went home and geez, I studied hard. Never thought about supper. My grandma woke me up at seven o'clock and I studied there again. I just wash my face and hurry, I study that again, I don't want to forget. I want to get that big chocolate bar. (laughs)

Evelyn: So it was some sort of incentive for you to study hard.

Eva: The other girls, they used to get mad at me.

Evelyn: What?

Eva: The girls, they used to get mad at me.

Evelyn: Because you were considered a "browner".

Eva: And that's where I learned how to make sweaters, from that Miss Bush -- socks, mitts, even a dress. I'm quite a sewer, I make, like, slack suits. I can make slacks, dress. When my daughter got married, I made a wedding dress for her and two bridesmaids. And beside I made a wedding reception, first daughter that got married. And myself, when I got married I was sad. (laughs) You know, I didn't even know the guy.

Evelyn: You didn't know the guy?

Eva: That was after the War, I was twenty-five years old when I got married, because I was busy looking after my
grandma, grandfather. I didn't want to get married. So after
the War was over, then I met that guy on a train and he
followed me, he come to my place. And he asked my mother if
he could marry me.

Evelyn: In one day?

Eva: Two weeks, two weeks we got married. I didn't even
know him.

Evelyn: Was he native?

Eva: Oh yeah, he was native. I was sorry after.

Evelyn: Was this very common, I mean, you know?

Eva: He was, I don't know, he was... Got a word, they say
that if I talk about my husband, I talk about myself. Better
not say anything about him, because he's still my husband,
anyway.

Evelyn: I mean was this typical of most native girls, is that
they got married after two weeks?

Eva: Just strange.

Evelyn: What are some of the traditions to marriage in the
native culture?

Eva: Well, just like the old-fashioned ways. I didn't
want to get married, I wanted to look after my grandmother and
grandfather. I was still out in the bush, you know, looking
after the garden. I used to help my grandmother a lot, because
I loved them very much. And when I lost... just like I was
all alone in the whole world. And my husband was getting
strict, mean; every time I want to go visit next door, or maybe
some -- we have a quilting party, or maybe I joined a club, or
maybe being a chaperone for the Elks -- he used to get mad. He
used to be jealous of my priest there, Father Pelka, even my
dog. Then he used to throw me out, I used to sleep outside --
I don't know how many times I slept outside. My dog would warm
me up. My brother used to sneak up and bring a blanket
sometimes.

Evelyn: But would this, I mean, involving a marriage in the
native culture.

Eva: Well, maybe he, I guess he thought that I was a real
Indian, something like that. Like I born some, my children,
they're white, they're not Indians. He even say that it wasn't
his. It's like my son, there. He was born blue eyes, white
man, white baby. And he took that baby to a doctor to get a
blood test. The doctor told me, "You better tell your husband
to come over." So he didn't even go to see his own doctor; I
still had my doctor, still had one doctor. They all know,
doctor in the Children's Aid. One time I left, then I got a
job at the restaurant. I work, didn't know what to do, and I
was lonesome for my children. Then I begin to hate my husband. So the Children's Aid came over where I was working, then I told them everything about him -- how he treated me, he treated me dirty, call me names, call me a Christian, good Catholic -- what am I supposed to do? I used to take those kids in the church all the time. He never went to church with them.

Evelyn: I mean, concerning... did you have a wedding?

Eva: Oh, yeah.

Evelyn: Traditional wedding?

Eva: Yeah.

Evelyn: So native weddings are more or less, like, with a wedding dress and the bridesmaids, and bridegrooms?

Eva: Well, I didn't want a big wedding. I just wore for wintertime. What's the use of wearing a long dress? The snow is deep over there. But that would have been nice if I had the long wedding dress on with the snowshoes -- that would be nice! (laughs)

Evelyn: Snowshoes!

Eva: Well, there was a lot of snow over there. There was no car that would go up to my place.

Evelyn: So you would have to get married in snowshoes. (laughs)

Eva: (laughs) It was too late to think about that, I should have done it. Something different. (laughs)

Evelyn: Did, so the way your grandparents got married, was this also through traditional wedding?

Eva: It was a small wedding, she told me. Yeah, small wedding, it wasn't very big. But a lot of people helped, like my wedding, you know, they were all happy. I don't know why they happy about -- the day I got married.

Evelyn: You didn't want to leave home.

Eva: No, no.

Evelyn: So didn't you have a choice in the matter?

Eva: Well, I try to ask my grandmother, "I don't feel like getting married yet." I said, "Because you guys getting old, I want to look after you." "Well, what happens if we die?" I says, "Well, maybe I'll go someplace, maybe I'll get a job. That's when I'll know that I'll be able to go, I'll be able to leave, on the reserve," I said.
# PROPER NAME INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPER NAME</th>
<th>IH NUMBER</th>
<th>DOC NAME</th>
<th>DISC #</th>
<th>PAGE #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CUTLER, ONT.</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>37-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAUGHTON RESERVE, ONT.</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 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>CRAFTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-basket making</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>29-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-accounts of</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>40-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-self taught</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>38,39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-preservation of</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-traditional</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>11-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIDES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tanning</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICINE AND CURING PRACTICES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ingredients, gathering</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>19-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMES (PERSONAL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-naming ceremonies</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMES (PERSONAL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-origins of</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORIES AND STORYTELLING (GENERAL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-adoption of human form</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>35,36,37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAPPING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-economic importance of</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>14-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAPPING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-techniques</td>
<td>IH-OT.031</td>
<td>EVA OWL #1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>6-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>