

Cloe Day interview

by Vi Kowalchuk

Kowalchuk: We talked about Mrs. Munson, was your housekeeper. You only had Patsy. I say Patsy.

Voice in background: Good enough.

Kowalchuk: Good enough.

Day: That's eh . . . that's eh . . . She was there then. But Mickey Munson's daughters, three of them, Katie, Violet and Judy, were boarding with Mrs. Gora. And going to school there.

Kowalchuk: Oh, were they?

Day: So, Mickey came along, towards the end of that term. And asked about Salomey, because it would be almost as cheap for him to take her to Calling Lake or to Calling River, and teach his girls, as it was to board the girls up there. And what did I think about that? Well, she was a teacher of course. I didn't know whether she'd like Calling River or whether she wouldn't, but anyway he went and asked her. So she went there and a year or so later, they were married.

Kowalchuk: They were married also, yes, yes. So other families then, you say when you got to Richmond Park, it was fairly settled.

Day: Yes it was, because there were a dozen students in school. I don't believe I can remember exactly how many that first year. But the desks, were those little bitty things. Double desks, home built, the desk part was 10 inches wide, and I think 3 feet long. The seat was 8 inches wide and 3 feet long. They were all fastened together. Those little things had sit on that 8 inches and write on that 10 inches and if you let your book open too far it would get on the person's and interfere.

Kowalchuk: Oh, it was difficult

Day: Oh, it was really difficult.

Kowalchuk: But there were . . .

Day: But they were good.

Kowalchuk: They were good students. Well you had the ^{Rabins} Ravens, you had the Goras.

Day: Goras, the Korolaks, I yeh, . . .

Kowalchuk: Shalapays.

Day: Shalapays and there were two families of Shalapays.

Kowalchuk: That's true.

Day: I had two Mike Shalapays.

Kowalchuk: Two Mikes, yes.

Day: So I called them Junior and Senior.

Kowalchuk: Oh yes, yes. Mike senior lives up here, and Mike junior is David Shalapay's younger brother and he lives in Edmonton now. And the Chruschs, Chrusch really, you must have had Bill.

Day: Chruschs were there, Wallachs.

Kowalchuk: Wallachs, Oh yes.

Day: And Wolanski maybe. Was there a Wolanski?

Kowalchuk: Wolanski, yes there were Wolanskis there. Yes. Rygas, were Rygas there?

Day: Yes, but they . . .

Kowalchuk: They were too young.

Day: George wasn't in school yet.

Kowalchuk: So, did you know George at all?

Day: Yes, he was out to see me just a little while before he died. But I didn't teach him.

Kowalchuk: No. He did go out to see you?

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: Really?

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: Well isn't that something.

Voice in background: Just very shortly before he died.

Kowalchuk: Oh, I see. He was here for one of our graduations, in fact eh, nine years ago when our youngest daughter graduated, he spoke at our graduation. And that was the last time I saw him too.

Day: Well I can't remember the names of all the people who were there, as you mention them I can.

Voice in background: You said Bilidas, and there was . . .

Kowalchuk: Oh, Bilidas were there. Now did Bilidas have the store at that time?

Day: Not right then, she got that eh . . . that came a little later. But Mrs. Bodnar run a store.

Kowalchuk: Oh yes, the Bodnars had the store first. Yes.

Day: Then Joe Zavodki was there and then those people, the Wilinskis. Martin Hines.

Kowalchuk: Martin Hines was there. Wolanuks.

Day: Wolanuks, and eh . . .

Kowalchuk: Wallachs.

Day: Popik.

Kowalchuk: Popiks, of course, Annie was there.

Day: Grom, Nellie Grom was in school.

Kowalchuk: I've not heard that name. How do you spell Grom? G . . .

Day: *r o m*, I think.

Kowalchuk: *rom*.

Day: I think so.

Kowalchuk: Uh uh.

Day: Then down that way there was Martynek, Byrtus.

Kowalchuk: Yes, John Byrtus.

Day: Korolak, Krawec, ^{Malik} ~~Malek~~. No I can't . . .

Kowalchuk: That eh, that's that eh.

Day: (Can't make out this part)

Kowalchuk: Yes, because the way of emigration there was 29-30 as we said. A whole lot of people came.

Day: And eh, and eh, . . . in addition to having a heavy school. I can't remember how many I had that first year, but . . .

Kowalchuk: Probably over forty.

Day: Well eh . . . Crowding forty.

Kowalchuk: Crowding forty, I thought so.

Day: And I also had thirty men and boys who came to night school, to learn to speak English; or to improve their English. And a few, like John Gora and Jakey Gislason came to improve their Math.

Kowalchuk: Did they?

Day: So, I had night school three nights a week. And I had to cheat to do it, because eh, the Government said if I had enough people interested to pay \$3.00 a month each, they would give me \$14.00 a month. And that would be my salary.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: I couldn't afford to ask them for \$3.00. So I got 50 cents a piece once, not a month.

Kowalchuk: Oh.

Day: They give me each 50 cents and then the government sent me \$14.00 a month. So I taught night school for \$14.00 a month.

Kowalchuk: Oh my goodness. What, and what did you say you were getting? You were paid by the month by that time.

Day: Well I was supposed to be getting—the regular school, I was supposed to be getting \$60.00 a month. They simply couldn't pay their taxes. I couldn't possibly get it. And eh, what I did get—you should have had Mr. Rabin while he was still

with it, because he was the secretary treasurer there.

Kowalchuk: Oh.

Day: And he eh, he told me later that in the first three years I was there, he paid me \$1.00 of tax money. Otherwise I got the Government grant. It was \$183.50 every April, \$183.50 every October. Period. That was my take home pay.

Kowalchuk: Oh my goodness.

Day: And I paid a housekeeper.

Kowalchuk: And I was going to say. You had to pay a housekeeper and you had to look after your fa . . . two children. Did you . . . Did the people in the community give you milk or eggs?

Day: Oh, I bought the milk and the eggs, but for 5 cents a dozen and 5 cents a lard pail full of milk. But eh, certainly, potatoes and things like that. And then on weekends I used to go and help the farmers. I loved farming.

Kowalchuk: Did you?

Day: I was a good stook^{ker}. I'm a dandy field pitcher at threshing time and stooked wheat, and weed. I help^{ed} plant potatoes and helped dig potatoes. And I never bought a potato or a carrot.

Kowalchuk: I guess. Sure.

Day: And eh, they made me sauerkraut and eh,

Kowalchuk: Of course. They gave you deer meat.

Day: Well, I shot my own.

Kowalchuk: You shot your own!!

Day: Eh, I got one deer there, I had a Twenty-two and we eh . . . Everybody used whiz bang extra long shells, you know, Twenty-two. And standing up in the top of the riverbank; Goras had a field down below.

Kowalchuk: Yes, yes.

Day: And there stood a deer, right in that field. And John was there and told me about it. So I came with the gun right a way. We needed meat. And eh, then I chickened out. I get Buck Fever so badly. So I said "John, do it". Do you know because it was down hill, I'm sure; but that was about a half mile away. And that bullet went through deer here, and lodged in this leg. And that deer just dropped.

Kowalchuk: Dropped.

Day: One shot.

Kowalchuk: One shot. Oh, goodness sake. Did you learn how to eh, how to eh, clean it and gut it.

Day: Oh, certainly.

Kowalchuk: You did eh?

Day: Certainly and then we hung it in a tree because it froze, you see. That was our deepfreeze. We just had it on a pulley up a tree.

Kowalchuk: Yes, sure.

Day: And many a time, late at night I'd get hungry. I had lots of homework to do.

Kowalchuk: Oh course. Late nights. You burned the midnight oil for sure.

Day: And so down would come this old pulley and I'd take the hatchet and wack off little pieces of frozen meat, and take it in; and fry it up and have me a snack.

Kowalchuk: Oh for heavens sakes. So you did have a teacherage there?

Day: Yes. Two room teacherage.

Kowalchuk: Two room teacherage. Eh, did you ever board with the Rabins?

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: No.

Day: But my kids did. Because after Pat was a year old; I can't stand having a baby away from its momma.

Kowalchuk: Uh uh.

Day: But after she was a year old and Salomé~~y~~ went— so that next fall then, Mrs. Rabin kept her.

Kowalchuk: I think, I remember her saying that, because I interviewed Mrs. Rabin. Mr. Rabin already, when we were doing, was not in very good health. But Mrs. Rabin told me a few things. We had her on tape, and she did recall babysitting for Mrs. Day.

Day: So then, after Chester was born— that next year then—Ches was born. And I hired . . . I g . . . the district hired a Mrs. Ashly, I think. To come in and sub for me for awhile.

Kowalchuk: I was going to ask you how much maternity leave you took.

Day: One month.

Kowalchuk: One month.

Day: And then eh, then Ches came along on the 28th of September. Eh, I think it was one month or two weeks. Two weeks later I came back, but then Pat came home. And I had Elsa Webb for a little while, as a housekeeper. Salomé^x is gone now, you see. *(now Rogers)*

Kowalchuk: Yes, yes.

Day: She moved down (____) And Elsa had to go some place else. I think I had Annie Byrtus for a little while. A variety of people, but then after Ches got to be a year old, Mrs. Rabin kept them both for one year.

Kowalchuk: Oh yes. So you couldn't nurse the children, you were busy at school.

Day: I couldn't nurse the children because I'd had TB.

Kowalchuk: I see. Of course.

Day: And both of them have had the experience of having the milk freeze in the bottle— if they went to sleep on the job, before they got it drunk, because it wasn't a warm place.

Kowalchuk: Ahhh.

Day: And I made a cradle for them, ahhh, a swinging cradle. I took a piece of moose hide, built a frame. Took a piece of moose hide and hung on there, nail at each end I could snap—I had the hooks all over the ceiling. I could snap it anyplace. In the day time the housekeeper would bring it out and snap it by the stove, and where she was doing the kitchen work and everything. At night I snapped it right over my bed. And I put milk—the milk would sour if you tried to warm everything up, you see. So I mixed the formula and then had a thermos of hot water.

Kowalchuk: Oh.

Day: So went it stirred, you see it's hanging right above me. I just sit and change a diaper—they were under my pillow to keep warm.

Kowalchuk: Right.

Day: Change a diaper immediately, pour that milk, hot water mix and pop it in its little mouth and give it a push—There was a swinging cradle then.

Kowalchuk: And away we went.

Day: Away we went.

Kowalchuk: Happy, ahhh.

Day: Sound asleep again, in no time flat.

Kowalchuk: I guess. Did you tan the hide yourself?

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: Who would have done it?

Day: The Indians at Calling Lake.

Kowalchuk: Oh the Indians did it.

Day: In fact we had a special lady up there, Peggy White.

Kowalchuk: Peggy White

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: Now did she—that's her maiden name.

Day: No. She married a Cyril White.

Kowalchuk: She married a White. Was that a white man?

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: Oh. White the Indian eh, Indian name, or Metis.

Day: Oh, I think, yeh Metis.

Kowalchuk: Metis.

Day: And she was awfully good. She made me a pair of moose hide pants. You know hoopy pants were the thing at that time.

Kowalchuk: Hoopy pants?

Day: Yeh, don't you know like eh, with the strip . . .

Voice in background: Like bell bottoms.

Kowalchuk: Oh, I see.

Day: Bell bottom—there was a strip down the side, then it flared out at the bottom.

Kowalchuk: I see. Mm, Mm.

Day: Okay. She make hoopy pants out of moose hide. It was as soft as velvet and the strip down the side; she embroidered with moose hair. She took all the white hair out and used them to make a most beautiful design, there, and in the hoopy bit. And then they laced here, in here.

Kowalchuk: That must have been fabulous. And I'll bet they lasted and lasted.

Day: Yes, until I made a mistake and got them in too hot of water.

Kowalchuk: Oh. Oh, yes.

Day: Cause you could wash them you know.

Kowalchuk: I'm sure. Well you were ahead of your time. I mean, leather is really in now you know.

Patsy: That's right. And what did that cost you?

Day: Three dollars and sixty-five cents.

Kowalchuk: Good question, Pat. Three dollars and fifty cents.

Day: For them moose hide pants. Really . . .

Kowalchuk: Eh, did you have a . . . you didn't have pampers in those days. That's for sure. What kind of—Where did you get your diapers?

Day: Well you bought—you bought cloth ahead of time and made up a couple dozen diapers.

Kowalchuk: Sewed them yourself.

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: And you eh, . . . for breakfast—for eh—no pabulum of course. Was there pabulum?

Day: Oh, no.

Kowalchuk: No. Eh, . . . cream eh—What did mother used to say she made?

Day: We did make cream of wheat.

Kowalchuk: Cream of wheat.

Day:

Or we had eh, . . . cornmeal sometimes.

Kowalchuk: Cornmeal. That was it, Cornmeal

Day: Oatmeal sometimes, but that was after they got older, you know.

Kowalchuk: After they got older.

Patsy: Big doses of cod-liver oil.

Day: Oh, you . . .

Patsy: To try to keep us healthy.

Day: Now there's another thing, the government did. They sent us cod-liver oil when it first became popular in five gallon cans.

Kowalchuk: Oh my goodness.

Day: You lined your students up every day and pour out a tablespoon and pop them all a dose of cod-liver oil.

Kowalchuk: Did you?

Day: She learned to love it. They liked it in their milk. I'd just pour theirs in their bottle of milk and they thought they had something there.

Kowalchuk: Mmm. Now was this cod-liver oil taken before you took health inspection or after.

Day: I think before. I had health inspection at Richmond Park, because I had so many students. So, we had elected, we elected a doctor and a nurse.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: The doctor had to inspect all the girls hands and fingernails, and what have you. The nurse had to inspect all the boys. We had a competition between them. We had two little faces drawn on the wall. If I'd push the thing down, it was sad face, if they found anybody that had to go out to the pump and be cleaned up. There was a sad face all day on that one.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: But if there wasn't you'd pull this up and it was a happy face all day.

Kowalchuk: I see. No prizes at the end of the year though?

Day: No prizes, at the end of the year.

Kowalchuk: No prizes. Did you sing *Oh Canada*?

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: And did you sing *God Save the King* at the end of the day?

Day: I think so. We said the *Lord's Prayer*.

Kowalchuk: Of course. Did you read a passage from the Bible?

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: Interesting.

Day: We lined up outside the school and marched in.

Kowalchuk: Marched in. Yes, yes. Great, great. So again now, your subjects, you must have . . . because you had trouble with English, or the students had trouble with English, you had a job . . .

Day: You had three grade ones, if you want to know it, because the first ones didn't know a word; then you had those who'd know hello, good-bye, a few words; then you had those that are ready for grade one, really.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: But some of them were awfully good when they studied hard.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And because I had so many students, and so many courses; you had to think of things—so little blackboard. I went and got store paper rolls, of wrapping paper.

Kowalchuk: Brown paper.

Day: Brown paper and I even got some that was white. And then I got a little printing press, writing, dreadful. Got little block letters you know, an inch high.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And I would type up questions for every, for every story, for every grade in Literature, and this and that. I would print questions. I worked on some of them, believe me. And late at night. Then when I taught you your lesson, you know, on *Long John Silver*, this or that. Then I'd just go over there and turn to that sheet on the roll, and there's homework. And I'd go on to the next one.

Kowalchuk: Oh I see. Next grade, yes.

Day: Because ten minutes was all I could give any one class.

Kowalchuk: No doubt.

Day: And then all these little ones would need help, and couldn't get it. So, we had to work out a system, so that everybody from grade four down had a sponsor, or big brother or sister, in those upper ones. He could run with his little problems. But not while I'm teaching, to sponsor. **Kowalchuk:** No interruptions.

Day: Don't interrupt. But you won't have to wait more than ten minutes. Then when I move on the next grade, you can pop up and ask. And I found it; the students are much better teachers than teachers are, they talk their language.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: They'd say "No, no, you little kid, you didn't; you forgot to borrow from the next", you know, that type of thing.

Kowalchuk: Yes, yes. It worked very well.

Day: And the Arithmetic—I worked out a system for that too. We had a—I'd put it on the board every weekend.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: Because nobody had text. I'd put all the arithmetic on the board. Alright, now it's gotta last for a week. So, that night I'd go around and this one I'd make into a four; and this one down here I'd make into a nine; you know; you see that type of thing—some of them became sixs or sevens.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm. Sort of rapid calculation, that type of thing?

Day: Yes. It was multiple . . . eh,—the basics. And then of course you can do the same thing with the written questions, you know.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: You can just change the price of wheat, or whatever.

Kowalchuk: Of course, of course.

Day: But I had this all worked out and in a note book, and what I did in my note book; was—alright Monday was written down in pen and ink. Now Tuesday, I'd go through with a red pen, and make the changes. Now Wednesday, I'd have a

green one and make the cha . . . coloured pencils you see.

Kowalchuk: I see, yes, yes.

Day: So I knew—and then I'd have the green answer down here, and the blue answer here.

Kowalchuk: Oh, you really did have to have a system worked out.

Day: I was well organized.

Kowalchuk: Very organized.

Day: I can organize.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And eh, and it just made all the difference.

Kowalchuk: Of course. You couldn't have coped otherwise. It just would have been too much.

Voice in background: Forty-five in ten grades. That's an awful lot.

Kowalchuk: Yeh, that's right. You did have grade ten.

Day: Yes, I had Lily in grade ten.

Kowalchuk: Did you? Lily Gora, Lily Gora, Dupilka. And eh . . .

Day: But eh, it was—the best we could do was about half of it, you see.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: So then, that year I got her a job with Dr. Wright, because I—she was good and I wanted her to get an education. So, I knew the doctor fairly well and I got her a job there, because Elsa and Alex got old enough to make me a housekeeper by then. Annie Byrtus was gone. So, one of those other girls would be the

housekeeper, and Lily moved in to Dr. Wright's and went to school there.

Kowalchuk: To finish her high school. Good. When you had kept your registers; you had a month end to do. Did you send that in anywhere or you just left it and just send in your register at the end of the year, I suppose.

Day: I think so.

Kowalchuk: To the school division.

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: And the office then was . . .

Day: But you see, I didn't—we didn't have a school division when I first went to Richmond Park.

Kowalchuk: Alright, explain that.

Day: That came—each district was just a separate little . . .

Kowalchuk: Was just a district.

Day: . . . unit.

Kowalchuk: That's true. That's true.

Day: That division came later.

Kowalchuk: Later. So, the register was just kept in the school. Now who did the janitor work?

Day: I did.

Kowalchuk: You did.

Day: Mm Mm, my housekeeper did. And any kid that was bad did.

Kowalchuk: Oh. Is that right?

Day: Packed wood in and . . .

Kowalchuk: water and you had your well. Did you get paid for the janitor work?

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: No. Alright. Did they . . . did they have teacher's conventions at all in those days?

Day: Yes. We had to go to Edmonton for that. And I went a few times. It was a good thing. The convention itself didn't do that much for you, but, God if you did nothing but go to Edmonton and buy a new hat, it did something for you.

Kowalchuk: Did you bring your spirits up eh?

Day: And then you talked to people. Don't you see.

Kowalchuk: Yes, yes.

Day: That were in the . . .

Kowalchuk: Same business, same profession.

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: Yes, yes.

Day: I think the best part of the convention was probably in hotel rooms you know, eh. We were in from all over the place.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And there was way more convention and ideas exchanged.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: That way, than eh . . .

Kowalchuk: That was helpful. Mm Mm.

Day: Then looking forward to coming back.

Kowalchuk: Certainly. Mm Mm. Yes, yes. So, you taught eh—you left—when did you leave Richmond Park? You left in 19 . . .

Day:

Kowalchuk:

Day: And went to Big Coulee.

Kowalchuk: Ah, that's right. Went to Big Coulee.

Voice in background: But before that you— gone with Richmond Park, Mom eh, eh, okay. So you had these various eh . . .

Kowalchuk: Activities.

Voice in background: Yes. You had all of these activities. You had all of the things in the eh . . .

Kowalchuk: Community.

Voice in background: Community, because of these eh, people that didn't speak English.

Day: The school was everything.

Voice in background: So, you had—sure the school was everything.

Day: That's when I became a Sunday school teacher.

Kowalchuk: Oh, yes. Alright, the school really was the centre of the community.
Wasn't it?

Day: Absolutely. It was the dance hall, it was the church, it was the voting place, it was the—certainly the eh, . . .

Kowalchuk: And you had your concerts there. And your picnics eh . . . eh . . .

Day: On the school grounds so you could play ball.

Kowalchuk: On the school grounds.

Day: After Sunday School we used to go and play ball too.

Kowalchuk: Did you?

Day: So we had no . . . I had up to eighty-two people in Sunday School there.

Kowalchuk: So, that meant adults as well, no doubt.

Day: Oh yes, far more adults. To tell you the truth, children—I broke this up. Elsa and Ella each got made into a Sunday School Teacher. They'd have little groups, like the grade ones and twos; outside.

Kowalchuk: Yes. And we should explain that Ella is—Ella Gora/Dupilka.

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: And Elsa Rabin/Kluz.

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: Alright.

Day: And they were, they were little Sunday School teachers, also. We started this Sunday School while Salomé¹ was still there too; Mrs. Manson.

Kowalchuk: Oh did you? Mm Mm.

Day: She'd have got a big bang out of this. So we just got lined up because eh, because really—I started it for the sake of the ladies in the district. I felt so bad for them. They you know—have you been to Europe?

Kowalchuk: Yes, we have.

Day: What a neat, tidy, traditional.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: Now imagine being uprooted from that and suddenly plunked into a log cabin, plastered with mud.

Kowalchuk: In the middle of no where.

Day: In the middle of no there. Strange people.

Kowalchuk: And strange language.

Day: Strange language, strange customs.

Kowalchuk: Customs. True, true Yes.

Day: So, I discovered that that's why they were all coming to Sunday School, or anything. It didn't ^{matter} what minister came.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: Everybody was there.

Kowalchuk: Well.

Day: So that's when I went to Arch Deacon, and said "Come more often. They need it, don't you see?"

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: But, every—he was absolutely busy. He had a tremendously large area.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: Well including Lac La Biche, you know.

Kowalchuk: Oh, did he?

Day: And eh, well he was over there once, after I moved there to teach. He went over there with the Bishop. And we had ^{Christening} ~~Christianing~~ there.

Kowalchuk: Well this, I was going to just say, with besides ^{Christening} ~~Christianing~~ and marriages and deaths. And, and eh, Confirmations and transportation was slow in those days. And it was such a large area.

Day: Mm Mm. Right. So, he said we had to teach Sunday School; so we taught Sunday School.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm. Right. Eh,

Voice in background: For the music, Mom.

Kowalchuk: For the music.

Day: And the music; well, these people are truly musical and it was a pleasure. But I'd write it on the board, again in colours.

Kowalchuk: Mm Mm.

Day: And they'd come in, they didn't have the remotest idea what I said, when I told them the name of the hymn. But they knew the music. And I had that same hymn coming out maybe in five languages.

Kowalchuk: Mmmm.

Day: But they knew exactly what they were singing and they knew the songs.

Kowalchuk: Isn't that marvelous.

Day: It was lovely.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And then I had Mr. Chrusch.

Kowalchuk: Yes, now he was quite a fellow, wasn't he?

Day: Yes. He'd been a Russian firemaster.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And so, he said if I needed help for Christmas concert, call him in. I called him in, he didn't know three words of English. He doesn't know very much English yet.

Kowalchuk: He's passed away.

Day: Is that right?

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And we were here about five years ago; well a bunch of the students had a party for me down at here in the . . .

Kowalchuk: At the Senior Citizens Home. Well I was there. Yes, yes.

Day: Yes. Well, and he was there.

Kowalchuk: Yes, he was. He only passed away, maybe two years ago, Gene?

Gene: Something like that.

Kowalchuk: I think so. Mrs. Chrusch appears to be fairly well, but he has passed away, so.

Day: Is young Bill here?

Kowalchuk: Young Bill is here. Still at Richmond Park, on the farm. But Mr. Chrusch; I had to do a paper eh, when I was still finishing up my degree, a few years ago. And I had to do eh—I chose to do a paper on the Russ—the Ukrainian settlement at Richmond Park, and Mr. Chrusch was quite a help to me.

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: I had to have—he—I did even then had Mr. & Mrs. Shalapay; David and Nancy translating some of the things he couldn't express himself, completely. But, he was, he was great.

Day: That's what I wanted to ask you. Did you eh, did you get your degree in bits and pieces as I did?

Kowalchuk: Well of course. We, we took one year of education eh, temporary license as they call it. And then you went out and you struggled and eh . . . Then when you could afford to go back you took summer schools and then later on of course, we took—Well first Gene went, and eh; got his degree. It was more important that he do it. And then eh, when eh, he was finished eh, I started and then we were lucky that we started getting courses here, in our community, so it eh . . .

Day: I took ever so much of mine by correspondence, from Queens.

Kowalchuk: Did you? Oh, from Queens. Interesting. Isn't it . . . so you actually have your Bachelor of Education.

Day: Oh, sure.

Kowalchuk: Wonderful. When did you . . .

Day: And I have eh, I have sixty-three credits beyond it.

Kowalchuk: Is that right?

Day: Because, every place I taught needed eh,—needed something else. I took so many courses that didn't count towards a degree. Because they needed to learn typing in that district. So I took typing. They needed short-hand, oh, you should see my short-hand, but I can teach it.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And eh, and eh, and eh, I kept doing things like that.

Kowalchuk: Ohhhh.

Day: And I even taught Home Ec out here.

Kowalchuk: Did you?

Day: Yes. I can't (can't make this out)

Kowalchuk: Well, you taught the whole _____.

Day: Well, I had to with those seniors. And besides which, do you know that those ladies that first came here, had never used baking powder?

Kowalchuk: Yes, you had mentioned that.

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: You had mentioned that the other day, when I was talking to you.

Day: So we made baking. We had a mud stove, Mrs. Brown made out in the yard.

Kowalchuk: A mud, a mud stove.

Day: Yes, it was in the teacherage when I first came, because we didn't have a stove there. It was a mud stove. We'd gone to the dump, and got a top of a little ole camp stove, of some kind and put it there. And our oven was a drum oven on stove pipe. Well then after a few years, they got a stove for the teacherage. So we just rebuilt the mud stove outside and used it for Home Ec.

Kowalchuk: Well.

Day: But they learned to make jams and jellies out of all these little funny things like: rose(hy)hips and eh, all the things here. And bake in that little oven on the stove pipe.

Kowalchuk: With, with baking.

Day: With baking powder.

Kowalchuk: My goodness.

Voice in background: And if the farmers got a piece of equipment, then the teacher had to help put it together.

Day: Certainly, because you see eh . . .

Kowalchuk: The instructions were in English.

Day: Yes, the instructions were English, but I got a lot of good wood out of it.

That's how I got my teacher's desk.

Kowalchuk: Oh.

Day: There was no teacher's desk there.

Kowalchuk: There wasn't.

Day: But Mr. Martynek got a binder, which he couldn't put together. Which I could; besides I was a farmer, so I knew where it went anyway. And I could read the instructions. And then I got the binder case and I made the teacher's desk out of it.

Kowalchuk: Oh for goodness sake, goodness sake

Day: The table for the shack.

Kowalchuk: Yes. The first Richmond Park school was actually at eh, at a little building at Charles Gora's seniors.

Day: I think so, but I wasn't there then.

Kowalchuk: You weren't there, so you actually were at the first building they built; the regular school.

Day: It was fairly new when I got there.

Kowalchuk: Yes, yes. Oh, interesting life.

Day: Other people needed their paper work done, well it was _____.

Kowalchuk: They'd come to you. Yes, I imagine.

Day: Or anything.

Kowalchuk: If they're letter had to be written, you wrote it.

Voice in background: Mm Mm, that's right.

Kowalchuk: You were everything there.

Day: You were everything. It makes you feel good.

Kowalchuk: Yes, it would.

Day: But it keeps you busy.

Kowalchuk: I know what you're speaking of, because even years later in our time, when we taught at the little communities, eh; people would still look to you for leadership.

Day: Mm Mm.

Kowalchuk: The counsellor, for the school division would come— Well was it eh, County then, Gene? At El¹scott. He would come to Gene if he had to write a letter. Gene would write it for him, you know. Gene would organize the ball games, the picnics that we had there.

Day: Oh, another thing we had there that was good; every eh,—the Arch Dé²con brought this about now. Every summer, students from religious colleges would come and be our ministers for a few times.

Kowalchuk: You don't mean van—What we call the van ladies?

Day: Well the van ladies came too. but they were not eh, they were not becoming ministers.

Kowalchuk: No.

Day: We also had young ministers.

Kowalchuk: Ah yes. I guess we did have one at our church and I remember—I know now what you're saying.

Day: And the van ladies . . .

Kowalchuk: taught Sunday school.

Day: Oh, I—we used to laugh at them, and we used get such a charge out of them. And love them.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: But I said eh, I just told them, "What are you do . . .," here they come once a year. They get it squared away with the Lord. Then they'd expect us to be good all year.

Kowalchuk: Oh gosh. You didn't have a type of home and school in those days? You didn't get to have meetings with parents or anything?

Day: No. I didn't start that there. My goodness, that came later.

Kowalchuk: Much later. Report cards, in those days eh, they had them printed.

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: No. You had to make up your own.

Day: I made my own.

Kowalchuk: Did you make your own? And did you give them percentages? You didn't have letter readings?

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: Percentages

Day: Percentages.

Kowalchuk: And then of course, a lot of comments, no doubt.

Day: Mm Mm. And I used, ^{the} thing called a hectograph. Did you ever use a hectograph?

Kowalchuk: Hectograph. Is it a frame, jelly?

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: I think the first year I taught and you mimeographed, you'd eh . . .

Day: Yes. You'd write a dreadful ink.

Kowalchuk: Ink, yes.

Day: And you'd put it on there and then you'd take . . .

Kowalchuk: Make several copies of it. Now the copies . . .

Day: And made the report cards. don't you see.

Kowalchuk: I see. I see.

Day: And that . . .

Voice in background: You'd have plan and then a hundred other things.

Day: We got . . . yes. And eh, we got a great big kick can of somebody. And poured our jelly in that and then we could . . .

Kowalchuk: Oh yes.

Day: But I had so many lesson plans and things to do and besides which, our Junior Red Cross made a book. And mailed it to twelve countries.

Kowalchuk: You did have a Junior Red Cross then.

Day: We did a Junior Red Cross. And we sent it to twelve different countries, and we made it on that damn hectograph.