

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: PETER CARDINAL
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ALBERTA
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ALBERTA
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INTERPRETER: ERIC STAMP
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sale of Saddle Lake Reserve land.
- Amalgamation of Saddle Lake and Washatanow bands.

Louis: Okay, could you tell us about what transpired in the Saddle Lake surrender? Were the Indians imposed on by the white man?

Peter: By the Indian Affairs, yes. Because the Department bought the land, as I understand it. And some were very gullible because the surrender didn't take place right away. As I know it, it didn't take place right then. They were undecided a lot of them. However, like I said, there were some who were all for the surrender. You take like of my cousins, as told, he was advocator, a great advocator for the surrender, finally they persuaded enough people and won for the surrender. And for one, like the minister Rev. Steinhauer, (Robert). By this time I had a family of seven when this took place, that is including myself and the wife in the family. Oh, finally the land was surrendered, the people won by votes. Oh we were cheated, now that I think about it now. Sure it's been a long time. Sure there was quite a large sum of land that was surrendered or I'll say that we surrendered. I believe it was 4 miles by 6 miles that was surrendered. That was the St. Paul way. Land that was surrendered was towards the St. Paul area. Oh, there was a lot of joy when the people received their payment, \$100.00 per person that was a lot of money then. But

even at that we were really cheated. Far, far underpaid for the land.

When I think of it, as a result from the land sale, we received interest the first year. We received interest. We got \$100.00 per person, I received a large sum of money. But at that time I did buy too much cause I was a little crazy then yet. Getting back to the subject. Here the land was sold, not long after we got our payment. Some families received a lot of money, those who had big families, eight, nine and ten in a family received eight and nine hundred dollars per family. And Rev. Robert Steinhauer received \$1000, I really don't know what happened there. I guess my cousin got the same amount too. The people who were for the surrender at first, there wasn't too many of them but they travelled from house to house to get votes for the surrender and that is why they finally got the surrender. Then the people had money for two years. At least two winters for sure the Indians had money and speaking on interest. That's another portion, I guess that was left over from the first payment. I don't recall the amount we received the second time. But however we received less every year. And last interest payment we received was \$1.00 per person. I guess that was the end, not really the end. But the chief and council made different arrangements. We didn't receive any more interest. So that is what took place.

Louis: At the time, when these people were gathering votes, do you know by how many votes the surrender was won?

Peter: That I don't know but finally they won.

Louis: How and what about the fence and fencing? Did they fence before or after the surrender?

Peter: Yes, before the surrender. I was there working myself. Oh grandson, the wire we used to fence was cheap wire and hard to handle. I was there fencing to the end, almost to the end. We started fencing out here from the river (Saskatchewan River). I don't recall how long or how many weeks it took. There was a lot of us fencing. First we were cutting posts, piling posts, sharpening posts, then we started fencing. We took with us some cattle. Cause camps were set up in various areas. Camps that were set up stayed up for quite a while cause there was a lot of fencing to be done. It was far, far in distance. Five teams of horses to one work crew. We put in five posts per man by taking turns. It was quite quick but it was far. (distance) Around the reservation. After that the land surrender took place. Four miles by six miles that's out by or towards St. Paul that was surrendered. And they said east St. Brides to St. Paul. The road is straight and there is a place they call Two Hills, there is a lake there. In that lake, it used to be dry lake which we Indians used to make hay there, our hay meadow which they say was not surrendered. So in the past they challenge it. But the lake is right in it now so that's what happened.

Louis: Could you remember if the Indians were ever stopped by anyone when they were fencing the reserve?

Peter: No, we were never stopped, we just went on fencing. But we stopped for a while out here by a place called Anning. By this time it was sports days. So we stopped and participated in sports. Dancing for some time. After the sports days we continued to fence towards Cache Lake and back towards the north Saskatchewan River. There were others who continued with the fencing. We quit just before the fencing was finished. It was a long fence. I wonder if you know Mr. Moses? He was a chief. His crew were behind us; they were stringing wire. That was a separate crew.

Louis: How about these Washatanow, do you know how that was?

Peter: I'd be glad to talk about that here, now.

Louis: Okay.

Peter: Washatanow. This is the way I have heard about it since I was a youngster. As far back as I can recall, when I was a kid. The reservation was all in one piece. It was all in one. Because we were the ones who did the fencing and we fence all around the reservation as one reservation. But it was heard, that there was Seenum Reservation here somewhere apart of it. That I don't know 'cause I was quite young then. It's been quite a while ago, since I am 84 years old now. But at that time there was only one reserve. However there was a Crier among the Washatanows. As far as I can recall they lived by the lake out there. Sometimes I would hear from time to time that Seenum was going to take his part of the reserve. Long ago when the reservation was going to be surveyed and when it was surveyed, Seenum's reserve was included in the survey. That is why it became one whole reservation I would think. They have challenged it in the past. But they were told that this reservation was all in one, which is true anyway. It couldn't be taken at that time nor today since there is farms all over the place in the reservation here. It is hard now. But I heard another thing. Oh, I don't know how true it is. But I guess it could be true. Now since I am talking about the Washatanows, from there Mr. Crier who was my grandfather which was his land, the Washatanow land. They used to live by the lake. As far as I can recall and remember the land was joint with Saddle Lake and from, you must have heard about Blue Quills.

Louis: Yes.

Peter: It used to be called the Blue Quills school. That used to be another one, another old man who used to own that portion. And also there was another one, I believe his name was Mr. Hunter, he owned the Saddle Lake portion like. He used to live here at Saddle Lake area. I haven't seen that old man but I seen his descendants. And this Seenum, as I recall it, was all in one, this I know since I was a kid. Cause I help fenced it. By then I already had a size family. So they kept

challenging this issue. Oh, I'm glad you came for this information I have heard from time to time, and now this group is starting again. I guess they had a meeting the other night. These young or the new group, Goodfish Lakers, are trying to separate from us to become independent. They want to control themselves out there. And in the past I have heard in meetings that we own, and have as much say here and Goodfish Lake. If I should decide to move from here to Goodfish Lake, no one could say or stop me 'cause it's my land as well as theirs. They were invited to take up land here some time ago since at that time there was a lot of open land here. Sure there is a lot of them are here in Saddle Lake. You must have heard of the Steinhauers?

Louis: Yes.

Peter: I imagine all of the Steinhauers are here, they are pretty well set (homestead) they have and are making a pretty good living. And there is quite a few of them. And many of them are not really from here. Some are descendants from Beaver Lake that are here now that got in a long time ago. Now I have been hearing of what I've just tell you about. Reasons why? The split, it's been heard of since last winter. Now for the latest news I don't, I haven't seen anyone since the other night's meeting. Where they're having meetings regarding the split by the reservation. Where the others come here for a meeting wanting the consent of the people if they can have the splitting of the two reservations. One thing the people here really didn't like was (as my son told me) is the reason for the split they gave. Whereas the Goodfish Lakers really dislike the complex that has been built in Saddle Lake. The reason for the fuss is money that went into the complex. I can imagine there is a lot of money that went towards the complex. That's one reason and the other thing, I guess it's right too, (my son told) the number one reason isn't the main reason. They have found gas in their land, (for sure) that is the reason why they want to split my son said to me. So they could claim it for themselves. As I heard but I don't know. In the land surrender 1925 they received the same amount as we did here. They also got the equal amount of interest in the past right up to the end of it. Are you going home now?

Louis: Yes.

Peter: Where are you at in Hobbema?

Louis: Okay grandfather, I thank you for what you have told us.

(End of Interview)

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