- Sam Bugle, aged 74, former chief of Beaver Lake Reserve tells what he knows of the history of the reserve.
- Recounts how raiders passed through Beaver Lake on way from Frog Lake to Lac la Biche during Riel Rebellion.

NOTE: Prior to the actual interview I explained the reason for the return trip, i.e., oral research is still required in some areas on the history of the Beaver Lake Band.

Rose: What is your name?
Sam: Sam Bugle is my name.
Rose: Your age?
Sam: I'm seventy-four years old today.
Rose: Place of birth?
Sam: Here in Beaver Lake. There was a place close by here where people used to make a camp. The called it Suk Ka mee or Mosquito Lake.
Rose: When the Beaver Lake Band initially started requesting for a reserve and a survey, approximately what year was that?
Sam: I didn't personally witness any of those events. I have heard that our reserve was surveyed in 1906.

Rose: When was the reserve officially established? I understand that the treaties or band members were notified by the agents when a reserve was confirmed.

Sam: I would estimate that the finalization of the reserve took place ten years later. Ten years after the first survey the Beaver Lake reserve was established.

Rose: According to records there was a headman called Kah Quay Num or what was the leader's name at that time?

Sam: I should know the headman's name as his body rests at the cemetery that is located not too distant from my home.

Rose: What about the name Pee Yay Sis?

Sam: There was a man by that name that lived here at Beaver Lake, but I don't recall if he was ever a chief.

Rose: Do you recall the Riel Rebellion?

Sam: It is called in our language Ka-mi-yak-kum-kak.

Rose: Apparently something happened at Lac la Biche.

Sam: This happened. My grandmother told us that the Hudson's Bay store was raided at Lac la Biche. According to old stories, the people came in from Frog Lake. There was a trail that run through Beaver Lake leading to Lac la Biche. These raiders apparently passed through this trail stopping at different locations to perform dances along the trail.

Rose: Do you recall the date of the Rebellion?

Sam: No.

Rose: Are you able to recall any other events that took place then which may help you recall the date?

Sam: No, I just used to hear stories about the Hudson's Bay Store raiders.

Rose: Do you know the reason for the raid?

Sam: I don't know. As far as I know none of our band members were involved in the raid.

Rose: Were people faced with any hardships at that time?

Sam: People have always faced considerable hardships. Their means of survival was hunting and fishing.

Rose: Earlier you stated that the survey was done in 1906. They must have started requesting for land prior to that date.
Sam: I'm sure this was the case. Apparently some people wanted to be located east of Beaver Lake while others wanted land where we are presently located. As a result of the differences a vote was taken to settle the land selection. Since the majority voted in favour of this area we were given the land here.

Rose: Have you ever heard any stories if this band were ever encouraged to add to or amalgamate with the Saddle Lake Band?

Sam: No, I'm hearing it for the first time now. That's news to me. I've been around for a long time. I became a chief at a very young age, too, so I was involved in local affairs early in my life. I was a chief for a number of years. The term of office at my time was four years. I was elected to the council several times during the course of my life. We only had one agent covering all of these neighboring reserves, i.e. Saddle Lake, Goodfish and Beaver Lake. We were never formed as a single band nor were we interested in relocating to other bands or moving in onto another band. I don't believe it would have been possible to get the bands together nor even attempt to encourage such a movement. The people had already gotten used to staying in their areas.

Rose: Would you know if D.I.A.N.D. have ever tried to work on this scheme?

Sam: As far as I know, I don't think so. I have never heard anyone.

Rose: I'm talking about a time prior to your leadership.

Sam: I've never heard of it.

Rose: Would you know the leader or headman of this band that adhered to the Treaty?

Sam: No.

Rose: Have you ever heard of "Rolling Thompson"?

Sam: Never.

Rose: Do you recall any names of your earlier leaders?

Sam: Frenchman - O Mis Tik Koos so
     O See Mow - Julienne
     Musk Wah - Gladeau

Rose: Were these the headmen prior to the confirmation of the reserve or a period after this?

Sam: These were the chiefs after the reserve was surveyed.

Rose: So, you do not know Pee Yay Sis and Ka Qua Num?
Sam: I don't know any of them.

Rose: Where was the treaty money given out? The place?

Sam: The treaty money was always distributed at Beaver Lake. Close to the Band office.

Rose: Do you recall the surveyor's name?

Sam: No.

Rose: Does the name "Reid" sound familiar?

Sam: Yes, that's the one that surveyed this reserve.

Rose: What was the arrangement made with the Roman Catholic mission that is located east of here?

Sam: The priests exchanged their original piece of land for the quarter they presently occupy. There were three priests involved. They used to live at the place south of this reserve. As you enter the southern portion of this reserve these priests originally possessed two quarters, but exchanged it for one quarter. They wanted to be located in the central area of Beaver Lake reserve so they could accommodate their services to all of the members here.

Rose: What year was that?

Sam: I think it was about 1903. This is what they say.

Rose: So, they wanted to live in a central location?

Sam: Yes. People used to live there in great numbers forming a camp.

Rose: Why did the priests want to stay in the same area as the campers?

Sam: They wanted to provide adequate services, i.e. religious, to the Indians.

Rose: Do you know the area of this reserve land allotment?

Sam: It almost covers the whole township.

Rose: That will be all. Thank you.

(End of Interview)
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