

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: PAUL RUSSELL
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: BROCKETT (BLOOD BAND)
ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: BROCKETT (BLOOD BAND)
ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: PEIGAN
LANGUAGE:
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: DILA PROVOST
ALBERT YELLOWHORN
INTERPRETER: DILA PROVOST
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS &
RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-238
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 25
PAGES: 2
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Signing of Treaty #7 and how the Bloods interpreted it.

I am at the home of Paul Russell - Mr. Russell is 71 years old. Paul will now tell the past history of our times as has been told to him.

My father and the old timers have always talked about the Treaty 7. We were told to go "Bloods" to Blackfoot Crossing. The people were scattered throughout the country when word came about that the Queen's messengers were coming to make a treaty with us. So we moved under the direction of Red Crow. Crowfoot was not at the camp yet; then finally Crowfoot arrived as the other four tribes were already there. Somehow Crowfoot was slow moving along, because he wanted to make the impression that he was the principal man of the Blackfoot nation. The white men thought that he was the main chief of the tribe. When all the people were there, then the treaty talks began. (David Laird) Tall Man began telling us the Queen's messages - "You people will be looked after in every way possible to make your lives comfortable - hospital care, rations any way we can help you people to better living." As the old timers talked about the promises they wondered why they were never carried out (please note that apparently a lot of verbal promises were made to our people that weren't recorded in the treaty - this has been expressed many times). It was suggested that all the

people should be in one whole reserve. This the tribes didn't want, they preferred different locations. Red Crow chose the Belly Buttes; Crowfoot, Blackfoot Crossing; Sitting on the Eagle Tail Feathers, named the Procupine Hills. We Bloods, we like our reserve; Red Crow chose the best location. In our treaty we were assured that we would always have our rights to hunt, fish and trap. As long as the sun shines and rivers flow, as long as the mountains are there - various tools and ammunitions were to be issued. Since the whiteman arrived he brought with him many problems that we never had before. Outstanding of these problems is liquor; this we're still suffering from it. As far as natural resources of the land we always depend our livelihood from it. When rations were started after when we had settled on our reserve, the meat was treated with white chemical which caused us to be sick and many of the people passed on - never recovered. Also flour was treated. These were the bad intentions to exterminate us. It was made known to us that we never take up arms again. Medicare was provided as a hospital was built for us at that time. Original payment was 12 dollars then 7 dollars was taken off the following year. We were told that the 7 dollars were to be saved for some future date. This we never heard of no more. These are the many incidents that the old timers lost faith in the Treaty 7. That's all I have to tell.

INDEX

INDEX TERM	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
TREATY #7				
-interpretation of	IH-238	PAUL RUSSELL	25	2
TREATY #7				
-taking of	IH-238	PAUL RUSSELL	25	2

PROPER NAME INDEX

PROPER NAME	IH NUMBER	DOC NAME	DISC #	PAGE #
CROWFOOT	IH-238	PAUL RUSSELL	25	2
RED CROW	IH-238	PAUL RUSSELL	25	2