

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: JIM YELLOWEYES
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: SUNCHILD RESERVE
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: SUNCHILD RESERVE
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE:
DATE OF INTERVIEW: OCTOBER 8, 1975
INTERVIEWER: JOHNNY CARDINAL
INTERPRETER: JOHNNY CARDINAL
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS
& RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
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PAGES: 5
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Jim Yelloweyes, born 1886, tells of land at Swan Lake claimed by his uncle but never assigned as a reserve.

Johnny: How old are you?

Jim: 89 years old on September 4.

Johnny: The question I am going to ask you is about this man named Yellowface. Did he ever receive any land or reserve anywhere near here?

Jim: Yes, it is called Swan Lake. That's where he asked to get his reserve, at Swan Lake.

Johnny: Is this where you were raised, if not where?

Jim: We lived around a place called Wegaswagje. I was raised over there.

Johnny: From there where did you go, did you come here to Swan Lake?

Jim: When we moved we came to this place at Swan Lake. That's where he wanted the land, where there was fish and game so people could make a living. So that's where he was given land.

That's what he used to say.

Johnny: What happened? How come you left the other place?
What happened?

Jim: Over here?

Johnny: Where he took the land?

Jim: Over here it's called Medicine Lake, across that's where his uncle lived. His father and his uncle were brothers. But his uncle came and asked him to join him. He said, "I am getting land." That is when we left there.

Johnny: Where did you leave from?

Jim: From Swan Lake, that's where we left from.

Johnny: Is it from where there is no reserve now?

Jim: Yes, that's the one.

Johnny: The place where he was going to get land, did you live there?

Jim: Yes, we always lived there, that's where he finally passed away and was buried. He left the land for us. But it wasn't surveyed yet.

Johnny: Why did you leave that place and come here?

Jim: That is what I have just told you. His uncle asked him to join him. But his uncle lied, he had no land. So we returned to Swan Lake. We worked for one white man for eight years.

Johnny: That's how you made your living?

Jim: Yes, that's how we made our living, we brushed and cleared the land.

Johnny: What happened to this land? Where did you move to?
Sunchild Reserve?

Jim: Yes, we moved here to Sunchild. The grandfather of the present Sunchild was given land here.

Johnny: Did your people leave Yellowface's land?

Jim: We came here, and then he decided to go back because his uncle lied to him. So we went back to Swan Lake and worked for a white man's land for eight years. He also had a sawmill so we worked there too. My brother-in-law died there.

Johnny: The place where he was given land?

Jim: Yes, the grave is there too.

Johnny: How come you people are living at Sunchild Reserve and accepted treaty here? What changes brought this about, was there a different agreement made?

Jim: There were no changes. We came and bummed here because he hadn't got a reserve yet. He was waiting for the land he asked for at Swan Lake. They promised him that land, so we came and lived here waiting for that land.

Johnny: Can you remember how long ago this land was promised and how long you lived here?

Jim: I just don't know, I don't remember.

Johnny: Could you guess approximately how long it has been?

Jim: You mean when he got the land?

Johnny: Yes, when he was given that land.

Jim: I wasn't very old when he was given that land so I couldn't say for sure.

Johnny: About how long have you been living at Sunchild Reserve?

Jim: I have been told how long ago Sunchild got this reserve and we've been bumming a living here, but I don't remember. But we have never got any assistance or help here.

Johnny: Are you getting any treaty money here?

Jim: I have been gettin it right here.

Johnny: What do you think of Yellowface's land? What do you expect of this land?

Jim: I have been urging Jim Red Bear to try and get this land. I have really been pushing him to try and get his uncle's land, because I am getting old. That is why he is trying to get this land. I give him money if he wants to go anywhere for this purpose. I still think Swan Lake belongs to us so we want this land. It is my grandchildren I am thinking of, I don't want them bumming around, wondering where to live. I want that land so they can own their own reserve, and be treaty Indians always. I am old. I don't wish to get land for myself. That is why I am pushing this son of mine to try to get this land that has been allotted for him.

Johnny: Were there any documents or maps concerning this land at Swan Lake? Where are they or have they disappeared? Who came and made a deal with him? First I will ask you about the documents. Were there any signed agreements that you know of?

Jim: I told you when he died, I took all those documents and

maps. But as I also told you, when I visited the United States my house was broken into and all the documents and maps disappeared. We don't know who took them.

Johnny: Would you know who came and made an agreement with Yellowface concerning Swan Lake land?

Jim: I told you, I don't know.

Johnny: Do you think they were Indian Affairs?

Jim: Yes, they were the Indian Affairs Branch, also he went and seen them.

Johnny: Is this all you know about this land, or could you tell me more?

Jim: No! I couldn't tell you more than what I have told you. That's all I can tell you about it. Also you asked me what I thought of this land, I have told you what I really think.

Johnny: Thank you very much.

(End of Interview)

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