HIGHLIGHTS:

- The establishment of the Louis Bull Reserve and the subsequent sale of part of that land.

Louis: What I want to ask you is about the land that was surrendered in 1909. What actually happened, would you tell me that?

Mrs. White: Now, then the Ermineskin Reserve was undivided then. Our great-grandfather, which was my late father's father, was a chief here and at the Ermineskin Reserve. That was his own brother-in-law which is Ermineskin, he was a chief there. One day my father was invited over to his father-in-law, Ermineskin. Ermineskin told my father that he was making a lot of hay towards northeast corner of the reserve and told him to get out of that reserve. And the Indian agent that was here was very angry about the incident about my father being chased away from that place. The agent told my father, "We will select a better place for you, a reserve. This Ermineskin old man won't have to be listened to. You put the shoes of your father then you'll be able to have a larger reserve and a better one." And then the agent sent a letter to Ottawa. Sure enough a letter came back soon stating, survey to be done of how much my father was supposed to own of the reserve. We were at the plains, and there was a large encampment near the agency. And there was another letter that came right after. My father used to be acquainted with the surveyor, this man had white beard. These surveyors arrived here with their camp and all to survey the reserve. They came in spring, about this
time of season. They surveyed the reserve. My father was asked many things about having his own reserve of what entitlement he would have. And then he surrendered part of that, our reserve was big one time. That narrow strip on north side where he had surrendered. He has asked for $50.00 for each person should get. The other chief was too late before he saw that letter of how much he had asked for. But the money had arrived that each person would get $25.00. When the official saw that letter, there was another letter that was received by then. Therefore we had received two payments of $25.00 each one after another.

Louis: You were paid twice then?

Mrs. White: Yes, we got paid twice.

Louis: Did the people hold meetings before they decided to surrender the land?

Mrs. White: No, just my father alone.

Louis: He never called up meetings regarding this surrender?

Mrs. White: No, he never held any meetings, they did the business themselves. But the people didn't mind it because they liked my father very much for treating them right all the time. After things were settled, he had sent for wire, fencing the whole reserve boundary fencing; all the men worked.

Louis: They were fencing the reserve boundary?

Mrs. White: During that winter the men hauled tamaracks from Pigeon Lake and also chief would get assistance, like meat and he would cut up the meat and distribute it to the people.

Louis: Did he get that meat free or did they pay for it from the sales of the surrender?

Mrs. White: No, they were assisted from the agency. My father used to leave meat there, even his own. We had lots of cattle then. But the meat he got was for the workers, flour, tea. They were assisted with those. And they would sharpen the posts after they'd get them here, until they piled those posts high enough for them to use. And the following spring after the seeding was done then they started the fencing.

Louis: About 1910 when they done the fencing, eh?

Mrs. White: Yes, it was a long time ago.

Louis: In 1909 when they surrendered that land.

Mrs. White: And what my father was told we would get benefits from the sale as long as the earth exists. And as soon as he did, everything was ceased.
Louis: Were the people used to get this money from the sale?

Mrs. White: Yes, every year at times we would get $45.00 to each person, $30.0, $35.00, $25.00, the payments were varied.

Louis: Was this what they used to call interest money? Land money?

Mrs. White: Land money, yes.

Louis: As soon as he died the payments were stopped?

Mrs. White: Everything was stopped, yes. My father even had papers regarding the surrender, when we had that big storm, everything was perished. The box that contained all those papers was destroyed completely. It is probably all rubbish now, weather damaged. We lost many things.

Louis: What we have is that, all the people that agree the surrender had signed their names. And your name is there too. Apparently you agreed to surrender that piece of land.

Mrs. White: Oh.

Louis: Do you remember that?

Mrs. White: Yes, many people signed that agreement. Like my cousin Moonias, he willingly signed his name.

Louis: There is one John Ward, who was that?

Mrs. White: Mee is choose (With Beard) our grandfather Moonias' younger brother.

Louis: Ketchemokoman, (American Knife), Cagleo, that we don't know, Kittowapee.

Mrs. White: I wouldn't know them.

Louis: Was it Crane?

Mrs. White: It might be him, they've used that name before. That was his father.

Louis: We have names of those people. Is that all? Now I'll ask you of the first treaty payment, I wonder if you ever heard about it, or do you remember anything about it, or any stories? At first when the white men came to negotiate a treaty with the Indians, what were the promises? Was this land given away, sold or who owned this land at first?

Mrs. White: I don't know who, I don't know that, but my father used to tell the story of the old men long ago who sold the land. Many of the people didn't know of this, they even took scrip.

Louis: Do you know anything about that first treaty?
Mrs. White: When they did sell the land they received $12.00 apiece, when they consented to sell some land. This was a huge reserve. As a result our grandfather Ermineskin was mad because of what these other people did (Muddy Bull). From that time on my father was chief until he became very old and nobody replaced him.

Louis: Where did Muddy Bull come from?

Mrs. White: He came from a long way from here, he wasn't from here. But he was a religious man and he helped the settlers a lot.

Louis: Can you relate anything else to me regarding the treaty?

Mrs. White: No, I cannot.

Louis: Okay.

(End of Interview)

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