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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Description of Indian medicine.

Cyndy: Today I am interviewing Mrs. Josephine Roy in her home in Toronto, at 14 Spadina Road apartment 212. Mrs. Roy, who is from South Bay on Manitoulin Island, will be telling me about her childhood and young adult life. She grew up in the bush three miles from the village, and by seventeen had not only helped her father with hunting and trapping, but had also worked with him at the pulp mill at Horse Island. My name is Cyndy Baskin.

Josephine: I was born in South Bay, that's on Manitoulin Island.

Cyndy: And what year was that?

Josephine: 1906.

Cyndy: Do you know your birthdate, what day?

Josephine: February 4th.

Cyndy: And your name is Mrs. Roy, do you have an Indian

name too?

Josephine: No. Well, I had an Indian name when I was young, my name was Josephine Neawash before I got married.

Cyndy: Do you know how to spell that?

Josephine: Yeah, N-E-A-W-A-S-H.

Cyndy: Do you know what that means in Indian?

Josephine: Neawash, no I don't.

Cyndy: How big was your family?

Josephine: My family? Well I had twelve.

Cyndy: Twelve brothers and sisters?

Josephine: And they were dead, some of them, when they were small.

Cyndy: Some of them died when they were small?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: What did they die from?

Josephine: Whooping cough, and the (inaudible).

Cyndy: Can you tell me what your home was like? Describe what your home was like.

Josephine: It's wooden, all log, log house.

Cyndy: How many rooms?

Josephine: Oh, we don't have any rooms.

Cyndy: One big room?

Josephine: Yeah, one big room. In the kitchen.

Cyndy: What about household conveniences, did you have to go out to get water?

Josephine: Yes, we had to get the water.

Cyndy: Where did you get your water from?

Josephine: From the well.

Cyndy: What about hydro, electricity?

Josephine: We didn't have any electricity.

Cyndy: So you lived with your mother and your father?

Josephine: Yes, I was living.

Cyndy: What did your father and mother do?

Josephine: My mother, just planting, and my father was cutting logs, pulp wood, we call pulp wood; so I helped him out. I worked like a man.

Cyndy: You did!

Josephine: Yeah. Well I was the only one in the family.

Cyndy: So what did you do when you helped your father?

Josephine: I cut wood, I cut pulp wood. We used to, my father used to sit on the other side and me on this side, and we were pulling the...

Cyndy: With a long saw?

Josephine: Yeah, a long saw.

Cyndy: And then what did you do with the wood that you cut?

Josephine: Well, we sell them.

Cyndy: Did you sell them to other Indian people?

Josephine: No, we were working at Horse Island, we were working at Horse Island. It was the name of Harrison, the one we worked for.

Cyndy: Was it a pulp mill?

Josephine: Yeah, it's a pulp wood.

Cyndy: So you worked hard! How old were you when you were working with your father?

Josephine: I was only seventeen.

Cyndy: What did your mother do? She planted a garden?

Josephine: Planting garden, and she was the cook for us.

Cyndy: What kind of things did she plant in the garden?

Josephine: Potatoes, carrots, turnips, and cabbage, beans. We didn't buy nothing.

Cyndy: You didn't buy anything from the stores?

Josephine: No, just the tea and lard, and butter.

Cyndy: Did you use sugar?

Josephine: Yeah, sugar.

Cyndy: You bought sugar too.

Josephine: Yeah. We used to put the, used to cook strawberries and raspberries.

Cyndy: You picked wild strawberries?

Josephine: Well, she picked them herself while I'm working. I'm not working, I didn't help mother. I help my dad, because I was only one in the family; all my brothers and sisters, they were dead. They had the T.B., that's why they died. So I ran away, you know, when I was small. I was at Spanish.

Cyndy: You went to school in Spanish?

Josephine: Yes.

Cyndy: And you ran away from the school?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: You ran away from home?

Josephine: I just said to my mother and my dad, "I better go someplace. Maybe I'll die too." So I went to Spanish.

Cyndy: How old were you when you did that?

Josephine: Oh, around ten.

Cyndy: Around ten.

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: You were afraid you were going to die like your brothers and sisters?

Josephine: Yeah. Because I know my brother, one of my brothers, he died when he was nineteen, twenty, he died; the last brother I had. He was half dead, you know. I can't talk very good in English, but he had, I guess, cramps, you know. His head was like this, he couldn't work.

Cyndy: And you went to Spanish when you ran away?

Josephine: Yeah. I told my mother and my dad, "I'm going to Spanish."

Cyndy: What did they say?

Josephine: Well, "You could go if you want to go." And, "Don't get lonesome."

Cyndy: What did you do in Spanish?

Josephine: Well, I went to school.

Cyndy: How long did you go to school there?

Josephine: Four years.

Cyndy: You went to school four years?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: So that's grade four?

Josephine: Grade three -- I was stupid. Now I couldn't count anything, you know. I just put the numbers, I didn't count them, I just put any kind of a number there. I was very stupid.

Cyndy: How did you get to Spanish?

Josephine: Well, we used to get the... a big boat. They used to come and get us at Wikwemikong with the big boat, you know. Just like a barge; it's a big boat and all the kids went there, not only me.

Cyndy: All the kids got on the boat and went to Spanish to go to school?

Josephine: Yeah. Well, there was no school over there.

Cyndy: What did you learn at school?

Josephine: I was in grade, they used to call it reader, third reader, that's what I was. Well, I know how to read, only when I didn't know how to count, and I don't know how to subtract anything. I know now -- I just teach myself, so I know how to subtract. And I didn't know any money. So I know now the money, I know how much is left. Now I'm teaching myself, and I'm reading papers, you know, just to teach myself so now I know.

Cyndy: Who taught you at the school?

Josephine: Well, it was, her name was Mrs. James.

Cyndy: Were they nuns?

Josephine: The teachers.

Cyndy: The teachers, yeah. Did you like her?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: She was good to you?

Josephine: Yeah. I never had a spanking.

Cyndy: Never!

Josephine: No. No punish.

Cyndy: So you were good?

Josephine: Yeah. Well, I listen, I listen to what to what they told me, not to go over the fence. You know, there was a big fence where they keep us.

Cyndy: Did you have to work there too? Did you have a garden at school?

Josephine: Yeah, and we do the house cleaning, you know. We always change, and we were working in the dairy, you know, milking cows. Yeah, that's what we do in the dairy.

Cyndy: So what did you do when you got up in the morning? Did you have chores to do?

Josephine: No, we had to go to church.

Cyndy: Go to church, and then you'd go to school?

Josephine: Yeah, and then we go to work. So when they signed the clock then you go to school.

Cyndy: And then what did you do when you finished school?

Josephine: Play.

Cyndy: What did you play?

Josephine: Ball.

Cyndy: Baseball?

Josephine: Yeah, baseball. And race. I beat everybody.

Cyndy: You were a good athlete?

Josephine: Yeah. And now I can't run. (laughs) Yeah, I beat everything. When they have race, I run fast.

Cyndy: Did you win things when you won the races?

Josephine: Oh, just one apple. (laughs) You know, at school, but when I got home I used to get \$5., \$10. I beat everybody at Wikwemikong and then what we call... that town is Manitowaning. I beat everyone of them.

Cyndy: So you were in lots of races.

Josephine: Yeah. They used to call me to go, so I went. And they start with how to cut the log with the bucksaw, we called

that bucksaw, not chain saw. We called it bucksaw, you know, a small one, so I used that cutting log about that big. Nobody didn't beat me.

Cyndy: You had contests cutting logs?

Josephine: Yeah, contests for...

Cyndy: Was there other girls in the contest, or were you the only girl?

Josephine: Yeah, there were some girls, and the women. You know, that was the women's that contest.

Cyndy: You were a women when you went in the contest?

Josephine: Yeah. Because I always had my father.

Cyndy: You had lots of practice.

Josephine: Yeah, I had lots of practice. And I used to split wood, even now when I got married I used to split wood, and cut wood myself. Because my husband wasn't seeing good, he was sick.

Cyndy: At school did you have to go to church every day?

Josephine: Every day, every morning.

Cyndy: The church was run by, or the school was run by the Catholic Church?

Josephine: It's a Catholic Church.

Cyndy: Did you like that religion, going to church?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: It's okay?

Josephine: Yeah. It's okay. But I go any church, if there's no Catholic church and there's a church I go over there, too.

Cyndy: So you go to any church?

Josephine: Yeah. And Christian Church, I go there, too. Well, there's the only one God, there's no two Gods.

Cyndy: So you don't think it matters what church you go to?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: Because there's only one God.

Josephine: Yeah, there's only one God and they do different religions. But the...

Cyndy: Have you always been a Christian even when you were little, were you a Christian?

Josephine: No. I was a Catholic when I was small.

Cyndy: Were your mother and father Catholic too?

Josephine: Yeah. Just now, when I was around thirty, that's the time I go to any church, when I was thirty years old. Because there's no Catholic church, but I went in different church anyway, just to see. There's no different, no different what you hear, that's the same, and that's the same Bible of Catholic Bible. It's just the same, no different. I don't know why that's what I'm thinking about, how is only Catholic. And that Bible, it's just the same as any, that's what I know.

Cyndy: Did you ever practice the Indian religion, or just the Christian?

Josephine: Just the, yes, we talk in Indian not in English when we pray.

Cyndy: So when you pray you talk in Indian then?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: Now you talk in English?

Josephine: Yes.

Cyndy: But you can speak Ojibway, is that what you said?

Josephine: Yeah, that was Ojibway, that's what we were talking... Even now they don't pray Indian, we pray in English.

Cyndy: Did your mother and father teach you how to speak Ojibway?

Josephine: When I was small I know.

Cyndy: Everybody spoke in Ojibway then?

Josephine: Yeah. We didn't talk in English, we were talking in Indian all the time. I just learnt how to speak in English now. I didn't know...

Cyndy: When did you learn how to speak English?

Josephine: At Spanish.

Cyndy: When you went to school they taught you.

Josephine: Yeah. They didn't let us talk in Indian, we have to talk in English.

Cyndy: How come?

Josephine: I don't know. They used to spank everybody, you know, if anybody talk in Indian.

Cyndy: But you didn't get spanked, you learned how to speak English.

Josephine: No, I never, I just play all by myself. (laughs)

Cyndy: So you learned how to speak English easy?

Josephine: Yes, I learned how to speak in English when I was at school. Even now when I'm here and I see an Indian I don't speak to them in English, I speak to them in Indian. Because maybe I'll make, I won't say right, if I talk in English.

Cyndy: Did you think it was mean when they spanked the kids for speaking Indian?

Josephine: They didn't spank, they were kneeling down at the corner.

Cyndy: They had to kneel down in the corner?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: That was their punishment?

Josephine: Yeah, that's the punishment.

Cyndy: Did you think that was mean?

Josephine: Yeah. (laughs) My knees, they were sore.

Cyndy: You had to stay there for a long time?

Josephine: Yeah, about, I guess, about half an hour. So they won't do that again.

Cyndy: So then they stopped speaking Indian at school?

Josephine: Yeah. Nobody can speak in Indian. I guess that's why we speak in English. So we start a list and learn to speak in English. That's what happened to me when I was young.

Cyndy: How big was South Bay when you were living there? About how many people lived there, do you know?

Josephine: I don't know.

Cyndy: It was not too big?

Josephine: Just they called it a village, there's not much people over, down that side. Wikwemikong, it's a big city, I don't know what to say. There's lots of people at Wikwemikong,

but where I lived, there's not much. I don't know.

Cyndy: What did the people do there for work?

Josephine: They don't work.

Cyndy: Did they grow gardens?

Josephine: No, they don't plant, I guess, nobody doesn't plant. They just looking after the welfare.

Cyndy: Most of the people there were getting welfare?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: But your mother had a garden. Was she the only one?

Josephine: Yeah. Yeah, we had a garden. And now when I was raising my kids I had a garden too, with horses. We use the horses and the plow.

Cyndy: Didn't the other people on the reserve have gardens too?

Josephine: Yes, they have a small gardens now.

Cyndy: Did they have horses?

Josephine: The old people, not the young people. Yeah, they have small gardens. Even now, where I come from, you know, Indian village, so they have a small gardens like my daughter, she's planting. She's not buying any potatoes, nothing at all. And they raise the pigs, and the hens, and they use their own eggs, my daughter. And she's sells eggs if somebody goes to buy them.

Cyndy: Did you have animals when you were a little girl at your place?

Josephine: Yes, we had chickens, cows. I used to milk cows and make butter.

Cyndy: How did you make butter?

Josephine: We had a big pail. They made that, you know, wooden pail, there used to be lard about that high. Lard full of... so when's it's empty they made the, how to make... No, the sticks were like this and there was a hole in the middle so they'd make it. So we turn that around when we want to make butter with the cream. We never buy butter, they made their ownelves. My father used to make that, himself, to make butter. So he'd just keep on turning so that the buttermilk comes up.

Cyndy: What else did you make?

Josephine: What?

Cyndy: What else did you make? Did you make bannock?

Josephine: I don't understand.

Cyndy: Did you make bread?

Josephine: Oh yes, we made home bread.

Cyndy: How did you make that?

Josephine: We use yeast cake, and salt, with flour, and we put a little bit butter to make it soft, so we raise it up, we put it in the pans and make nice bread. I could make it, but it's too hot yet. (laughs) First time when I came here I made my own bread, my home made, you know, three loaves.

Cyndy: What did you cook on?

Josephine: With the stove.

Cyndy: Did you have a wood stove?

Josephine: Yeah, a wood stove.

Cyndy: How did you keep your food good? How did you keep your butter good?

Josephine: Oh, my father made a big, he dig a... sand.... I don't know what to say.

Cyndy: He dug in the dirt?

Josephine: Yeah. And he was to make a big thing and he put the boards there, so we keep the, what we call the crocks, and that's the place where we put butter, and they were freezing. And they had a log house, you know, where they put that, so they lock it up. No windows, just make it cool, put logs and cover it up. That's the place where we made the butter cold, it's just the same about like a freezer. So we don't have any electricity, we just have it a little while ago about twenty, or thirty years since we had the electric on that side -- but

not in the bush. I was living three miles from the village, I was in the bush with the maple trees.

Cyndy: Did you come into the village very often?

Josephine: Well, when we come to church we had to come down. That's three miles from the village, we lived.

Cyndy: Did you make maple syrup?

Josephine: Yeah, we made maple syrup, maple sugar.

Cyndy: How did you do that? How did you make it?

Josephine: Oh, we had a big pot with the three legs on, just like a iron pots, you know, and the copper... I don't know. It was a... I can't talk very good in English, you know, big... So we put the sticks like this and over there, so that's the place where we hang those....

Cyndy: You'd hang the pots?

Josephine: We'd hang those pots. So we put the, except I don't know what to call that... I just say water.

Cyndy: From the maple trees?

Josephine: Yeah, from the maple trees. So they boil them and make sugar, make syrup.

Cyndy: And it gets all thick and goes like sugar?

Josephine: Yeah. So when we had to stir it around when you want to make sugar, and we had the brown sugar. And sap, I don't know what they call that now, and we used to make hard

cakes on them, you know. Just like a candy and you break them and eat them.

Cyndy: Did you make that for yourselves, or did you sell some, too?

Josephine: No, we didn't even sell them. We didn't sell anything, we keep it ourselves and use it ourselves. Like when we kill the pigs we eat them ourselves, we have that... you know what I'm talking about? That log house, what they made... the meat is hanging there. You know, we kill the pigs around November.

Cyndy: So you had a log house where you kept the pig meat?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: Did you smoke it?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: Dried it?

Josephine: We put it a big, I don't know what they call that, a bar. We put it in the bar with the salt and water, so we put the meat in there so it don't spoil. And we change the water and make another salt water in the saltpeter, we put that. With salt, with saltpeter, so it doesn't spoil.

Cyndy: How long did it stay good if you did that?

Josephine: Oh, it stays long.

Cyndy: It would last you all winter?

Josephine: Yeah. And we used to kill the deer. My father used to kill six deer. So we hang them up for the winter, so we have lots of meat every winter.

Cyndy: Did your father go hunting by himself?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: And how did he kill the deer?

Josephine: With the gun. And after they were buying wolves, so I used to go with them. I had a little wee horse. The little wee horse would strike me. I used to go where he went, you know, the tracks. So my little horse was walking on top of snow. You know, the snow is hard. So I gather all the deers and bring them home.

Cyndy: Did you ever kill a deer?

Josephine: No, I'm scared of a gun. (laughs) Even if I see it, I'm just scared of it. No, I never use a gun.

Cyndy: Did your father do any trapping?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: What did he get?

Josephine: Wolves, and muskrats, and weasels. We used to put them where the chickens are. That's the place where they want to go in to kill the chickens.

Cyndy: The weasels used to kill the chickens?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: So you have to get the weasels?

Josephine: Yeah. And they bite them here. They don't eat them, they just take the blood out of them.

Cyndy: What did you do with the wolves and the muskrats that you trapped?

Josephine: Well, we sell them.

Cyndy: You sell them to other Indians, or other...

Josephine: English.

Cyndy: The English people bought your furs?

Josephine: Yeah. Some of our... One man was buying them so I guess he sent them away. Oh, they still buying wolves. There's only \$25. though. And now it's kind of a danger now, because there's lots of bears, big about that high. Nobody just kill them. My uncle died; he used to kill them and trap them where they, you know, when they walk. They have a big trap so that they kill them, can't get out. Nails are just like this in the trap, big nails, he can't pull himself out.

Cyndy: Did you have to clean the wolves' hides before you sold them?

Josephine: Yeah, we have to take the skin off.

Cyndy: Did you do that?

Josephine: I did that.

Cyndy: Tell me how you did that.

Josephine: Well, we use a knife. We hang that up -- there's nail over there and we hang it up and cut the legs here, and the little, we have to put the feet up. We have to clean that too. Just, we take the skin only, not the meat. We have to use a knife to peel it, and we cut it here and down to here. So we opened up... take the skin off.

Cyndy: What did you do with the meat?

Josephine: Throw it away. You can't eat it. (laughs)

Cyndy: Did you make clothes for yourself?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: Did you buy your clothes?

Josephine: Yeah, we buy our clothes. We don't make them.

Cyndy: Where did you have to go to get your clothes?

Josephine: Well, we call it Maniowaning.

Cyndy: There was a store there?

Josephine: Yeah, there's a store there, there's four stores, yeah, four.

Cyndy: Did you go to dances and ceremonies, and things on the reserve?

Josephine: Oh yes.

Cyndy: Did you?

Josephine: I did, I used to step-dance.

Cyndy: Oh!

Josephine: I did that step-dance, too. Everybody can.

Cyndy: Were you a good dancer?

Josephine: Yes, I was a good dancer.

Cyndy: How often did you go?

Josephine: When they have a dance someplace, when somebody gets married, I used to go. My boyfriend used to go and get me.
(laughs)

Cyndy: And did the people get married at church, or did they have Indian ceremonies?

Josephine: No, they go to church.

Cyndy: And then they'd have a dance after?

Josephine: Yeah. They don't drink, just food on the table. They cook wedding cake, all kinds of cake. They know everything, and they make pies; just the relations, not everybody.

Cyndy: Did you have any traditional ceremonies that you went to?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: Like naming ceremonies, or anything like that?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: Tell me about one of those.

Josephine: Well, when the Holy Day, that's the time, not everytime, just Easter and Christmas. And on New Year's they have that till the sixth day of January. They have a party and dancing.

Cyndy: What did they do there?

Josephine: Dance after.

Cyndy: Step-dancing?

Josephine: Yeah. And they call the Horse Island that I used to work, when I used to work with my dad. That's the place where I cut wood, I help my dad to cut pulp wood.

Cyndy: Was that close to where you lived?

Josephine: No, not close.

Cyndy: Far?

Josephine: We have to go with the boat to get down there. It's a big island, Horse Island, they call it Horse Island. So that's the place where I was when I was eighteen. They kept me there. I was working with my father because we have no brothers, you know, everybody died, my brothers. So I had to go help if something happens, so I have to go and help.

Cyndy: Did you and your father get money?

Josephine: Oh yeah, we had lots of money.

Cyndy: What did you do with your money?

Josephine: Just buy something for the clothes. I dress like a man, I didn't dress like a boy, I just dressed like a boy. And the big high... I wouldn't be able to wear them now, and the high ones with the leather here and the rubber here, and I used to lace them -- I was dressed like a man.

Cyndy: Did you have to buy those boots?

Josephine: Yeah, we have to buy boots at the camp.

Cyndy: So you stayed in a camp when you were working with your dad?

Josephine: We had a small camp, you know, put me and my dad.

Cyndy: What was the camp like?

Josephine: A log house.

Cyndy: And you all stayed in the log house?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: Who did the cooking?

Josephine: With the stove.

Cyndy: Did you do the cooking, or did you have one cook?

Josephine: My dad used to cook, I didn't like to cook. He used to tell me how to cook. (laughs)

Cyndy: How many people were there?

Josephine: Just two of us.

Cyndy: Just you and your dad?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: That's where you stayed when you did the pulp wood?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: How long did you stay there before you go back home again?

Josephine: Oh, I guess we stayed there about seven years.

Cyndy: So you'd be cutting wood and then you'd go back home, and then go back?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: You went back and forth all the time?

Josephine: We stayed there for about two weeks, so we have to take money to my mother, my mother was home.

Cyndy: She'd be home by herself?

Josephine: Yeah. She was a good worker too. And my nephew was living with...

Cyndy: With your mother?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: He used to help her around the house?

Josephine: Well, she was younger, she used to help my mother to get water. My mother died when she was sixty-five. With arthritis, her hands were...

Cyndy: Did your mother have to work hard?

Josephine: Yes, just like, she has to look after the cows and my nephew.

Cyndy: How many cows did you have?

Josephine: About fifteen.

Cyndy: And how much land did you own?

Josephine: Oh I don't know about that land, we had four of them.

Cyndy: Four acres?

Josephine: Yeah. No, we had four where we keep our cows, and where we get our hay, and where we plant, we had that plant one farm. So we keep, we didn't let the cows go all over.

Cyndy: You had them fenced in?

Josephine: Yeah. We had fence and, you know, we didn't buy anything. That was all right. That's the way I feel now, I want to eat meat all the time because I was raised with the meat. (laughs)

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Josephine: ... I was talking about, we call it Horse Island, where I was working. And I nearly got married.

Cyndy: You nearly got married when you were working there?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: To who?

Josephine: To white man.

Cyndy: Yeah?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: Oh, who was he?

Josephine: His name was Mike Bell, I guess he's still living I don't know.

Cyndy: Did he work at the pulp mill?

Josephine: He was, no he was not working, he was working in the office and he used to come there, and he asked me to marry him. And I said, "I can't marry a white man. I can't cook." He wouldn't like it the way I cook. (laughs)

Cyndy: That's why you didn't want to marry a white man, because you didn't cook? Or did you want to marry an Indian man?

Josephine: Well, I was scared to marry him. You know, he was my boyfriend, so I was scared to get married, because he asked to marry him, because I'm a good worker, maybe I could do good working in the house too. Because I was a good worker. And he used to eat with us, yeah.

Cyndy: How old were you then?

Josephine: I was nineteen.

Cyndy: Can you tell me about the chief on your reserve when you were little? Do you remember how the chief was chosen?

Josephine: That's the one who gave us, the one's that are poor. He gives us welfare, and they build the houses. I tried myself

to build me a house, you know, my house is small. I'm living alone, I'm not living with anybody, just her, just my granddaughter and my grandson. So when I move here, so I can keep the building just the same as that girl. They went to throw me out, can't live with her. And she has no mother, but her father is living. Her father just doesn't give her anything. He's very poor. So I don't know, I used to get the welfare over there when I was at my place, you know. He used to get the welfare from the, you know, what you were asking me.

Cyndy: The chief.

Josephine: Yeah, the chief. They used to give her welfare; since I'm here they don't give her.

Cyndy: What else did the chief do? Do you remember other things he did?

Josephine: Well, they write to the government, too. They give something, you know, if somebody is poor. They give me a note for something. I can't talk very good, you know.

Cyndy: Do you know how the people picked the chief? How did they get to be the chief?

Josephine: Well, we have to sign the papers, you know. They got the papers and they put all the names on them, the ones...

Cyndy: You picked one?

Josephine: Yeah, we have to pick one and roll it up and put it in the box, so nobody doesn't know which one they pick.

Cyndy: All the people get to do that?

Josephine: Yeah, all the people. We have to change our chief, we have to make a papers, the one we want to be chief. The best one we think.

Cyndy: Were there other important people on the reserve that had important things to do?

Josephine: Well, they used to do, I don't know why now.

Cyndy: What did they used to do?

Josephine: They used to cut pulp wood, everybody. And now they don't let anybody cut pulp wood, you know, just to make money. I don't know why they do that. There's only one person cutting pulp wood now, he's selling it by himself. Well, he has the truck, he sells it at (inaudible). That's the place he brings the wood, you know, what he cuts. And that's the only one. Because nobody, they haven't got any truck. That's the only one.

Cyndy: Did you have any special kinds of medicine when you

were a little girl?

Josephine: Oh yes. Nobody never sick over there.

Cyndy: What did you do when someone did get sick?

Josephine: We have roots.

Cyndy: What kind of roots? Do you know what they were?

Josephine: Yeah, I know. Like me when I came here, I use Indian medicine, and I use my fiddles, I see doctor. Even I'm drinking my medicine. You know, I had a heart trouble.

Cyndy: Can you tell me about your Indian medicine?

Josephine: I don't know what they called it. And I had a high blood pressure, and I had a gall stones, I was... So I drank that medicine, still have it there.

Cyndy: Did you make it?

Josephine: Yeah, I make it. I boiled it. Just put sticks in the pot, and boil it. And you use a rag so it would be clear, just like a tea.

Cyndy: What were the sticks? What kind of sticks?

Josephine: What kind of sticks? I'll show you.

Cyndy: Okay.

Josephine: I'm using this, that's why I feel better. Nobody never gets sick where I come from, and now I don't know what they using... And nobody didn't have the cancer, I don't why they have a cancer, nobody never hear that before. And that's the first time we hear of cancer.

Cyndy: So when you were young none of the people got cancer?

Josephine: No, nobody.

Cyndy: Why? Why do you think they didn't?

Josephine: I guess because they using Indian medicine, and they using a tea. We call the Nanabush tea.

Cyndy: Nanabush tea?

Josephine: Yeah. There's a, where the water is, we hook that up. I was very sick. Now I feel better, that's what the doctors say.

Cyndy: So you've been using this and...

Josephine: Well, I been using this.

Cyndy: And your doctor says you're getting better?

Josephine: Yeah. But I didn't tell him I'm using an Indian medicine.

Cyndy: He wouldn't like it?

Josephine: He wouldn't like it. (Unwrapping some sort of package to show the interviewer) You see. I guess you wouldn't see that someplace.

Cyndy: You don't know what it is? What's it called?

Josephine: Well, we call it "everlasting leaf".

Cyndy: Everlasting leaf?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: And you make a tea out of it and drink it?

Josephine: Yeah, we drink it like a tea. I'm keeping this, maybe it will come back again, you see, it just...

Cyndy: Did you get it up north?

Josephine: Yeah. I brought it from up north. You know, I was very sick. I nearly die, I was in the hospital for one month, I didn't know, for my heart. That's only one and they call that everlasting leaf. It's in the bush.

Cyndy: Can you use that no matter what sickness you have?

Josephine: What?

Cyndy: Is that good for all sickness?

Josephine: Yeah, all kinds of sickness.

Cyndy: What's Nanabush?

Josephine: Oh, that was these in the water. So we take out the... it tastes like a pulp mill(?) when you make it. We make it like a tea.

Cyndy: It's the plants in the water? And you have to take them out?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: And you make that into a tea?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: Is that good for all sickness?

Josephine: No, for headache only. Maybe it be good for arthritis, and you put it here; and somebody have an awful headache we make a bag so we put it here and here. We never...

Cyndy: You put it on the head and the neck?

Josephine: Yeah. We never had a doctor, we never use pills. We use all the Indian medicine.

Cyndy: Did you have a Medicine Man?

Josephine: No, there's lots of people that knows how to make medicine.

Cyndy: What other kinds of medicine did you use?

Josephine: All kinds of medicine. And I don't know what they call this, when you have a bad dream. What do you call that now?

Cyndy: Nightmare?

Josephine: Yeah, so we put that too. See.

Cyndy: You make a tea out of this too?

Josephine: Yeah, I put this together with that. And I drink it, so the nightmare doesn't bother me anymore.

Cyndy: So you never had a doctor come on the reserve?

Josephine: No, we never had a doctor. We use all the Indian medicine. And it's still me I'm using it.

Cyndy: And you think that helps you better than the doctor's pills?

Josephine: Yeah. Well, the doctor gave me the pills so I'm using them.

Cyndy: You're using both?

Josephine: No. When I feel sick I'll use those so that I'm always keeping clean, you know, I don't want to get dirty. I'll just leave it like that, put it in the bag so if I feel sick again I'll boil this, I'll make like a tea. And it looks like a tea when you put it in the bottle.

Cyndy: Does it taste good?

Josephine: Yeah, it tastes good. Just like the same of tea. Yeah, that's for my heart and my high blood pressure. And now my heart. I used to hold myself all the time. I was very

sick. And I was living alone here. They didn't let her to stay with me because she was small, she was only thirteen years old when I got here, and now she's fifteen, she'll be sixteen in July. She's a good girl, she asked me if you want to go out. And now she asked me to go at her auntie's. I said, "You could go if you wake up," but I don't let her at night, I'm scared. I'm scared when she goes out, I just worry about her. I drink this lots, if you only see me how I was here. Even this, I couldn't even lift it, how weak I was. I didn't do my

house cleaning, she used to come and wash my floors. I was just like Big Ben over there. (laughs) It was so dirty I couldn't even wash it, I just... my breath was just going fast. It's funny, I'm well now. I could do my work, I could do all alone. And that only what we do know, well, we could do it. I know how to do it. A cedar, you know cedar, we put that on the stove and make it warm. So we put it on the floor and cover yourself and your legs, cover your legs and so the smoke comes out; so the room doesn't get, goes away.

Cyndy: Did you do that?

Josephine: I didn't do it, because nobody to help me because I can't walk. We have to cover it like...

Cyndy: Do you know people who have done that on the reserve?

Josephine: Not, yes, they do that. We do that at home.

Cyndy: Is that what they call sweat lodge?

Josephine: I guess so. I don't know what they call it, that's all I know. They put it here, and the smoke, and not in the water, just to make it hot, you know, and you cover yourself. And the water just come out from your legs.

Cyndy: So you sweat?

Josephine: Yeah, and you sweat.

Cyndy: It's good for rheumatism?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: And that's cedar?

Josephine: Yeah, cedar. Just that I seen them here, yeah, cedar. Just only cedar with leaves, you know. I don't know what they call them leaves. So we make them on, we heat them on the top of the stove, we don't have that kind. Maybe put them in the oven. Yeah. Nobody never got sick over there. We use all Indian medicine. We never, nobody never had a fiddles, and now we using the fiddles. I'm using a fiddles now.

Cyndy: Do you remember any songs that you learned, any

special song?

Josephine: Me? I never sing.

Cyndy: You never sing?

Josephine: No. Maybe you run away if I sing. (laughs)

Cyndy: Did other people?

Josephine: Yeah, there's lots of people sing in Indian.

Cyndy: Do you remember what any of the songs were about, any of the Indian songs?

Josephine: I don't know any Indian songs, I never sing. When I was at school neither, I didn't sing.

Cyndy: They didn't get mad at you if you didn't sing?

Josephine: No. It's too high and it's too low when I was singing, so they told me not to sing. (laughs)

Cyndy: What about stories? Did your Indian parents or anyone tell you any stories about people when you were small?

Josephine: I just forget.

Cyndy: You don't remember them?

Josephine: I don't remember. That's all I know, Nanabush, and I can't say it in English what Nanabush means.

Cyndy: Can you tell me the story about Nanabush in English?

Josephine: That's what I don't know to say it in English. Anyway Nanabush, we called it Nanabush, and there was a big storm, you know, raining storm and that Nanabush he runs through, running away. And he step on the, you know, crack, and I don't know what for Nanabush with the snow. And he seen now just like this, you know. And there was a crack, so there was a butter there, and they pick that butter. They eat it and now that's the one who spoiled the, we should get everything there, Nanabush shouldn't spoil that. And that crack where he put all kinds of butter, you know, lard, you know, so that it cover up with that sand. That's all I know. (laughs) It's funny, eh? Maybe somebody will get it Indian one. Yeah, Nanabush spoil everything.

Cyndy: Who used to tell the stories? Did your mother tell you the stories about Nanabush, or someone else?

Josephine: Somebody else, my grandfather.

Cyndy: Your grandfather told you?

Josephine: Yeah, my grandfather used to tell all kinds of stories, you know, just the stories, not the... it's not really happen. And I don't know enough, I was too busy playing.
(laughs)

Cyndy: Did you used to go on any other trips when you were small, besides the pulp mill and to school? Did you ever go anywhere else?

Josephine: No, I never, they don't let me go someplace else.

Cyndy: When did you first meet non-native people, white men?

Josephine: When I was working in the... They used to come and look at us when we were cutting pulp wood.

Cyndy: They would come and look at you?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: They wanted to see what you looked like?

Josephine: Yeah. (laughs)

Cyndy: That's the first time you met them?

Josephine: Yeah, that's the first time I met him. He's at the, he's living in the mine shed, you know, here. I guess he's still living.

Cyndy: That's Mike Bell?

Josephine: Yeah. And there was... that's the place where he was working in the boat, and I don't know if he's working in the boat. You know, that time he used to go back and forth at Tobermory. He has a sore, he broke his leg, he fall down. Too much drinking. Two times he sprained his ankle.

Cyndy: Did you have other boyfriends on the reserve?

Josephine: Yeah, I had an Indian boyfriend so that they let me to go to get married. They don't want me to run after the boys. They didn't let me go anyplace, just to sit outside, not to walk around. They don't let, they watch me, not like these, like her -- she just went out running after the boys. Oh yeah, your girlfriend, watch, she's going phone again.

Third Party: Oh, can I put that in the bedroom?

Josephine: Okay.

Cyndy: So your Indian boyfriend, they don't want you to go around, go away?

Josephine: No, they didn't let me. Just to sit outside,

sitting down. They don't let me to go walk around in the bush; well that's a bush where I was. That's not a, not like this. There was only a maple bush. We lived far away from, three miles, from the village.

Cyndy: Were they afraid that something would happen to you?

Josephine: Yeah. Maybe I would get a papoose. (laughs)

Cyndy: When did you get married?

Josephine: Oh, I was nineteen.

Cyndy: Nineteen.

Josephine: And I didn't marry my boyfriend.

Cyndy: Who did you marry?

Josephine: Another guy.

Cyndy: Why didn't you marry your boyfriend?

Josephine: They didn't let me.

Cyndy: Your parents didn't want you to?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: Why?

Josephine: Because my sister died with just the same name. So my sister was very poor. They had no shoes, and that man, he didn't work, and he got pneumonia and that's why he died. And she had to raise a small baby. My mother was looking after that baby when my sister died.

Cyndy: So that your boyfriend had the same as your sister's husband?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: So that your mother didn't want you to marry him?

Josephine: Yeah, no, they didn't listen.

Cyndy: So who did you marry?

Josephine: Another guy, that I don't know. So one month I didn't talk to him.

Cyndy: After you were married?

Josephine: When I was married. His brother I talk first. (laughs) I liked his brother first before I liked him.

Cyndy: Did your mother and father pick this boy for you to

marry?

Josephine: No, he just came over there, you know. They used to do that long time ago. We don't have any boyfriends. When you talk to them, so they think they will marry you, so when ask the parents to get married -- that's the way it was, not to have a boyfriend before.

Cyndy: If your mother and father said, "Yes," then he could marry you?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: But if they said, "No," he couldn't marry you?

Josephine: No.

Cyndy: But they liked this one?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: So you married him, and you didn't talk to him for a month?

Josephine: Yeah, I didn't talk to him for a month. I was scared of him because I don't know him. So I was all right when I got married, you know, he was good.

Cyndy: He was a good husband?

Josephine: Yeah, I had a good husband.

Cyndy: Did you work? Did you still do work?

Josephine: No, I didn't do nothing when I got married. I never work anymore.

Cyndy: Did you work in your house?

Josephine: I just work in the house.

Cyndy: You have to learn how to cook?

Josephine: Yeah. Well, I know how to cook. You know, gee, it took big potatoe... (laughs)

Cyndy: Did you have a garden?

Josephine: Yeah, we had a garden, big garden, stood thirty-eight acres farm when I got married.

Cyndy: Did you have animals?

Josephine: Oh yes, but no cows, just the horses.

Cyndy: And did your husband go away to work, or did he stay

home?

Josephine: Yes, he went away to work.

Cyndy: What did he do?

Josephine: I don't know what he was doing. He was working that with Copolarny(?). And after that for the two months, so he came home. So he went and worked for my dad.

Cyndy: He worked for your father?

Josephine: Yeah.

Cyndy: At the, where, what was he doing?

Josephine: At Horse Island.

Cyndy: With the pulp?

Josephine: Yeah, with the pulp.

Cyndy: How many children did you have?

Josephine: Nine. And I have only seven now. My two boys died, my oldest boys. My oldest boy would be sixty-seven. And, oh, I'm old, I'm not young. (laughs)

Cyndy: When did you move to Toronto?

Josephine: Oh, 1967.

Cyndy: Where did you live before you moved into here?

Josephine: I was living with my son. I was looking after them, because their mother left.

Cyndy: Was your husband still here?

Josephine: Well, my husband died 1961. So I didn't have anybody... boyfriends. So I didn't want to get that, I didn't want to get married again -- once is enough. I didn't want to get married.

Cyndy: Had you been to Toronto before you moved here?

Josephine: Yeah. I was here only so when they finished this house, well, I went and get my things. My son wants me to come and stay here. So he said, "If you come over I'll give you my T.V." So I didn't believe him. You know, that's a nice T.V., I'm always looking at it. So I buy that record player, I mean radio, just to hear it. He gave me all these what I have, just only this couch I bought, this teapot.

Cyndy: How long have you been living in this place?

Josephine: Five years. Yeah, I been here, 1978, I moved in

here.

Cyndy: What did you think of the city when you first came?

Josephine: Oh, I wasn't, I was just the same, you know, it was my home. I didn't feel lonely, you know. I never went anyplace, I've been always at home because I was raised up that way. I was not running around, they kept me in the house so

I'm just like that now. And I didn't go at the dances. If my father doesn't go and I don't go, and I didn't get mad. Not this kind of girls, you know, like they just run out, running after the boys. That's what they do now. And they get pregnant, the ones who aren't listening.

Cyndy: Did you teach your grandchildren, or your children, how to do things the Indian way?

Josephine: Yeah, I told them. Like her, I tell them everything what happens. You know, we have nobody to look after. Even she has a daddy, her daddy never give her money and that's why he's just a dresses, dress up with the family allowance; that's what he was buying her clothes. Like we went out some day and dress his daddy's. I ask him to give her money to buy shoes for her, and she didn't even give us any money, her shoes were just broken. That's for family allowance. This time he buy slacks, and somebody stole his shoes. She had a new shoes last month, somebody stole them at the school in a box where she keep her clothes, so she had these before, so she buy a new pair of shoes. Here he buys his own things, and I told my son he should buy some shoes for her. And I said, and I want money, I'm going to take her with me to go up north, because it's too warm. Oh, I'm just sweating after around five o'clock, or one o'clock, when the sun comes that way, I'm just sweating.

Cyndy: Do you still have land up north at South Bay?

Josephine: Yeah, we have a house, a log house. Maybe it's on here. Yeah, I'm very rich. I have twenty-seven great big grandchildren. And I have a one children twenty-nine.

Cyndy: Who built the house at South Bay?

Josephine: What?

Cyndy: Who built the house at South Bay?

Josephine: Susan, and that's my girl.

Cyndy: Your daughter?

Josephine: Yeah, that's my daughter.

Cyndy: Who built your hourse?

Josephine: What?

Cyndy: Who built your house?

Josephine: My husband.

Cyndy: Who made the house when you lived with your mother and father?

Josephine: Oh, I sold that, my, I sold that, I sold the logs. They broke it already.

Cyndy: Who had built it when you lived in it?

Josephine: My father.

Cyndy: Did you help?

Josephine: Yeah, we helped. Oh, I was strong and now I'm not strong. And I used to lift potatoes at the foot and that was all, so I threw them in the big wagon and now I can't lift anything.

Cyndy: You were saying that you make quilts.

Josephine: Oh yes.

Cyndy: Who taught you how to make those?

Josephine: My mother.

Cyndy: Can you make them now?

Josephine: Yeah, I make them now.

Cyndy: How do you make them?

Josephine: With the, with these. You put, I could show you after. I going to tell them I'm going up home, because there's no more frames, I don't get any frame. I have a small one but it's not long enough, it's too short.

Cyndy: So you have to go up north to use a frame up there?

Josephine: Yeah. We have them.

Cyndy: What do you do with your quilts?

Josephine: Oh, we use them. We use them ourselves, but here I can't use them it's too hot in here, it's nice and hot. And over there, up north, we don't make any fire, we don't have any heat, so we have to cover ourselves lots of blankets. Yeah,

that's my house, there. That's the place where we're going. No she's going to stay with her grandmother, her grandmother is

living.

(END OF SIDE B)
(END OF TAPE)

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