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INTERPRETER:  
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Connie: Where did you attend school?

Ernest: Well, in the east, in Mankota, Ontario.

Connie: How long did you go to school?

Ernest: Well, I didn't go (inaudible) because we never had no

school teachers in them days. Nothing, not anything, eh. The school today and nothing tomorrow, eh.

Connie: Did your parents go to school at all?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Your parents?

Ernest: Oh yes, they went. I got no more parents, I got no more brothers or sisters or nothing. My parents have passed away and my sisters and my brother got killed in the War, the one brother, and the other fellow got wounded and died in Edmonton.

Connie: Did you like school?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Did you like school?

Ernest: I liked school but I was born in a French country, eh. I was born in Ontario. And I was in northern Saskatchewan. And I couldn't even work in my time in United States.

Connie: Did your parents speak any other language?

Ernest: No, no.

Connie: Did you?

Ernest: Yes, well yes, I can, I talk French and I talk Indian and...

Connie: When?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: When did you learn how to speak?

Ernest: When?

Connie: Yeah.

Ernest: I was a kid, I was only young when I learned because I was born in a French country. And there were other nationalities there though and in Ontario, you heard about that eh. You heard along Montreal and all along another place else, eh.

Connie: What did you do for a living?

Ernest: Made, I been a horse dealer pretty near all my life.

Connie: Where did you work?

Ernest: Montana, Montana, Montana was my hometown besides Saskatchewan. My people belonged in Ontario in the first place then they moved to Saskatchewan years after, eh.

Connie: What did your parents do for a living?

Ernest: They farmed.

Connie: Where was their farm?

Ernest: They farmed in Ontario in the farm business and in Saskatchewan too. And if you want to know where they farmed, they farmed south of Saskatchewan, Coal Oil(?), Saskatchewan. Do you know where that is?

Connie: No.

Ernest: Eh, that's only south of here, that's south of Regina yet.

Connie: What were your wages?

Ernest: Well, couldn't go much on wages, you had all kinds of wages, eh. I drove stage coach and I was supposed to get a hundred dollars a month and we never got it. We never got it. I drove stage coach for years. And I drove in Yellowstone National Park too. And I drove livery and everything else, eh.

Connie: What other type of work did you do?

Ernest: A lumberjack. A lumberjack in United States and a lumberjack in Saskatchewan, too.

Connie: What were the wages there?

Ernest: Well, sometimes the wages were pretty good. And the first time I worked up in the lumber camp we got forty dollars a month and you never got any more except when they were kind of a saw foreman or some blamed thing, you see, it didnt'... And I worked for eighteen dollars a month in the States.

Connie: Did you do any other type of work at all?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Any other type of work?

Ernest: No. I worked on the farm after, in hard times, you know.

Connie: For your dad?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: For your father?

Ernest: No. No, because he never was a big farmer, no nothing. So if you don't know about Ontario, that's where he was born and finally they left and then they come to Saskatchewan and they finally got a bigger... They planted a bigger stake on raw prairie, eh. There was no rate of big money at no time in that time.

Connie: What all did you do when you drove stagecoach?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: What all did you do when you drove stagecoach?

Ernest: Nothing else.

Connie: Just drove?

Ernest: Yeah.

Connie: Horse?

Ernest: Broncos, bronco horses. You had to be a roughneck or you couldn't drive. That was all, eh. Because you never figured you were going to, when they done something one day, you didn't know if that was going to be the first day or the last day. I was in the (inaudible), I was born in the (inaudible).

Connie: What kind of trouble did you have when you drove?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: What kind of trouble did you have when you drove?

Ernest: Oh, lots of trouble, lots of trouble, boy. Lots of sick then too, eh. When there was a couple of guys comes out and they've got a gun in each hand and you held up your arms and the other guy took the money, took the mail sack. Told you to go ahead and don't look back, you don't look back, eh. You look back, you think you have some more trouble some place else, eh.

Connie: So you got robbed?

Ernest: Well, robbed the mail, didn't rob me, they robbed the mail, eh. I just got to answer their questions, eh. And if they don't ask me none because I don't ask them none either. I can just think on the other hand, "Am I going to get out of here?" I got lots of passengers in there too, on the stagecoach.

Connie: Did you have a partner with you?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Did you have a partner with you?

Ernest: No, no.

Connie: Just you?

Ernest: Yeah. I'm not supposed to carry a passenger because I got the mail there, you see. Once that mail goes to (inaudible), I didn't know that, eh. I knowed I got the locked sacks and I got the other mail and everything, I know I got that, eh. And I got to deliver that, eh.

Connie: Where did your parents meet?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Where did your parents meet?

Ernest: In Ontario.

Connie: In Ontario?

Ernest: In Ontario.

Connie: How did they meet?

Ernest: Oh, I couldn't tell you that. I couldn't tell you that.

Connie: How large was your family?

Ernest: Five. Two girls and three boys. The youngest one got killed in that, in the War. In the second one, not with old Kaiser one but Hitler. Yeah, you want the history of that, eh.

Connie: Yeah.

Ernest: Yeah.

Connie: What kinds of dances did you take part in?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: What kinds of dances and songs and games did you take part in?

Ernest: Well, I heard them pretty near all in that when I got back. They push sided with the old, old gramophone, old (inaudible). Then they got with Wilf Carter and all them, and Katie Wells and Marlen Shears and that.

Connie: What kind were earlier than that?

Ernest: Well, there was nothing but cowboy songs, eh. But you knew, you heard the old records, eh. Yeah.

Connie: Did you go to any dances at all?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Did you go to any dances at all?

Ernest: Oh yes, when they went, no dances at all. Was (inaudible) or something in there too and...

Connie: How was the entertainment supplied? What kind of music did they have at the dances?

Ernest: Well, they had very music in times and some very poor at times.

Connie: Who used to play the music?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Who used to play for the dances?

Ernest: Well, gosh, mostly any or anybody who can play any kind of a... maybe ended up as the violin player got drunk and he couldn't make nothing.

Connie: Were you or your parents ever affected by prejudism?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Were you affected by prejudism?

Ernest: Yeah.

Connie: You were? Who were the prejudiced people?

Ernest: Well, I couldn't tell, I couldn't tell, eh.

Connie: Okay, we'll talk about religion. How much influence did the church have on your community?

Ernest: Nothing at all.

Connie: No? Was there ever churches around?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Was there a church around your town?

Ernest: Yeah.

Connie: How did the church laws compare to today's?

Ernest: Oh gosh. Big (inaudible) in them days.

Connie: Did you or your parents ever attend shrines or retreats?

Ernest: Eh? No.

Connie: No?

Ernest: No because I was not a, stayed with my parents and worked. I quit when I was fourteen years old.

Connie: Did you guys celebrate weddings and Christmas?

Ernest: Eh? Oh yes, I celebrated, yeah.

Connie: Was there any special feasts or anything at Christmas time? Everybody gathered together?

Ernest: No, now sometimes no. Mostly them days was whiskey days, eh. When they got too much, (laughs).

Connie: What did you do on weddings?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: What did you do on weddings?

Ernest: Oh, nothing, nothing sometimes, eh. Sometimes there was a wedding called and they come on the end and there was nothing to it, eh.

Connie: Okay, talk about food and clothing. How did you guys get your food?

Ernest: Well, we got it through the ranchers and then it was shipped in and freighted in.

Connie: Did you hunt for your food?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Did you ever hunt?

Ernest: Yes, I hunted in this country then.

Connie: Was there any special way that you prepared the food?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Was there any special way that you prepared the food?

Ernest: No, no. There was no special way.

Connie: How did you get clothing?

Ernest: How'd I get clothes? There were peddlers going around back then. The same in your country where you live today, you're from Prince Albert, eh?

Connie: Yeah. Did you make your own clothing?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Did you ever make your own clothing?

Ernest: No. No, no.

Connie: Was there any special feasts that you remember?

Ernest: No.

Connie: How about any hard shortages of food?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: How about any hard shortages of food?

Ernest: Oh yes, oh yes, there was a shortage of food.

Connie: When was that?

Ernest: Well, not very many years ago.

Connie: During the Depression?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: During the Depression?

Ernest: Yes, it was tough then.

Connie: Okay, medical care. Was there a doctor available to your town?

Ernest: No, no, some places yes and some places, and there wasn't, sometimes there wasn't.

Connie: How far away was the hospital?

Ernest: Well, they come back the same as they are today and sometimes there were no hospitals to start with.

Connie: Well, who brought the medicine to the people?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Who brought the medicine to the people?

Ernest: A doctor supposed to be a doctor.

Connie: Well, how did you get your medicine?

Ernest: Well, they was make and they cook it and they charge you off for so much and if they done you any good, more harm than good, eh.

Connie: Did you guys ever make your own medicine?

Ernest: No, the only medicine we ever made was good whiskey, eh. From the blank pig, eh.

Connie: Was there any people in your community like a midwife?

Ernest: Oh yes, oh yes. (Inaudible) the first, eh.

Connie: Yeah. Okay, Depression. What kind of jobs were available during the Depression?

Ernest: Well, not, in some places the cowboy.

Connie: What kind of jobs did you have?

Ernest: Well, I made hocking horses, what you call leg hocking horses. I held the horses leg when the day rangers had a sleep, eh. Then when I was working after that was all over, we moved camp, I drove the bed wagon and the cook drove the mess wagon, eh. The mess wagon was where you get something to eat.

Connie: What were your wages?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: How much did you get?

Ernest: Well, sometimes only a couple of dollars a day and all they paid was that kind, if they paid over forty dollars a month, they paid you too much and you give back to your boss or someone.

Connie: Was there enough food during the Depression?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: Was there enough food?

Ernest: Oh yes, well, mealtime, sometimes we went very short.

Connie: If somebody didn't have enough food, would somebody else give them some?

Ernest: Well, you get the whole thing on the mess cook. When you get meat on the table, well, you eat just like a, pretty near the same like a dog, eh. You went and helped yourself and if you want to eat, well, you really had to (inaudible) your dish, then.

Connie: Okay, politics. How active was your community in politics?

Ernest: Oh yes, sometimes.

Connie: Was there any special way your parents were involved in politics?

Ernest: The family, they never bothered with it.

Connie: Never?

Ernest: I never bothered with that.

Connie: What about your parents, were they ever, were they involved in politics?

Ernest: Oh yes, well, yeah.

Connie: Was there any special person that your parents or anybody in the community looked up to?

Ernest: Oh yes, oh yes.

Connie: Do you remember who it was?

Ernest: No, I don't remember them times that good.

Connie: Was there any stories that you ever heard about back then, like, about the Rebellion?

Ernest: Oh yes, oh yes.

Connie: Can you remember any of them?

Ernest: No, I don't remember that much.

Connie: Okay, general questions.

Ernest: Sometimes I didn't know if they were right or wrong.

Connie: Do you think things are better now or then?

Ernest: Well, they were more stricter in the way, eh.

Connie: You mean back then they were stricter?

Ernest: Eh?

Connie: They were stricter back then?

Ernest: Oh yes, some of them, yes.

Connie: Do you think native people are stronger and wiser because of their experiences?

Ernest: Well, I couldn't say that, eh. Because I can ask somebody else and they can tell it was different altogether.

Connie: So there's no stories or experiences, eh? Like, what happened after 1885, like after the Rebellion?

Ernest: No.

Connie: No? Well, that's about it then.

(END OF SIDE A)

(END OF INTERVIEW)