

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: ABBY SIMON
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS: SAMSON RESERVE
HOBBEMA
INTERVIEW LOCATION: SAMSON RESERVE
HOBBEMA
TRIBE/NATION: CREE
LANGUAGE: CREE
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
INTERVIEWER: LOUIS CRIER AND PHILLIP
INTERPRETER: REDCROW JOE
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: OFFICE OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS &
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- A very brief account of some changes which followed the coming of the white man.

The money that the people were given was of no value to them because they didn't know what it was. It was my grandmother that used to tell these stories, not so much my grandfather. She used to tell us that women were given tea. There again they had no use for it because they didn't know what it was. This old lady that I'm telling about, kept on putting tea away as she was getting it. Finally it became like powder.

There was one old lady who wouldn't agree to selling her land. She kept on putting away the five dollars away as she got it, she wouldn't spend it. When she died her relatives distributed it amongst themselves. There must have been quite a bit in there.

At this point I may say that in those days the money was of no value to the people. At that time the old people only had Indian names so some person had got to these persons with a list of names for them to pick out. There was an old couple who were there who were listening as the names were being called out. The old lady readily liked the name Pierce and she was told that she couldn't have the name because it was a man's name. Same thing happened to the old man when he picked Susan for his name.

After hearing your stories regarding the early treaties, they

are very true because my grandparents had said it was only the land that was sold to a depth of 6 inches and nothing else. Anything beyond the 6 inches was to be the Indian's.

It so happened that sometime after the men began to feel the pinch of hardship. There were two men that got together and they went out into the wilderness. One of them cut a piece of willow and this they took along with them to a hill nearby where there was a wire strung across in the air. One of them was hitting the wire with this stick and he said, "Queen, we are already in hardship. The promises that you gave us no longer exist."

This took place somewhere near what is now known as the town of Ponoka.

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