Imbert: Yes, he's got it going now. Just start about when you started school.

Martin: I was about five years old when I started school, you know. They took me in at five, you see, to make the sixth child so they could open up the school. And I used to have an awful time when I was only a little boy, five years old, you know, and had to ride or walk to school. When I rode on horseback, the dogs used to heel the horse and throw me off, you know. Every morning, and there would go my lunch, home, you know, go without a lunch. And...
Imbert: How many miles would you have to ride?

Martin: I rode five, five miles. From the Morigeau place to Windermere, you know. Through them hills, you know, those trails, you know. There was no roads then, you know, just trails. And I don't know whether they spoil the children now giving them this bus. It don't make them as tough, you know.

(laughs) For my part, I am eighty years old now, 3rd of June was when I was eighty and I feel all right yet, except my legs go once in a while. I snowshoed too much. I hunted cougar for the government for about thirty years. Camping out and wading rivers in the winter. Made me tough, all right.

Imbert: Was that the first school in Windermere?

Martin: Yeah, the first school in Windermere. It was a log building with a little... You can see it yet by the lake there, big square logs, you know. Big square building. And then they moved up the new school, you know, in the corner. And I remember Jack Taggart and his sister, Daisy, and I

forgot... One was Pearl, and one Ruth, I think they called her. She was just a little five year old too, you know, when I last saw her, you know. When I get throwed off my horse and managed to catch my horse and lead it to the school, you know, old Jack Taggart used to have to saddle the horse for me to go home. And I remember one day they said there was holidays coming on, vacation, you know. And I said I'd... Jack Taggart saddled the horse up for me but not cinched it tight, you know, just kind of loose. And I was glad, you know, there would be no more school and boy, I was going home, you know. (laughs) Around the curve my saddle went under the horse's belly. (laughs) And there I hung. But it happened to be a quiet animal, you know, and I got out and had quite a time saddling up again. An Indian come along and fixed up the saddle, you know, and I went on home. (laughs)

Imbert: Just before you go on, I think I'll put this around your neck.

Martin: Okay.

Man: The only thing you have to watch is that you don't touch the cord and that when you're talking.

Martin: Oh yes.

Man: Because it makes a little noise and that.

Martin: Oh yes.

Man: We'll try it that way.

Imbert: You... Where was the Morigeau ranch? Where did you...?
Martin: You know where the, there's bunch of those Christmas trees along the highway? Well, just west, the old... I used to plow all that ground, you know, the fair grounds, you know. We used to farm all that. We got our water about four or five miles up the Shuswap Creek, you know. And my dad built a ditch right there, you know. Irrigate the farm with, you know.

Imbert: That's the branch up in against the hills, I suppose, there.

Martin: Yeah, just, it's level, you know. And I know he had flumes running across, oh, about a quarter of a mile and about fifty feet high, you know. Flumes to carry the water up to the house, you know.

Imbert: Your land had to be irrigated (inaudible).

Martin: Oh yes, had to very irrigate it. There was all kinds of fish, you know, just come down the ditch, you know. And we used to, when Dad would shut the water off, he'd say, "Come along and get the fish," you know. And I'd see them jumping, you know. Fish good size, you know.

Imbert: You had your fish piped into your house.

Martin: Yeah, yeah, just catch them right there in the field, you know, and take them into, for supper or dinner or whatever we wanted.

Imbert: Tell me about, was that, was this the same ranch that your grandfather first settled on?

Martin: No, I don't think so. I don't think he ever did settle down. My dad had one, two, three places that I know of. He sold two of them and then this last one and then we moved into Alberta, you know. We moved in where my great-grandfather come from, Rocky Mountain House? Right on, over the mountain, you know. After David Thompson, you know. The second man in the valley, you know. As far as I know, you know.

Imbert: What was his name, your great-grandfather?

Martin: Francois Morigeau.

Imbert: That was your great-grandfather?

Martin: That's my great-grandfather.

Imbert: I thought he was your grandfather.

Martin: No, Francois Morigeau. Great-grandfather.

Imbert: Tell me about him. What have you heard about him? You know, that's been passed down in tradition?
Martin: Oh, just that he was in the valley, you know, when the first priests come along. Father Desmets(?), and married him and the wife he was travelling with. Supposed to have eight children -- baptized all the children and everything, you know. That's what I heard. Of course I heard that, you know, years afterwards. Of course I don't know nothing about it, you know. I didn't see Father Desmets(?) but he pulled out before I was born, you know, that I know of.

Imbert: What was your great-grandfather doing then, before that? Where did he come from?

Martin: Well, he was working for the Hudson's Bay. He come out from the east, you know, worked for the Hudson's Bay and he wouldn't, he didn't like the way they were dealing with the Indians, you know. They paid for a muzzle loader gun as much as you are paying for a cannon now, you know. They'd stand the gun up and pile the fur up to the top of the muzzle; the longer the better, you know. There was black fox and everything else you know. So we figured they were paying about as much as you would for a cannon nowadays. (laughs) So he didn't like that and he quit them and come over into this country, you know. And he was the first, he went on west, you know, around... I forgot the name of that place.

Imbert: Out of the valley or in the...?

Martin: Over in the west.

Imbert: Over to the Okanagan?

Martin: Yeah, yeah. It's along the border where you see lots of apple trees, you know. Old apple trees, maybe you've seen it. Big fields, you know.

Imbert: Down at Osoyoos?

Martin: It's a little further.

Imbert: Down into the States?

Martin: Yeah, more in the States. I forget the name of the place.

Imbert: Yeah, Auraville?

Martin: Auraville, in that country, yeah. He was the first farmer there, you know, he growed wheat, you know. And the Indians used to cut for him in the fall. They had sickles -- those knives, you know -- sickles. And when they threshed, he used to give them wheaat for pay, you see. That was the only way you could pay them. And they got along pretty good until Riel, or whatever it was his name, that got into that war, you know, that broke out there. So great-granddad had to feed the soldiers that winter, you know. He had big barnfuls of wheat, you know, and they cleaned him out of his wheat and all the
cattle that he had, you know. And he was supposed to lend the
Hudson's Bay $20,000 which he never got back, you know.

Imbert: Well, he must have been on the Prairies, not down on
the Okanagan. He must have been down east to feed the Riel
Rebellion. That was down...

Martin: No, no. This started, they come up this way.

Imbert: But they were mostly around Winnipeg, the...

Martin: Yeah, they come through there and worked east, you
know, the Riel Rebellion. And worked east along and finally
got over into Alberta, you see. But he was out west, you know,
feeding the soldiers, you know. We don't know where the
soldiers come from or where they were going. They could be...

Imbert: Well, if he's down in the States there, it could be
that he was feeding the American soldiers in their wars. It
 wasn't the Riel Rebellion, it was the war against, with the
Indians down there.

Martin: Yeah, yeah.

Imbert: That's right.

Martin: Anyway they moved east finally and settled their
troubles out east, you know. I don't know where they settled
or anything, you know. Now he used to pay them all off in
grain, you know, like wheat and anything like that.
(Inaudible)

(Break in tape)

Imbert: ... into this valley here.

Martin: Yeah, that's what I never learned.

Imbert: But it was after that.

Martin: Yeah, yeah. It was after David Thompson, I know
that. He's the second in the valley, you know. He used canoes
and boats, you know.

Imbert: What was he doing when he first came into the valley?
What was the idea of coming?

Martin: Well, just looking the country over, you know.
Opening up the country, like, you know.

Imbert: Was he fur trading? Is that what...?

Martin: Well, he could be, you know, a little bit. But that,
he worked for the Hudson's Bay and he never liked them, the way
they were treating the Indians, you know.
Martin: I remember my dad here done the first farming, you know, in the valley. And he owned the first threshing machine that I -- well, not the first one. George Garry owned the treadpower, you know. Horses used to climb all day, you know. One horse picketed and then they get an outlaw, you know, something that fights, you know. Couldn't work and they'd picket him, you know, with a long rope and he'd have to climb all day, you know, threshing. (laughs) Then my dad got a twelve horsepower from the east, you know. Worked with horses, twelve horses. And we used to thresh the valley, you know. The whole valley, you know. I think he charged them ten cents a bushel or something like that, you know. A lot of work though, you know. Horses, hired men, you know.

Imbert: What was your grandfather's name?

Martin: Francois.

Imbert: He was the same as the great-grandfather.

Martin: That's the same one. Well, he's my grandfather, you know, I figure, I call him grandfather, you know. Old Francois.

Imbert: Oh, that's the same, it's just the one?

Martin: Yeah.

Imbert: And then your father was, what was his name?

Martin: Baptiste. Baptiste Morigeau. I have lots of relatives in the States, you know, all over. See, when he moved into, down in the States, they went into Montana and all through there. Morigeaus all over Montana at one time, you know. And I don't know, some of them died two years ago that I know of, you know, old fellows.

Imbert: Do you remember any incidents concerning your father that would be interesting to tell about, you know, his life? He was the first person to settle down, really, and start farming, wasn't he?

Martin: Yeah, he was the first to start farming around here. I remember the fellows from Okanagan used to come over here and get him to buy apple trees and fruit trees and so he went into fruit a little bit, you know, raspberries and strawberries and apples. I know I planted apples until I was -- I was only a kid and hated it, you know -- but I planted apples and boy they used to look good in the spring of the year; flowers, you know, and no apples. Blossom and no apples. Along come an old French fellow, you know, and he told my dad, "Just put manure and straw around the apple trees and hold it till May, the month of May, and then take it off. And you'll have apples." So my dad done that. That is, I had to do the work, you know,
straw, you know. Mostly straw and I put it around the apple trees and in May I took it off. And they blossomed late, you see. Didn't freeze that year and boy, we was loaded with apples. But raspberries was always good. And the strawberries were good. Strawberries wasn't as good right here because the snow went off, you know, and killed the roots. But the raspberries were good all the time. And we had no people to pick them, you know. To eat them, get rid of them. Now it's different. They come from Calgary and all over and you're so darn busy trying to raise it, you know. Two parties here, they can't supply the Calgary outfit, Taylor's, you know. Taylor in Windermere and Taylor at Edgewater. I know I took my children down there picking strawberries this year. Boy, he had lots of it too. He went down there to raise strawberries, you know, because the snow there covers it up good, you know. Here it don't, the snow goes off too early, you know.

Imbert: Subject to the frost.

Martin: Yeah, yeah. The only thing that bothers them there is deer. They go and paw around there and eat the tops, you know.

Imbert: Can't you keep the deer out with fences?

Martin: No, no. No, can't fence them out. You'd have to get pagewire fence and the real high, you know. And you take a farmer, he doesn't care about fencing with pagewire. (laughs)

Imbert: Then was your father farming when you grew up? I mean, when you were born he was... he had started farming already, had he?

Martin: Yes, he'd had two farms. And when I was a boy I remember he put me on the... When I went to school I was about twelve, ten, twelve years old when he put me on the plow and I've been on the plow ever since. That's why I had no education, you know. And anyway, there was no high schools or nothing in the country anyway. You'd have to go to Winnipeg and some other country to go to school and the people here couldn't afford it. At least my dad couldn't.

Imbert: Were you the oldest?

Martin: No, no, no. I had brothers. I think there was twelve of us. Six boys and six girls. Frank is the oldest, he's in Alberta and Ed is the second and I'm the third in the boys, you know. Oldest.

Imbert: Why did Frank go to Alberta? Did part of the family move there afterwards?

Martin: Well, he was a kind of a... He liked rambling around, you know. He was in Montana time and again before we
moved over there and I moved over when I was eighteen years old. I told Dad, "I'm going to move to Alberta. I hear a lot of talk about Alberta." "Well," he says, "you better let me go first, see the country." And he sold out here for $9,000 and that kind of helped him, you know. So he pulled to for Alberta and he got a place there, section of land, not a section but a quarter, you know, homesteaded. And he got me to go out there then, you see. Of course, I done all the work for him. He was old and I had to help him, poor old fellow. And I went over there with him. We got on the same section. He got the northwest corner and I got the southeast, you know, on the same section, you know. And there was a lake kind of spoiled the northeast, a little lake, you know. But you could, my sister took it up, you know, half-sister. She took it up and homesteaded that and I homesteaded the southeast and my brother the southwest, you know. And my dad was on the north, northwest, you see.

And I had to do his work for him as well as my own, you know. All horses, you know. When he got over there he bought the steam rig, you know, the threshing outfit, you know. And here we had horsepower, you know, threshing outfit and of course he thought I could run a separator just like here, you know. Puts me on the separator, steam outfit, you know, and I didn't know nothing about steam or speed or anything, you know. He put me on there to run it. I remember one poor old farmer. We threshed for a fellow, he was an engineer, you know, a steam engineer, Layburns. And he wanted thirty-six stacks put through that day, you know. Didn't matter if the oats went in the straw pile, he was feeding his cattle anyhow. And he speeded up the governor on me, you know, so's it could thresh. And boy, I was putting whole oats and everything right into the straw pile. And of course I didn't know nothing about speed or anything, you know. Nobody ever learned me. And then we pulled into the next farm, Gurnsey's, I remember. Wheat. And boy, that's the place the old rooster could get fat. (laughs) I just seen wheat going through, you know. (laughs) Like the oats did. The speed was doing it, you know. And I didn't notice, get my engineer to let it down, you know. Of course, I found out afterward.

A year afterwards I got a fellow called Ben Harris to show me how to run the separator, you know. He was an expert in the States, you know, and he says, "There's nothing to it. A Case is the best machine ever will thresh." And Case was the worst over there, you know, for throwing grain, you know. And he just put two bars in the sieve, you know, two iron bars. He showed me how to put them in, you know, so's they don't flop up and down, you know. They had to go this way, you see. And he says, "You thresh full speed, just as fast as you can go with the separator." He says, "It won't throw no grain." And it never did. And the cylinders, he told me to take the end play out of the cylinders, showed me how to run (inaudible) and everything. And I took the end play out of the big machine
down south, you know. I took the end play out and new concave teeth and new cylinder teeth, you know, and the owner said, "You're going to crack all the wheat there is." Well, I says, "We'll see." I says, "They're supposed to thresh, new teeth are made to thresh." And I says, "We'll see if it'll crack it because my..." what he told me, you see, the end play does all the cracking. See, it shakes back and forth and hits the teeth and cracks your wheat.

Well, down south in Nanton there, after I learned how to run the separator, I got twenty-five dollars a day to run with a separator there. That was kicked out to us three times off the farmers there. The farmers chased it out years before, you know. And they give me twenty-five dollars a day to run the separator there. I run the separator there and we used to thresh five thousand of wheat and seven, eight, ten thousand of oats a day, bushels, you know. And I used eighteen teams, you know. Made them put enough teams, you know, so's they could bring them in. They wanted me to hire spike pitchers, you know, the field pitchers? And I said, "No, I don't want no field pitchers." I said, "My experience tells me no field pitchers." I said, "You take a young fellow, he has a friend, a young friend, and he goes and he helps him. And the old fellow, he has to load his own loads, you know, because he's an old cranky or something, you know, and don't have fun with the kid. So the kid quits him and goes to his friend, you know. And the old fellow has to miss his turn every once in a while, you know. I'll bring in a small jag, you know."

Yeah, we had quite a time threshing there. Boy, I sure go section after sections, you know. Big steam rig, you know, forty inch, and the separator, big outfit, you know.

Imbert: And all the time you had your own property to look after, did you?

Martin: Yeah, yeah.

Imbert: And the whole family had a whole section there.

Martin: Yeah, oh yes, yeah.

Imbert: Well, before this, can we go back in time a bit more? And I'd be interested to know... Your grandmother, that's to say Francois Baptiste's wife, she came from the Prairies, didn't she?

Martin: Yeah, I think she did because I don't know, never heard of her much, you know.

Imbert: Well then, where did your father's wife come? Did she come from here?

Martin: Yeah.

Imbert: Your mother, in other words.
Martin: They were on the reserve there, on the Shuswap Reserve.

Imbert: She was a Shuswap, was she?

Martin: He was over there. That is, that's where he landed, you know, when he come from Alberta, you see. And when he first come into the country, you know. There was no reserve then, you know, but he landed there and stayed there. He used to get sugar, make sugar out of birch trees, you know. You know these humming birds used to make holes all over getting the sweet, and he used to make sugar out of birch, you know, for himself, you know.

Imbert: I didn't know you could do that.

Martin: Oh, he knowed back east, you know, where he come from. He knowed how to make sugar, you see.

Imbert: They get that out of maple...

Martin: Yeah, maple, that's where he was in the first place, where the maple come from, you know, back east, you know. And he learned all that, how to make sugar and how to catch the sap, you know, and all that. He used to make it here with birch. Birch...

Imbert: Is this Baptiste, your father, or was this Francois?

Martin: Eh? This is Francois right here, yeah. He used to make sugar out of birch trees, you know. And I don't know, I know there's them humming birds make holes all over birch. Did you ever see that?

Imbert: I haven't seen it but I can imagine.

Martin: Yeah, you can see holes all over where the humming birds get the sugar, you know, the sweet. And that's how I guess he got to know how, that he could get sugar out of birch, you know. But he made sugar out of birch trees.

Imbert: Well then, you're now chief of the Kootenays, aren't you?

Martin: Huh?

Imbert: You're chief here in the Kootenay tribe?

Martin: Yeah.

Imbert: So was it your mother that was a Kootenay?

Martin: Yeah, my mother was a Kootenay, yeah. She was born here and raised here and she was awful smart anyhow.
Imbert: Tell me about her. That would be interesting to know about her.

Martin: Well, the... She used to milk, I remember her milking fourteen cows every morning. We had a lot of cattle and she used to make butter, salt, and these tubs, you know. And these Indians used to go down and get all the butter they wanted from her, you see. And anyway, she was awful smart because when mining came, she found all the mineral around, you know. Like Sitting Bull, she found that. She was packing a baby on her back -- my brother, you know -- and he started crying, you know, and she thought it was time to feed him. And she was with my dad and old Ed Johnson over about a half a mile ahead of her, you see. Walking up, they were excited, you know, they found the floats and they were going to find it. And she went on behind, you know, and this baby cried. And there was a boulder about as big as this, just the right height, so she set down to feed the baby, you know. She had the packboard, you know. The baby on the packboard and she took and fed it. And she was sitting there and she looked at the rock, you know, and took her hammer and hit it. Just like that, you know, and there it glittered. The whole thing was what they call Sitting Bull Mine -- it was galena. I seen some of it, you know, it's sure pretty. You can see some of it in Cranbrook yet, you know. Some of the samples, you know. And she hollered, she hollered, "Here it is." Well, they were way ahead. They were still tracing some other mineral up above her, you know, thought that she hadn't found it, you know. She says, "Here it is," and Dad come down and hollered to old Ed to come down. And Ed was half a mile up and he hated to come down and he says, "Better be." He says, "Is that it?" "Yeah," they told him, "here it is." Come right out. So he come on down, old Ed Johnson, and he come on down and he asked her how she found it. She says, "Feeding the baby. Set on this. I sat on the rock, you know, and got through feeding the baby. I just hit the rock and there it is. See for yourself." So Ed called it Sitting Bull mine because she was sitting on it. An Indian name, you know. (laughs) That's pretty good.

Imbert: Where does the bull come into it?

Martin: Eh?

Imbert: How does the bull part come into it?

Martin: The Sitting Bull?

Imbert: Yeah.

Martin: Well, because Sitting Bull, the old chief used to be Sitting Bull, you know. And old Ed, I guess he had a little in his mind about that, you see. And that's how it come in, you know. Sitting Bull, because she was sitting on it, you know. And he called it Sitting Bull mine.
Imbert: What happened after that? How did it get taken up? How did it get developed?

Martin: Well, it's right on a slide, you see. They can't find it now. The owner can't find it. They tunnelled into it all right but it keeps filling up, you see. The mountain keeps getting a lot of that overburden and fills up the tunnel, you see. And they can't find the mine right now. The owners can't find it, you know, because they told me the other day. I asked them how the Sitting Bull is coming on and they says, "We've lost it altogether, we can't find it." He says, "But we know where Mary G is." That's the next claim, you know, above it. Mary G they called the next one, you see. He says, "When we see that," but he says, "the Sitting Bull, we can't find it." Well, all right. Then Frank Stockdale bought it off my dad, or Mr. Bruce, or whatever his name was -- the Governor General one time, you know. He owned it in the end. I think my dad sold to him, you know. And anyway, Frank was going to work it. So Frank went up. And when he got up there, he seen a pretty place, you know.

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Imbert: So what is it he did with his office?

Martin: He built the office right on a snow slide, you know. He thought it was an awful pretty place to build, you know. No trees, no nothing, flowers and everything, green grass and pretty, you know. And so that winter he was in his office one time, him and the dog, doing his work, you know, in the office, you know. And he says all at once the dog jumped up and down and jumped around the house and he never knew that the house was moving, you know. Snow slide come down and just picked him right up, you know. Took him way down, down the valley. And killed quite a few men that was working up above, you know, they started the slide some way. And boy, some of them had broken legs and hips and everything else, you know. No cars to take them out. Just sleighs, you know. Be pretty slow trip to the hospital, eh. (laughs)

Imbert: Where is this mine?

Martin: Eh?

Imbert: Where is the mine?

Martin: Up by Horsethief. What they call Law Creek, I think. Up Law Creek, in that country, you know. Boulder Creek, they call it mostly.

Imbert: That's the mine that's over on the other side, on the west end.
Martin: Yeah. It's sure a good one. The climate was real good, you know.

Imbert: Was that one of the mines that contributed to Wilmer?

Martin: No. Well, yeah, to Wilmer.

Imbert: It was around that country there.

Martin: Yeah.

Imbert: Going back to your mother again. She sounds a very interesting person and I just wondered if there was any other incidents in her life that you recall? Did she tell you a great deal about the old days amongst the Indians?

Martin: No, not much. Not much about the Indians, you know. We used to feed a lot of them, you know, look after them. And they used to come from Montana and all over, you know. They used to come to our place to fish, you know. This was one of the finest places for fish you ever saw. Salmon. And that Libbey, or that dam, took everything away from us.

Imbert: Grand Coulee?

Martin: Yeah, Grand Coulee. You see, the Indians, they kill enough fish in a month to last them a year. They smoke it, you see, and put it in parfleches and, like deer meat and stuff like that, they smoke the meat to last them a year, you know. They put it away and eat it as they need it, you know. And they kill it in the fall when the deer is fat, you know. Smoke all the meat and they look after the meat, you know, and everything. And it lasts them a year. Fish, anything like that, you know. But that dam -- I tried to get a lawyer, he promised to look into it and see that we get paid for it, you know. Get some kind of a pay, you know. But he never done it. He generally criminal lawyer, you know, and that's too small for him -- this other job.

Imbert: Yes, that affected the salmon, affected the people's livelihood and food all the way up here.

Martin: Now, you see, these people here, old Billy Taten, he knows everything about the fish. But I don't think he told you about it but if he could remember, you know, he'd tell you all about fish. I caught the last one here about fifteen years ago or twenty years ago, weighed forty-five pounds. I stood up there and I have him right here, you see. I got him at the bridge at Fairmont. Weighed forty-five pounds and I got twelve that night, and fishing for them at night, you know. See, we try to get enough to make it last a year, you know. Like Fridays, we eat fish on Fridays, you know. And once a week makes it last a long time, you know. Anyway, I'd like to see them come back. Athalmere was called Salmon Beds. The old prospectors named it Salmon Beds. Athalmere, B.C., you know. The salmon used to be just as thick there, standing there, you know, and spawning, you know. And six inches of water, a
little better there. And they just spawn there in the sand, you know.

But when the boat -- the steamboat -- come in, they had to drudge all that, you know. Drudge it out so's the boat could get through, you know. Old Captain Armstrong, you know, he got it all drugged out. Blakely, old Blakely, John Blakely died here a year ago, he used to work on that boat, on the drudge, you know. He was the captain and his father was the captain but he was a boy, you know. He learned to be the captain afterwards. He used to run the drudge, you know.

Imbert: Can you tell me about the Kootenay people? Do you know anything about their long past history. Did they...?

Martin: Well, they were here. As far as my mother and them talks about them, they were here all the time, the Kootenays. They were here all the time that I know of because I found a bunch of skeletons, skulls, the bones of Indians there at Rocky Mountain House Lodge, just over the hill. I was playing one day with a .22, you know, rifle, practise shooting one thing and another and I seen a fish hawk flying around, you know. And I went up on the hill and I just took aim and shot and I hit him on the fly. He was sailing around, you know, and he'd come down, you know, and swoop around and around -- they come down. I don't know where I hit him, whether I broke his wing or what, but he didn't act like a broken wing, you know. But he come down anyway and he lit on a round rock. I figured it was a rock about that big so I figured I'd better get below him and hit him with the .22 and kill him, you see. And I got below the hill, you know, and walked up to him, you know. I was going to, if he tried to fly or something, I was going to knock him on the head, you know. Here I looked and I see this thing was a skull, human skull, you know, he's sitting on. And I looked and I could see the legs, the arms of a man laying there, you know, big tall fellow and it must have been a big tall fellow. And I looked around then and I counted fourteen, fifteen of them laying around. And they all had those beads and the sinew was that... If you touch it, it just went to powder, you know. Ashes, you know.

Imbert: Where did they have the beads?

Martin: They had the beads all around through this sinew, you know.

Imbert: What part of their body?

Martin: Around the neck. Around here, all of them. And there was one piece of plate about that big...

Imbert: How big would that be?

Martin: Oh, about two inches square, you know. Copper plate, wherever they got that from, I don't know. It was copper, you know. And the others was all elk tooth, bears, claws, and
different things, you know, what they used to use in the early
days, you know. And they must have been buried there because
the sand blew off, you know. Kept blowing off and there they
were exposed, they were just all laying there. I know some of
them was between two barks. Bark, you know, two barks. And so
I sized it up and I took some of the elk teeth and showed it to the...

Jimmy McLeod owned the land, you know. And he was our
neighbor, we used to keep him all winter, you know. He was a
prospector, you know, and we used to kill a steer or something
and give him a hind quarter, you know. And his tobacco and
everything, and he was always satisfied. And so I went over to
old Jimmy and he'd been, he could own Calgary, you know, he
owned Calgary at one time but he was so crooked that they
chased him out of there. (laughs) Old Jimmy, nice old fellow
too, couldn't wish for a better man, you know. But he was
smart, you know. So I showed him the elk teeth and this copper
plate. And he was foxy, he wouldn't ask me no questions. He
just laid down and listened and he says, "Where did you get
it?" I says, "Just at the point there, across the coulee, the
big coulee." And he hunted there for two years before he found
it. And as soon as he found it there was notices up there, "No
Trespassing". Then he got Dr. Odamy from McGill's College to
come out there and size it up and he come out and he seen the
place and he bought the place right away, you know. It was
kind of a point -- maybe you've seen it -- the Rocky Mountain
Lodge.

Imbert: Where is Rocky Mountain Lodge?

Martin: It's on the highway just the other side of Windermere.
He seen it was a very pretty place. It's a point runs out,
halfway out in the lake, you know. So he bought that place and
he brought in Shetland ponies, buggies, and everything, you
know. Little buggies for his children and saddle ponies and
one thing and another and fixed up the place. And he used to
go back every winter you know, teaching school, you know,
McGill's College, you know. Yeah.

Imbert: What did he do about the graves? I mean, what
happened with them?

Martin: Well, he worked on them and they claim they were
three hundred years old -- the bones -- three hundred years
old. And they were all Indians, you know. Well, you could
tell by the necklace that they had. You touched the necklace
it was just powder, you know, the dust, you know. The sinew
was all gone to ashes, you know. He said the bones were three
hundred years old. And I think he buried the bones afterwards,
got them all together and buried them someplace. We can't find
them now. I know Teddy can't find them. I asked Teddy about
it -- that's the fellow that owns the place now, you know. And
he said he can't find it, didn't know where it went to. You'd
think he'd kept track of it anyway, some way, where he put
them. I know, I remember one evening I got down there with a
gunny sack and I took all the skulls, fifteen of them, put them in the bag, throw them on my shoulder and I packed it down to Athalmer. And there was a preacher there -- a Presbyterian preacher -- he used to read the Bible up and down the sidewalk. And Percy Lake and I, that's the, that was his house that had the sidewalk there up to the river. And we put two skulls about four feet apart, you know, all along on each side, you know. And then crawled under this sidewalk. Watch him.

(laughs) And he come out reading, you know, he never even looked around. He just walked about oh, from here about twenty feet past the first skulls, and then he saw it. And he got looking and he looked and he run back in the house to tell Mrs. Lake about it. So Percy and I jumped out from underneath and we took all the skulls and put them in the sack and got under.

Hid under the sidewalk. (laughs) And she come out, he says, "Well, that's funny. There was one there, one there, and one over there and one there." She said, "I told you you'd go crazy reading that Bible." (laughs) And she says, "There's no skulls here." We'd already taken them out and he couldn't find them, you know, didn't know where it went to. I guess he believe that it come the way, it come down all of a sudden and gone all of a sudden. So that was all right.

Old Joe Lake come for supper, you know. He was the storekeeper, you know. And he come to supper and Mrs. Lake told him all about it but he had an idea it would be me and Percy, you see. His boy, you know. Because we were the only devils there was in the valley, I guess. And anyway, old Joe come in, Mrs. Lake told him all about it. She says, "I told him he'd go crazy reading the Bible so much." And old Joe didn't say nothing but he thought a lot, I guess. Anyway, old Joe had to go to the bar to get his nightcap before he goes to bed. He always had one or two drinks, you know, and then go to bed, from the store, you know. And when he walked into the bar room, here was all these skulls on the bar, the glass, you know. It looked pretty good, you know, looking glass and all these skulls. And they were there for about two weeks before the police made me take them back. And one evening they said, "You better take them back their resting," he says, "and put them back as near as you can, where you think you got them from." So I said, "All right." And I took the bag and fill these skulls and started out that night and got over to our place and I put them away in the barn. The next morning I took them out and put them where I thought they come from, you know. I know one big fellow, oh boy, his bones were about that long, you know, the leg bones, and God, he must've been tall and big. I know his head. He had the big one and I put his back to where it belonged.

But you see, all those elk teeth and stuff, Jimmy got them -- Jimmy McLeod -- and mailed them right away, you know. He know they were valuable and he turned right around and picked all the elk teeth right away, you see. He used to sell them to the Elks, the Elk Lodge. And $35 a piece he got for them, you know. There was lots of them, I don't know how many he made. Some said he made over $2000.
Imbert: How old were you then?

Martin: Oh, I was about fourteen then. Twelve, fourteen, fifteen.

Imbert: You were quite a lad then?

Martin: Yeah, just old enough to be a bad fellow, you know.

Imbert: Tell me some more things that happened when you were young.

Martin: (Laughs) Oh, I remember one day Percy Lake and I was riding around, you know, horseback. Him and I used to ride a lot, you know. And we got to a nest of these baldheaded eagles. And I says to Percy, "I'll climb up and throw them out of the nest, you know, the young ones. And you can have one and I'll have the other." There is generally two, you know. So I crawled up at the nest and they come after me, "shoop," right by, you know. And I guess they could've tore me to pieces if they wanted to, you know, because I'd be helpless away up there, you know. But I had a club, I was watching them all the time, you know. And I got one of the young ones and threw it out. And he says, "I got yours here." I says, "Fine. Just put him to one side." I says, "Tie his leg with a string so he can't get away." So he did, tied him to a bush and then I threw the other one out. And he says, "Darn it," he says, "this one broke his wing." Broke the wing, you know. And I don't know, I guess we tried to doctor it but we couldn't do it, you know. It's pretty hard to doctor a bird, you know.

So mine grew up and I used to feed it meat, you know. Mine grew up and as high as you could see him, you could just hold a red handkerchief or anything like that, he'd just swoop right down, you know. Come down to me, you know. So one day I got a bunch of white fish, you know, and got my brother to take it home. I says, "You take this home and Mother will cook it for supper," you know. And I had it on a string you know, about a dozen or more. And he started home. The next thing, I met him coming back crying. I says, "What happened?" Well, he says, "The old eagle took the whole fish away." (laughs) Come down and took it away from him and away he went. So he lost all his fish.

Imbert: Where did you find this eagle's nest? Where was it?

Martin: Well, the trees, at Salter Creek they call it, you know. Oh, it's a great big birch tree, you know, and that was a fir tree, not a birch but a fir, you know. Big fellow about four foot through, you know, at the butt, you know. And (inaudible), you know, and that nice nest on top, you know. And I could get in the nest, all right, and out of it without falling out.

Imbert: Did that eagle hang around for a long time?
Martin:  Oh yes, he hang around.  I raised it, you know.

Imbert:  So it got used to coming back to you?

Martin:  Yes.  Come back to get feed, you know.  Used to come and get meat, you know.  We used to have meat, you know, cattle and one thing and another.  Always had meat, fresh meat, you know.  Yes, I used to feed it.  After I grewed up, after years, this last few years, I used to think, "I wished I had that bird now," you know.  Like, hunt cougar for the government?  If I had that bird, all I had to do is let him sail through the mountains, you know.  Wherever he could see a cougar kill, he'd go right down, you see.  I went by eagles, even then, you know, wild ones.  I used to go along the mountain and if I see one swoop down, you know, straight down, I'd start going over there.  And then I could hear the other birds, like the ravens and the magpies all chattering away there, you know.  And I'd know right away I was going to get a cougar, you know.  Be kill there, you know, cougar kill.

Imbert:  It would have killed some deer or something.

Martin:  Yeah, they kill deer and cover it up, you know.  The cougar always buries his meat, buries it, you know.  And the birds like to feed when the eagle is around, you know.  I used to watch the old eagle, he's the boss.  He even bosses the coyotes.  The coyotes won't tackle the meat that he's feeding on, if he's sitting on it, you know.  They're afraid of him.  Even these little magpies, you know, I watch them jump backwards, just jump backwards, you know.  Like that, you know.  When he spread his wing, you know, like pulling the frozen meat, you know, with his beak, you know, and finally it gets loose and he has to balance himself with his wing, you know.  And that scares all the other birds, you know.  The magpies always jump backwards.

Imbert:  They're big, big birds these eagles.

Martin:  Oh boy, seven foot spread.  Yeah, we got one here about a month ago or two, you know.  It's one inch more and they'd be seven foot spread.  Yeah.

Imbert:  Bringing them up when they're young, do they get quite tame?

Martin:  Oh yeah, they get tame, tame, very tame.  They won't even claw you, you know.  They just fly on your shoulder and they won't even dig in, you know.  I figure they're awful nice, you know.

Imbert:  Did you have him in the house?

Martin:  Oh, any place, in the house and out, he had a roost out, you know.  Had a granary, you know.  We used to put him in the granary.  Too hot in the house, you know.
Imbert: You'd have quite a job feeding it, I should think.

Martin: Yeah, feeding him was quite a job but he wrestled quite a bit too, you know. They are very smart birds, is an eagle, you know. That's the only thing they have nowadays. When I started hunting cougar, I used to follow elk tracks, two, three days to see what an elk looked like, you know. Very few, you know, scarce. The eagles, or the cougars used to get them all, you know. And then after hunting a year, or two years, I got so I was pretty good hunting cougar, you know. You get wised up, you know. Like you take the mother with four young ones, or five young ones, you go after the mother first. Kill her then you've got all the kittens. But before I used to let them go, you know, and kill the first kitten I saw and she'd take the other kittens miles away before I could get the other one finished, skinned and everything. You got to get wise, you know, save your legs. And I had a good dog, I had a good dog.

Imbert: Was there quite a bounty on cougars?

Martin: I did them days. I used to get $40 to start with, $40. And in the end I got $20 and $10, you know. The War come on and broke it up on me, you know. Although when the War was on, I was in Alberta.

Imbert: (Inaudible).

Martin: Yeah.

Imbert: Going back to your young days, any other adventures that you had in those times? You know what I mean, any of these tricks or anything that happened to eagles and things like that. It would be interesting to know, what growing up was like in this country, anyway.

Martin: Yeah. Well, this country has changed a lot and I've forgot a lot. The eagles is our worst enemy in this country, you know, for game. They feed their young every day with young goat and young lambs and young deer, you know. Anything young that they can kill, they feed it to their young every day. Them young got to eat every day, you know. And they can eat a lot, a young eagle can eat a lot. I know the first time I got onto it, I used to watch them taking this young things, or white things up to their nest, you know, and feed the young ones. And I'd say, "Poor rabbit, you got it that time, eh." And thinking it was a rabbit, you know. One day it struck me in the head, there's no white rabbit in the summer. Well, what's he doing? So I up and shot one of them and it was a young kid, goat you know. Young goat. Once in a while a young sheep or deer, you know, whatever they could kill, you know. They're the worst we got in the mountains. They stay right in them cliffs and they even get the big goat, throw him over the cliff and that's the end of that goat. Throw him over a cliff and it's hamburger when they hit bottom. All they have to do is sail around and go down and eat. I know we poisoned quite a
few. I poisoned thousands of coyotes with Gordon Haskell, you know. We poisoned them here, you know. There used to be all kinds of coyotes killing deer, you know. Now they're all killed off. There are a few, you might hear one or two in the year, you know. I hear one or two here in my field every once in a while.

Imbert: I suppose some of the eagles nest right up high in the rocks.

Martin: Yeah, they have their nests right in the rock, crevices, you know. Crevice, you know.

Imbert: This eagle, though, that you got, they was nesting in a tree?

Martin: Yeah, they were bald-headed eagles. They were valley eagles. I call them valley eagles -- they stay low, you see. They, all they do is rob the fish hawks, you know. Fish hawk jump in and get a fish and these fellows watch them and take after them and the old fish hawk drops his fish and the old bald-heads take it away from them.

Man: Are they on the same size as the other eagles?

Martin: Oh yes, I think they are a little bigger. But the golden eagle is just a trifle smaller but he's the boss.

Man: He's the one that lives right...

Martin: Yeah, he can lick all the eagles. And the humming bird is the Indians' king of birds. He can kill an eagle. Blind him, light on the nose and that's the end of that eye, both eyes, and that fellow starves to death.

Man: Have you ever seen it happen?

Martin: Eh? I never seen it myself but I've heard a lot of Indians talk about it, that they found the eagle without an eye, you know, just dying or something, starving, no eyes. Well, you see, you take these humming birds, they claim they can go from here to the States with the old geese, you know, hitchhike. I wished I could go. (laughs)

Man: They sit on the geese?

Martin: Eh? Yeah, they just fly on the geese and go to sleep and away they go. Maybe hang on with a beak, bill, you know. They hitchhike.

Imbert: Can you tame the golden eagle in the same way as the bald-headed eagle?

Martin: I think you can. Because they, you get them young enough. I've caught a lot of young cougars, you know, tame them and sell them to the zoos, you know.
Imbert: Have you caught any mountain goats or mountain sheep?

Martin: No, I never caught no young ones, you know. I could if I wanted to, you know, but I never bother with them, you know. You don't get no money for it and why play with them? (laughs)

Imbert: Have you had any interesting experiences up in the mountains?

Martin: Eh?

Imbert: Have you had any interesting experiences up in the mountains?

Martin: Well, not exactly. There was just one time I... I was up in the mountains with the game warden, Alex Sinclair, up at Camp Nine years ago. And we followed a bunch of young cougar, little wee tracks. And it went down to the river and they got across the river -- no ice, you know. We could see their tracks where they walked back and forth. The mother must have taken them across in her mouth maybe. But anyway, a big tom come along, a big tom cougar, you know. Great big tracks. And it backtracked the mother, you know. The mother went across, though, but he backtracked the kittens and the mother, you know. And it was two or three days before Christmas and there was a trapper there by the name of Harry Bone. He had a cabin up there, you know. And I seen Harry's tracks going to visit a German fellow there by the name of Richter. His neighbor, you might say, but he lived across the river, you see, this other fellow. And Harry, the lumberjacks told me Harry...

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