

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: PAT WEASELHEAD 1
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: BLOOD RESERVE
CARDSTON, ALBERTA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: BLOOD RESERVE
CARDSTON, ALBERTA
TRIBE/NATION: BLACKFOOT
LANGUAGE: BLACKFOOT
DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER, 1973
INTERVIEWER: HARRY SHADE
INTERPRETER: HARRY SHADE
TRANSCRIBER: J. GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS &
RESEARCH
WINTERBURN, ALBERTA
TAPE NUMBER: IH-243
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 26
PAGES: 3
RESTRICTIONS: NONE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- His father's account of the signing of Treaty #7, and the establishment of the Blood Reserve.
- Establishment of Mormon settlement at Cardston.

I am Harry Shade and Mike Devine is here with me at this old man's place, (Eagle Ribs) Pat Weasel Head. Pat will talk of how he heard or knows about the treaty from his old people.

Pat: This old lady that told me about the treaties was 14 years old at the time of the treaty at Yellow River. Her name was Killed Before. Several men were made chiefs at this treaty. One name I still remember was Calf Sitting. There were more men from the Blood tribe made chiefs at this treaty. Several names were mentioned. They took pictures of the chiefs, but the camera could not work on one of the chiefs. This old lady said there was flour spilled all over the camp. The people did not know how to use the flour that was given to them. This Chief, Heavy Shields, told the other tribe to move away. This is how we have a share, the Blood tribe's share of that Treaty of Yellow River.

Now I'm going to talk on Treaty 7, how my father, Weasel Head, told me of Treaty 7. He said, "I was 10 years old and I was with my father at the meeting of Treaty 7. There were two interpreters. I saw Chief Bird and Heavy Runner. They were halfbreeds or Metis. Tall White Man would talk to Heavy Runner and Heavy Runner passed the talking to Chief Bird, the way they

were interpreting. Chief Bird yelled out 'Blood tribe and all nations here, the Queen has sent her men up here to have treaty. Now we would not taste any more liquor for we have ruined ourselves and a lot of killing.' Tall White Man said, 'Any man or tribe can hunt anywhere, anytime. Don't fight over this land. It's your land equally. As long as the sun shines, the rivers run and the mountains stand, these laws will not change and the Queen will always take care of you. You will be given treaty money. This is your land, Indian land. If all Indians die or perish from the Indian land and then if an Indian dog is still running around, the Queen's men will take care and attend to that dog and if the dog dies, then the Queen will have say to the Indian land, but not until there's no Indians on earth.'"

Now, today, how many laws of treaty are broken by the government. We were given \$12.00 a head at the treaty. At the Middle Treaty Gros Ventre Boy was made a chief. At this time, each tribe's chief chose different places of the land for his people. The Blood tribe land existed as far north to Kootenay River and south to the U.S.A. border, west to the mountains and east to South Saskatchewan River. Now the land we are having has cut down to smaller stake. The Mormons came and settled on our reserve where Cardston is today. The Queen and her men did not take care of what's happening to the Indians and the treaty. One time at a big gathering, an Indian agent by the name of Mr. Pugh told us Indians, "You stay with your Indian

way of praying. It's meant for you, no white man could take it away from you." Mr. Pugh didn't say white man will come and buy your holy things from you.

Harry: I am going to ask you a question, Pat. How did you know or hear from the old people about the coming of the Mormons and how they came to settle on the reserve?

Pat: Frank Red Crow talked about the Mormons putting up camp on the reserve and he did say there was documents made. Mormons came in covered wagons. Mormons invited Chief Red Crow to have dinner with them. The Mormons said to Red Crow, "We are moving through the reserve and going to the north to have a settlement. We want to camp here on your land for the winter and in the spring, we will move on," for at this time, it was late in the fall. Towards spring, Red Crow had another talk with the Mormons and I think he had Steven Fox for an interpreter. The head of the Mormons talked of a 99 year lease and through misunderstanding, Red Crow let them stay on this land a little longer yet and the Mormons, Mr. Card, started to build the town of Cardston where it's sitting now on the reserve (another case where the Queen and her men did not take care of what's happening to the Indian and the treaty).

In my young days as I remember, the R.C.M.P. watched very closely around the border of the reserve, for white people cannot come on the reserve. There was a heavy fine if they did without a permit. Now today, white people run all over the

reserve. Even at that white people are living on the reserve.

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