

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: DAMAS ARCAND
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: DEBDEN
SASKATCHEWAN
INTERVIEW LOCATION: DEBDEN
SASKATCHEWAN
TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: JULY 12, 1982
INTERVIEWER: CONNIE REGNIER (?)
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: HEATHER YAWORSKI
SOURCE: GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
TAPE NUMBER: #IH-SD.66
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC #185
PAGES: 9
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: Did your parents go to school?

Damas: Yeah my mom went to school for awhile.

Connie: Where?

Damas: Duck Lake.

Connie: Your dad not at all? Did your parents like school?

Damas: Maybe, I don't know.

Connie: Did your parents speak another language?

Damas: Yeah. English, and French and Cree.

Connie: How come they learned different languages?

Damas: Oh we were (inaudible) Indian, French, English had to
learn something.

Connie: What did your parents do for a living?

Damas: Worked, worked out.

Connie: Where?

Damas: All over.

Connie: Okay. What, what work, what kind of work?

Damas: Oh, in the summertime they went all over cutting brush, or thrashing. Winter time they cut cord wood, willow.

Connie: Did they get paid?

Damas: Not too much, three cents a post. And dollar and half for cord wood.

Connie: You helped do that?

Damas: I was too young.

Connie: Where did your parents live to do their work?

Damas: Eh?

Connie: Where did they live your parents?

Damas: Well they live all over.

Connie: All over.

Damas: One winter there, next they move. They move all over they never stay one place.

Connie: Oh. Where did your parents meet?

Damas: Duck Lake.

Connie: How large is your family? How many people in your family?

Damas: Nine.

Connie: What kind of dances and songs did your parents take part in?

Damas: No songs just dances.

Connie: How about games?

Damas: Yeah. Cards, checkers. No nothing else, no ball, no football, nothing.

Connie: How about you did you part in (??)?

Damas: No. Just violin.

Connie: How was, were you and your parents struck with much prejudicism, people calling you names and stuff?

Damas: Oh a little bit. Some of them (inaudible).

Connie: How come?

Damas: Well they just going to be funny, stupid.

Connie: How much influence did church have on your parents? Go to church every Sunday?

Damas: No. (inaudible) midnight mass, sometimes New Year Day.

Connie: What was the laws were they a lot stricter then?

Damas: Oh yeah. (inaudible). Had to wear clothes, don't go to church with...

Connie: Clothes. (laughs)

Damas: Slacks or something like that they had to wear dress.

Connie: Women had to be in dresses?

Damas: Had to wear something on their head. Man they had to take their cap off.

Connie: Did your parents celebrate weddings and (??)?

Damas: Oh yeah. (inaudible) New Year, big party for that.

Connie: How did your parents get your food?

Damas: Food?

Connie: Yeah.

Damas: Oh just (inaudible).

Connie: Go to stores?

Damas: Yeah.

Connie: Did they trade with anybody?

Damas: Oh yeah. Trade sometime they get a good horse for a poor horse and something to boot.

Connie: How did you parents prepare the food? Like how (inaudible) and keep it for the winter?

Damas: Well just the fruit.

Connie: They canned it?

Damas: Used to can it.

Connie: They didn't dry any?

Damas: Well, some people they dried, it some people they dried meat and they dry (?). The chokecherries they crush that with a stone. And one guy said (inaudible). (laughs)

Connie: How about their clothes did you make all your clothes?

Damas: No just buy them.

Connie: Can you describe any special feasts, or specially (inaudible)?

Damas: No. At that time we didn't have no jackfish, no fridge. Pretty hard for us couldn't keep no meat in the summertime, used to can them and dried meat or milk we used to put in the well, down the well so it get cold.

Connie: Oh. (inaudible)?

Damas: No. (inaudible).

Connie: Was there a doctor available? Was there a doctor around your...

Damas: Well, we used to go to the doctor yeah. No, no doctor used to come to (?), he used to go around with a buggy. And my daddy used to have heart trouble, mix something in a two quart (inaudible) told my dad to drink that as much as he can, and after that he didn't have no more trouble, heart trouble. He was a good doctor.

Connie: How was it made? Like he had the bottles and stuff?

Damas: Something...

Connie: He didn't use though...

Damas: He made something with (inaudible) I don't know.

Connie: Did you have any other people living in the community like a midwife?

Damas: No.

Connie: Just a doctor? How about the depression years what kind of jobs were available then?

Damas: What kind of job?

Connie: Just the same kind of jobs like...

Damas: Oh yeah all kinds of jobs cutting brush, smoking, thrashing (inaudible) cord wood.

Connie: Was there enough food and clothing and shelter and everything?

Damas: Boy we had a hard time sometimes. Sometime (inaudible) enough.

Connie: Well, did the people help each other?

Damas: Yeah, oh yeah. They were good to each other tried to help.

Connie: How about politics, you must have politics?

Damas: No not too much.

Connie: How active was everybody around here go and vote all the time?

Damas: Not that time. Not very often they had voting.

Connie: Were you or your parents involved in that?

Damas: Oh yeah.

Connie: Who did your parents look up to, look up to in politics?

Damas: They used to vote Liberal.

Connie: Liberal. Would your parents not, didn't like (inaudible)?

Damas: Not too much, no. Well they didn't know too much about the politics.

Connie: Do you think that things are better now than they were before?

Damas: Oh yeah.

Connie: Better than...

Damas: Oh yeah big difference.

Connie: Yeah.

Damas: There was no money long time ago. Used to for fifty cents a day. They had to work (inaudible) they stand for five minutes you won't make nothing, you had to work to make fifty cents a day.

Connie: You think that native people are stronger and wiser now because of...

Damas: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Stronger and healthier. They didn't have no chance to go all night they were tired after the

day working.

Connie: Would you like to share any other experiences or stories or anything about native history?

Damas: No.

(END OF SIDE A)

(END OF TAPE)