

Cloe Day interview

by Vi Kowalchuk

Kowalchuk: About the ^{white}weight population, and you said that there were three families.

Day: But you see, very shortly after I got there ah, . . . the Uchtyl's moved in, there was; the Crawford's moved in, there was Frank Crawford, up near the school. Then Bob Crawford had a place down at the foot of the lake; homestead.

Voice in Background: You mean Stan Crawford. **Day:** Stan. Frank is his son. So he had them in school but I can't eh, the second year was there at least.

Kowalchuk: And you mentioned the ~~Afferty~~, the ^{? Afford Eyford} Affert family.

Day: Yes, but they would come in for fishing.

Kowalchuk: Where did they come from?

Day: They were here.

Kowalchuk: Oh, in Athabasca.

Day: Yes, they would eh . . . He fished Baptiste Lake too, you see, and it was commercial fishing. _____ ?

Kowalchuk: And speaking of the Gislason's eh, . . . All this time that you were at Calling Lake, Jake Gislason was delivering mail.

Day: Absolutely. And it was something to be proud of. The mail always got through. Mind you, we got mail only every two weeks.

Kowalchuk: Every two weeks.

Day: It came in on a Sunday, because it would get here, you see, on a Friday night I think, and it would take him one day to his place, and very often it came in on pack horse.

Kowalchuk: Oh did it?

Day: But if couldn't get in on pack horse well, in the winter of course he could come by sleigh.

Kowalchuk: Sleigh.

Day: Yes. But things were bad. One year I remember and he would raft down the river. He built a boat once, it fell apart, but he nailed it together and tied it together. Went down to Calling River and packed it in on his back. That's twenty two miles.

Kowalchuk: My goodness.

Day: The mail, got through.

Kowalchuk: Got through. It hasn't improved one bit since, . . .

Voice in background: It was better.

Kowalchuk: It was better.

Day: Much better. It got there.

Voice in background: Tell them about the story that David just told you, about Jakey telling you how to keep your car warm.

Day: Oh, yes. While digging a hole, and building a fire and putting my . . . When I first got a car and driving it over it. And I hadn't got around to that yet, but he did. It was too bad, his car went. (laughter)

Kowalchuk: (laughter) Don't do that . . . No. You . . . when you talk about sleigh now . . . eh, do you mean he had a team of horses or did; was it dog team or what? Or both?

Day: No. He didn't have dog team, he would eh, . . . He had horses if it was sleigh time, fine, he'd come that way, but very often he had a pack horse. Old Sandy was his pack horse. And his other, the horse he rode was named Patsy, and she was so proud she thought sure that horse would have been named after her. She didn't realize I named her after the horse. (laughter)

Kowalchuk: You, you, . . . wouldn't know what Jake would get for hauling that mail.

Day: Yes. Twenty dollars a month. He bid a contract, you see.

Kowalchuk: Oh, it was a contract type thing, yes. Well, that road now . . . talking about delivering the mail. Tell us about the road eh, now which, we would have; you would have gone past Gorman's from Athabasca.

Day: Oh yes. Past Gorman's, past Richmond Park to Deep Creek. You know Monte Montgomery.

Kowalchuk: Mont^{Kirkpatrick} Kapatrick.

Day: Kapatrick. Yes.

Kowalchuk: Kapatrick. Yes.

Day: Alright. Gislason's lived near him.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And he had Post Office there.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: His mail went too. There was also a Post Office at Richmond Park.

Kowalchuk: Old Mr. Gora.

Day: Yes. So you see, he brought all three.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And then . . . then . . . he

Kowalchuk: Continued on.

Day: Continued on from there. If he had to go by pack horse from there he did.

Kowalchuk: So, that was . . .

Day: And that was the thirty three miles from Gislason's place on into the lake.

Kowalchuk: Thirty three more, eh?

Day: My first school was fifty two miles from the end of the steel, and the last thirty three on horse back. I took my breakfast standing for a couple of days.

Kowalchuk: I don't doubt it. This road was nothing more than a trail.

Day: Just a trail through the Muskeg, you couldn't eh; you could do it in the summer when it was dry. Very rough you know, roots and that type of thing. And then, in winters of course it was perfectly good.

Kowalchuk: Perfectly good. But like we had mentioned, there would be a good portion of the road would be corduroy.

Daughter in background: Then why did you ride in on horse back to have me?

Day: Yes, when she was born I came the fifty two miles on horse back to the hospital.

Kowalchuk: To the Athabasca hospital?

Day: But I did it a month ahead of time.

Kowalchuk: Oh I see. There were no mid-wives at Calling Lake or you just didn't want to take that chance.

Day: I didn't want to take that chance.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: Mrs. Wood died that way.

Kowalchuk: Did she?

Day: When her last baby was born, she bled to death. Peggy was the last little one.

Kowalchuk: Is that right? So that would be the Webb that lives near our place

Gene
Jean, eh, . . .

Voice in Background: Probably Harry's.

Kowalchuk: Harry. Yes, that would be Harry's mother. Is that a fact?

Day: And Elsa Rogers is a Webb. She's the oldest. No she isn't, Amy maybe I guess is older than her.

Kowalchuk: Harvey Rogers mother? Are you talking about? Elsie Rogers. No. Would that be Harvey . . .

Day: Yeah, yeah Mike Rogers wife.

Kowalchuk: Oh yes.

Day: She was Elsa Rogers.

Kowalchuk: Oh was she? I see. Alright. Now, so you couldn't really tell me anything more about some of the things that eh,... that your father-in-law did to get things started at Calling Lake, other than school eh?

Day: No. I know that he was always involved in political things you see, before he came up here he was customs officer for awhile.

Kowalchuk: Oh.

Day: He kept getting government jobs because of his war record, you see and all that sort of thing.

Kowalchuk: True.

Day: And he'd been customs officer eh, . . . Is it Sweet Grass, is there a Sweet Grass?

Kowalchuk: Yes there is just on the border, near the Montana/Alberta border.

Day: Yeah. That's where he was I think.

Kowalchuk: I see.

Voice in background: I thought he was in Saskatchewan for awhile.

Day: Well he was in Saskatchewan for awhile too. As a matter of fact he came from Saskatchewan here, when he moved.

Kowalchuk: Oh.

Day: Brought a few cattle.

Kowalchuk: Oh, did he?

Day: Yes, he brought a few . . . he decided Red Poles would be best. I think to be a self-sufficient thing.

Kowalchuk: Oh, sure.

Day: And so . . . they could get milk and beef both from Red Poles. He brought some good Percheron horses and fine registered stallion. And . . . no sheep. Oh he tried pigs once, and we didn't have any eh . . . He hadn't got a field of, for grain—so what was he going to feed them? He decided, well we'll feed them fish, you know. So we went and set nets for Suckers. Because they wanted them out of the lake anyway.

Kowalchuk: Right.

Day: And then he boiled that up and feed those fish. When that first pig was butchered, not a soul could eat it.

Kowalchuk: Oh really. It did affect the taste of the meat. Oh, my goodness. Mm mm. Alright, so you taught for a few years before you married Jack.

Day: I taught for a year, then married Jack, and taught for another year there . . . and then . . . I had a little time off in there some place; when she was four months old. Mrs. Crawford, had had it with Richmond Park and wanted to move up there. Now what was Mrs. Craw . . .; that was Mrs. . . . (pause)

Voice in background: Stan Crawford.

Day: Stan Crawford.

Kowalchuk: Oh yes.

Day: And eh . . . and so I went to Richmond Park.

Kowalchuk: Oh I see.

Day: I was there for five years, and that's what I call my big school.

Kowalchuk: Okay, so lets, before we leave and get to Richmond Park; tell us about that first little Calling School.

Day: Well when I came in with Jakey, the poor chap had let one teacher get away, and Russ had threatened him with dreadful things if he let another one get away from him. And so we rode up to a gate, right by Georgie Wight's place, and there was this funny looking little log shack there. And I said, "What's that? Who's place is that?" He said, "Oh, I don't know. I guess that's somebody's grainery or something." You see, and we went on to Day's, across a field to Day's house. That was the school. I didn't know it till the next day. But I started teaching on July 2nd, because they wanted a teacher in there.

Kowalchuk: They wanted the school to get started.

Day: And as I say, I was a wise old nineteen, I knew everything; at nineteen it's easy. And I was a teacher, and I knew the teachers knew everything.

Kowalchuk: Of course. And you knew the students thought so too. So.

Day: The kids came into that school and I would say, with a very official, you know, registered last name, first name, commas, and this and that. And what grade are you? "Well . . . I was in grade three when Mr. Knight was here, but I've been studying at home." Or was it Murphy? No that was Knight, I think. But I had a Mr. Knight.

Kowalchuk: But may I interrupt for a minute? How many teachers were there previous to . . . ?

Day: I have no idea.

Kowalchuk: You don't know, very good. Go ahead.

Day: Anyway I'd say, "Well can you read something to me?" Undoubtedly, the kid had been at home all year and studied this out of her sister's book. Because everyone at that time had a Canadian reader, they were supplied.

Kowalchuk: Yes, by a . . .

Day: The government.

Kowalchuk: The government.

Day: So she'd pick this up and read something nicely, "Oh . . . you . . . Grade Four for you". I went merrily through the whole . . .; I worked like a dog there for two years, I never did get those kids up to where I put them the first day. (laughter)

Kowalchuk: But you sort of arbitrarily decided which way they should be . . .

Day: Sure . . . by their reading.

Kowalchuk: Yes, by their reading.

Voice in background: Maybe they had the stuff memorized. (laughter)

Day: Doctor Swift was the inspector then, thank heavens and he was very good.

Kowalchuk: Was he? He made eh . . . eh, yearly trip or two?

Day: One.

Kowalchuk: One a year.

Day: And he helped me tremendously.

Kowalchuk: How would he have helped you?

Day: Mostly encouragement, he didn't eh . . . he didn't tell me all the— how bad I really was. He indicated there was hope.

Kowalchuk: There must have been, you taught for quite a few years after that. You didn't have many supplies in those days.

Day: None at all. The only eh . . . that was better than at Richmond Park.

Kowalchuk: Oh really.

Day: Oh, yes. Because, well Buff had quite a few books.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And eh, the Webbs had some. The Crawfords brought in some. There were . . . there was access to some books there, but I did send every year to . . . for travelling library, it was called. They's send you a box of books, about 30, in a square box from Edmonton. They'd get shipped out to you. You could use them for a given period of time. I've forgotten what length of time. And then ship them back at their expense.

Kowalchuk: Oh, at their expense.

Day: And they'd send another box, you see.

Kowalchuk: And would these be story books? Would they just library books?

Day: Actually what they ask for was the number of students and grades and that type of thing.

Kowalchuk: And they decided.

Day: For the most part it was story books, but it was really not . . . The only dictionary in school was mine. And the text, other than the readers, the only text in school were mine. Nobody else had any.

Kowalchuk: Really. Those that you had from Norm² school.

Day: That I bought when I was, for my . . .

Kowalchuk: Studies there.

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: So you would have taught Math, Science. And Science . . .

Day: Everything was separated then you know. You had History, Geography. Yes and Science was eh . . .

Kowalchuk: Nature study type thing.

Day: Yes it was nature study but then there was, depends how far you went. I only went to grade eight there. So you didn't get into Chemistry or anything. But general science; there was also Physiology and Hygiene and Art and Music.

Kowalchuk: Oh, yes well tell us about the music.

Day: Well I played the fiddle.

Kowalchuk: My . . . did anybody—did you teach anyone to play or did you just play?

Day: For the most part I just played the music and they did the singing, but at Calling Lake. But later I started forming school orchestras, you know.

Kowalchuk: Did you? Where did you get the instruments from?

Day: They'd get their own.

Kowalchuk: Would they?

Day: And I'd tell them "Bring whatever you've got". Somebody came with a mandolin. Whenever an instrument came like the guitar—I didn't play the guitar but I got an Eaton's catalogue and looked up what the strings are. Well you see, I read music and I knew if I knew this I could tune the thing.

Kowalchuk: Of course.

Day: Well I could sit down and work out a cord on it. So I'd always tell them "I'll need your instruments for a day or so", just so I'd get familiar with it.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: And learned how to play the darn thing. And then we'd go in and I'd write the cords; I did things with coloured . . . Every year the teacher got one box of coloured chalk from the district, and three boxes of white chalk. That coloured chalk was our art work and our everything. But I would put the notes up in different colours. Don't you see?

Kowalchuk: Oh sure.

Day: When I wanted the violin, you see would probably be in white; it took the melody you see. The guitar, I would put finger marks in maybe green, and then there was . . . Oh I fixed one up for a Hawaiian guitar by putting a little bar of steel there you see.

Kowalchuk: Oh sure. Mm Mm

Day: And then I'd tune it a different way. And then we'd have a Hawaiian guitar.

Kowalchuk: Well, where did you originally . . .

Voice in background: _____ those little low things.

Day: Yeah, those little . . .

Kowalchuk: Flute, like a flute.

Day: I drove the birds out. It took me so long. I borrowed that for the weekend.

Took a trip way out into the country and learned to play that damn little . . .

Kowalchuk: You must be very musical. You'd talked about moving a lot in the States, from here to one place or another. Where did you get your training?

Day: We had to board, sometimes . . . there weren't very many schools where we were either. And I boarded with a music teacher once. For a year . . .

Kowalchuk: And that helped, eh.

Day: And that helped. And I learned to play the violin, so did my brother.

Kowalchuk: And you chose a very difficult instrument.

Day: Just because that was what I could borrow.

Kowalchuk: What you could borrow. Certainly. I suppose.

Daughter in background: How many lessons did you really have on it, though Mom?

Day: Well I don't know. Not over 50 because I spent a year there, so it would be probably less than a week.

Kowalchuk: My goodness. You talked about teaching grades 1-8, eh, eh, . . .

Where did they—did students, did any of them go further? Where would they have gone?

Day: I was only at Calling Lake two years and I don't believe any of them went on. But then I went to Richmond Park, and those, oh that was a totally new experience. Because it was completely foreign settlement.

Kowalchuk: I was just going to say.

Day: I was the only English speaking person there.

Kowalchuk: Of course.

Day: And, honestly when I came in I was still pretty young, you know.

Kowalchuk: Yes, yes.

Day: And this sounded like a bunch of little . . . I didn't know they were talking English to me because their accent was so bad, you know.

Kowalchuk: So bad. Yes.

Day: And it took me quite awhile to think of them as people, but eh . . .

Kowalchuk: Isn't that interesting that you should say that. Because of course all the white people . . . Well how about the Indians

Day: Almost like a bunch of nice little monkeys. Nice! Little creatures. But not that . . .

Kowalchuk: How about the people, the Indian population at Calling Lake? Did these students come to school? They didn't know English. Did they?

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: Oh they did. They all spoke English?

Day: Not very much.

Kowalchuk: Nobody spoke Cree there?

Day: Oh yes, they did.

Kowalchuk: Just amongst themselves. Oh, so you had no problem in that respect?

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: But that was totally different when you got to Richmond Park. We're not going to go there just yet. I want to know about your romance with Jack and when you got married, about Patsy and Chester.

Day: Well to tell you the truth before the Days moved into the lake; we were all out here in this Forest district. Just before I went to normal school, and the Days had rented a house there. Well, Steltick found his territory. I met Jack there.

Kowalchuk: I see.

Day: And I think I fell in love with his chaps. He had a loveliest pair . . . They all rode horses. And I was from Wyoming and I just loved it. And so they'd come over with these horses, and we'd go riding. He had a pair of white woolly chaps.

Kowalchuk: So impressive.

Day: (not quite sure what's being said here.) (laughter)

Kowalchuk: Of course. How much older was he than you at that time?

Day: He's younger than I am by about, maybe a year.

Kowalchuk: He's still alive. No. He passed away.

Voice in background: Last July.

Kowalchuk: Last July. Oh is that right? Just a year ago. So when were you married?

Day:

Kowalchuk: Can you give us date? Exact date.

Day: Uh uh. Halloween.

Kowalchuk: Halloween. October 31st, 1931.

Day: Right.

Kowalchuk: And you had the wedding at home.

Day: Right here at the Arch Deacon Little.

Kowalchuk: Oh, did you really? Arch Deacon Little would have been here at that time. Yes.

Day: He's another man, that . . . Lots of people didn't like his wife. She was quite good to me.

Kowalchuk: Was she? But he was a wonderful person.

Day: He was a fine fellow.

Kowalchuk: He was a wonderful person.

Day: But he's the one that got me teaching Sunday school.

Kowalchuk: That's another thing that you had to teach. I was . . . you see . . . I've gone off again. Lets just finish this marriage. I got side tracked. I want to ask you a couple of more things about school. So you were married in 1931. Patsy was born in . . .

Day:

Kowalchuk: You were at Calling Lake then.

Day: Yes. Then came down here to have babies. And then Chester in '34. But I was already at Richmond Park.

Kowalchuk: Already at Richmond Park. Alright. Did you ever have to use the strap? What was your discipline?

Day: Certainly I used the (can't hear the rest).

Kowalchuk: At Calling Lake?

Day: Probably. As a matter of fact, I think . . . I think usually you'd grab a kid by their collar.

Kowalchuk: Give them a shake.

Day: Give them a good shake.

Kowalchuk: And that was all that was needed. Right.

Day: The back of your hand, and that was all. I don't remember strapping, but I remember the two McIntosh girls ran away, because I was too strict and they went home. And I didn't realize it. They went home at noon hour. When they were out with little lunch buckets.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: Then I came back in and rang the bell and they were missing. I thought now, what am I going to do about this? You don't leave twenty.

Kowalchuk: Twenty, to go look for two. Yes.

Day: To look for two. So about an hour later, I heard great shrieking and noises and I looked out and here's Mrs. Mac. Did you ever meet her?

Kowalchuk: No, I don't think so.

Day: She's a _____ little thing. And she was sitting up on horse with a long willow switch, and these two little girls were coming down the road and they're saying "Stop". (can't make out this part) They came back to school.

Kowalchuk: And it didn't have to be done by you. It was done by mother.

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: That was the difference in those days. The parents were really behind you. They did want their children educated. But you did have a strap in that teacher's desk, didn't you?

Day: Oh, every teacher had a strap. I hardly ever use a strap. I tell you why. I always think, what if that child wants to become a musician or violinist and the strap is a bad thing on . . . You know, if used a strap I'd put it on the back side.

Kowalchuk: Oh would you? I see.

Day: But eh . . .

Voice in background: After they had books in their back side.

Kowalchuk: Oh ^{they} got wise to you.

Day: I did this once with a whole group of students. They knew darn well I'd strap or I'd box ears or anything. But I was having trouble with some. I said, "Oh what am I going to do with you?"

Kowalchuk: Now when you say trouble, what kind of trouble would that be?

Day: Oh they couldn't learn.

Kowalchuk: But they wouldn't ever sass you would they? They had too much respect.

Day: If one ever sassed me once, it didn't happen again. And then once you've given somebody a what for, the reputations there.

Kowalchuk: That's true.

Day: I don't believe in. That's premeditated something if you say, "Wait til after school and you'll get it". Not on your life. If you've got it coming, you're going to get it right now, this minute.

Kowalchuk: That's right. Now I remember you had a very good system, because you were at Big Coulee where I went to school. You had the three black marks and it was a strap. No questions asked. Now did you ^{test} ~~stet~~ that little system at Calling Lake?

Day: I don't think so. I think I started that at Richmond Park and had to give it up there too, because of Eugene Pidzarko. I'd a had him skinned. You know.

Kowalchuk: Every time you turned around he'd had a black mark.

Day: Then he'd be so happy when he got this licking once and it was over. And you hit him a little bit you know. He was just a little thing, grade one. And back he'd go . . . Gosh now he's _____ again. In ten minutes, he'd be doing something. "Eugene!!!"

Voice in background: Black Mark.

Kowalchuk: You kept a record book.

Day: Oh my goodness and he was so quiet you know. It would be half an hour later. "Eugene!!!" (laughter)

Kowalchuk: So that kept you quite busy, keeping tallys here. Okay. Did you have a concert that Christmas?

Day: Oh, I always . . .

Kowalchuk: Even that first year?

Day: Yes.

Kowalchuk: How did you know about concerts? How did you put one on?

Day: That was part of your training.

Kowalchuk: Oh that was the training.

Day: Certainly. We lacked material. We made our own. You make up a play, from one of the stories.

Kowalchuk: Certainly, certainly I guess.

Day: Then everybody gets busy and they make it up, and we change the words around.

Kowalchuk: Make your costumes.

Day: And we usually . . . At Richmond Park, they were musical bunch of people. And we'd make . . . Cinderella became an operetta. They'd make up the songs to fit the beautiful dreamer or whatever we had in our song book, because we had a little song book called Fifty-five something or other.

Voice in background: So you were in Richmond Park during the depression years?

Day: Absolutely.

Voice in background: Who were some of the people there? The Gormans,

Kowalchuk: Oh just, yes. Excuse for a minute, dear. Before we go to Richmond Park, one more thing. Did you ever play ball? You taught them to play ball.

Day: Oh my goodness. Yes. Softball was the thing. And you see, it was the perfect game, because nobody could afford it. We bought one softball and from there on, and we bought the thirty-five cent one. And it was sawdust in no time flat. Well you'd just take it apart, and wrap string around something and sew it together again. You'd go to the bush and make your own bat. Oh those boys were so fussy. You know, they'd chop down this and that and shave a bat and try it. Each one had his own.

Kowalchuk: And those Indian boys, I'll bet could play ball like the dickens.

Day: Oh, we had wonderful ball games.

Kowalchuk: You'd play amongst yourselves so you would never go to any other; of course there were no other schools.

Day: Not from Calling Lake.

Kowalchuk: Not from Calling Lake. Alright. Before we go to Richmond Park, one more question; two actually. You taught Sunday school there as well or not?

Day: No.

Kowalchuk: Okay. And what was your ^{role}rule in the community? You were a teacher, but you were more than that.

Day: I wouldn't say that.

Kowalchuk: No.

Day: The only thing is the school house has to be everything. I was a fiddler, we'd played for . . .

Kowalchuk: You had dances.

Day: Dances. And we . . . I'm a fair organizer. And we had a big Track Meet every spring.

Kowalchuk: Oh did you?

Day: And you know, the trappers would come in from miles and miles for the Christmas concert, and again for the Track Meet.

Kowalchuk: Just to watch.

Day: And to raise money for Christmas; in October we have some kind of a ^{do} ~~due~~. Probably plays and things, and a Box Social. Everybody bring a box lunch and you raffled them off and you'd raise a few dollars. But I'll you tell you . . . Do you know about Mrs. Conquest in this town?

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: She was the Red Cross radio lady.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: So, you know, if you raised all of \$4.28 at your Box Social, I could send the money into Mrs. Conquest and tell her what we were lacking. And she would scout up something for every kid.

Kowalchuk: Would she? You mean as a gift? Would she?

Day: Well, things like eh . . . We all got a toothbrush one year. Prettiest toothbrushes you ever saw. And then there's a little bag of peanuts or candies or something to go with it.

Kowalchuk: Did you ever have a Jap orange, for example? Did they get any fruit?

Day: It was too hard get things out there.

Kowalchuk: Fresh like that.

Voice in background: I imagine at the end of the school year there'd be the annual family picnic, with track races and three-legged races and all that.

Day: That was our Track Meet.

Kowalchuk: Oh that was your Track Meet.

Voice in background: And the whole . . . everybody, adults involved and . . .

Day: Everyone was there and we all did some . . . well Buff was the greatest score keeper you ever saw. And do you know that trappers came in from Pelican Mountains?

Kowalchuk: Really, that far.

Day: And up from Calling River, and people would come all over just to . . . For the big three, where the Box Social and dance to raise money for Christmas. Christmas concert and then the Track Meet.

Kowalchuk: I suppose that pretty well summed up the kind of the social things that you had eh?

Day: We had other dances you know, but . . .

Kowalchuk: So.

Voice in background: You'd churn the ice cream before that and have a peanut scramble.

Kowalchuk: Did you have ice cream?

Day: We had very little ice cream, there were no cows out there except Buff's. He wasn't the world's best farmer you know.

Kowalchuk: No, Wasn't he? Too busy doing other things.

Day: Certainly. Well no experience either.

Kowalchuk: No, that's true.

Daughter in background: The ice cream I remember came later and it was with snow.

Day: We often did that. We'd get eh, . . . We'd have cream and then we'd go on dig out nice fresh snow. In would come snow in a bowl and we'd pour cream all over it and mix it with blueberries.

Kowalchuk: Oh, that was the treat.

Day: Blueberry ice cream.

Kowalchuk: Well. Alright.

Voice in background: It was better than that owl soup, I'll bet ya.

Kowalchuk: Yes. That's right. Alright. So your family, and that would have included Jack, moved to Richmond Park, or not? Did Jack . . .

Day: Jack didn't. He used to walk down weekends. Thirty three miles.

Kowalchuk: Oh I see.

Day: But he was . . . We'd found homestead up there. He's gonna improve on that homestead. But darn it, we needed money don't you see. So after awhile he got a job working for Walter Clark.

Klak.

Kowalchuk: Yes, Walter ^{klak}Clark at Deep Creek.

Day: Uh uh . . . And then he could earn a dollar a day, but he had to pay room and board. And so, then he'd be wandering here and there.

Kowalchuk: Looking for work.

Day: Uh uh. And wherever, wherever got a contract, that's where he went.

Kowalchuk: That's where he went.

Day: So a few year later, while I was at Richmond Park, he decided to go in with a bunch of fellows and they built a raft and sailed to Yellowknife. Because that had opened up, you see. And took a bunch of supplies down there. So they were going to sell it when they got there and all that.

Kowalchuk: Yes.

Day: It wasn't very successful. But eh, because it cost them more to get the supplies than they sold them for when they got there. But at least they had a job at the railroad.

Kowalchuk: I see, yes. Alright, you went to Richmond Park in 1932.

Day: And it was the spring of the year. It was in March of that year. Because for some reason, Mrs. Crawford needed to quit right then for; I can't remember why.

Kowalchuk: Why, yes.

Day: So I just went and finished that term. And then I taught right there til . . . Oh it was '39 before I . . .

Kowalchuk: That's right and you eh . . .

Day: The fall of '38 I went to Big Coulee.

Kowalchuk: Big Coulee. Fall of '38 eh? Alright, so there we were with all these Ukrainian people, eh, maybe a few Polish people.

Day: Polish, Ukrainian, *Seligion* Selasiand, Icelandic of course.

Kowalchuk: Yes, the Gislasons, yes.

Day: They were there then. And then the Church family moved in. Into Deep Creek and Mr. Church wanted these girls in school. And then he didn't want them to walk 7 miles or something. And so, he came down to the teacherage to see if I'd keep them there. And I would. Now you know how big those teacherages are.

Kowalchuk: Oh they were so small.

Day: He brought a bed spring in a wooden frame and two hinges. He hinged it to our wall. There were two harness straps and he put nails up there and we could make up the bed and hang it up on the wall. Against the wall, all day. At night we'd let it down on two tamarack blocks and they went to bed. And had to have a housekeeper because of this. *Salomey*, Mrs. *Manson* was my housekeeper for the first four months.

Kowalchuk: Was she?

Day: She had been a teacher and we'd gone to normal school together.

Kowalchuk: Yes, I knew she was a teacher.

Day: And so she wanted to get out of . . . It was hard to find jobs you see. It was depression then. And so she wanted to get out of town and so I told her, "Okay, I'll give you five bucks a month." To come and be my housekeeper for awhile, babysitter sort of stuff. It wasn't babysitter then, it was housekeeper.

Kowalchuk: Housekeeper, yes.

Day: And so up she came, and so she had a (end of tape) . . .