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HIGHLIGHTS:

- General reminiscences of their days at the Mission Indian Residential School.

- Mention early missionaries in the area.

CELESTINE JOHNSON (born 1899): Mrs. Johnson lives at Alkali Lake Reserve in the Caribou. At the age of six, she was taken to the Caribou Indian Residential School, known locally as the Mission. (Interviewed by Margaret Whitehead, June 7, 1979.

PABC No. 3532.)

DAVID JOHNSON (born 1895): Like his wife Celestine, David Johnson attended the Mission. In the 1940s, he was elected chief of Alkali Lake. (Interviewed by Margaret Whitehead, June 7, 1979. PABC No. 3532.)

Margaret: So when you were at the Mission... We're talking about the Shuswap language, okay? Now when you were there you weren't allowed to speak Shuswap.

Celestine: Yeah, and I was, weren't allowed to talk Shuswap at the Mission. Sisters wouldn't even let us, hear us talk they'll punish us.

Margaret: Did they tell you why?

Celestine: And then they have to, but now here they're trying to make them girls, them kids talk Shuswap. Teaching them kids Shuswap.

Margaret: But did you speak Shuswap when the sisters weren't there?

Celestine: Oh, we talk Shuswap when we're alone. Yeah.

Margaret: Why didn't they want you to speak your own language?

Celestine: I don't know, maybe they were scared we would talk about them. (laughs)

David: Maybe that's what they were afraid of, of the children they be talking behind their back. And that's what they were afraid of.

Margaret: But you did it anyway?

Celestine: Oh yeah, them women, when the kids are small they say, "We talk in Shuswap." Oh, but we taught all our kids to talk Shuswap.

Margaret: But Father Thomas then, he was talking Shuswap all the time.

Celestine: Yeah, Father Thomas he talk Shuswap.

Margaret: How long did it take you to learn English? Do you remember?

Celestine: I don't even know how long I must have known English. (laughs)

David: Well, they started to learn by reading, you know. And you, and have to know your ABC and you could start reading on that big chart. Then we start learning better talk English.

Margaret: Were there any white children in the school?

Celestine: No. All them Indians.

David: But them French teachers, you know, they don't really pronounce the sound right, those French teachers.

Margaret: Were they all French?

Celestine: Yes, they were all French. Maybe only Sister Patricia, Irish. See, Sister Patricia stayed her life.

David: Oh?

Celestine: Healthy.

Margaret: Yeah. Yeah, she's ninety-two now.

David: Yeah.

Margaret: So any of the children that went to the school, did any of them speak English before they went?

David: What, you know?

Celestine: What's that mean?

David: What she was asking you.

Margaret: Did any of the Shuswap children know any English before they went to school?

Celestine: I don't know, maybe some.

Margaret: It must have been very hard to have to learn a new language.

Celestine: Yeah.

Margaret: And to have to learn all your lessons in a new language.

Celestine: Even the, even, you know, some big kids don't know and little. Even can hardly pronounce the words.

Margaret: Yeah.

Celestine: If they still try and make every sound you, put every sound before somebody know what you're saying. (laughs)

Margaret: What else did they teach you at the school? When you had your classes, you know, what else did they teach you besides English? Do you remember? Did they teach you your numbers, counting and...?

Celestine: What was it?

Margaret: Did they teach you anything else besides English?

Celestine: That's all what we learn.

Margaret: Always English.

Celestine: Because I know some of them teach when they are in high school, they say they teach them even French. Like my daughter was (inaudible) when she was at Prince George. She was learning French. Pretty near know French.

Margaret: Well, did you learn any French from the Sisters?

Celestine: Oh, wouldn't even bother to learn. The Sisters

were always talking French. (laughs)

Margaret: And you didn't want to know what they said, eh?

Celestine: No, don't even know what they said.

Margaret: Do you remember any stories about the school, anything that you remember that happened to you at the school? Did you ever run away from the school?

Celestine: No, not once in ten years.

Margaret: You didn't?

Celestine: No, just never quit. Yeah, some kids did. Oh, they run away, run away -- the priest go catch them back. And the priest would go and make some little sticks to whip their hands.

Margaret: But you did't...

Celestine: And that was in the, was the sons and all alone. There was one that was expelled from school, Marlie (name). She would always run away. Now she can't run away. (laughs)

Margaret: So they expelled her, eh?

Celestine: Yeah, she got expelled. And there's a few kids...

David: Very few get discharged in (inaudible).

Celestine: They expell you. If you was expelled, Enos.

Margaret: Did you ever run away, David?

David: Eh?

Margaret: Did you ever run away? Did you run away from the school?

David: Oh yeah. I didn't know when one, that Alice (name)'s brother must have coaxed me, just to get, go along, but I didn't know. (laughs) I didn't know what reason, he must have made me went with him. And my older brother was in school yet, and then the time to go for a walk, you know, on Sunday. I don't know when he must have ask me to go with him. All I know we was on the road. I didn't know for what reason. (laughs)

Margaret: Was it in the wintertime?

David: No, somewhere in September. It was the same time I went to school, that same June, July, August and September, all September. Must have coaxed me, talked to me to go along with him. But I don't know what reason he must have went, run away. I didn't know. (laughs)

Margaret: Who brought you back?

David: I don't know whether it was my mother. My daddy was working down here all the time, haying time, you know, all doing the haying by hand. The stacks, them kind of stack there, well, there's picture in that album -- same kind all done by hand.

Everyone had to be at their job every day. So they couldn't leave, I guess. I think my mother brought me back.

Margaret: Was she mad at you?

David: No bus in them days. (laughs)

Margaret: How did you get back, by horse? Do you ride back?

David: Yeah, horse. No, these roads now, you coming through, they just wind through trees before. No road, just something like a trail, big trail, you winding around them big trees. But they kind of straightened them up a little now.

Margaret: Was your mother angry with you for running away from the school?

David: Oh, she come poke her finger in my ear and said, "Didn't you hear when I told you never run away?" Well, I was so small I wouldn't remember when she might be telling that to me. (laughs) But I was coaxed, come along with another one.

Margaret: So was some of them, they run away all the time then they throw them out of the school?

David: Well, them older boys before used to run away. That's why they were all expelled.

Margaret: Did they run away in the wintertime?

David: No.

Margaret: Always in the summer...

David: There was one run away in the winter...

Celestine: Think one froze to death.

David: Yeah, way out the side (inaudible), you know, sort of caught towards homeward.

Margaret: And he died?

David: Yeah, he died. All by himself. It was before my time. Before I went, and it was my good playmate too.

Margaret: Oh, he was a friend of yours?

David: Yeah, that one that died.

Margaret: What was he called, what was his name?

David: I forgot his name.

Celestine: Frank.

David: Oh yes, Frank.

Celestine: I think it was Frank.

David: Yeah, I think it was Frank. And (name) found him. He must have been coming behind and he must have seen a track on the road. He looked there and keep watching the track. He thought he might get after him. Must have been before dark, that's why he seen where the track went off the road, the boy must want to make fire, must have went off the road a ways.

That's where he tried to make fire and couldn't. So he must have went further on, maybe about ten or eleven inches deep snow. Must have been pretty cold. He must have had some matches then. So when (name) found him, and (name) must have been fishing around 150 or (inaudible), I don't know. That's the one stay in (inaudible) before. He was coming back. He said he must have been alive yet too. Augustine (name), that was and (name)'s daddy's name. I seen that old father, Augustine (name). Now he named that big (name), what they call it?

Celestine: (Name).

David: (Name) named after that, (name).

Margaret: Oh, is it?

David: Yeah that's the one that called Augustine (name) that stayed at spring house. (Name) Park. (laughs)

Margaret: Everything named after him. Do you remember any of the stories about the Mission? Any things that happened to you while you were there that you remember?

David: What?

Margaret: Do you remember any things that happened to you while you were at the Mission?

David: I didn't get you yet.

Margaret: Do you remember any... And do you remember any stories that happened to you while you were at the Mission?

David: On what subject?

Margaret: Well, you know, did you get in trouble with the teachers at all?

David: Oh yeah. Well, it's just only at school time, maybe when we don't recite our lessons by heart, you know, we get stuck. We got to study for a while, we must kneel in the corner, room, and study our lessons over again. And he thinks we kind of... Tom told what we should know by heart, you know, he make us stand and recite. Only trouble we always had.

Margaret: So you didn't give the teachers a hard time, eh?

David: No.

Margaret: What about the girls, did they give the Sisters a hard time?

Celestine: When them girls they don't know their, you know, their lessons, they have to study by heart. And if they don't know them make them recite again. And make them time for dinner they have to keep their book, take their book in the dining room and kneel in the corner and study there. They have to know that -- their lesson -- before they are allowed to eat. (laughs)

Margaret: That would make them work harder, eh?

Celestine: Yeah, they make them really work.

Margaret: Did any of you give the Sisters a hard time?

Celestine: Maybe some of them.

David: Well, this is so long now, you know, in the 1900s.

Margaret: Yeah, long time.

David: 1910 and after. When everything might be put on the record. (laughs) Tape recorder, we never knew that.

Margaret: Well, it is kind of interesting to people to know, you know, what happened then at the school, because it's so different now.

Celestine: Yes, way different now when I think about it. I think the school was, the Mission there, thought it was strict, but now I say it was good. They had to learn everything. Sewing, cooking, everything there we had to do. But now in these day schools, if the kids are at the school over there, the school, they don't know nothing, no sewing, nothing. Yes, and them kids don't even know how to wash dishes and do things. You see them kids just don't know nothing, don't working. They used to make some, but when we were at the Mission we used to make clothes, sew. Everything. And after that the girls, you know, all of our girls we got her out of school.

David: See that machine come out of school, Celina's mother, Celina's mother is pressing her come and...

Celestine: Yes, them girls before she used to have... And they are out of school they got... It was our oldest daughter's machine and I let Celina have it.

David: Well, she had it for quite a while; she told Celina to take it over.

Celestine: And then Celina she doesn't use it, she let me have it. One of our granddaughter go and... Tracy.

Margaret: Tracy, eh.

David: Tracy.

Celestine: She goes school in afternoons, she doesn't school in the morning.

Margaret: Did the Sisters teach you to bake, to make food?

Celestine: Yeah. We had to learn everything in the, in the kitchen, teach us everything. How to bake bread and we always had to bake bread. You know, there was no bread nowhere to buy. (laughs) And they just get a lot of flour and that our Sister, the cook, she used to have... We used to have a summer house by the convent where they grow hops. And in the fall when they are all ready...

David: Oh, that's relish.

Celestine: That (inaudible) come take them cooks to pick it up. And of course they mixed the yeast, what we use for our bread. She used to make in a big pot. And then she puts it in a container, them hops, and fix them and put them in when she boils them potatoes. That's where she puts in it, and the yeast. Oh there's (inaudible) way down in the (inaudible) cell where we keep it. I don't know, by the size of table, one and

a half. And make one. You know, we used to have them big pans and, well, we put loafs, eight loafs in one batch. We used to three, four (inaudible) when we baked. But I was only, that wasn't too much girls, that used to go about sometimes forty girls, that's all.

Margaret: There was more boys?

Celestine: I don't know how many the boys used to.

David: Well, the boys sometimes come twenty-five, and most time they did over thirty.

Celestine: Yeah, it wasn't too much.

David: When the Chilcotin boys came in at the time somewhere about thirty-five; Chilcotins right from Anahim.

Margaret: How many Chilcotins? Just a few?

David: Well, it would be about seven or eight Chilcotins in them days. Well, transportation was too hard, all by team -- no cars in them days.

Celestine: Yeah, came from Anahim.

David: Long ways.

Celestine: Just only two girls used to be at the convent. Yes, there's one, Margaret (name). She just, they brought her little sister to school and then they, she, they must have run away, her and her sister. Gee, it's long ways to walk. She went back to... she went back, because she must have reached and she never went back to school. Gee, it looks long ways.

David: That's quite a ways for a kid. Yeah.

Celestine: Yeah, her little sister wasn't big too.

Margaret: They just didn't like the school?

Celestine: Yeah, I guess they didn't like the school. Never went back.

Margaret: Did you find the food at the school a lot different than what you were used to?

Celestine: Yeah. We used to make bread twice, sometimes three times in a week. We used to make homemade bread, the corn one, fifty pound sack at a time. That's lots of bread. (laughs)

David: Had a big wooden box (inaudible).

Celestine: Oh, we used to...

David: Long trunk.

Celestine: We set our bread in the evening and in the morning we have to knead it up and fix it.

Margaret: Did you like the Mission food? Did you like the food that you got at the Mission?

Celestine: Yeah, it was all right. You know...

David: You know what you're eating, whatever vegetables made...

Celestine: They used to plant lots of vegetables.

David: They had a big garden.

Celestine: Potatoes. They had lots of chickens.

David: Lots of hogs.

Celestine: When the berries are ripe we used to pick lots, cranberries, you know, down the creek.

David: Yeah.

Celestine: When they are ripe, see, the cook has to take them biggest girls down there with buckets and pick them.

David: Cranberries.

Celestine: They make some jam. They used to, we used to have that all year round, every Sunday we have cranberry jam.

David: Sometimes thornberries. (laughs)

Celestine: And about a pound pretty near. And they start killing pigs and beef and they make the sausage.

David: Yeah.

Celestine: And we used to make our own sausage over there. The girls have to be cleaning, you know, them...

David: Guts.

Celestine: Yeah. Clean them good. They say the cook must know everything. Used to make some big sausage and some small ones. And be (inaudible) oil and everything them. When they are fed and they have lots of grease. They fry the grease and put the grease in the container and they know what we would throw, what they use it too for, you know, make soap. Get a can of lye and make some soap. That's all the soap we used to use for washing too, homemade soap.

Margaret: You made your own soap?

David: Yes, make our own soap. (laughs)

Celestine: That's all of the soap we used to have. It was good, I guess, because it was lye. (laughs)

Margaret: You learned a lot of things, eh?

Celestine: Yes, and after a while they used to start giving us sun dyed soap. They make the sausage, you know. Upstairs in the kitchen on the ceiling there's some hooks like this what's in there. Some bigger ones all over. They fix the sausage and we hang them. Go upstairs there would be sausage all over the ceiling (laughs) but they dry up. That's what they feed the kids. It was good too.

Margaret: You enjoyed it?

Celestine: Yeah, every Sunday we'd have some sausage.

Margaret: But it must have been different from what you had at home, when you went home for the holidays.

Celestine: Yeah.

Margaret: Did you ever try to teach your mother anything that you learned at the Mission?

Celestine: I wouldn't even try to teach her. (laughs) She wouldn't even tell me to do anything.

David: In the olden days, the parents they're taught how to raise the Chinook, the Chinook language, what they call it, and that's hard, very hard for the old Indians. They kind of learned the alphabets, it's different. They weren't writing altogether in Chinook. Chicken scratch. Chicken scratching all over.

Celestine: (Inaudible).

David: Can't hardly read it. (laughs)

Celestine: The Chief Simpson's wife...

David: I know I can read that.

Celestine: You know that old woman, that Chief Simpson's wife, my mother used to say, "Jesus, she knows all the Chinook."

David: Yeah.

Celestine: She really knows Chinook, how to read. Must be easier for them to learn Chinook than to learn English. (laughs)

David: (Inaudible) Chinook writing.

Celestine: Yeah, it must be easier for... Yes, them old people they never go to school. Still she learned Chinook. So Father Thomas must have been a good teacher.

Margaret: Yeah. Somebody must have, yeah.

Celestine: Yeah. Yeah, that was the only woman my mother was telling me she could write and read Chinook. Well, you see, just think about the school...

(END OF SIDE A)

(SIDE B)

Margaret: Oh, that was Bishop Duria?

David: Yeah. That's in Kamloops, I guess. (inaudible).

Margaret: And this is Chinook here on the other side?

David: Chinook. Yeah, that's Chinook writing. It's written in there, Shuswap, wherever it is.

Margaret: And your mother knew these prayers?

Celestine: Be some prayers. I don't even know what you're reading. (laughs)

David: She doesn't know Chinook at all.

Celestine: I don't even know Chinook.

David: It's only me learned Chinook.

Margaret: Oh, you know Chinook?

David: Yeah, I've been raised ten, can read but not too good, but it's pretty good. (laughs)

Margaret: Did your mother teach you to learn Chinook?

David: Eh?

Margaret: Did your mother teach you Chinook?

David: No. My mother, my mother died in 1913 and it was after that I started try to learn Chinook.

Celestine: You must have learned it by yourself.

David: Yeah, I just learned by myself. I, my daddy must have been subscribing the Chinook papers from Kamloops and he had a lot of it; he had the whole alphabets. He was listening to Chinook (inaudible). He would be on top and Chinook letter would be under all that all, right through the set. That's the way I learn. Learned by myself.

Margaret: Did you used to get that little newspaper called the "WA WA"?

David: Yeah, it kind of looks "WA WA".

Margaret: And you used to read that?

David: Yeah. I just learned. I learned that about quite a while and I gave up. And after a while I took it up again, I say I might as well try to complete it. But still I didn't really complete, I get stuck some words. I know our language, Shuswap.

Margaret: So you know Shuswap and Chinook and English?

David: Yeah.

Margaret: Three languages?

David: Yeah, three.

Margaret: That's pretty smart. (laughs) I only know one.
(laughs)

David: I can know a lot of French but I lost my book. I lost that book. First part of it was but I started to learn quite a bit in the French and I lost my book and I never could get one. Well, I could order one...

Celestine: Brenda go, this is not a grandchild this (inaudible). That other one that was going on foot was her sister.

Margaret: They go to school?

Celestine: But that little girls that are going, they just a relation.

Margaret: They going down to the school?

Celestine: Yes, they are going to school.

Margaret: But they won't learn any baking, and they won't learn any sewing. (laughs)

Celestine: Yeah, that's what.

David: We never thought it be school around here.

Celestine: I never think of us would make it down here.
(laughs) That's the way the roads are go.

David: And never thing possibly be around here when them roads would just go around them trees and...

Margaret: Just the horse could go around them. And the sleigh, you had the sleigh in wintertime. Did you have the sleigh?

Celestine: But they go there with a boat.

Margaret: Fishing?

Celestine: They might have fished.

David: Yeah, they're coming out for vacation, come out horseback or buggy. Very few buggies too, wagon. Some of them used to come on horseback. Go back the same. That's the only transportation. (laughs)

Margaret: Father Thomas he had a little buggy?

Celestine: He had a buggy. Goes in the buggy or he goes horseback. When them priests started to have cars going around Father Thomas would be sitting on the (inaudible), he'd laugh.

See them race with a cars and they thinks about himself when he's travelling somewhere in the buggy or on horseback.
(laughs)

Margaret: I guess he thought they had a pretty easy time, eh?

David: Yes, when Father Thomas travels amongst the whites he goes on his own little buggy and one horse. But when he comes to the reserves we got to go for him. That's the reason he made the Indians go with the priest, in the olden days one priest got lost going on foot by himself to his reserve. That's how the missionary start first time. They were on foot. And one must have got lost, but they found him. (laughs) And that's where the Indians then was opposed to go for the priest, wherever the priest is. They know and they go home on horseback, he used to come by horseback.

Margaret: You always knew when he was coming?

David: Yeah. It was before my time. (laughs) I just heard that and all...

Margaret: Well, he was around here for a long time, pretty old when he died.

Celestine: (inaudible) and that is our oldest granddad. He's a Shuswap teacher. (laughs)

Margaret: Oh, she's the one teaching Shuswap?

Celestine: She's the one that teaches Shuswap.

Margaret: She learned from you?

David: Yes.

Celestine: Yes. All my girls they talk Shuswap.

Margaret: Did they all go the Mission School?

Celestine: Yes, they were all at the Mission. Go to school when they... Laura, my oldest one, she didn't pass regular through school. We had to get her out of school, you know, when that, oh, when that person has a baby. Her mother's pretty sick. And I was expecting too, and it was hard for me to looking after the baby and I was expecting. So we had to get out Laura from school to help me.

Margaret: Did she go back?

Celestine: Eh?

Margaret: Did she go back?

Celestine: No. She never went back. Well, she had (inaudible). That was in June that Celina's mother was starting to get pretty sick, and then August, that's on Celina's birthday, the day she died.

Margaret: Did your children, your daughters went to the school, was it different for them than it was for you when you went?

Celestine: Yeah. They didn't really learn everything. She didn't even, Laura didn't even know how to make, she didn't know how to start to make a dress for herself. She was asking me, I told her, "If you have an old dress just drape it and you can make a pattern out of it." That's the way she learned to

make a dress for herself. That's long ago there was no dresses, just material. We used to buy material, make some dresses for the girls. And we had all girls. (laughs) One of my girls, Celina was just like twins. They used to dress them the same. (laughs)

Margaret: Was some of the Sisters at the Mission who were there when you were there, were they still there when your children went to school? Did they have the same Sisters as you did?

Celestine: No. Sisters sometimes they change. Yeah, after that when I, Sisters was there when I got out and there was some Sisters changed again. But I really knew Sister Patricia. I liked her, she was a nice Sister.

Margaret: Yeah, she is a nice person.

Celestine: Yeah, she was nice. You won't even try to get, wants to get mad with her, I talk to her and she laughed. (laughs)

Margaret: She didn't use to whip you then?

Celestine: No. (inaudible). Kind of get mad at us, we'd talk to her till she laughs. (laughs) She was a nice Sister. When I was in the hospital that time there was two Sisters went to see me. I didn't know who they were too. And they were asking me they tell me to name all the Sisters that were at the Mission when I was in. I named them all. They told me the Sisters all dead. They says only Sister Octavia, they mentioned Sister Octavia. She was a short Sister. Sister Octavia is the only one alive of all that I mentioned. Yeah, he said the only one that's alive, he says all the rest died.

I still remember, she must be old by now, if she's still alive, Sister Octavia. (laughs) Yes, she's a short, short Sister.

Margaret: Was she strict?

Celestine: I don't know. She must have died somewhere. She was still there when I left at the Mission, and she must leave after that. Well, they changed the Sisters after I went.

Margaret: Were the Sisters strict with you?

Celestine: Eh?

Margaret: Were the Sisters strict with you?

Celestine: Oh, they had to be strict.

Margaret: Because there was so many of you?

Celestine: Yeah. We have to do whatever we are told.
(laughs)

Margaret: You weren't allowed to see the boys at all, eh?

Celestine: We weren't even allowed to, the boys were... Us, we stayed up the convent. Girls all alone by themselves up the convent. We weren't allowed to look at boys. (laughs)

David: They had a high fence all around the yard where they play. Eight foot high, all boarded up. It's the same when they come in town from the convent to the kitchen, they had to go through tunnel. Tunnel, (inaudible) and top. Girls had to come into the tunnel to come to the kitchen. (laughs)

Margaret: I bet you still managed to take a look, eh?

Celestine: (laughs) If they see us look through a crack they get mad at us. (laughs)

Margaret: Well, in church, in the chapel, you must have seen each other in the chapel, eh?

Celestine: We had our chapel upstairs in the convent.

Margaret: Oh, so you didn't go to the same chapel?

Celestine: No. We had the chapel in our convent and they had a chapel in Father's house.

David: Yeah, I show you in that picture where the chapel was.

Margaret: So they really kept you away from each other, eh?

Celestine: Yeah.

David: This one that foreman at the Mission, he was a priest, Father Capani. He was the foreman at the, he was run the ranch. Do everything, cowboy, go out with the cowboy. They had to do all their own cowboying.

Margaret: How long did he stay at the Mission? How long did he stay at the Mission, Father...?

Celestine: I think he got hurt or got killed, something.

David: Oh, you mean the foreman?

Celestine: Father Capani.

David: Father Capani. Yeah, he got killed on a horse, bucking horse. He wanted to have a good saddle horse and saddle horse must have got too, get kind of wild, you know, feeding too much oats, I guess. Feeling too good and he must have rode him and buck with him. He must have got out of the saddle and above horse, and they must have been coming down and the horse met him with that saddle horn, must have hit him right in the stomach, or liver. That's what killed him. That was way after I left school, three or four years after I left school. I seen that horse what killed him. I know that horse when it was young, was real blue color. But when I see that horse again he was pretty near all white. (laughs) Spotted white, you know, that brown spots. (inaudible) That Father that owned the tent told me that was the horse that killed Father Capani. Yeah.

Margaret: Did Father Thomas ever have any accidents?

David: No.

Margaret: Not in all the time he was here?

David: He had accidents but he always come out without a scratch. Yeah. One time they, you know, when they take him back in a sleigh, there was one road up there that where the ice forms on... right on the road, all along the road. Nobody wouldn't do anything about that road in them days. What they call the Curtis Bridge about three miles up here. In the spring the water goes along on the road, plugs up the spring and water keeps going on the road and keeps (inaudible). And

the horse would (inaudible) on the shoes what they can travel on ice. So they didn't want to go on that road and they went on the side. And still along the side, where the water goes over, the sleigh must have been going slide down, you know. Sleigh turn over. (Inaudible) and the driver was under and they must lay on the driver and the horses went with the sleigh. Left the box there. Old Father Thomas... (laughs)

Margaret: But he was okay?

David: Yeah, the driver went after the horses, but horses, you know, must have run quite a while up the road and they finally came without, nothing broke. But the driver had to come back there and told Father Thomas he couldn't get after

the team. So he come here and had another set of team and a sleigh.

Margaret: Try again.

David: Father Thomas must have a make a fire there where he stayed. And one time I brought him back and somebody must have happened to make a fire in the same place. "This here is my fire place there and it's still smoking yet." (laughs) That's way after in the summer. (laughs) Now it's a high road above that spring.

Margaret: Everything's easy now, eh.

Celestine: We used to feed Father Thomas here too. I don't know how many priests we had to feed. Father Thomas left...

David: I couldn't remember all them priests that was after Father Thomas. Father Hannessy(?) was the first one after Father Thomas, but he didn't stay even a year and they sent him somewhere else. So they keep doing that...

Margaret: Keep changing, eh?

David: Keep shifting all. And we couldn't remember so many of them. We used to feed them. We had an old log building back here before, that's where we used to feed the priests. Very seldom somebody go there and feed them, that's what they call the priest's house -- that one over there. (Inaudible) through. (laughs) It was the priest's house.

Margaret: But you had a building here as well for the priest?

Celestine: No, our old house, it was a log building.

Margaret: And the priest he used to, Father Thomas would come for his meals, eh?

Celestine: We used to feed him every meal at it for one week. (laughs)

Margaret: Did he pay you?

Celestine: No. (laughs)

Margaret: (Inaudible) his money. Yeah, there's been a lot of changes.

Celestine: Everything is changing now.

David: Yeah, everything is changing quick.

Margaret: So Father Hannessy(?) was only here one year?

David: Not even one year I think Father Hannessy(?) stayed. He was a good priest.

Margaret: When Father Thomas used to say the mass, you know, when he used to preach to you, did he used to preach to you in Shuswap?

David: No. He preach in Chinook.

Margaret: In Chinook.

David: Yeah, in Chinook. There was one Indian there named Little Pete -- that's the one that he stay in there for Father Thomas. Father Thomas speaks Chinook and he had to interpret into Shuswap.

Margaret: Oh.

David: Also Father Thomas can speak the Shuswap but doesn't like to speak it, you know.

Margaret: Oh, I see.

David: He rather talk in Chinook. He's a French priest. He had a brother who were French. I don't know whether he was a priest too, I think.

Margaret: Did the Bishop used to come here? Did the Bishop used to come here? The Bishop, with Father Thomas?

Celestine: Yeah. Yeah, the Bishop comes here.

David: When they bless that church after we complete it, Bishop come here and bless it, stayed for pretty near a week. Bishop, Archbishop Duke.

Margaret: Archbishop Duke.

David: He was pretty old already. That's the one that blessed this church in 1931.

Celestine: The Indians made our own church.

Margaret: But there was a church before this one, eh?

Celestine: They had a church before somewhere. Long ago before they said they had a church.

David: Yeah, they had a church there. We had a picture of that old church somewhere.

Margaret: The Indians built it, the first church over there?

David: It was just a log building, but it had the siding on the outside, board siding. And glazed windows. We had a couple of them windows at the back of the church, windows from the old church. He told us, "Why didn't you put old windows..." They were all glazed, you know, different colors.

We just got a couple, the top window, at the back of the church (inaudible).

Margaret: Is it the same altar?

David: No. We made that altar out there. There was no white, never come and tell us what to do. We do it all by ourselves. I was the head carpenter and her brother was the

helper, and whenever he gets stuck somewhere he'd come and ask me what best way to do it and all that. We build that tower there last. After we finish that church, you know, but it's a lot of work with all the boys doing the inside. Oh, it's a lot of, putting in them (inaudible) six inch wide inside boards. Ceiling, lot of work. Got to make big scaffolds inside to do the ceiling.

Margaret: Did you take the bell? Is the same bell from the other church?

David: Eh?

Margaret: Is it the same bell from the other church?

Celestine: Yes, it's the same old, all along.

David: Oh yeah. We took that bell down from the other old church. Take them down, slide them inside of that rope right down to the ground -- it's pretty heavy. I don't know what weight it's got, but it's pretty heavy, pretty thick, that bell. We had to slide it from this high and put planks under the eave and then planks on the roof, and it's open on other side, get it in from the other side.

Margaret: Lot of hard work. Do you remember who blessed the first church?

David: No. I don't know much about that old church, how it was. I just heard they putting an addition at the back of it. It was just one, one room. First time they cut out there and build where the altar was. I don't know which priest it was, whether it was Father Lejac...

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