I remember years ago that we used to use the dead wood also the lake (cattails) we used to use lots. This has to be done by knowing how to mix the two things. These were warm to the children. They never used to get a rash. But today they use too many different kinds of diapers. They use many different kinds of soap. That's why the children today, they don't know how to use the old Indian style. And I used to feed my kids with breast feeding. Maybe that's why my kids were healthy. That's why I listen to his story. I worked all my life like snaring, wood, hunting, and everybody worked; nobody used to get anything for nothing. The men did their part by hauling wood to sell and I used to help my mother-in-law to cut and haul wood. Now today you tell your kids to haul wood, they'll just say no. Today there is lot easier ways. We have saws to use, but the children are too lazy to take up small work. There is a lot of easier jobs, but I wonder how we're going to get them to work. So I guess there would be just a few that would take small jobs.
I am going to tell the story about myself if that's what they want. Telling how I raised my children. I am one of the people that bring their children up by our culture. I've had 12 children. I lost two teenagers also lost two grown-ups. I had six boys and six girls. Not one of them went to the hospital 'cause I used the elders medicine what they instructed me to use. Years ago the elders used to save amongst each other with herbs. That's why we never used to use the Indian medicine. This was God-given, herbs, when I want them to recognize the old culture. And one thing I'll say is I never went to the hospital to give birth to my children. So that's what I say, this was given to us. Also I didn't use a bottle to feed my new-born children. At that time there was no help from anywhere. But the man I was with was a good hunter. So I didn't work hard in the bush but I worked in the barn milking cows; then I used milk. I used this on my children. Then I used to do a lot of work with hides and beadwork. That's why I... 'cause I raised my kids right. That's what I followed, what my parents and grandparents used to tell me. And then when they started to work. They used to work hauling wood and saw. They know what was going to happen.

They were called very early in the morning because they had to go 12 miles to haul wood in. They get there just daybreak. That's what my husband used to treat our kids to work. Lots of time his brother used to tell him, "Say, you're going to kill your children by pushing them too hard." Then he used to say, "I am not hurting them at all. I'm hoping that I am showing them to live." Hoping that his children or grandchildren would follow up. Same thing what I done to the girls. They used to get up in the morning to cook breakfast. So finally they know how to do it. Also they will be able to look after themselves when they get married. Now today I'm not a bit sorry of how we treated our children. It's been 16 years since my husband died.

He used to tell me we can't look after these young people all the time so they have to learn as we learned when we were young. So I tried hard to teach them. So they work along with their brothers, they cook and wash for them. As of today I'm not a bit sorry how I used to teach my children. And now my family is all grown up. I still have one youngest boy living with me. He is 22 years old now. He is the one that visited me last night. So even visiting they were not allowed to prowl at nights. So again they all come to visit me at my house. Then they all cheer up and use to tell them go home now. They used to laugh at me.

When they hunt and happen to have luck they bring me some meat right away. That's why I'm never short of meat of any kind. I guess I'm the only one that's left, that I still live with my family. I show them how to tan hides and sew, but again they
still bring their sewing to me. I still show them how to cut and sew things.

Another thing I didn't used to do is that I didn't used to drink. Now I take an odd drink. There is only one that didn't quit yet. The rest of the family has quit all together. So I guess that's why my kids still listen to me and as of today. That's all for now.

MRS. ANNIE ROCK THUNDER:

I guess I'll tell a story of what my father used to tell me. The way I see today, years ago the elders used to tell, when they used to take liquor they never offered any. My parents and auntie they drank but never to offer. That time it was only whiskey. That's how much they used to lecture. Even in a social gathering they scolded us when we started to laugh. They used to say, "Don't laugh loud. Be quiet. The people know anyway you people are crazy." Today the young people they don't listen. They never hear any elders to lecture them. How to behave themselves.

Today the young people are crazy. They take liquor and that makes it worse. Myself I used to take liquor and also looked after my own mother-in-law. That's when I started to touch liquor. And my kids were grown at that time. It's about 12 years old since I took liquor. When I see some of the girls drinking I feel sorry for them. I know liquor isn't any good. On Saturday that's when everything starts. They don't even consider the next day, Sunday. That's when they should worship the Almighty. The Almighty made a certain day for us but they drink; they don't respect it at all. They are not the only ones. It's the parents too. They don't respect Sundays. My parents used to take liquor but they didn't offer any. I feel a lot better today that I don't drink and I don't need any liquor. So that's all I'm going to discuss.

SPEAKER:

I am going to say a few words about my mother. My mother was very old. Lots of times when my mother was asked to go nurse a woman who is delivering a baby, she used to ask me to help along. There is a lot of children in File Hills Reserve that she helped deliver. And also was thanked many a time that she did a perfect job and also done a job of a baby that's unable to come through. And this she tried to show me how it's done. And she was a patient(?) to my kids. So I guess that's why I have three kids left. I do strongly believe in Indian faith. My father was very old when he died. He used to ask us altogether to talk to us. There was 23 in the family. I guess I'm the only one alive today. He used to tell us about the belief in Indian faith. Also he did mention the honorary of the old elders and he said, "Respect them and then you will receive
faith from above. This is for the sake of your children."
Today I have three kids, myself I didn't breastfeed my
children; it was the doctor's orders. I am not healthy for a
length of time now.

And I thank the Almighty that he had recognized me as a strong
believer and also have lots of grandchildren. May the good Lord
help us to raise and bless our children.

I thank you all and that's all I have to say.

MRS. FOURHORN, PIAPOT RESERVE:

My mother was French halfbreed; my father was Assiniboine. My
deceased Dad came from File Hills. When I first got married I
didn't know anything at all. I didn't know how to do beadwork
but my mother-in-law showed me how to do it. The old
grandfather, Mr. Fourhorns, made lots of Rain dances but I had no
time to listen to him because I had to do beadwork. The first
child I had I just about died. He told me, he said, "You will
pull yourself through." I raised it. They went to get some
dried wood, also cattail. I was wondering what he is going to
do. She put it in the oven. I was wondering what she is going
to do. I found out they use these for diapers.

I had my child in late September then she went very sick. They
went to get (A-yik-key-opwam) Frog Leg to come and doctor my
child. I didn't know what was wrong with my child. I wanted
to take her to the hospital, take him away from the house. So
this man started anyway. He says, "If you hear thunder by
noon, your child will live. But if you don't hear any your
child will be gone." Anyway my father went outside, took his
pipe and prayed. While he was praying he heard a big thunder;
we all heard it. Now the girl is living today. She has six
children. I thank God for it. There's another child on its
way. That's all I have to say.

SPEAKER:

I am going to tell the story of the life we had. Today I am 68
years old. I used to live with my grandmother. The first time
when my brother was born they used to use dead wood and
cattail. And my brother used to use Indian cradle
(ti-key-na-cun). You could ride and use these the same time;
they can be used at any time. So I guess my mother could ride
on horseback. She was only 14 years old when she had her first
child. So when she got gray hair my brother and Mom they were
getting gray almost the same time. This brother of mine had a
Cree name. His name was (Ka-sede-yapanotum) Stop Cry Voice.
He could sing also. The people here today used to listen to him
sing. He was a very good singer. And my brother would be 75
years old. He died with pneumonia. That's all for my own
brother.
Now I will tell about my mother. She used to tell stories of long ago. She had lots to tell about. These, of course, were all Indian legends and we were told to respect the elders not to try and make a fool of ourselves. Then they died. Then we were raised by somebody else. Then I got married and raised a family. Then when they were grown we visited. The people used to have mud houses. These houses used to look like a barn. Then one of my boys said, "My grandparents are poor why are they living in a barn?" This is when he saw hay staying at the ceiling. So I said, "Don't say that. They're poor, your grandparents." They laugh at him. Me and my mom used to tan hides; also we worked together. We still do that even today, even beadwork and skin and stretch fur-bearing animals. We used to pack sack on a dog. Also we hunt at same time. Then my grandmother told me, "When you are young you are very tall and when you get old, you stoop down, you grow down. Also you feel as if you go and everything seems if it is going down." Even me, now I feel that way; my legs are getting weaker and I am getting shorter. I'll tell longer story next time.

MRS. WM. JOSEPH, BIG RIVER:

Yesterday I didn't mention my name. I had only six children. But I only have one left. The rest of my family died. Myself I didn't feed my children with a bottle, I breast-fed them and I was told not to go around leaving my children at home. This was told by my parents. And don't drink, also don't smoke. It's hard now. Years from now it's going to be easy and also today it's very hard to live. Don't do anything that's wrong. Also look at the elders and respect them, if they have any ceremonies join them, and at all times stay home. In the evenings don't play outside too long. Tell your kids to stay in in the evenings; this is a bad time to play. There is a lot of sickness going along. There is a feeling that the bad spirits roam around. And when we had flour we didn't use it much because we didn't like it all. Then the old man took grain to mill. It wasn't very good. It tasted poor and weak. And when this allowance came my boy was old enough so he couldn't draw allowance. And then we get assistance - very little; the rest got more. Then we would go in the bush to hunt. We stored lots of fat and fried meat and then we would store these. We used to kill fat wild game.

Then I'd tan hides. We would sell them at Duck Lake. The old man used to do a lot of hunting and one day my old man took a drink, some pop. We were out of welfare. Then we got cut off to $5.00 because he took a drink and we got a $20.00 raise. These times were very bad but the health was fine. But today it's the liquor that's ruining the life of the people and even my son and grandchildren don't listen to us. Hoping someday that we go
back to the Indian beliefs. And also I would like to thank the one that is working hoping someday that we go back to whatever we were given by the Almighty. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

MRS. ANGELINE ROBERTS, STURGEON LAKE:

Yesterday I talked about how I was brought up. I was in residential school for 12 years; I was 5 years of age. I was 16 years when I got out. I think of it now how we were treated in the school. I still remember day after day. Six a.m. in the morning I used to get up and by 8 p.m. we used to go to bed and then we eat. We started school at 9 a.m. and 12 noon hour started again 1 to 5. After that we used to work - like sewing and knitting. Also beading. Then when I got out I was 17 years of age when I got married. So I didn't stay out of school too long. We are living together for 27 years now. And these old people that brought me up, they told me and lectured me the easiest way. I remember when I was 9 or 10 years old. Years ago the old people used to get rations and we have two reserves, Little Red also Sturgeon Lake. And there people used to stop on their way to the ration house. We used to all go together and I always remember how these old elders used to be treated because they couldn't understand English. We used to stand around the counter to receive the rations and they used to hand their bags to get them filled.

This old man (Samson Bird) had dirty bags. He handed the bags to the agent. The agent filled these bags in which what was supposed to be in there. And this agent filled them bags and throw them to the old man saying, "You pig." At that time I didn't feel good because I knew he didn't understand and I was mad. But my grandfather said, "Don't say anything for we won't get any rations." From then I thought to myself, I'll try to help my people by working for them. So the old man used to tell me, "Don't talk back to whoever says anything to you because he is giving you more power for you to talk." Now every morning I burn sweetgrass; also we all pray together in my family. It's almost two years now since we started this. I have a boy named Bobby, has Indian history. He is going in history to revive himself on Indian belief, also Indian culture. We don't try to stop him, he is interest in Indian faith. That's all I have to say.

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