

Mike Durocher

21 AUG 1999

Tape #2 - Ile a Le Crosse / Sandy Point

2:23:48 - 2:36:20

2:23:48

Q what I'll do is ask your name when you were born how you were raised where you grew up

Q What are you called?

A Ahh, I'm called Mike Durocher (talking in the back ground)

Q When were you born?

A 2:24:31 I was born June 10, 1954

I was born in Fort Qu Appelle

My mother was in the Sanitarium there, she had TB

From there I was raised in Sandy Point, I was brought over here,

Q You were raised around here, Sandy Point, what did you think of this place were you worried about being here?

A I feel like I own it... because in this land we're all together ... I was brought here it wasn't bad because the land is where I'm from to live off the land is nothing because it is a part of us. A lot of times I start to think when I'm out walking around and when I'm out working some place, doesn't matter how far, a lot of times I start to think about and I miss it.

Q Now what your saying when you are out in different places working and you get lonesome for home ... how does the strength from being brought up on the land help you

A Well I saw our people, our ancestors our grandparents and our parents, they always worked, they worked all day long and never sat down it seemed, that's the way I was raised too, that's what I saw, we used the land, we'd plant a garden in the spring and in the fall we'd dig up the potatoes, the carrots and everything that we had planted, then they'd trap in the fall, they'd leave before it froze to get things from the land

2:26:34 After it froze and the ice was strong that's when we would arrive and depend on the land to feed us, we didn't depend on anybody. We never got any money for what we did, when we heard someone needed help, we helped each other. If some one got married and needed a house like my dad when he got married and Louie Morin here when he got married he moved here, they helped him to build a house nobody he never asked for either.

Q 2:27:25 Must have thought well of yourselves

A We never thought nothing about it, we took care of ourselves, we lived off the land, we trapped and we did Commercial fishing and trapped we planted gardens we picked berries, cranberries first we'd pick, then we'd pick berries saskatoons, raspberries, blue berries then in the fall .. we'd pick cranberries. Nuts to we'd pick, we'd go and steal them from the squirrels. We'd watch where they would pick them, they'd carry them away while we would hide and watch them, we'd see where they hid them and we'd use a shovel and dig them up, we'd steal them.

Q - ???

A Yes, we'd see our parents and everyone Commercial Fishing, we'd play fishermen to. We'd have a toy boat and go mrrrrr pretending that we were fishing and zipping around the lake. Louie Morin and I would have a lot of fun around the lake and we'd get so wet doing it all day long. Even when we'd be called to come and eat we'd forget about eating. We'd just keep on playing all day long. Just like when we'd play that I'd be the buyer to buy the fish, my cousin Louie Morin and everyone would go around gathering the dead fish that drifted into shore from the fishermen on the lake, the fish would be half rotten and still they'd try to see who would get the most, then in the winter we'd play skidoo or dog team just like we were out trapping, I learned to stretch fur from my father when I used to watch him 2:30:22 then I'd use my socks like fur and stretch them, we'd trap weasels or squirrels. Any thing at all, we'd learn by watching, and we'd be shown how to make a living.

Q 2:30:48 Now what do you work at

A Right now I work for Nortep, a teacher's aid, there's a quite a few younger and older taking upgrading, like my I had started that too, Help around and teach a little too,

Q 2:31:20 After you learned how do you use it now

A Well, in 1990 he said he ... in 1990 I was 36 years old I started school again to try to get an education.

When I was 15 years old I had quit school, I was bad then, from there I trapped and so on then when I was 36 years old I started to think that I should get an education so I started at Nortep 2:31:56 For two years, I took NORPAK, is what it's called. From there... I started to think.... About what I was going to do, I didn't want to become a teacher, So I went to Law School so I could work where I wanted .. then I went to work.

So I finished it in the winter December 98 when I was done Law school and had my Law degree. From there I worked around all winter I'd work at what ever I could for myself, Then I got a job at Le Ronge for one year, after that I went to Regina and there I went to work as a Lawyer.

Q 2:32:50 When you grew up you got a lot of strength from the land but then when you went out into the world ?????

A Oh yes, a lot of times I used to think over here, about every one here at Sandy Point and Ile a Le Crosse that I cared about, my partners and all about the land and how we used to work how the land was abundant to us all, I thought a lot about it, how some times I wanted to give up and go home, it wasn't easy studying as I was and not what I was used to. I used to think a lot of times and I used to dream about it, how I would sit out here and think about our situation, we lived good and were raised good from a caring family, we learned all we were supposed to learn and we learned to pray, and though we were depended on our parents the land was what gave it all to us, if it wasn't for that, we would never of had anything. It was the land and the way we made a living that made us strong, we never had to ask for anything, the land gave it all to us. If it wasn't for our gardens, the hunting, fish, berries and everything else. There was a lot of times I used to leave here with a little lunch of food the land gave us, I never threw anything away, when I was gone a long time I would snare rabbits for my food.

Q 2:34:40 ???

A 2:34:49 Well, these young people, they see us, and I see them, they want to give up, these young people here, right away they want to quit. They make it hard on themselves, Anything at all they do, drinking even, I used to drink too, but I never let it get the best of me and take away my health, That's why I say that I like it when I come back here the kids are all having fun I like that even though I'm not young, I have twins now, there in Saskatoon now, they didn't come with me here, I teach them a bout the North, how to live, the land, they like it when they come, we'd go fishing, snaring rabbits, we'd eat off the land. They'd go swimming and a lot of other things. I like to see that with these young people. To learn how to live in unity and to survive on the land.

END of Mike Durocher
2:36:20