

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: ETHEL BEEDS
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: SHELLBROOK
 SASKATCHEWAN
INTERVIEW LOCATION: SHELLBROOK
 SASKATCHEWAN

TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JULY 28, 1982
INTERVIEWER: CONNIE REGNIER
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI
SOURCE: GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
TAPE NUMBER: #IH-SD.68
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC #185
PAGES: 23
RESTRICTIONS: NO RELEASE FORM SIGNED.
 "AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING,
REPRODUCTION, QUOTATION, CITATION AND ALL OTHER RESEARCH
PURPOSES, INCLUDING BROADCASTING RIGHTS WHERE APPLICABLE, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS WHICH MAY HAVE HERETOFOR BEEN
OR WHICH MAY HEREINAFTER BE ESTABLISHED BY THE GABRIEL DUMONT
INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES OR ITS SUCCESSORS FOR THE USE OF
MATERIALS IN ITS POSSESSION; SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO SUCH
RESTRICTIONS AS MAY BE SPECIFIED BELOW."

Connie: Today is July 28, and my guest is Ethel Beeds. Okay,
we'll be talking about schooling. Where did you parents attend
school?

Ethel: My parents attend school?

Connie: Yeah.

Ethel: My father never went to school. My mother went
to school in Carlton.

Connie: You know what grade she went up to?

Ethel: Grade ten I think. That's (inaudible), I don't know.

Connie: Did you attend school?

Ethel: Yeah.

Connie: Where?

Ethel: Mont Nebe.

Connie: You know what grade you went up to?

Ethel: I complete my grade ten.

Connie: Did your mom like school?

Ethel: Oh yeah.

Connie: What about you?

Ethel: Yeah I like school.

Connie: Do you speak another language?

Ethel: No I can't.

Connie: What about your parents?

Ethel: Well my parents couldn't either.

Connie: Okay. WORK HISTORY. What did your father do for a living?

Ethel: He farmed, he was a farmer.

Connie: (inaudible) grow up?

Ethel: As I was growing up?

Connie: Yeah.

Ethel: Oh I was at home till I left home when I was seventeen.

Connie: What were your father's wages?

Ethel: I don't know (inaudible).

Husband: Worked pretty hard in them days. He'd have to go working out in (inaudible) cattle and he farmed with cattle a lot.

Ethel: That and the chickens and...

Husband: (inaudible) made in them years it's pretty hard them days.

Ethel: He always got his own (inaudible).

Husband: Have to go to P.A. for (?). (inaudible) Prince Albert.

Ethel: Yeah that's the closest they had to go...

Husband: (inaudible) about 1910 before it come to Shellbrook.

Ethel: Well I had to go to P.A. by horse (inaudible).

Husband: Shopping Prince Albert before 1910. And then the railroad just come as far and Shellbrook and went to North Battleford (inaudible) that was 1910 when the railroad come through here; so it's pretty hard to tell what they made in them days.

Ethel: He made a good living anyway.

Husband: Oh yeah.

Ethel: We always had like, you know, good food, clothed well and everything in those days.

Connie: Where did your father work when he did that, was that on a farm?

Ethel: Yeah, he lived right on the farm.

Connie: Okay, SOCIAL LIFE. Where did, do you remember where your parents met?

Ethel: I think my dad met my mother in Mont Neho.

Husband: Must have been in Carlton, because that's where they come from Carlton around the, oh that town on the side of that lake, Rosthern.

Ethel: Rosthern?

Husband: Yeah. That's where I think her father (inaudible), see her mother (?) see. And they come, I think he met her in around Carlton them days. That's what they come, that's where they come from.

Connie: How large was your family?

Ethel: Pardon?

Connie: How large was your family?

Ethel: There was eighteen of us, but quite a few passed away when babies eh.

Connie: Were there other relatives living with your guys too?

Ethel: No. We were by our, just our own family.

Connie: What kind of dances and songs did you guys have?

Ethel: Oh we had the old time waltz, and the old time fox trot, (inaudible).

Husband: Waltzes and a lot of square dances them days.

Ethel: Waltzes and square dances. Well I like the western songs, they used to sing western.

Connie: Did you guys play any games?

Ethel: Oh well we played cards, and some games were outside like...

Connie: Who supplied the entertainment when there were dances on?

Husband: Oh everybody.

Connie: Everybody.

Ethel: Like (inaudible) come and played, you know.

Connie: Do you remember any of the players?

Ethel: (inaudible).

Husband: Joe Cameron...

Ethel: Joe Cameron, and old Henry (?), old...

Husband: (?) what was his name, he could play the...

Ethel: I forget who played guitar. (inaudible) like we got together with the (?) like they could play guitars and things, but as far as remembering their name I kind of forget.

Connie: Were you ever affected by prejudism?

Ethel: No.

Connie: Okay, RELIGION. What influence did the church have on the community?

Ethel: They do.

Connie: Well, like what does that mean? Like how much (?) did they hang over the people?

Ethel: Oh well, we went to church often.

Husband: That is the church was about a mile and half from their place, by Neighbor Lake that's where that church was. But they don't call that lake anymore it's called Cameron Lake, but that Neighbor Lake that's where the church was about half a mile east of the church.

Ethel: Well I still go to church.

Connie: How did the church laws compare to today's?

Ethel: How? What was that?

Connie: How did the church laws compare to today's?

Ethel: Well...

Husband: We go by we're Anglican and it's about the same.

Connie: About the same.

Husband: There used to be...

Connie: BUT don't see no difference?

Ethel: (inaudible) the minister spoke right from the bible eh, but now they like they speak on, well they go by the bible too eh but most of their speech is everything like Father (?) and taking after the bible.

Connie: Did you or your parents ever attend shrines of the church? Like that thing there Duck that ceremony?

Ethel: No.

Connie: Did you guys celebrate weddings and Christmas?

Ethel: Oh yeah. Yeah we celebrate weddings, Christmas and New Years.

Connie: How would you celebrate them? Would a bunch of families gather together?

Ethel: Yeah the families gathered together, yeah. Say at the wedding you had the families there and then afterward maybe come and go free dance for everybody.

Husband: Everything was fairly free in them days. Like now they...

Connie: Okay, FOOD AND CLOTHING. How did your parents get your food?

Ethel: Well we got it from the farm, right here all the food like from the farm.

Husband: They milk a lot of cows.

Ethel: We had our own butter, and we had our own lard, and had our own beef, and had our own (?), our chickens and turkeys.

Connie: So your father never had to hunt or anything?

Ethel: No. He provided well our father.

Connie: Was there any special way that your parents would prepare the food?

Ethel: No. No different today, than today eh. We had, my

mother used to bannock sometimes instead of bread, well I bake bannock myself too yet. And the meat was cooked, things were cooked like today, no different like.

Connie: How did you guys get your clothing?

Ethel: Well my dad sell wheat and stuff like that, he sell wheat and whatever he (inaudible), you know, take some of his pigs and things. He always had money and (?).

Husband: You see (inaudible) from Salt River and Sturgeon River he drove logs even after he got married in them days. That's how he used to make his (inaudible) he driving logs, you see.

Ethel: But after he settled down and got a farm (inaudible) working. He was at home looking after his what he had to look after.

Connie: Was there any real shortages of food?

Ethel: Well, one year it was kind of hard that was in, what year was that, John?

Husband: Well the depression.

Ethel: The '40s.

Husband: Before that wasn't too bad.

Ethel: But we managed to get through. Sometimes it kind of scrimping, but always my dad had his own, his own things his cattle and hogs, and chickens and stuff (inaudible). It was kind of hard sometimes.

Connie: Is there a doctor available to an extent?

Ethel: No. The doctor was in (?).

Husband: Before...

Ethel: (inaudible).

Husband: The only doctor when the (?) come, before that you didn't see no doctor.

Ethel: I broke my arm when I was about six years old and had to reset it, so we didn't have no such a thing as cast them days we had splints.

Connie: Well if somebody was sick who brought the medicine to the people?

Ethel: Oh...

Husband: Oh you see them days my grandmother was an old medicine woman. She done a lot of herbs, you know, for

medicine. Them flowers and roots that was her, she was a, in them days my grandmother was kind of a doctor, a midwife she travelled all over the country, you see, that was Granny Beeds, you see. She looked after, when she was born that was my grandmother looked after her, you see.

Ethel: Well, then when the doctors come, Doctor (?), and Doctor (?) well if we needed any medicine well we'd go there or else get a doctor to come out, a doctor out. (inaudible) what we think was wrong with him and they tell (inaudible) medicine out, and that's how they go their medicine.

Connie: Was there any other people besides his grandma?

Husband: It was my grandmother the doctor.

Ethel: On my father's side his sister was a midwife too and she used to come over to our place quite often.

Connie: Okay talk about the DEPRESSION. What kind of jobs were available during the depression years?

Husband: You mean for her living?

Connie: Anybody.

Husband: Well, whatever you get. Mostly...

Ethel: Mostly farm work.

Husband: Farm work or them days...

Ethel: And then when the railroad comes in well then...

Husband: Then different things...

Ethel: Tend to get different.

Husband: But before them days it was pretty hard, you know, around 1912.

Ethel: '12, seems like they always had (inaudible) get work.

Husband: They weren't scared of work them days.

Ethel: Hard work and, cord wood and things like. And now they still working with mostly (inaudible). Don't settle now for wood now days, but not that long ago cut.

Husband: Well you made your own home everything them days.

Connie: Was there enough food and clothing for your family? Would somebody share their food, would somebody help?

Ethel: Yeah they, long ago they shared. If somebody was in need of something, wel they take them something eh. And maybe sometimes we'd go out and (inaudible) like money if they need

money they'd go to from house to house. Like my mother she, one time collected.

Connie: So like a charity thing then?

Ethel: Yeah something like that. Go from house to house and whoever wanted to give so much money, and they sign their name and put how much they give like.

Husband: Them days everybody willing to help. Them days everybody helped.

Ethel: Even when they did (inaudible) their always, sombodies always come and help your boat and everything eh.

Husband: (inaudible) them days people seem to help each other a lot more than they do now days. There's a lot of difference them days than there is now.

Ethel: If anybody come to the house...

Husband: Everybody, you had to have something to eat and then (inaudible) go and help yourself. But they never stole a thing, everything was just the say you left and everybody come in the house well you could go and help yourself to meat and everything, but now days you couldn't do that. That's the difference now than it was long ago. Everybody seemed to help each other so much. That say, but now days it's a lot different, you can't compare now days and them days. Everybody seems happy and seem to be so much happier and they don't seem to help each other so much in them days. Now days you can't...

Ethel: Only one way the good old days.

Husband: Yes that's for sure.

Connie: You say when they went and collected for other people.

Ethel: Well I guess mother was sick, like John Harper he was sick and he couldn't do nothing and my mother went out and she got (inaudible) like they donated money to him. So she came and give him the paper the names on it and the money, and he see who give him the money on the paper.

Connie: They did that so he can pay them back after?

Ethel: No. Just had it.

Husband: No there was nothing to pay back...

Connie: Okay, POLITICS. How active was your community?

Ethel: Oh, they were pretty active.

Husband: (inaudible) years ago (inaudible) half breed town lot of Metis lived in that time in around Mont Neho them days.

Connie: Were you parents involved in politics?

Ethel: Well, my dad was. My mother was she was (inaudible) in politics just listen to what he had to say eh.

Connie: Was there any special person that he liked in politics?

Ethel: Well, he when John Deifenbaker used to come out there to Mont Nebo to speak on politics my dad always went and my mother always went.

Connie: How about disliked?

Ethel: Oh, I don't know who. There wasn't so much to said in them days.

Husband: Yeah that's the trouble right now...

Ethel: Not like today.

Husband: You don't know, you know, (inaudible).

Ethel: Next neighbor next to you don't vote.

Husband: Them days everybody was seemed to be so happy in those days, but now you can't find it anymore.

Ethel: Like we're living here eh we don't know nobody, and we don't know the ones there, we don't know the ones next to us, just know my son down here.

Connie: So everybody would be together like eh?

Husband: Everybody seem...

Ethel: (inaudible).

Connie: Was there any stories or experiences that you heard about in (inaudible)?

Ethel: Yeah, oh yes my dad used to tell lots of stories.

Connie: Can you remember any of them?

Ethel: Oh yeah. When the Indians saw, well my grandfather he went away after my grandmother was a (?) and my dad was a baby at that time. So the Indians come and she hear their going to come, my grandfather was sell the most and he used to preach to the Indians, and the Indians kind of knew this too eh about my grandfather.

Husband: They though him a good man because...

Ethel: And he told my grandmother to make soup, so my grandmother made soup about two days before. So he went and

the Indians come and they come (inaudible) start slapping her cooking (inaudible) held it there and they said I want the outside of the baby's at the peak of the bed or something under the blankets so we're going to start and cut that. And my grandmother was just scared, so he told them to quit. Well he wouldn't quit, one of them wouldn't quit so he hauled off and hit him with his knife right across the mouth and then he quit. So my mother said we're lucky, you can eat. Well then they quit all this, they were cutting things and everything and just had good people... So they ate soup and it was getting kind of old, eh, the soup you know you can't keep soup for long, two days. They all got sick. (laughs) And they said we should never bother, we should never have bothered the good man his wife that's what they punish us by eating the soup. (laughs)

Connie: Is there any other stories you remember?

Ethel: (laughs) Well my grandfather was (inaudible) we used to have dogs and sled and I don't know (inaudible) so far apart eh. So when he was going (inaudible) along the mountain there, so he went and he got getting dust so he got stop in one of those (inaudible) had a long walk. (inaudible) and the dogs had a (?) a little bit and then he kept quite and (inaudible). So my grandfather put this (inaudible). (laughs) She went, she never come back (inaudible). But that (inaudible).

Connie: Do you think things were better then or now?

Ethel: Oh it was...

Husband: Better.

Ethel: Better then, you know. Like now days you got to (inaudible) how to buy and everything too, from one month to the other eh. In them days we never worried about anything like that, it seem like they had (inaudible) and they never worried like they do now days. (Inaudible) and everything like that, you know, but not like now days. You got to watch you come to the end of the walkway and you got to do without this.

Connie: Do you think native people are stronger now because of their experiences?

Ethel: Oh yeah.

Connie: Any other experiences or stories about native history like after the Rebellion or anything?

Ethel: No I don't.

Husband: Couldn't hear.

Ethel: Other native stories after the Rebellion like your grandmother...

Husband: My grandmother she used to tell stories but, you know, she's telling her, she told them in Cree and she couldn't

talk very good English but she could talk English but she sooner talk in Cree, and it was so much fun when she told it in Cree. Oh she had a lot. My dad used to tell a lot of them stores. He was just a young...

Connie: (inaudible).

Husband: But they didn't...

Connie: All of the Rebellion and all...

Husband: All that that's what she used to...

Connie: Was your grandmother born after the Rebellion?

Husband: Before. (laughs) Oh yes, she was born in the 1840s years ago. But she was born in Qu'Appelle, For Qu'Appelle and she used to tell a lot of stories, well (?) used to tell, she used to tell about old ways.

Connie: Well (inaudible).

Husband: Yes all them kind of stories about what they used to do long ago.

Connie: Do you remember any of the stories?

Ethel: Well, at that time (?) was walking along the lake river and we seen a bunch of berries in the water and we thought oh my. Got to have some of those berries. So we took a dive and went in the water and there was no berries, we come out and clean them up on the creek that was (inaudible) (laughs) in the water.

Husband: (Inaudible) used to tell awful stories about that (inaudible). I remember that but he used to, well you see them days like my dad and uncle they were only about sixteen, fourteen and that, oh they were scared at that time, they help in the bush, you see, during that time.

Connie: The Rebellion?

Husband: Yeah. So they didn't have too many stories to tell. My grandfather and mother talked about what, even they never talked about what happened years ago, they stayed (?). My dad wouldn't tell what happened that was the trouble with them they wouldn't tell nothing about the Metis they were awful funny, you might as well say, they were... My daddy he trapped up north all the time, he stayed with the Metis and the Indians. My dad and my grandfather and my uncle they used to, they all talk Cree, you know, but I can't.

Ethel: My dad was called (inaudible), because his father was my grandfather used to make (inaudible), he used to give it to the Indians for maybe meat, or else leather and stuff traded with them eh. And he was called to come down some like my grandfather Metis come and my father he never went back.

Connie: (inaudible)?

Ethel: My dad?

Connie: No, your grandpa.

Ethel: My grandpa no. I don't know what my grandfather really was, can't remember whether it as John or what I don't remember.

Connie: No other stories then?

Ethel: I know one where we (inaudible). (laughs)

Husband: He had, he went hunting ducks and he got, he had about a dozen ducks and he got tired carrying them, you see. See he'd have a little sleep. And he turned his backside, a coyote or something come and still my ducks, he let me know. So he was asleep and the coyote come and took his ducks. oh he got mad that time and he put a fire on and he (inaudible) good size stone in the fire and that get hot. And he sat on that stone. (laughs) He burnt his backside. So he got his (inaudible).

Ethel: And his grandmother used to dry meat.

Husband: Yeah. So went walking down the road and (inaudible) fall off, you see, coming back home. Gee, he says, my granny sometimes dry meat and he start eating it. (inaudible) still heare them (?).

Ethel: (inaudible).

Husband: Then the spring he always get that little bird. (laughs)

Ethel: (inaudible) all kinds of stories that they used to tell long ago.

Husband: Yeah you know them old like (inaudible) talk a lot about that (?) my daddy he run the buffalo by Duck Lake. Well they used to (?). Them days it's most the time (inaudible) at that time at Duck Lake, you must have seen that there. Lot of it. My father can tell more about the years ago. I got a cousin by the name of Miles Isbister he can tell all of what happened, because he was born in 1896. (inaudible). He can tell you it's hard to tell (inaudible) tell it in Cree it's a lot different than you tell it in English, you see. Another thing my grandmother he can tell it just once in awhile, you know, she...

Connie: (inaudible).

Husband: So it's pretty hard to... Lot of things, other things but that's pretty near before our time you see that happened.

Connie: Did you hear any stories where the people...

(END OF SIDE A)

Husband: ...west of Prince Albert and they moved back after the Rebellion, they moved into Mont Neho. My grandfather was the first guy that laid this road from Prince Albert to Mont Neho. They hit that Green Lake road, that Green Lake come from Carlson going to Green Lake and Ile a La Crosse. And my grandfather him and old Isbister they... Don't tell me, along the river her the Shell River and then pretty near all along the lake there was about five miles off the river when they hit Mont Neho.

Connie: That was your grandpa then?

Husband: Well my grandfather's name was John, John Beeds.

Ethel: My grandfather was the first white man to come here to Mont Neho.

Husband: Yeah that's right. Her grandfather was the first white man to come into Mont Neho years ago. But all that, that's not Neho Town, you see that's not Mont Neho it seems to be the Metis in there, you see they (inaudible). They all seemed to meet around Mont Neho them days. Them days there's a lot of Metis here and the half breed in that time period. That's where they seemed to meet around that Mont Neho country. But, you know, that, a lot of that time is before my time so I don't really, I don't know too much what happened them days.

Ethel: There's not very many of those old timers left, there's one of them in Mont Neho that's Henry (?).

Husband: Yeah, he was a kid during the Rebellion. He can tell you more about Batoche and that, and about Mont Neho if you want to know more about the half breeds around Mont Neho or west of Prince Albert you'd have to go and find, you'd have to go to Miles Isbister. He would know more about them old stories, you know, and the Metis.

Connie: (?) is the (??)

Husband: He's eighty-seven.

Connie: Eighty-seven. (inaudible).

Husband: And that Miles Isbister he lives in Duck Lake. (inaudible). If you want to hear old stories and what to write you go to him or that Miles Isbister he can talk Cree and he can tell you stories, you know, through... I have a little trouble with my voice, you see,...

Ethel: When he speaks.

Husband: I seem to have a little stroke and it left me, I can't bring my words out like I used to. Maybe I talk too much.

(END OF SIDE B)
(END OF INTERVIEW)