

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: HENRY CARDINAL 1
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: SADDLE LAKE RESERVE
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: SADDLE LAKE RESERVE
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE:
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: LOUIS RAIN
KEN TYLER
INTERPRETER: LOUIS RAIN
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS
& RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-172
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 27A
PAGES: 11
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sale of Saddle Lake Reserve land.
- Amalgamation of Saddle Lake, Blue Quills and Washatanow Reserves. Relationship of the Pakan Reserve to the Saddle Lake Reserve.

Louis: Could you state your name and your age and how long have you lived here?

Henry: Yes, I'm called Henry Cardinal - I'm 78 years old but I don't remember when I was brought here; I was too small I guess. I'm getting to the age of 79 on the eighteenth of this month. (December)

Louis: I want to ask you about the reserve that was surrendered here in 1925, were you present then and what you know that took place and anything prior to this?

Henry: I can only relate so much the fact that I never attend all the meetings they had unless asked by her father (meaning his wife) to attend the meeting with him. And also I can only relate little bit of what went on and what I know that took place at the time about the land surrender. There was only two people that really work hard to get this land surrendered. Names of these two were Robert Houle and Jessie Samson and they were the people that were involved with this surrender. There was a team of good horses that was owned by the government officials that these people used to get around to the people on

the reserve and also to the people that were out working off the reserve. They went around to these people to try and get their votes. Robert Houle came to our place where we used to live and asked if the old man was home, and I said "Yes, he's home." So he came in. My father-in-law was a councillor then and after he had come in, the old man told him to sit. He came in with a bunch of papers and he went and sat where my father-in-law was sitting and said "Ahow, these papers I have here, would you sign your name on them?" The old man says, "What for?" "A lot of the old people have fallen without ever getting any benefits of this land. And this is the chance for you old people where you would get some benefits if we give or surrender part of our reserve land." My father-in-law told him, "Do you see that door? You get out through that door. Don't you think of the children's future when they grow up where they going to be? You must be crazy to do that." Then this Robert Houle stormed out of there mumbling something to himself as he was going out. And when the meeting was held at Goodfish Lake, I attended that meeting and really observe of what happen. The inspector, Morrison, and Robert Steinhauer were there. Robert Steinhauer was one of the people that was deadly against selling or surrendering - prior to this, but was persuaded eventually to surrendering side. Apparently he was one of the people that was on that particular portion of reserve land that was being surrendered (he was the one that told the people not to sell). But eventually he was won over

to surrender for the simple fact he was promised quite a sum of money for his improvements. He received about one thousand dollars for compensated improvements. Robert Steinhauer was a preacher then, he was the first to speak and said we should surrender because we'll lose even if we don't surrender. But there it is, he had surrendered already when he accepted that money. He received one thousand dollars. One old man, Mathew Houle got up and said, "Ah, ah, it is good for you to receive money in your hand for the fact that you were one of the people that happen to be on that portion. That's how crooked what we called a white man is." Then Inspector Morrison sprang up on his feet and said, "Mathew, your brain doesn't reach the length of your nose the way you're talking now." And Mathew turned around and said, "Ah, ah, you too, you white men haven't enough brains to reach the length of your nose to know how you should administrate to the best of Indian's interest. I'm not that crazy to say what I just said. I know what I'm talking about. Where are you going to put the future children that are growing up? We're no doubt going to increase in population in the future. When you eat up all our land or reserve, where are we going to be? Are we going to live on the road allowances?"

And then late (Co co soo wean) Bacon - Sam Bull sprang up to his feet and he too and Inspector Morrison got at it in the manner of aggress. He expressed the opinions to the best of his thinking ability. The surrenders were beaten at that meeting at Goodfish Lake (apparently there were more people that didn't want surrender then). The people that were for surrender were quite agitated because they couldn't bring the

surrender through and the people that opposed the surrender rang the bell that hung near there, they were shouting with joy and all that. And the next meeting they had was here at Saddle Lake which was to be the last was at where the school buildings are. They held a night caucus the night before and the next morning, late (Apis cha wasis) Littlechild and my father-in-law's brother (Kam mis sig tit) Big One came to get his brother and said, "They have beaten us, there is nothing we can do now. There are only four of us now that are against the surrender." And my father-in-law asked me to come along and observe and says perhaps, "You'd be telling this story in the future," and so I went along that night. I guess they had invited Joe Brosseau. He was a storekeeper which said to the people, "You are wrong when you first talked about this surrendering your land, you should get a lawyer to represent you all the way. This matter would be legal, but the way it is there's only the inspector and myself. I haven't got any authority where I would be useful. But I will try my best. Like he's saying you will be getting this interest money for a long time to come." This was supposedly always you see, by

getting this \$12.00 interest money to each person but now that has been exhausted a long time ago.

My father-in-law stood up then and said, "I will never put my signature on any land surrender. The way these people have promised they will never live up to what they said, that's how sneaky white man is, he will eat us from behind; that's how this white man is, he has brought us candies like when a child is mad, you give him a candy, he'll forget about everything. This is what exactly this guy is doing to us when he came here. Can't you see that? Where are our grandchildren going to be when they increase the population in the future?"

My brother, said this Big One - we should surrender this land and this is how they surrendered that land. This is as far as I can relate the story to you. I didn't try to exaggerate more than what I know. But I know that they were promised that they would get this interest money always \$12.00 per capita this would continue on and on. But this never happened. That's as far as I can tell you; this is what I had observed. They had quite a few meetings.

Louis: How did the vote went, by what majority?

Henry: A lot of them had turned to surrender. This Robert Steinhauer had influenced the people of taking surrender, eventually pretty near all the people took the surrender. The Chief (Kam sig tite) The Huge One and (I wa case) More than Normally and my father-in-law, these were the people that really objected to the idea of selling and these were in the council too, but they couldn't do nothing you see. If the chief didn't put his signature on the agreement, he could have invalidated the whole thing but he went and signed his name. Only after he had all his council sign the agreement and then only my father-in-law never signed, he really fought the thing

not to happen for the simple reason that he knew one day all his grandchildren would grow up. This is all I know further to what I've told you already.

Louis: Were all the reserve people here at the time or were some out working?

Henry: There was not very many that were not here. Pretty near everyone was here but I don't know about Goodfish but there was a lot of people everytime the meeting was called. I only attend the meetings three times but every time the people didn't want to sell, when they had that night caucus everything seemed to change then. Especially when the chief signed. Of course after he was allured over the surrender side by the

Protestant preacher. If he didn't signify the surrender, the chief that is. If they had waited at least about three days in order to obtain a legal representative or adviser to represent the Indian people pertaining the agreements that was signed. Perhaps what agreements made at that time would still run today. This is what Mr. Albert Brochure had suggested.

Louis: What kind of agreements or promises were there? Were they paid?

Henry: One hundred per capita. But the interest was supposed to have been increased as it was banked somewhere, what amount is unknown, from this interest everyone was supposed to have received \$12.00. And also this side of St. Paul there is a place we called Two Hills, there's a piece there that was not surrendered. I often wondered what happened to that. But what Thomas had said. It seems like he had sold that piece of land there. There's quite a bit there, about one section.

Louis: He didn't let anyone know about it?

Henry: No, he didn't let anyone know about it. Even my father-in-law didn't know what happened to that piece of land there, even though he was a band councillor then. It was just the three of them, Thomas, Robert Steinhauer and the Indian agent that had something to do with this matter; no one else knew what became of that land. This is what I was often curious about is what happened there. The late (Hi wa case) More than Normally Gets used to say we still own that piece. That hay meadow field was never given up. This is what he had said. A lot of people didn't want to see that portion sold. They used to say once the white people settled around that area we'll be humiliatingly abused if we let things go by. And evidently he (Thomas) was talked into giving up that piece of land. It is not known what really happened to that land and even up to today I don't think anybody has any idea as to why they surrendered that land.

Louis: Did anybody ever look into the matter?

Henry: I don't think anybody ever attempted to do that. I often think if it was looked into, it wouldn't take much to

find out what happened. What Inspector Morrison said then when (Apis cha wasis) Littlechild told him we don't surrender that piece where we make hay (this is about one section) where are we going to make hay in the future if we give that up? "Alright, you will always have that piece," but just lately I've heard that piece there was sold.

There were three people, which none are alive today, were the people that surrendered that piece of land. (Apis cha wasis) Littlechild, Robert Steinhauer and the Indian agent called Mr. Gillian. It is not known the purpose why they sold that, I don't think there's very many people that were made aware if this portion of land was sold.

Louis: After the surrender was made, how long did those obligations that were made by the department last? (meaning afterwards) Did a lot of those Indian people satisfied or disappointed?

Henry: A lot of them were delighted to have received so much money. You go in any home you'd see money sticking out from several tobacco cans. Some had large families which some of them received \$2,000, \$1,000 and so on and this interest money was supposedly been continuously received by the month thereafter.

This interest money should have been received as long as the earth lasts. I personally heard this from inspector himself when he said you will always get this monies.

Louis: How many attempts did the department make before the Indian people decided to surrender their land?

Henry: When we were out working in Vegreville district, the people that were involved with the surrender as I have mentioned before, came around there to try and talk the people into surrendering. This was about the first part of summer and it kept on towards fall. Then the people started to come back to see what was taking place. Well eventually the people were won over of surrendering.

Louis: In 1909 the department started to engage the Indian people to surrendering their lands especially in southern part and a lot of places they were succesful and apparently they came here to do the same with Indian people but they were unsuccessful to start with but they kept coming back to try time and again.

Henry: Yes, exactly but they couldn't succeed. But when they put those two in front such as Robert Steinhauer and Samson, those two really done their work. If they didn't use these two I think they would have had hard time of convincing the Indian people to surrender their land.

Louis: Was there anyone from St. Paul that was involved with the dealings or any white man around here?

Henry: Nobody, there was only the inspector and the Indian agent, but the Indian agent at times didn't partake in the meeting or didn't attend. The only main person that really pushed this matter was the inspector. He would come almost every week about this but then there was times he couldn't form a meeting for the fact the people were not interested. But since he had these two people working for him. They really apprehended the people, they gradually built up the people of taking surrender.

Louis: How did the vote won, by how many votes?

Henry: They had a vote. The people that were once against it were gradually turned to surrender. Some from here at Saddle Lake and some from Goodfish. When they held that meeting here, all these people came and pretty well all these people are willing to surrender and there was quite a few from here too. But there was nothing the council could do to prevent that. The chief from Goodfish went with the surrender and Edward, he was a chief then. The chief that was from here didn't like this, that the other chief was willing to surrender. That's how they were voted out (meaning the ones that were against selling). If the chief and council didn't put their signatures, nothing would accomplish from here. It took about a year before the surrender was made.

Louis: What I mean was by how many votes did it take to win by the majority?

Henry: That's what I said. There was a lot of people that didn't bother to come and vote because their names were on the voting list as though they had cast their votes already and some people were absent but their names appear on the list. Most of these people were out working.

(Joe Cardinal asked the old man by how many votes the vote was won.) Some say the surrender was won by one vote.

Henry: In Saddle Lake the surrender was won by one vote but at Goodfish Lake they all got together and won the majority to surrender. But here it was won by just one vote. Like I said, if the chief hadn't signed his name, things would have been different. But he was more or less influenced by the chief from Goodfish. Therefore the majority was won by one.

Louis: We have on files like when the people were fencing the boundary, the white people in the surrounding area approached the Indian agent to stop the Indians from further fencing, specifically where they were interested of obtaining that land.

Henry: That I can't comment too much on. But I've worked right through till they finished the fence up to the river and they obtained this wire from a man in Edmonton that they've made arrangements with Littlechild (Apas cha wasis) and they've got this real poor type of wire. Maybe this is what happened,

I don't know, as far as I know, I wouldn't know. It was in spring when they started fencing. The people really made an effort to try and finish all the reserve boundary. There were quite a few camps in every few miles. At times someone would kill a cow and put up a big feast and dances - powwows. It sure took several weeks before the fencing was done. It was a slow process. People would work intervals; some would be putting posts up while another crew coming behind strengthened the wire and still another crew coming behind nailing the wire and so on. They put three strands all around. We stopped at Cache Lake for a while when we were approaching the lake, the chief came and said, "we are being stopped fencing any further" but these other councillors that were there said that couldn't be done. They formed up a meeting and had some discussions on the matter. Then the chief suggested that they have a vote. But it turned out everyone was in favor of continuing so they just continued on fencing. Perhaps this is what you were referring to, the chief could have been told not to go any further. Furthermore, those white people that lived along the reserve line tried their best to assist the Indian people any way they could. The fact, that was one way they could keep their stock in with their lands. Here I say again I'm telling this as it was, nothing further and less. For instance, they each received one hundred dollars and also were told they would get \$12.00 interest money per capita.

Louis: How was the payments stopped or why?

Henry: I don't know why or how.

Louis: Were the people greatly disappointed?

Henry: They were very disappointed. My father-in-law when he was still alive said one time when Thomas came by to our place and visited, "now you should be working on why these payments had stopped." "It has been stopped in order the money could increase." This is what Makokis told the old man. Oh, they were pretty smart and sneaky how to get around things like that.

Louis: Were the people given things like implements and horses, cows?

Henry: Some like people that went to school when they come back they were given like a team or horses, harness, walking plow, tiller.

Louis: Were these things included with the agreement?

Henry: I don't know. But I know all the young people that came home from school received those things. This was to help them start off on the reserve life like farming. For example one man came and borrowed our team and wagon, said his son who just came home from school had to pick up some stuff in town that he was getting like horses and harness. That same evening they brought back the horses and they went back to town to get the other stuff. I don't know if he got those from that

agreement or assisted from school but that's how they got the stuff.

Louis: How many meetings were there altogether prior to the surrender?

Henry: I was present at three meetings.

Louis: What I mean is, there was only one surrender or was there more surrenders?

Henry: When they had that meeting, the one they had at night. That's where they've decided to surrender.

Louis: Only one surrender?

Henry: Yes. Once it was finished that was it. There was joyful sounds all over the reserve, people shouting and shooting their guns up in the air while they were on their way to get paid. When the surrender was signed and all, the next day they were paid. Them days there was no liquor on the reserve, therefore people didn't bother of drinking. They used the money properly; some bought cattle. My uncle hired me eventually to look after his stock while he was out buying things like that. He was still using those department owned horses. He bought about 5 cows. Well, cattle didn't cost much then and some bought like food and but then some might have used the dollar bills to light their pipes with. For an example there was this old man (he died just last fall) Sick Kak (Skunk) if you'd go in his home, on the shelves you'd see about four tobacco cans full of money. One day I was on my way home from town, I stopped at his place to visit him. Well, he used to called my little girl my daughter-in-law, which we lost her. As soon as we walked in he got up and said "My daughter-in-law is here." He went and took something, (10) ten dollars and handed it to her as a gift and he gave me \$5.00 bill and said, "Buy yourself tobacco," but he also gave some to my wife and he gave us each kerchiefs. That's how the surrenderers felt about everything by being happy. But some were treated different, the ones that were against the

surrender. Like my father-in-law, he didn't want to accept the money right away, until people kept telling him to take it. And while all the surrenderers were celebrating by firing their guns up in the air all the while they were laughing at my father-in-law for not favoring the surrender. That's how crazy the people were you see. They shouldn't do that, they were just shooting their guns like mad. There was another old man that lived nearby, (ka ni chaw how) The Favoured One. They done the same thing to him when they went by his place, I guess he was standing outside when they went by, this Hun Check's father was the one. He was shooting his gun up in the air. You know they never thought they might hurt somebody by shooting off their guns like that. The old man came over afterwards and said to my father-in-law, "Wa they really think they are making fools out of us." My father-in-law told him to think nothing of it and said, "They are the ones that are going

to be sorry for what they did in the future, by surrendering this land. I haven't even attempted going over to get my share yet and I don't intend to yet. Even though, I'm very poor I don't feel I should use that kind of money. This is the reason why I came over to see, if you get your share I'll do the same," he said. "Don't feel bad, we're beaten anyway." If the chief didn't go for it, perhaps things would have been different now. But the chief was well convinced of surrendering, if he had will power to hold back or resist by giving his signature to surrender. Every one of the surrenderers were pretty happy for a while, they had dances pretty near every night - powwows. They were well taken and satisfied. It seemed anyway. Now today people are regretting for what they've done to their lands.

Louis: I'd like to thank you for what you've told us.

Ken: You know why the Washatanow people give up their reserve and came to Saddle Lake?

Henry: Yes, I know, I know the reasons. Like what I said in the first treaty, they were promised but they were misinformed, for the fact none of them read or wrote in the English language. They were told if there are twenty families living together they are entitled to one chief. For this people took portions of lands where they could make reserves. Like this Blue Quills that was near Andrew just south of there, that was one of the purposes they took reserves all over. After they subdue the Indian people. They amalgamate all the Indian reserves. These two reserves were added here for sure. What my father-in-law said. It was after the rebellion this reserve was moved and added on to the Saddle Lake Reserve. It was said Pakan went and lied when they killed my grandfather (Coach Show). When he was given that land he said this Coach Show was

about to start trouble (uprising); this is the reason why he was killed. And they surrendered themselves in for this. Then when he went to Ottawa he was given a portion of land that was added on to this reserve on Saddle Lake Reserve. And then what my father-in-law used to say, when the meetings took place here, this Pakan had said, "Now I come to select a piece of land where my people could farm in the future if they so wish. I would like to have my reserve side by side with your reserve," he told O'chum na hose. He was a Chief then on the Saddle Lake Reserve. But O'chum na hose said this to him, "It could not be done, if we allowed this we are going to have some trouble over this in the future." Pakan had four days of meetings over this matter, but towards the last meeting they had (this is what I often wondered about) when they said they come and claim their land back.

When Pakan spoke again, he had his fist up and said, "See my fist here, this is how you going to do with my reserve for you to run it and all my people that are going to come and live here." The chief (O'chum na hose) asked Pakan then if he meant what he just said. "And if you truly mean what you said, I will do it, but if not I can't do it, I have people too that

will use the land." Pakan said, "I honestly mean what I said. Today God heard what I've just said."

Chief (O'chum na hose) said then, "Okay, I will do it. Add your reserve adjacent to my reserve." Ever since the people have moved into this reserve, these Goodfish Lake people. What my father-in-law used to say Pakan give those people with that reserve. So these people were supposed to belong here on Saddle Lake Reserve, not at Goodfish. The ones that came with the reserve. I myself heard the Indian agent when he said that. Mr. Hughes, I wasn't very far away when I heard him too. The agent was sitting beside the bale and all the leaders sat behind him. The agent turned around and said, "Pakan, of all the meetings you have held here will be settle here now. Hardly anybody really knew the purpose of these meetings. Today you will have to come to conclusions, the reason for this gathering here." Pakan then got up and said "I come to get my land back for the fact I'm getting crowded where I am now." The Indian agent very slowly turned around and said, "Pakan, (at the same time he pointed his finger close to Pakan's face) where do you own a land? You tell me this, around here you haven't got this much (he indicated by using his small index finger). The only piece of land you have is the ground you are standing on and perhaps 6" under. It would take a very strong team of horses to move that piece of ground that much and with your own expense. You have no business with land. These reserves are considered as one reserve now. They are not separate reserves anymore."

Louis: Again, I'd like to thank you.

(End of Interview)

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