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- General account of his life.

Davis: Now when you first went to work at Deschambault that was the Fish Board and that became later the Fish Marketing Service?

Brady: Yes.

Davis: Now what was the difference between these two set-ups? When did the transition occur?

Brady: Well, I don't know exactly what year the Fish Marketing Service was set up but in actuality, that is organizationally, functionally and administrationally, there was very little difference, except that during the regime of the Fish Marketing Service they began to attract people that had some managerial capacity. I can remember at that time, for instance, in the savings end of it, it was certainly awful.

Like I heard, for instance, one highly placed official in the present Crown Corporation remarking upon his experiences one time. And he told how Gus Macdonald went around with a couple of packages of fish under his arm in Regina, trying to sell them from house to house or something of that kind.

The whole trouble was that organizationally they hadn't achieved a degree of efficiency that they had to obtain. But everything was done with good intentions. I don't think anything was deliberately malicious.

Davis: At least to a large extent it was a case of a bunch of farmers getting into something they didn't know anything about?

Brady: Yes, that's true. When Malcolm succeeded in getting us a fishing season, particularly at Deschambault, they sent up on the first plane that came up the manager and assistant manager of the Saskatchewan Fish Board. They brought me 219 nets and a lot of other fishing gear and equipment to get the season underway, including a bunch of outboard motors, etc. And one of the first questions that I was asked by them was if I had extra room in my quarters to accommodate the personnel who were coming up from Prince Albert. I questioned this because I wanted to know why. They told me that they were bringing me up a man to take charge of the fishing operation and they were bringing up two packers to pack the fish and they were bringing two girls from Big River who were already engaged and were in Prince Albert and on their way, of course, pending a satisfactory arrangement for their quarters. So I enquired of them and said I didn't find myself in agreement with this, because as I pointed out to them it wasn't necessary to bring these people up there. "You don't need anybody to manage this fishing operation," I said, "I can manage it for you." I felt rather competent to do it. After all I had managed the second biggest fish producer's co-operative in Alberta and the miserly 75,000 pounds amounts to nothing. A good fisherman on the Alberta lakes in those days had to fish at least three carloads before he began to make himself any money. Then I further pointed out that the fish to be taken were pickerel and we were shipping them around to Beaver Lake. And in addition to that we expected a tolerance of 6 per cent for white fish and our white fish were classified at 'A' and don't require to be filleted and could be shipped along with the pickerel to the Beaver Lake plant if they required filletting.

Davis: They just didn't know this?

Brady: I also put it out to the manager or the assistant manager of the Saskatchewan Fish Board that it was not necessary to have these filletters because we were operating on an 'A' lake, not a 'B' lake.

Davis: Who was the manager?

Brady: Dixon. Apparently their lack of knowledge was such that they had forgotten this very simple thing. I further pointed out to them there is no necessity for these people. "The packers have packed for years and they can pack for us and if we require girls to do any filletting we have Indian girl filletters here who are just as capable and every bit as good as any filletters you can bring from Big River. Another thing, I don't need an assistant post manager. We haven't got enough volume in this plant to pay for this. Now we were only taking 75,000 pounds of fish and the overhead for this operation, as

you plan it, will be so great that there won't be any money left to pay the fishermen. They will be fishing for nothing."

Apparently their projection of this program was such that they just ignored these most essential things. They didn't realize the actual situation.

Well, shortly after this, an aircraft winged into the post one day and on it a young fellow from Saskatoon with a letter of introduction advising me that he was my new assistant post manager. He was a young fellow, a real beatnik.

Davis: What makes you say that?

Brady: Well, his general attitude. What happened there, you see, was I had never asked for an assistant post manager. But

after I read this letter of introduction and it pointed out that he was going to the University in Saskatoon in the fall, so I just presumed, well, he is a young fellow that is out to try to make a little money to put himself through the University term. And I could see immediately that he was a lemon but I received him quite well. I was advised to furnish him with subsistence until such time as they could come around and arrange for this matter with me. This I did. Besides that, I was living alone at the post on an island six miles from the village and after all he was company at least, there was somebody to talk to because he talked English. But I never encountered such a meat-head in all my life. He played the radio 24 hours a day. I was told that he would assist me in the bookkeeping and he didn't know the difference between a debit and a credit in the ledger.

Besides that, he wrecked my post canoe and one day I got very irritated at him because I had to recondition a boat which we were going to use for a pick-up boat if we fished Ballantyne Bay. I had gone to work and scraped the paint off it and corked it and I asked the kid to finish painting the boat and he said, "No, I can't do that." I said, "Why?" "Because," he said, "it nauseates me." He said, "I was told in Prince Albert that I wouldn't have to do any hard work like this." "Well," I said, "why did they tell you that?" "Well," he said, "I was told in Prince Albert that there were lots of Indians to do the hard work." So I lost my temper with him and I told him, "You get down there and you paint that boat if you know what's good for you."

Davis: And he did?

Brady: He did, but under protest. I said, "You paint the boat and you can put your beef in to the office in Prince Albert later."

So one day we were loading fish into the plane to ship to Beaver Lake. As I walked out I noticed that he was in the plane with the pilot. I asked him where he was going.

"Oh," he said, "I am going down to Flin Flon." Well I said, "Why?" "Well," he said, "I was told in PA by the head office that I could go up in the plane. I was told that I could go to Walliston or La Ronge or Flin Flon any time I wanted. There would be planes flying." He said, "I hear they have some pretty hot dances there in Flin Flon so I am going down there tonight." "Well," I said, "there is nothing wrong with that, you can go, I don't need you that bad. But I might point out to you that you will have to pay your own fare because you are certainly not joyriding around the country on the backs of the Deschambault fishermen. This trip of yours is unauthorized by me and you must understand the Saskatchewan Government Airways are here to make money and they have certainly got to be paid for your transportation. If you want to go, it's all right go, but you are going to have to pay that fare yourself."

Davis: How much was the fare?

Brady: Oh, a round trip about \$16 or \$17. The result was that he climbed out. He was rather hostile for a couple of days but he got over it.

The crowning indignity was a day that I was eating with him and he asked me how much I was charging him for his board. I knew it was 62 cents a day but I just said to him, "It won't be more than \$1 a day at the most." "That's too

much," he said, "for the kind of grub you are feeding me." "Well," I said, "what's wrong? You are not starving." As a matter of fact he was living principally on canned fruit. "Oh," he said, "I guess that's right, I'm not paying for it anyway, you know." I said, "What do you mean?" "Well," he said, "I am getting my board." Well, I was the post manager and I wasn't getting mine. I said, "How did that happen?" Well I figured it out, you see, after he explained this to me. "It's none of my business," I said, "but I would just like to know -- you are being paid by head office the same as I am," but I said, "what are you getting as a salary?" "Oh," he said, "I am getting \$100 a month and found, no deductions, my board is thrown in, you see." Naturally he wouldn't pay any income tax on account of the nature of his job, it only lasted for the summer months. Well then I really blew a fuse and really hit the roof because, you see, I discovered I was getting a salary of \$125 a month out of which I had to pay my board, and besides that they were deducting \$19 a month income tax from me. Consequently I was in the position of being a post manager, doing all the work and my junior was getting more money than I was.

Davis: Did you ever get that straightened out?

Brady: Well I certainly did, because when Krueger, the manager from Beaver Lake came in, I gave him a letter addressed to this home race rider, Mr. Grey, pointing out to him that I had been employed by him and that I certainly couldn't see any room for advancement in an organization which treated a post

manager that way. I gave the letter to Krueger and Krueger said, "There's a plane going into PA and I will have it there for you tonight."

The assistant manager came down in a day or two and I really had a hassle with him and I told him I didn't see any

future with the Saskatchewan Fish Board and I quit. But I reconsidered my opinion, you see, because there was no immediate replacement and there was no use taking it out on the Saskatchewan Fish Board because the only people I was really hurting were the Indian fishermen. If I left them in the middle of the season I sort of felt that I was failing in my responsibility to them. So I stayed on until the end of the fishing season in September. At the end of the fishing season I went down to Flin Flon, I had to go to see the doctor again because of my lung problem, and then I went back to Edmonton. So that was my association with the Saskatchewan Fish Board.

Davis: Now you've got a note here (at this same time -- 1947 -- Deschambault, Des San George, Deschambault and Pelican Narrows -- A vignette of unwritten history). Now what does that refer to? Do you remember?

Brady: Well, when I went back to Edmonton that year, Christmas Eve I walked into the Lehland Hotel and I ran across a fellow by the name of George Deschambault. He had lived at Lac la Biche and he worked for the Northern Alberta Railway there for years.

Davis: You knew him?

Brady: And I knew him previously up North. I sat down and we had a few glasses of beer together. I mentioned that I had come from Deschambault Lake and he started to tell me, "I knew that place quite well, I was born at Pelican Narrows." His great-grandfather, George Deschambault... about 100 years ago in the Ile-a-la-Crosse Post Journal he is recorded as being there in January, 1857...

Davis? 1857!

Brady: 1857, yes. And this George was a descendant of his. He was George's great-grandfather.

Davis: Is that the guy for whom the lake was named?

Brady: Yes. The lake is named after him. He was for many years an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company and he is buried in St. James's Cemetery in Winnipeg. I hear that a number of years ago the Hudson's Bay Company erected a tablet.

Davis: Well now, this unwritten history, is that it?

Brady: No, that was a part of his life history that he related to me on that evening and night I spent with him. He

related to me the things that had happened in his family. His mother was a Genphon....

Davis: How do you spell that?

Brady: Genphon... his mother was a Genphon and before him one of his maternal ancestors was Madeline Proporoff. She was reputed to have been the daughter of Simon McTavish. She was supposed to have been the daughter of this Proporoff who was the guide of McTavish. But according to tradition she was the daughter of Simon McTavish and she was reputed to have been the most beautiful native girl in the northwest in her time.

Davis: That would be back about what time?

Brady: Oh around the early 1800s. Long before the union of the companies.

Davis: Now who was this unsung "Maria Chapdelaine" of the northwest?

Brady: Well, this Madeline Proporoff will play a part in that story. But it's more or less some of the facts that he related to me about his...

Davis: Early times!

Brady: Early times, yes.

Davis: Do you have any comment on this "Stillborn Incubus" -- the great Canadian novel?

Brady: Yes, I felt... I remembered spending this whole Christmas Eve and part of Christmas with him because we were alone in Edmonton. Naturally he drank quite a lot. In other words, he told me his life history and the history of his family. To a person who had some real literary ability it would be what I would call... and the story of the girl who figured largely in... a girl he told me by name of Melanie McKay. You know when I mull it over in my mind, if I could write, I feel that she would be a Maria Chapdelaine of the northwest.

Davis: This was somebody he knew?

Brady: Oh yes. All his family history going back to the days of the nor'westers.

Davis: Well, maybe you will do that one day.

Brady: I should be working with Dalton Trumble instead of with you.

Davis: Yes. Well, that might come next now that we have put this over.

"1948 -- another round with demon death." Is this your lungs?

Brady: Yes, that's the early part of 1948 when I was in the hospital in Edmonton.

Davis: It was fairly serious then?

Brady: I had a rough time, yes.

Davis: How long were you in the hospital?

Brady: Well, I was in the hospital a month that time. If it hadn't been for a little Jewish nurse there I possibly wouldn't have been here today. She certainly took wonderful care of me.

Davis: What was her name?

Brady: Kenyon.

Davis: Who was Edith?

Brady: Oh, that was a girl I knew in Edmonton. She was a Metis girl from the Peace River country.

Davis: ...psychological study of the impact of modernity on Metis people and you...

Brady: I looked after her in Edmonton for about two months. I might as well add that our relationship was purely platonic too.

It would be a real study to let's say a psychologist or sociologist... let's say who would like to investigate what happens to people of her type when they come in contact with urban civilization.

Davis: What did happen to her? What was her story?

Brady: Well, the usual story, you know, of these white guys that go back in these communities and find good-looking Indian girls and then bring them to town.

Davis: She was brought to town then abandoned there?

Brady: Well, you know what happens when these vicious low-type of white men who bring girls to town... They don't only do it with native girls but they do it with their own kind... Well, in plain unvarnished English, you know what happens to any girl when they get in the hands of a pimp.

Davis: Oh, she got knocked up?

Brady: No, not at all.

Davis: Well, what became of her eventually?

Brady: They eventually sent her back to her mother in the Peace River country. After I was at Cumberland for two years I got a letter from her and she married one of the Hittiz's from

Notakema. They were an early pioneer German family that settled in the Peace River well before World War I. She was a very remarkable girl.

Davis: Well, when she was in Edmonton, I take it she was in a cat house or something?

Brady: No. This fellow had promised to marry her and then he reneged. As a matter of fact her mother practically had her in peonage (what you could practically call peonage) in a lumber camp west of Edmonton and she ran away from there. I met her in Edmonton because she remembered seeing me once when she was about 13 years old. I knew her mother quite well. Her mother came from the same settlement where I was born.

Davis: St. Paul?

Brady: Yes. Her experiences could certainly form the basis for a good interesting study on...

Davis: Well, did the city have an attraction for her or did she want to go back home?

Brady: Well, she didn't really want to go back home because, you see, she had had this trouble with her mother and father because she had acted contrary to their wishes. She was proud and stubborn and didn't want to go home.

Davis: What would she have liked to do if she had had her way? Stay there in Edmonton?

Brady: Yes, she wanted to work there. She didn't want to go home. She was a very industrious girl and very neat in her appearance and had a very pleasant personality.

Davis: Now your father died about this time, didn't he, 1948?

Brady: Yes, my father died four days after I came to Prince Albert. I went back then to Edmonton.

Davis: Now when you had been there before, after the war, in Edmonton, in the hospital this last time when you came back from Deschambault, was he there?

Brady: Yes, he was there.

Davis: So you saw something of him?

Brady: Yes, but I would say that from the time that I spent in Edmonton I saw him usually about once a week, sometimes twice, or more than that.

Davis: What was your feeling about your father at that time?

Brady: I always had a good feeling towards my father.

Davis: Then how about his towards you?

Brady: It was always good. One thing that I will say about my father, I can remember (like I said he was a person who was pacific by nature) but I never knew of him to... He never punished or used any physical violence against any of us children. Another thing that was remarkable about him was that

he never corrected us in front of each other. He took us away in a room and then he sat down and explained this to us. I can say that and truthfully, that my father, from the time I was a baby until I was an adult, he never put a hand on me. He had that habit of speaking to you quietly and pointing these things out to you.

Davis: So how did you feel about his death?

Brady: Well, I missed my father after he was gone because the only time that I had been really close to him was during the years when we had been together at Lac la Biche from 1934 until I left there in 1941. My feeling towards my father was always good.

Davis: Did he live with one of the other children there in Edmonton during the war and after the war?

Brady: Yes, when I went overseas he was living at Lac la Biche, but about 1944 he moved to Edmonton and lived with my second oldest sister, Ellen.

Davis: Was he in poor health at the time?

Brady: Well, he was for the last couple of years.

Davis: How old was he when he died?

Brady: He was nearly 71.

Davis: Do you still feel that you have important ties to Edmonton?

Brady: No, I've lost those ties. For one thing I only have one sister living there now. Edmonton, at one time it was the town where we went, it was the central town to which we went. Like we come to Prince Albert or Saskatoon. But now it's lost its importance to me and as a matter of fact I have been here 12 years now and I started out to go back to Edmonton at least half a dozen times. I got as far as Saskatoon once. Usually I have got as far as Prince Albert. I have lost my interest, there's no real attachment to Edmonton. As a matter of fact, I'm getting so I hate to leave La Ronge.

Davis: Now this next phase is Cumberland. How did you get that job?

Brady: Well, when I was working at Deschambault at the Saskatchewan Fish Board I met Allan Quant, who at that time was Supervisor of the northern district for the DNR, and I became acquainted with him through Malcolm Norris.

Davis: You have been pretty good friends with Allan Quant ever since, haven't you?

Brady: Oh, except for once in a while when we get in a critical mood. One thing that I like about Allan is I can criticize him. In other words, he can hand it out but he can take it too.

Davis: Well, he was the administrative head, was he?

Brady: The Supervisor of northern district.

Davis: For the DNR. You met him in 1947?

Brady: Yes, I had met him on one occasion. I didn't know who he was and the first time I met him I actually thought he was an agent provost that they would have possibly for the FBI or some similar body.

Davis: Why, what made you think of that?

Brady: That's his approach. Well in 1948, you see, the conservation or field officer there at Cumberland, Johnson, he intended to accept the CCF nomination, so consequently he needed a replacement. So Allan brought me to Saskatchewan because he found out of my associations in the past with the Alberta Indian and Metis Association and also that I had had some experience in co-operatives and work of that type. So I was brought to Cumberland and inducted into the department under his aid, so to speak, with the understanding that I was to carry on that type of work in Cumberland if possible and where possible, besides my regular duties.

Davis: Now this venture into co-ops was something new, was it, for the North?

Brady: It was for the people in Cumberland because none of them had had any previous experience with it.

Davis: In a way this is what they are trying to do now, isn't it?

Brady: Yes, it seems to be the basis for their projected program at the present time.

Davis: Now this... I can't quite read that... is that Local...

Brady: Oh, the local sahibs. I might just refer to the general attitude I found among many of the departmental personnel towards the Indians.

Davis: Well, they were carrying a white man's burden?

Brady: Yes, it is almost... paternalistic form of administration that we were subjecting these people to at the time...

Davis: Well, we are still carrying it.

Brady: Some of them were very tired too. It is quite understandable because it was very frustrating to some of these people because after all, you know, the Indians and the Metis are past masters at the art of passive resistance.

Davis: The Eminences of Greece... Departmental Hierarchy... Now who are these guys?

Brady: Well, they are practically the same people who are still there today yet.

Davis: These were the bureaucrats, were they?

Brady: Well, the bureaucrats were the higher levels. But I found, for instance when I was at Cumberland, that in spite of any recommendation you could make as far as fur conservation was concerned, they wouldn't adopt anything that you recommended unless they first went and enquired from the Hudson's Bay Company if there was some basis upon which they could have a joint program. That was particularly true with the relations of the Department of Natural Resources and the earliest management on the Hudson's Bay lease at Cumberland.

Davis: Well what kind of a community did you find Cumberland to be? How would you describe it at that time, the time you were there?

Brady: Well, when I first arrived in Cumberland I found out that as a stranger there was considerable hostility to me. As a matter of fact I can remember... Of course this was probably aggravated by the fact that there was an election campaign being waged at that time and, of course, these political differences were accentuated and heightened due to this fact and due to the fact that there were politicians from the outside who were creating and adding fuel to these things. The situation was really bad when I went to Cumberland. I was a stranger there and I almost had the feeling when I walked out on the road that I was Public Enemy I.

Davis: Whose enemy?

Brady: Of the community. I was an enemy of the people.

Davis: Because you were CCF?

Brady: No, because I was employed by a CCF government.

Davis: I see. What was their natural political complexion?

Brady: Well, traditionally Cumberland has been a Liberal stronghold, it had been as far back as the days of Langley. Oh, it was really rough because, you know, you almost had the feeling, I would imagine, for instance, of a Jewish soldier trying to garrison an Arab town. I sort of had the feeling that everybody automatically disliked me.

Davis: Well, did this feeling of hostility last?

Brady: No, it didn't.

Davis: What pleased [?] it?

Brady: Because in time I broke it down.

Davis: How?

Brady: Well for one thing, I felt that under the departmental administration these people were not really consulted as to many of these decisions. For instance, my predecessor, one time when we were discussing a problem I asked him, "What do the community councillors, the community leaders think of this?" Upon questioning him I discovered that there wasn't any community council. I said there should be one. "Well," he said, "there isn't." So I told him that I would go out and see if one couldn't be set up. I was advised in an indirect way that I was wasting my time, I was only asking for trouble. But within a short time I did succeed in having a community council set up.

Davis: Now did you speak French to these people?

Brady: No, I spoke mainly English because there were very few people there who could understand French except among the very oldest ones.

Davis: But you broke it down by this council, by establishing this council?

Brady: Yes, because I found that once you admitted them to where you were going to have meetings and discussed these things and break them down into panels and discussed these local problems, it would put the onus of making some of these decision on their shoulders, and I found that they were quite ready and willing to accept it. As a matter of fact, I received some very valuable assistance from them. Some of them put suggestions to me and other proposals that I myself had never considered because I had never thought it out from that angle.

Davis: How, many months do you figure it was before the ice

was broken in this way?

Brady: Well I would say that it took me three or four months before I could notice that there was a lessening of hostility towards me.

Davis: This council, this was just native people or did it include...?

Brady: It was just the native people.

Davis: No white people?

Brady: There were no white people because... You, see there are no white people in Cumberland, you might say, who have any historic roots in the settlement there. They are all more or less transients.

Davis: Yes, that's right. Well now, that council was the first thing you did there. What was the next step you took or the the next project?

Brady: Well the next project... Of course it was very intermittent in its character... but one of the next things I endeavored to do was to start a sort of an adult education class. We used to go up to the community hall and usually it was a Thursday evening and if there were any community problems or any questions that they wanted to ask I would be available. And sometimes we spoke on the things that I thought would interest them, trapping, hunting, fishing, history and particularly the old Metis history and the old history of the Northwest and Indians and all of these matters. And I had the policy there that if there was something that someone didn't understand I used to tell them, "I will answer your question if I can, and if I can't I will find out for you."

Davis: You must have had quite an impact on Cumberland House!

Brady: Eventually I found out that it broke down a good deal of that hostility.

Davis: Now did you find... You spoke of talking about history to them, Metis history. Did you find that they didn't know this or they placed pride in their background?

Brady: Well, I found that in the main they were aware of their past, let's say to the extent that the French Metis to whom I was accustomed in Alberta were. But on the other hand I also found that, taken on the whole, and that's quite true of all the families that I met on a rather more intimate basis in Cumberland, but they are a proud and independent people. They have a lot of pride.

Davis: What else did you teach them besides history?

Brady: A lot of these lectures were sort of slanted (Portion of tape missing at this point).

Davis: Now this is a matter of some current interest, this matter of the fur lease, the Hudson's Bay fur lease in Cumberland is just sort of up right now. You've got a note under this year 1948. What can you tell me about the background on that lease?

Brady: In 1934, or a little previous to this, the Hudson's Bay Company started negotiations with the provincial government of the time to have an area of land south of the river set aside for the exclusive use of the company. In other words, for the development of a fur producing operation. As I understand this was given to them in 1934.

Davis: Now they've still got that lease now, haven't they?

Brady: Yes, they have the lease. According to the terms it doesn't expire until 1964.

Davis: Now did this lease ever figure at all in your work when you were DNR officer from 1948 to 1950 or 1951?

Brady: Well, indirectly it figured because our A-28 conservation block adjoined it on the north across the river. Also the trappers who trapped for the Hudson's Bay Company nominally came under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources because many of them didn't confine their activities entirely to the Hudson's Bay lease. Some of them trapped on the A-28 conservation block in the wintertime.

Davis: And that was legal, was it?

Brady: Yes, because the Hudson's Bay Company lease could only sustain a certain number of winter trappers and the remainder had to trap outside of the lease.

Davis: Now these two leases, were they enough to support the trappers at Cumberland House or was there some pressure of population on trapping resources?

Brady: On the overall picture, I have never considered that trapping by itself has been sufficient to give the required level of income to the people of Cumberland House. But there was a period, particularly during the years before I came there, when the Hudson's Bay trappers had a better income level because their fur resources were more developed. You see, the area north of the river at one time was considered to be more or less (break in tape).

Davis: Now you have quite a few notes on the history of Cumberland House. You mention some historical names, short sketches of Cumberland history. Now when you first went to Cumberland House did you make a special study of the history and read up on all sources or had you done this before? Or

since?

Brady: Not particularly, but I took an interest naturally in the community and its background, and as a matter of fact I did some research work while I was there for Bruce Peel, who at that time was connected with the Saskatchewan history.

Davis: What kind of research did you do?

Brady: For one thing I remember I examined that ground and enquired from local people as to the location of the old posts, like for instance what was referred to as body of water in the time of the Nor-Westerns were here... it is a little flat today, it's completely blown over... the water levels have fallen and various other...

Davis: A lot of site work, talking to old-timers...

Brady: I just carried on these enquiries for Peel who later wrote an article on Saskatchewan history.

Davis: Did he come up there and talk to you about this?

Brady: No, it was all done by correspondence. I also was quite interested in it because in Geero's work he makes a number of references to Cumberland House.

Davis: Of course you knew about this work before? So you had some knowledge of the history of the place at the time you went there?

Brady: Oh yes. I was thoroughly conversant with the history of Cumberland House because as a member of the Metis Association I had made a rather detailed study of this particular phase of western history. I was more or less familiar with the historical background of Cumberland House before I even joined the department.

Davis: And have you studied this particular town since you left?

Brady: Well, I haven't been back to Cumberland since I left there except during the holiday season.

Davis: But how about reading?

Brady: Oh yes, I follow it... I read it... anything pertaining to the North. I am very interested in northern and western Canadiana.

Davis: Now you speak of these DNR conferences at Regina and Prince Albert in the year 1948. How do you recall those?

Brady: Well, I recall them especially because I happened to have had differences of opinion with the administration on some of these problems. I regarded it in a different light.

Davis: This was where all the field officers were called in for a few days to talk over...

Brady: But I objected to what was going on in the department at the time because we had a situation where some of the people who were the higher administrative echelons of our department were making promises to the Indian people which they knew perfectly well they could never fulfill, and which was absolutely contrary to the declared program and policies of the CCF government.

Davis: Now what specifically?

Brady: For instance, when I first went to Cumberland I discovered, you see, there was considerable hostility against (particularly the fur marketing service) because of its compulsory features. Though I think to be fair to the

Saskatchewan government we must admit that they were not entirely to blame for this compulsory feature because it was actually done on the insistence of the Federal government, who paid 60 percent of the cost on a cost-sharing program. But nevertheless this compulsory feature created a lot of opposition to it among the native trappers. They hated this idea of compulsion.

Davis: I see. Now this meant that the trapper had to sell his furs through the fur marketing...

Brady: On the conservation blocks he is required to sell his beaver and muskrat only...

Davis: A-28!

Brady: Yes. The long fur, the other types of fur, he was free to sell on the open market wherever he wished.

Davis: I see. It was a joint Federal-Provincial program.

Brady: Yes.

Davis: Now what effect did your conservation criticism have on the higher echelon of DNR?

Brady: Well, eventually they bore fruit because as a matter of principle I agreed with them, because I myself thought that this compulsory feature was a little too harsh. But I was quite in agreement with the reason and the need and could understand quite clearly why the Federal government made this imposition on the Saskatchewan government and I agreed with it in principle.

Davis: What was the principle?

Brady: Well, I think that in the past the Federal government recognized that if they permitted the Indians to sell wherever

they wished, they would actually be subject to the same form of exploitation that has existed, and consequently it would actually lower their income levels and the Federal government would be back in the position where they would have these people as social welfare charges instead of lifting up their income. I quite agreed with the viewpoint of the Federal government, but on the other hand I felt that seeing that it was the declared policy of the government and it was supported by the Regina administration, I couldn't see why responsible officials of the Department of Natural Resources should go around like they did in my district, making promises to these people when they knew perfectly well that because of the Federal control (that is the Federal government paid the major portion of the cost) consequently they, as administrators, knew that the Federal government would not agree to this. But there were certain individuals who went around through the North who made these promises deliberately to these people. And it only confused them and only embittered them and made them that much more hostile to the government because none of them had the moral courage to take a definite stand and say, that's the declared policy of both the Saskatchewan and Federal governments and to see that it was carried out.

Davis: What did they promise?

Brady: Well, I remember particularly one man who got up and made a public statement that if they would support him at the next election, that he would see that this compulsory feature was removed. I heard that same promise made by that same individual in 1951 when I went to La Ronge. As a matter of fact, at the time of the conference, there was another field officer who later left the department who supported me at this conference by saying that the same promises had been made to the Indians in his own district. Well, there was no unanimity among the departmental personnel themselves because nobody laid down a direct policy, any directives, at least not any of any consequence. And I objected to that type of thing.

Davis: Well, is there anything else on which you could advise the higher echelon?

Brady: Yes, because I believe that it is part of this question of native rehabilitation. In Cumberland they only gave lip service to it. During the period that I was in Cumberland I received a lot of unfavorable criticism because they charged that I spent too much time working among people on this co-operative and credit union and educational work, and they said that I was lax with my conservation work.

Davis: Who said this, your superiors?

Brady: Yes, my superiors.

Davis: Anybody say this in the community?

Brady: No, I never heard any criticism of that kind from the

community but it all emanated from governmental circles.

(END OF PART II)

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