

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: ROSE LACOSSE
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: EAGLE RIVER,
ONTARIO
INTERVIEW LOCATION: EAGLE RIVER,
ONTARIO
TRIBE/NATION: METIS
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH/INDIAN
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11/30/77
INTERVIEWER: ADELINE SHAW
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI
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RESTRICTIONS: THIS RECORDING IS UNRESTRICTED.

NOTE: The quality of this tape is very poor and a great deal of the interview is inaudible.

Rose: ...a good... we had garden everything. We have to use the meat, deer meat mostly, fish, rabbits. I guess you don't remember that -- we used to have pigs and chickens, eh.

Adeline: Is that out on the farm over there, Bottle Bay, where your mom and dad were?

Rose: Yeah. Summertime we used to pick berries, the kind that you buy (inaudible). We were poor. I didn't say that we were starving, but clothes, eh.

Unknown: We had no clothes to wear, to buy, and you have to wear boys' rubbers.

Rose: Or moccasins, even string. We made our clothes from flour sacks, underwear.

Adeline: Where were you born, Rose?

Rose: I was born in Bottle Bay, remember? (inaudible).

Adeline: Did the doctor come out there then at that time?

Rose: Yeah, he came on a train. I guess Dad phoned him somehow (inaudible).

Adeline: That old house you had in Temple Bay burned down?

Rose: Yeah. That was in Bottle Bay.

Adeline: Bottle Bay?

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: So you moved by...

Rose: Well, they build another one, eh.

Adeline: Same place?

Rose: Yeah, in the same place, and we stayed there a little longer -- two or three years, I guess. Then we moved over here.

Adeline: How did you get your supplies in and out of there, out of like, you know, groceries?

Rose: We walked. And dad come to town with horses.

Adeline: Horses. So what, he used to have a team of horses with the wagon?

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: Do you have any old pictures that I could have, Rose, of your dad and mom and yourself?

Rose: No.

Adeline: Nothing at all, eh?

Rose: No. (inaudible).

Adeline: So when did you leave home then? Well, you never really left home I guess, eh? You always stayed.

(interruption by children).

Rose: No. I only left home about two years, eh.

Adeline: And then you stayed with them at...

Rose: (inaudible).

Adeline: So you stayed with them until they died, eh?

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: How old was your mom and dad?

Rose: Dad was 101 and Mom was 103.

Adeline: When they died.

Rose: And then after that I came to (inaudible) going back to that place, it's still there.

Adeline: Who's living with you now?

Rose: (inaudible).

Adeline: Who is that to you?

Rose: My nephews.

Unknown: Well how many years did Ted stay at home?

Rose: Ted? (inaudible). He was sick. He need my help (inaudible).

Adeline: How old is Ted now?

Rose: He is 32.

Adeline: And he's still sick, eh?

Rose: Oh, he's not so bad now. All right now I think, I hope. They left him here (inaudible).

Adeline: Well, what's wrong with her that she can't help? Is she disabled?

Rose: Yeah, she's disabled.

Adeline: I'm going to ask you, were you married, Rose?

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: To who?

Rose: Wilfred Landon.

Adeline: Wilfred Landon.

Rose: I was with him for two years. (inaudible).

Adeline: Down at the dam? You didn't have no children by him?

Rose: No.

Adeline: So all these years you stayed with your mom and dad and you were supported by them until they passed away? Then you never had no means of supporting yourself after, right, because you had stayed with them all those years taking care of them until they died?

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: And then while you were disabled they wouldn't help you with anything?

Rose: Well, they helped me for a while.

Adeline: And then what happened? Or what did they say, that they couldn't help you any more?

Rose: They said that I'm able to work.

Adeline: Do you have any brothers and sisters left out of your family?

Rose: I only got one sister left.

Adeline: Could you tell me some of your other brothers and sisters that you had? How many of you were in the family?

Rose: Three brothers, three sisters.

Adeline: Three brothers and three sisters. And now there's only two of you left, eh?

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: What happened to Joan? Did their house get burned down?

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: Is that why they are staying with you?

Rose: Well, what kind of...

Adeline: What are you living on now? Do you have anything to live on right now?

Rose: Just living off Leo. There's nothing to eat in the house.

Adeline: Have you tried to go to the doctor again?

Rose: I guess I will have to. I'll starve if I don't.

Adeline: What about Joan, do they get help with anything?

Rose: No. They only got help when the house got burned. I don't know how much they got, they were out for two weeks.

Adeline: So how do you get your wood and that?

Rose: (inaudible).

Adeline: But he helps a little bit, eh?

Rose: Yeah. At least I'm not frozen, not like that Hunter.

That's when I didn't have no (inaudible). 'Cause he was sick I didn't sleep at home; I had to go and sleep some place else.

Adeline: When he was sick you had to go some place else?

Rose: Yeah, sleep some place else. I was scared of him.

Adeline: What did he used to do, like when he was... Did the doctor say he was mentally disturbed?

Rose: No, his nerves, I think.

Adeline: His nerves were really bad then, eh?

Rose: Yeah, see what nerves can do to you. You know, he was okay in the daytime, but towards evening he was scared all the time, eh.

Adeline: Did he ever used to talk about anything?

Rose: No.

Adeline: Didn't say anything about it, eh?

Rose: No. Until you said, "no," then you move out of the way. He used to try to bite me.

Adeline: Was he always sick like that? How long has he been sick like that?

Rose: Well the two times he was in a mental home and that's when we sent him over there and they sent him back.

Adeline: Has he been like that since childhood?

Rose: No. I don't know how old he was when he got like that. He was about 18.

Adeline: About 18.

Rose: It was seven months the first time, second time he was already (inaudible).

Adeline: So you used to stay with him during the day and you had to go and sleep somewhere else at nights?

Rose: Yeah. (inaudible). It was like he was scared to go in the bush.

Adeline: He was even scared to go in the bush?

Rose: Yeah. Used to think we were outside in the bush.

Adeline: So what kind of food did you eat, like to try to survive then?

Rose: Oh, last winter? Well I was getting help then.

Adeline: But then what about, like since your mom and dad died, in between that time? You just went to other places to eat?

Rose: No, when my mom and dad passed away Pete was living there. And he passed away too, you see. Then I got help right away then when Pete passed away. And I got help for two years (inaudible). And I went back and see the doctor again then, then I went back and see her.

Adeline: Can you tell me something about your mom and dad, like what kind of people they were?

Rose: My dad and mom they were good people. They were good to everybody. Mom never used to drink. I remember dad used to drink but not too much, eh.

Adeline: Could you tell me something about maybe his last fifteen years, like as he got older? Like I can remember when I used to see him come to the road with one cane gradually. Then he used to have two canes to sit by the road and wait for a ride.

Rose: He'd sit by the road (inaudible) come and pick him up every morning.

Adeline: Him and his cinnamon donuts all the time, eh.

Rose: Yeah.

Adeline: That was his favorite and milk.

Rose: Yeah, and he drink his coffee every morning.

Adeline: And peppermint candies.

Rose: Yeah, peppermint candies. If Jake doesn't come and pick him up, well he didn't want to sit down either, you know, he wanted to come to town so bad.

Adeline: Yeah, and that was every day right?

Rose: Every day except Sundays. Jake had to come and pick him up every morning before he goes into (inaudible).

Adeline: Yeah, Jake was always good to everybody here.

Rose: Then we moved to town, we moved here. Even from here to the store, Jake used to come and pick him up here every morning.

Adeline: And that's how many -- about 1,000 yards to the store?

Rose: Yeah, Jake used to come and pick him up every morning. Just that he wanted to go to the store, eh. He

didn't have to go. He said that's the only way (inaudible). I don't walk around much.

Adeline: It must have been really hard for you to lose your parents after keeping them that long.

Rose: Well, I didn't mind because I had to look after them.

Adeline: Is there anything else you want to talk about?

Rose: No, not really.

Adeline: I just finished recording Rose Lacosse from Eagle River, with Rose McIvor helping me so I could bring some more things out.

(END OF INTERVIEW)

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