

INTERVIEW WITH LAURA LOUTITT (MCLEOD)

FORT SMITH, N.WT. - JANUARY 14, 1977

BY: J. Overvold  
R. Price

Joanne: Laura your maiden name is McLeod and your father's name is Fred McLeod.

Laura: Yes, and my grandfather is John Firth from Ft. McPherson and my mother's was Margaret Firth, I come right from Scotland. (laugh)

Ray: Yes, and your grandfather on the other side was..

Laura: Murdock McLeod, he was up in Fort Franklin.

Ray: Who was the Hudson Bay Manager in Fort Liard?

Laura: No.

Ray: Was he ever in Liard?

Laura: No, my dad was in Liard for a long time but my grandfather was up in Fort Franklin.

Ray: Was Fred the brother of the two that were lost?

Laura: Yes, he lost two brothers back in 1902.

Ray: Who was the grandmother, who was Fred's mother?

Laura: Mary Taylor from Edmonton.

Ray: Murdock McLeod married Mary Taylor?

Laura: Yes, from Edmonton, in 19 no 1800 and something.

Ray: Can you go back any farther, do you know who Murdock McLeod's parents were?

Laura: No, it's too far.

Ray: I have a feeling it was Angus McLeod.

Laura: Angus McLeod is my brother.

Ray: There's another one way back in the 1800's.

Joanne: You said you were born in 1904?

Laura: 1904 yes in Fort Nelson, they got me down in Fort Liard but we stayed and lived most of our life in Liard anyway.

Joanne: Who has you down in Fort Liard?

Laura: The Government. I worked for them they had it down in Fort Liard so I didn't mind, I worked for the Police for 17 yrs as a cook.

Ray: Who was the Hudson Bay man in Fort Liard when you were there?

Laura: My dad, I was there when he was there, but before that Mr. Balsillie, the old man Balsillie, what's his name?

Joanne: Victor? No, I'm not sure who it could be.

Laura: Old man Balsillie the father of all those Johnny Balsillie's and..

Joanne: Hugh?

Laura: Hugh? that's the one, oh, he was dead long before you guys come along, but they got all the family you know. Like my dad, Fred McLeod, and then he had 6 brothers and they're all in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and the only two that were here was William and Frank. The one that got killed up in the Nahanni in 1902. They went up prospecting and they got quite a bit of gold up there. So, in the spring of the year and nobody heard from them, what actually happened they didn't know. So some people went up there hunting for them, the RCMP and a few other guys, and they found them both in their cabins in their big tent frame, dead with their heads cut off. And about two miles from there they found the man that was their partner, they found him dead lying on his face. So, they had been trying and trying to find out who killed them, but they couldn't. And way back they buried them naturally, I was small then but my mother and dad often talk about it when I was younger. Then, my Uncle Charlie he was in Edmonton and he had a bunch of children, he came down thru Fort Nelson on the barge and he was going to go up and look for them but then I heard that this man from the Yukon and they used to track up on this mountain. Richardson Mountain, they tracked up there and they used to meet up there when they seen these white guys up there, naturally they didn't like it. So, they killed them. So this man when he was going to run away they were afraid that he would tell what happened too, so they killed him shot him too. So in 1945,

my Uncle Charlie came down

he's older much older, married, he was telling me that somebody had confessed that they were the ones that had killed the two brothers but they never confessed until the day they were dying or something. They put my Uncle Charlie hadn't had to go through with that to find out who killed them, that the man that killed them had died that day.

Ray: Was it a white man that killed them?

Laura: No, these native trappers from the Yukon.

Ray: Did your dad go looking for them at all?

Laura: No, he went once with the RCMP in the spring, but there was lots of snow and was a bad place to go to. The river is real bad, lots of rapids, I think there's seven rapids in the Nahanni Beute right up to where the cabins were. And there's an awful lot of people that tried to go up there and I never heard of anyone who were there yet.

Joanne: Why did they have a cabin way up there?

Laura: Because the gold was there, that's where the gold was, my mother had a moosehide bag that was full of gold dust and then they made my mom a gold chain, she had a lovely gold chain, I never knew what happened to that because I left home when I was quite young huh. Never went back home.

Ray: Why not?

Laura: You see in our days the Hudson Bay never fed the children, if you had over 9 children they couldn't keep them at home and my dad had 15. I was the oldest, my brother Willy and my sister Joanne and Ruby yeah four of us went to Hay River in the Anglican school in Hay River. So we had to stay there and go to school there and see our parents once a year, they come to see us, and if they don't we just stay there. I stayed there 8 yrs.

Ray: What was it like there?

Laura: Ohhh, I guess nowadays, I don't think anyone would stay there. We had fish three times a day, if there was fish in the lake, and if there was no fish we had porridge, mush, all boiled up no milk no sugar, just like that we eat, mush

and then at dinner time we had bean, or else, barley thick boiled in a big pot. there was 102 girls and 104 boys.

Ray: Who was the Minister there?

Laura: Mr. Vale, Cannon Vale, he got to be Cannon after he was there for a few years.

Ray: Do you remember anything about your grandad, John Firth?

Laura: Well, when I was -oung I went down to visit him when my mother went down to visit him, she took me along. He kinda took a liking to me you know all the kids were laughing at me because I would sit on his knee. That is a thing that not very many grandchildren did and he let me sit on his knee and talk to me.

Well we were there for 3 days and that's the only time I saw him.

Ray: Can you describe him after all these years?

Laura: I got a picture, well he sat <sup>in the front room</sup> ina chair in a big chair and he had a table beside him, people would come in and see him but my grandmother and them would live in the kitchen. Like my family did, the same as my mother and dad did, my dad would meet people in the front part and my mother would join him sometimes but us kids all had to live in the kitchen. We were never allowed to go in the front room to make a nuisance of ourselves. (laugh) I think that would be it but I'm not sure.

Ray: Were peo~~o~~ple afraid of him or did they like him?

Laura: Well some people liked him and some were afraid of him. The people that he could talk to in his own language he liked.

RAY: Were there any stories of what he might have done or said?

laura: Oh, he had lots of stories, my Uncle William he's in McPherson, he is the oldest son of his, he's still alive. There's only two, there were 10 children, but I think there's only 2 left. The youngest Dr. Helen Parsons in Nova Scotia and William Firth.

Joanne: Fred just died.

Laura: I know, I went to his funeral. He's dead,

Joanne: William is Larry and Wally Firth's dad. So Wally's your cousin then?

Laura: Yeah, first cousin.

Joanne: You said you worked for the RCMP for 17 yrs?

Laura: Yeah 17 yrs I cooked for them, in Inuvik, I was there for 10 yrs I was in Inuvik, and 7 yrs here, I think.

(Getting a plaque of recognition working for the RCMP for 17 yrs)

They give you these for the best years of your life.

Joanne: "Presented to Mrs. Laura Loutitt for outstanding service from December 1, 1966 to 31 of May 1970. As Northern Stewardess in the RCMP mess Fort Smith, N.W.T."

Another plaque:

"Many years of dedicated service to the RCMP Inuvik 1974."

Joanne: What year did you start working for them?

Laura: I started or worked stewardess, how you say, as a labourer, a cook, in 1960 and before that long before that I was working there but I quit and went to work for PWA out at the airport, I cooked there for the pilots out there. Then I came back here and the Police hired me again, we had prisoners here. This used to be the Capital as you know, so they had a whole lot of prisoners from all over north bring them here, put them up here, the women and the men.

Joanne: What year did you move to Smith?

Laura: 1923.

Joanne: You been here a long time.

Laura: I think so. (LAUGH) I was working for, I worked all my life.

Joanne: OK, you went to school in Hay River and for 8 yrs and from there you went where?

Laura: From there I went to Providence, my dad was a Hudson Bay man there, and I stayed there for about 3 or 4 months and was asked to come work up here for Billy Lion for the Hudson Bay, not in the store but in the housekeeping, cooking meals. So I stayed there for a couple years, that was in 1923.

Then in the fall of 25 I went to work for Mr. & Mrs. McDougle that had the Gov't office that great big building they had here. McDougles, Paul Tridell, and Jerry Murphy and Billy Champagne, I cooked for them, washed for them, and cleaned the house and I got \$25 month. I that's what I was getting, I had my room and board there, I styaed there for a whole year. I could have stayed longer but I went crazy, I decided I wanted to get married. I didn't want to work anymore.

Joanne: And who did you marry?

Laura: Colin Loutitt from Chipewyan, his sister was there, she was married to Billy Lion that's who I was working for and I got married that fall. That was 1926.

Ray: You were 23 yrs old.

Laura: Yeah, then we went to Chip and stayed there for 4 years and things didn't go too good, he couldn't work, he couldn't make a living for me. I had 3, Elma, Evelyn, and Mavis and then I came back here in 1930 I came back. And then I started work for the Government, I lived out and went in every day and cleaned house and worked around there and I finally got a job cooking for NTEL Company. So I cooked all summer and got a laid off in the winter. Went back, in between of having babies and cooking. (LAUGH)

Joanne: How many kids did you have altogether?

Laura: 10, 3 girls and 8 boys.

Ray: And one died.

Laura: And one died, a boy.

Ray: AS a baby?

Laura: No, he was 10 yrs old and he got pneumonia and he got put in the hospital and got double pneumonia.

Ray: When was this?

Laura: 1932.

Ray: One of your oldest boys then.

Laura: My 5th.

I had two boys and two girls and he was John the next one.

Joanne: What was Colin's parents name?

Laura: His mother's name was Helen Flett and his dad's name was Peter Loutitt from Scotland but they didn't say Loutitt, they say it another way, Scotland.

Ray: You're right, you're quite right, it's a different pronunciation.

Was he a brother of Alex Loutitt?

Laura: No, Alex Loutitt was their son, Colin's brother. There's Peter, George, John James, Thomas and Liza, Levicie, Lillian and Flora and there's two more, can't remember their names.

Joanne: What about Albert Loutitt?

Laura: Albert is a son too, my husband was his Uncle, George Loutitt was his dad, Albert Loutitt's dad, my husband's brother was his dad.

Ray: Confusing isn't it?

Laura: It is when you get this old. Albert left home when he was quite young, he went down to Providence that's how he married into the Providence people.

Ray: Do you have any interesting journies on the river?

Laura: I worked on the boat for 10 yrs. I was on the Distributor for 2 yrs as cook then I left that and had children and then worked on the Radium King. It's sitting right here now.

Ray: You must know the chinamen Captain of the Radium King?

Laura: Yes, Albert Ireman, I know him really good.

Ray: Yes, Albert is a friend of mine.

Laura: Oh, he is, he's a real good guy. I haven't seen him for years. I have his address but after you drift away, haven't seen him for years and you hate to go see them or phone or go there.

Ray: Albert would welcome you.

Laura: Probably, but I didn't know his wife too well. I was here under Albert for 3 yrs and then under Captain Elliot for 1 year and Captain Barney Goodwin for 2 yrs..

Ray; Who was the Captain of th Distributor, Goodwin?

Laura: No, it was Gairdner an old French Captain and his wife, the first time I was there and then there was Don Naler.

Joanne: Who was piloting the boat?

Laura: Albert Loutitt, he took the ferry across Providence so he quit as soon as that ferry started, but George Loutitt, his boy was on there and Joe Lafferty from Norman Wells, he was there or .. There's two Joe Lafferty's isn't there?

Joanne: You mean George Bouvier was in the boats or Joe Bouvier?

Laura: Well, you see, my mother died in 1932 my dad got married again in 36 to Rose Lafferty, Nanook's sister so they go pensioned off and then he brought her up here for 12 yrs with us. And then she passed away. Choked on something and my dad passed away in 1964, I think. The boys remember.

One day my son-in-law was sleeping and we were going out and he was sleeping, I said Buster come on out we need you to drive. She said the only way to wake him up is to wipe his face. So I took a cloth of cold water to his face which was the only way to wake him up. Boy, he was mad, he said I'm never going to come in this house again. I don't care how long you live or how long I live, I'll never come back. (laugh) Ah, I said, it was just fun, he said it wasn't very nice when you're sleeping. He was really mad for a long time and he never came over and neither did I go see him. But finally he did (laugh). We both 'locked horns' and stayed like that. One day around Xmas, all the kids were in Pine Point, they had a lot of money. So Freddie he said, Mom, I'm going to do something for you that you'll never do for yourself. I said, "What?" He said, "I'm going to get the whole family home. I don't care how if they're rich or poor or wherever they are, I'm going to get them home. Buster still wasn't talking to me. Any way, Freddie got busy and got my family from Vancouver, Edmonton, and Grande Prairie and here, got the whole family, home. All 9 children came home, they got me to move out of my old house and they pulled down all the tissue from the walls, put 4 gas lamps hung in the corner, put linoleum on the floor and pack it for a whole solid week.



We slept in a hotel with 7 rooms, Freddie was there and Ray was in from the air force and they were full of devilment. So, in the evening we played a game, put Buster in there and me. Everyone was behind each other, they had to hold each other around the waist and walk around the room. The kids were in the other room and they weren't supposed to know what you were doing. It was the Choo Choo. Well, when your partner comes to you they're supposed to tell you a story and you're supposed to slap him and when you slap him you're out of the game. He was next and he thought he was supposed to kiss me and he went to kiss me and I slapped him on the face. Oh, he was mad, that didn't go over too good. (laugh) After that they got along real good.

Shirley: That was the best Xmas we had.

Laura: My daughter-in-law was never in the north for Xmas before, 1966. It was a cold winter like this too, my daughter-in-law from Vancouver she was dancing on the linoleum floor, she had two big holes. Danced for 7 days.

Ray: What year was that?

Laura: 1966, I don't know how many \$300 it cost for the whole family.

Shirley: It was really something, everyone's children's children were there.

Ray: Mrs. Loutitt has been telling me that she was very upset when the town of Fort Smith charged her \$66 from her for water from December 22 to the 4th of Jan. She said when she went thru her papers she said she pretty near laid an egg. She went marching down to City Hall and talked to Mr. Kaeser because he was walking down the road minding his own business. And you told him that she worked for him a long time and that she was only going to pay the same as everyone else. \$15 not \$60, and then she worked for him for 7 yrs. He was actually in all this time trying to screw her out of everything, but not only that, she pointed out to him while she worked for them she had not been paid unemployment insurance. She was not at a lucrative wage and often she while working often was the only

one doing the work. If she wasn't there the whole place would have fallen apart.

Shirley: See the Diesel 8...

Ray: The war was on, what's he doing fishing around, it was '42?

Laura: Yes, just before the war.

Shirley: Well, it was '42 when I was working with her on the boat. Yes, I was there and we used to carry the passengers from here to the mouth of the Mackenzie see. In the Distributor, they go from there all the way to the arctic and you know Fort Smith was the main base then. So, he came in and got on the Diesel and old Herman Pieper used to have to bring the supplies to the boat.

Ever meet the old man, Herman Pieper and Bill, they're a great couple.

He used to be with the Bay.

Laura: They always come here, they're always invited.

Ray: Oh good.

Shirley: Their home was involved in a slide you know.

Ray: In all the time you were on the boats in trips did a man ever go overboard or disappear?

Laura: No, we lost a boat though, we were crossing the Slave Lake on the Diesel 8 and they were on the Marguerite it was a supply boat. Cecile Compton was the Captain. He's still a dry dock Captain at Hay River. There was a big storm, oh it was rough, I used to work when it was rough. I didn't mind. I tied all the pots down with wire and started to cook for the boys. And I put a big white sheet in the corner of the kitchen, I put boiled eggs and boiled bacon, fry bacon, a bit of meat, something that they could eat fast. Make a bunch of toast and roll it up in a cloth so it wouldn't get dry and put that in the corner so the boys can eat. Some of the men eat but not very many of them can eat then they go back in the boat. Well you couldn't ever lie down on the bunk you had to lie on the floor. So, oh, it got really bad and I heard the horn you know for distress. So I couldn't help myself, I'm just that type, just then the Captain came down. Captain Goodwin, so I said Barney, his name is Barney, What's the matter? He said, Oh, there's a boat in distress they're taking in water and he said I guess

we gotta go rescue the men, there's 6 of them that gotta get off. So don't be afraid if it gets too rough he says I'll try to keep heading the wind as much as I could. See, I was watching thru the window, the water just pounding so I stuck my head out the door and I could see a light of this boat. Finally we got up to the boat, there were all these men standing there with their handbag, that was all they could take with them. One by one they were trying to make them jump on our boat, just when Cecile got on over the boat we had to make a B-line as fast as we could. It was the 'Sandy Jane' we could see this big boat the tail end went in first.

Ray: What year was that do you remember?

Laura: '53 I think.

Ray: What was the Sandy Jane, was it pulling barges too?

Laura: Yeah, it had a barge but I guess they let it go, it was the last straw they wer just going in to YK from Herschel Islands. The big steam just looked like a big hole in the lake. Oh, I couldn't do anything I was so scared I could not do anything and they pulled into Yellowknife. I saw, they couldn't see no trace in the deep water the next day, 400 ft or something so then after that the next fall, usually they give you a slip saying that you will be coming on board next year. What do you call that? A contract, I guess, I said No. I can't go back on that lake, I didn't realize a boat could sink, and I was on a steel boat, but I never got afraid because I didn't have the <sup>fear</sup> fear of the boat.

Raymond: Tell them about the time you and George were out there.

Laura: Oh, that's when we lost our barge. So, I was too scared and that's when I quit boating and I went to work for the saw mill in '45, his brother was the Captain of the boat hauling lumber back and forth.

Ray: Who's his brother?

Laura: George Hemmingson, the lumber company they were hauling the boats

back and forth from Long Island to when they were building in Yellowknife. We were going across the river and they were towing the barge and oh it was blowing hard and the boat was just about tipping. I said, Gee George I said are we going to make it or are we going to the bottom? He said, I think we're going to make it OK but we are going to have to cut our barge. So he cut the barge and we saw the boat drifting the lumber going away towards this Island. We watched that for awhile and then George took a cut into the wind and it wasn't quite as bad and because we had no load. We got to Yellowknife about 4:00a.m. so we stayed there until the next afternoon at 4:00 and then we went back to look for the barge. It was still sitting there right on the little island on the rock it was really nice. We just tied our boat onto it and pulled it right into Yellowknife. We never lost one lumber or nothing.

Ray: What was the boat you were in?

Laura: The Old Polfrey. It went in the river the Old Polfrey they had it here on the main river close to Long Island up on the hill they had the boat all tied to the trees and that so for one day we passed right over it with Anna. The boat was just tied there and later in the summer we passed by there again but the boat was gone into the river and I guess went into the lake.

Ray: Oh, went back home?

Laura: Went back home yeah. (laugh) but it was robbed of the steering wheel, the engine and everything.

Ray: Do you remember the first trip on the Mackenzie River?

Laura: That was when I was a girl before I was married.

Shirley: Like the chickens mom?

Laura: I was on the boat again when Lord Bing was on and his family.

Ray: Were you cooking?

Laura: No, no I was just helping the cook, I was just a girl then, I was young I there was Barney, big Barney who was the cook and Liza.

Shirley: Barney Swarensen.

Laura: He was on board and he killed cattle, cows, chicken, pigs. Katie Ryan and I were working together on the boat, all I had to do was clean out Lord Bing's apartment, his family, and Fletcher, pick up the dirty laundry and put it in the machine downstairs, wash and iron them. But Katie worked in the bar as bartender.

Joanne: Katie who?

Laura: Katie Ryan her name used to be Putra, she married Mickey Ryan. Before that we were both young, working on the boat we went all the way to Aklavik, there was no Inuvik then, and McPherson, Tuk, Hershel Islands was the route of the boat. We still had live cattle and chickens so one day Katie and I were right on top, where they kept all the chickens. Here someone broke the crate and the chickens were running all over off the boat and into the river and we were standing there laughing. Don Naler came along he was a mate. He says, Why don't you, what are you two doing why don't you grow up before you take a job. Chasing all those chickens and birds out of there, we just crawled down really slow you know. By this time all the birds were pretty near in the river they had gone out of the cages. We thought it was a lot of fun, we never seen chickens before in our life, we both come from down here, we didn't know what chickens looked like. We didn't know the value of the chickens to the boat, you know we were just stupid, really stupid. We just do that, laughed and laughed and old Don Naler was just giving us hell because the chickens went off the boat they just had a few, well coming way up here, we had to come up here, this is where they had to board the boat and fly out from here.

Ray: What year would that have been?

Laura: 1923.

Ray: And they were flying already?

Laura: No, pardon me, they were going out on another boat. That's why they landed here. they went across the portage that's why they landed here.

Ray: Did you get on the boat here or did you get on the boat down river?

Laura: Here,

Ray: Oh the chickens were on board and all the back.

Laura: Yeah.

Joanne: So you were 19 yrs old.

Laura: About that yeah, I was more like a 2 yr old I was so stupid. Sometimes when I think of it I don't even know why they hired me to work. But the work was OK.

Ray: How did Lord Bing like the trip?

Laura: Oh, he got off the boat and he handed me a \$20 bill and I never had a \$20 bill in my life before.

Ray: Did you say what is it? (laugh)

Laura: No, I didn't I said Thank you ever so much, I said. And he said you girls were just marvelous. I said to Katie how could he say that and when we got to Bellrock there were a few houses there and at Gravel Point that was the Hudson Bay shipyard, when we got close to Resolution - Ohh, it was blowing, the Mackenzie River just about tipped over, it was really rough so we had to tie up to behind Loutitt Island, it was a round island they call it Loutitt now but at that time they called it Round Island. And we kept going around that Island keeping from the wind we stayed there for 2 or 3 days and he was really sick.

Ray: Who?

Laura: Lord Bing I can still see him going to the side of the boat there getting sick. I guess it was cocktail lounge but nobody drank that time. NO girls drank that time.

Ray: And then you got up, you were saying something about going up river.

Laura: Yeah, then we came up to Bellrock and we were cooking everything, Barny was a real good cook, and I had to get it on the plate with knife and I don't know if I used knife or not I tried to anyway. We got it up and we went up there we had a dummy that goes up and down hey. I had to go up to see if it was sitting on the table, and I went up there and here was Lord Bing was just heaving over the side of the boat I guess he got so sick. So then we were just getting off the lake.

Ohh, he was sick I was really sorry for him. But I used to go in at half passed nine or quarter to 10 but I didn't go in til later and there were lots of bottles half full hey. It just shows how stupid I was, I took a bottle and I pour everything. I didn't have to leave those half bottles there I had to get new bottles.

Ray: So, you put them altogether?

Laura: I put it altogether and I took it down to Barney - boy he was happy as a lark just having big shots and everything. (LAUGH) So then we had a little place all lockedup with booze and everything there mix so I put the new stuff there and washed all the glasses and put them back. But I kept Barney booze til the time we left there. (LAUGH)

Ray: Barney must have liked you very much.

Laura: Oh, he wrote to me long after I got married and had children, I worked for him on the Distributor after I left the Mackenzie down here ti 1960 I think he was here til and then he went to Edmonton. I don't know what happend whether he's still alive or not, he was a wonderful cook though.

Ray: He sounds like a pretty handsome drinker too.

Laura: Oh, he was, he like his drink he thought it was just OK when I brought this bottle of Gin, Rye and Rum. (Ray asks Katie's last name again)

You know last summer when they opened the museum here Pat Ryan is Mickey Ryan's brother and Katie Ryan died she's buried here. So old Mrs. - Pat Ryan came back and happened to know who all these people were when they came back because I was young when they worked for the Government here. And they went to Halfway, to go and see where they had their big,

Raymond: Oh Horesay.

Laura: Yeah, she just sat there and cried, imagine, there wasn't even a sign here a map to say that Ryan brothers used to be here to think it was the old Halfway meeting of going to Fitz and back. She just sat and cried, just felt really sorry for her.

Ray: Have you ever read the book about that was written about Mickey Ryan?

Laura: No.

Ray: There was a book written about the Ryan's called the 'Link to the North'.

Laura: Oh, I worked for them at Halfway, I cooked there.

Ray: Written by a man called \_\_\_ the name's gone. I read it.

Raymond: Did you read the book called the "Arctic Greek".

Laura: Got it from Yellowknife. I had one I bought three of them. "Arctic Eric"

Shirley: It's quite a book to read.

Raymond: Little bit of BS in there.

...

Laura: When I was a little girl my father used to have a scow and they used to go up and down from Fort Simpson to Fort Liard. They used to haul Bishop Bernard and Bishop , all the Bisops and priests, Sisters, Hudson Bay clerks, any white trppers that wanted to go up there to Liard. We had no engine they had six men on the line tracking. One in the fron and one behind and us would be sitting in the middle in the hole, the crates all piled around us, 6 men would go for 2 or 3 hrs and then they would change. They would put some others on there. And the one would be running around the river throwing ropes over sticks and stumps that were in the river. We went up to Fort Liard like that with the Bishops and priests. And the policemen too if they had a court. Oh that one time when I was still at home because it was the only time I was home, I left home in '22, in 1923 I guess was when this Pierre, that old man that killed his wife with an axe and baby,

JSoanne: Albert Laboe?

Laura: Laboe, that's the one.

Joanne: When he was hung were you here?

Laura: I came up here that fall, you see I lived in Providence so I knew his parent and family real good and my dad with business with them. My dad used to be trap-ping and I used to be busy giving coffe and tea, not making it but we had big bulk. 25¢ for one coffee, 25¢ for sugar. So then they brought him here and there was



no jail here at that time, just the old Hudson Bay house right close to the HB store is now they had a hotel there. And old Joe Linuette he was the frenchman he used to run the hotel, so the Priest brought Laboe up there with his wife and baby both frozen. There were two policeman and I knew both of them, Councillor Brown and Bristol and this Inspector I was talking about, but they just started. So, I happened to be in the hotel at that time working and they brought in all and all night this man would cry and the Priest would pray for him, they would go in and out. I don't know what I was doing up in all hours of the night but we had coffee in the kitchen and in the morning I had to get breakfast cuz at 6:00 they had to eat and he was to be hung at 7:00. He got breakfast, I cooked him breakfast and they asked him if he wanted steak and eggs or anything. He didn't want anything, <sup>just a cup of coffee</sup> so we all went to the hang him and you know this tree is still standing I have it in my lot now. 15 yrs after.

RAY: I thought y they had the trees cut down?

Laura: No it's still here, there was two trees together, this was all bush.

In 1923 I think it was. They had a butcher shop right there too, the other one is chopped right down.

Ray: Did Albert Laboe ever say he was innocent?

Laura: Oh yes, he said it all the time, crying and praying. The priest was praying for him - you know his baby was white hey, and he said it wasn't his baby because it was white.

Ray: Is this why he killed here?

Laura: That's why he killed her.

Joanne: Jealous?

Laura: Well, naturally. They were alone in the bush I guess after she had her baby the baby was real white so.

Joanne: You said your father knew him quite well?

Laura: Yes, my dad traded with him all the time.

Ray: He was at Providence you see,

Laura: My dad was in Providence, and they were down there in the snye before you get to Horn River.

Ray: Yeah, there's a couple snyes.

Laura: I think his house is still there, well maybe it's falling down.

Ray: There are a few houses there, I was down there and also I know the area quite well. I didn't know it was Albert Laboe's though.

Laura: Well he was there years ago.

Ray: Do you think he killed her?

Laura: I guess so, she had a hole in her head, he hit her with an axe and the baby I guess died froze to death. I really felt sorry for him, I can speak his language you see, the Slavey, I still can anyway, I really felt like going in to talk to him.

Ray: Who was his parent's do you know?

Laura: I don't know if there are any Laboe's around here but his wife I think she was Mary Thomas, she belonged to Mary Thomas, old Tom Thomas' old grandmother she died in the hospital last year in Fort Simpson. Mrs. Tom that was her name, Maria I think his wife was one of those...You know you would have heard lots if you would have got mixed up with old Mrs. Tom in fact I met her from Mr. Kolson, he used to be building the school in Providence.

Joanne: He worked on the highway also.

Laura: Yeah, he always asked me about the people he knew and Mrs. Tom was one of them, he learned an awful lot from her.

Ray: Did you ever hear of a man called Daley?

Laura: Did he used to fly a plane?

Ray: No, he married an Indian woman in Fort Good Hope in about 1922, he had a house boat on the river. And with him a party of Gov't employees cut the meridian in 1921 I think thru to Providence and then they disbanded at Prov and Daley hooked up with a guy, Daley was previously trapping in that area, east of here or something. Then he hooked up with a guy called Morrissey, and then they went on a houseboat and

Morrissey disappeared, and Daley turned up at Good Hope and married an Indian girl and lived with her for awhile. Although, it was the most unsatisfactory arrangement apparently. And the police investigated Morrissey's disappearance and he left the country because he was wanted for questioning. And Eventually Morrissey was discovered, they found his remains but about 3 yrs later.

Raymond: Where did they find him?

Ray: He was been on a little creek or river just south of Mills Lake down river but they had gone out on the river on the houseboat and stayed there til the winter and Morrissey disappeared and they did an extensive investigation there. And found bones and found out that it wasn't his and eventually they did find that Mr. Morrissey had been murdered and when they went after Daley but Daley had already left the country. In the US he murdered the his ex-wife. Then he took his son from his first wife and. ....disappeared into South America to South...

Laura: Did he ever trap around with Lemouel? In Prov?

Ray: Could have been.

Laura: Old man LeMouel, I thought I heard something about that Mercier, he had a wife in Prov there?

Ray: I don't know.

### SIDE THREE

Laura: ... N and he was the cousin of mine.

Joanne: Cardinal, Cardinal was a cousin of yours.

Ray: Tell us about Cardinal because I'm interested, he came from Arctic Red River didn't he?

Laura: Yeah, he's my cousin, he's my mother's sister was his mother, Cathrine was his mother. He married into Louis Cardinal.

Ray: So a Firth married a Cardinal.

Joanne: Which Cardinal did she marry?

Laura: Louis Cardinal, and her name was Catherine Firth.

Ray: Wasn't Louis Cardinal the interpreter, wasn't he a fine guide?

Laura: He used to be with the police up in the Yukon.

Joanne: Yeah a very good guide

Laura: With Inspector Fitzgerald lost he was with \_\_\_\_\_ that time, I didn't know he was with the police at that time I was in Inuvik was when I found out. And then when he died the police took over and they buried him here gave him his funeral and everything and took him back to Arctic Red where he came from and buried him.

Ray: Who was Louis Cardinal the son of?

Laura: Comes from Lac La Biche, his father must have lived in \_\_\_\_\_.

Ray: What would he be, Cree?

Laura: He's half-breed.

Ray: Yeah but what was he?

Laura: Cree Indian and French.

Ray: The North American Indian is Cree.

Laura: I don't know they come from the barrens.

Joanne: The Indian blood would be Cree.

Ray: He was short wasn't he?

Laura: Yes but he was married to a second wife a great big woman.

Ray: Who was she?

Laura: She comes from Arctic Red, Charlotte was her name, that old Mrs. Weehouse, you know Mrs. Weehouse in Inuvik? That one that married to Weehouse they lived right up beside where the Metis has their office.

Joanne: I don't know here. (Ray neither)

Laura: You know where they have the Metis office building, well that little yellow house beside it was where she lives. Her husband is a white man her husband is sick in the hospital I hear.

Joanne: What was her last name before?

Laura: Her name was Charlotte ... I forgot now, her brother is still alive -

Moses I think was her last name and she married to Weehouse and this is her second

Joanne: There's lots of Moses' up there. And her first husband was Louis Cardinal?

Laura: No, no this is a sister to the woman that married to Louis Cardinal, she's a sister. She \_\_\_\_\_ sister not thru this man but thru the first husband she had and they're both sisters one married Louis Weehouse and the other married Louis Cardinal.

Ray: But Louis Cardinal's first wife was a Firth.

Laura: First wife was my mother's sister, name Catherine Firth.

Ray: And the Cardinal was the son of the Catherine and Louis Firth,

Laura: And I guess he was married and that woman is still here you know.

....

Ray: According to the story you have, is that the man Cardinal, what was his first name?

Laura: Fred.

Ray: Fred Cardinal wasn't guilty of this murder.

Laura: Wasn't proven guilty.

Ray: And yet he was hanged?

Laura: Yeah he was hanged.

Ray: And it seems possible that jealousy was going on in the background and that someone else could have shot his wife.

Laura: Yeah, we'll never know.

Ray: And some people in the Territories have strong suspicions of who it is.

Laura: That's true. I didn't see this with my own eyes, I lived in the hospital in Inuvik and this old lady lived there and we stayed in the hospital in two yrs.

Ray: We're just talking about the execution that took place in Fort Smith this century, three in all, a Victor Beaulieu..

Laura: He came from Fort Resolution, the priest brought him from Resolution because he killed two babies and went after another woman or something. He was going around with that Fred no Henry Jones' wife, Charlotte Jones. His daughter or wife.

Joanne: Charlotte Jones is Henry Jones' wife.

Laura: Yeah well that's who he was going after the two kids, or he left the kids..

Joanne: Who's kids did he kill, did he kill his own kids?

Laura: Somedays I get good memories and some I don't.

Ray: Were you here or do you remember it at all? (talking to Shirley)

Laura: She wasn't here, she was at Hay River.

Shirley: No, I was at Gold Fields then.

Laura: It was two kids and a woman I think he killed, three I think. Anyway he left Henry Jones's baby in the crib, that woman's baby in the crib, when he killed her right in the bed. And then when the police went after him, he was upstairs he was taking shots at the police from upstairs in the window. They had a hard time getting a hold of him but they got him and brought him here for 2 or 3 months 6 wks anyway. He would always get up in the morning and say "No more Victor Beaulieu" it was just like - "all finish, all finish" he would say, just like he wasn't right huh.

Raymond: He was strung up next to our place.

Laura: Yeah. So in the morning when they were going to hang him he gave his lighter to one of the other policeman, he gave his old pipe and a few cigarettes he had, and he had an old razor. He gave those to the people that were there. He wasn't a bit afraid of getting hanged.

Raymond: They hung him at midnight.

Laura: Yeah.

Ray: Why?

Laura: The judge I guess.

Shirley: It was a closed thing, they didn't want the public to be there, cuz they didn't want the public to see the hanging man, the hang man.

Ray: How old would he have been?

Laura: Around 38 I guess and 36 between.

Raymond: I remember we sat on the road and watched to see who we could see.

Laura: I was with the bunch all the time, I never even saw the hangman was.

Joanne: So nobody knew who he was.

Laura: No, nobody knew, he had a big black hood.

Raymond: They brought him <sup>in</sup> on the plane.

Joanne: They say they brought him in on the plane maybe it was someone from here.

Laura: No, I don't think so.

Ray: You got a twisted mind Joanne. (LAUGH)

Laura: It could be but they had to keep it a secret, I don't know if we're even supposed to talk about it it's in the police.

Joanne: Actually I was the one that did it. (laugh)

Laura: Oh, I don't think we're doing wrong, but I never talked about anything that went on the Force. I never carry news out of there.

Ray: But I bet there were very interesting things that went on the river?

Laura: Yeah.

Ray: What would you do all the winter time when you weren't working on the boat?

Laura: I cooked at the Hotel, I cooked at the DOT, I was never out of a job.

Shirley: Tell them about the chickens at that place. When you was working at the armories. (LAUGHING)

Raymond: It's one of the interesting parts of her life, she doesn't want to talk about it. (Laugh)

Laura Shirley: We had a little cafe of my own, I may as well tell you.

Laura: I had a cafe down here and I used to cook at the NT up there and Leonard McCally was the Captain for the whole shabang, all the way down. So he says, I'm going down to your cafe tonight and we're going to have some bacon and tomato sandwich. I said, Oh, we got no bacon, I said we can't buy any bacon at the store. So he said it was easy to fix, he was in charge of the whole thing. So he put two or three slabs of bacon in a bag and packed it and everytime there was someone walking toward him he would throw the bag down on the side of the road. The road was away up high, he went like that, he walked away again and he'd take those and get in the bush and he finally got it down to the cafe and he told the girls to fix it

up for your mom, she sent it down. I didn't have anything to do with it, he did. So, after supper when I came from there I usually cooked some buns and get ready, my sister and her and my two daughters would run it themselves but I went down to fix it all up. And Leonard McCally came in with this old Captain, they're bot Captains of the boat, Captain Elliot and McKenly from McMurray. He said, We want bacon and tomato sandwich and we want to have the cook bring it in herself. Ohhh what am I gonna do, I couldn't say give it to them free, I had to go by myself, and I made the bacon and tomato sandwich with my own bread. He said, Come on, come on, he said, you can go faster than that, so I took it there and I guess my face gave me away I was just red. How much, he says, I said 75¢ a sandwich. My word the prices are going up now. (laugh) I ran back in the kitchen, Oh that Captain. The next day he said why didn't you come and tell us where you got your bacon, you could have come and talked to us nice, we both knew where you got your bacon. And you charged us 75¢. I said, Why didn't you tell me.

Anyway another time, I was in the Hudson Bay Hotel working and I was cooking there and Kaeser got some turkeys and chickens and they were all smelly. The police were eating there and they condemned the whole works. So old Willy Heron was the garbage man, so I ran out to the garbage and told him to save the four best of those turkeys. I'll cook two for you and two for myself and they are the best of the turkeys. Hey, I don't think he ever got to the garbage ground with it but anyway, when I got back the four turkeys in the tub were soaking in salt water. That was his house I was renting. And anyway that night I stayed up all night washed and cleaning them those turkeys, washing em good with lots of baking soda and put them in salt water and then rinse them good and wipe them all out good with Kleenex or paper towels or something. So I made a big dressing for the turkey. Then I put a sign outside, "Turkey Dinner for Sunday". All the police left the Hotel and they came over (laugh), they came and ate it. \$2.50 a plate.

ray: What year was that?

Laura: Not too long ago. In 1949, Ohh that was a dirty one, you know there was nothing wrong with those turkeys once I got thru with them and I dressed them.



Ray: Did the police enjoy their dinners?

Laura: Oh yes, they said they were really pleased with their dinners. And then I made some nice apple pie and I had cranberry sauce, everyone from the boat was there. I was busy all day, I had Sundays off..

Ray: Did Paul Kaeser come and eat too?

Laura: No, he wouldn't spend a cent for dinner.

Shirley: We called this place "Do drop in", and then there was the old Club Cage just a couple houses down and there wasn't a soul in there

Laura: Ohh, I felt guilty for days after. (laugh) Nobody died there so. I don't know what I made, close to a \$100 that day.

Ray: Well, you got your meat at a pretty reasonable price though didn't you.

Joanne: You said you used to hunt and trap too.

Laura: Yeah, we trapped and I used to go trapping and even this fall I went in the bush hunting after I was laid off at work and I went to the bush. I went with Lou and Albert and I set some rabbit snares and the next morning I went there and I caught two rabbits. So then I put a great big hook in the lake, in Leland Lake out here about 80 miles and I got some great big jackfish. So I was saying, all these people on welfare and here in Fort Smith just chopping left and right. And I used to hunt chicken, shoot lots of chickens, I used to hunt beavers I used to leave the old man in the tent and I used to paddle the canoe. Lots of people can tell you at Chipewyan when I would go trapping and hunting and get my beavers, get my 15 beavers and rats. I can still hunt but my legs aren't as good anymore, they're giving away on me.

Ray: Did you ever nearly get yourself killed?

Laura: I fell in the river once I went drifting down, a little stream, I don't know how many trees I caught before I got to shore. I caught one and it pulled me ashore. I can't swim you know. And I had my clothes on...

Joanne: Which river was this?

Lara: Grey Wavey Creek

Joanne: Was it a fast flowing?

Laura: Fast water not too wide but it's deep.

Ray: What did you do tip the canoe?

Laura: No, I went to get a pail of water and the current was too strong and it pulled me in with the pail, I went head first.

Ray: Cuz you wouldn't let go of the pail?

Laura: No, (laugh). After I let the pail go I grabbed onto a tree and pulled myself ashore you know.

Ray: You were telling us that you used to live at Goldfield.saying something about the rock that your tent was tied to.

Laura: That was in Crackenstone Point it used to be for the McGuiness' they had a big fish camp there. And I was working there, my husband was fishing and I was mending the nets and cleaning the fish and I was making better money than him. YOU don't have to scale them just clean them and cut them ad and throw them in big boxes.

Joanne: Where was this?

Laura: Now where they got Uranium City.

Roy: When wereyou there, do you remember?

Laura: I just had Elma and Earny then three so it would be in 28 or 29 or 30. around there.

Ray: Gold was found there in abut 30?

Laura: Yeah, that's the year when Shirley went to stay with my sister.

Ray: And old Tom Box was there?

Laura: Yeah, he's still alive?

Ray: No, he's dead.

Laura: I think he was there.

Shirley: And I went to stay with Auntie in 35, 36 in Goldfields. My Uncle worked underground there for Con Mines.

Ray: At the box mine.

Joanne: Which was this, name?  
one

Shirley; Kbristenson.

And he was with Louina McLeod, mom's sister.

Well I never knew Grandma McLeod, she died before and then after that grandpa re-married a to Rosa Lafferty and I remember we never called her grandma we always called her Auntie Rose. Then after grandpa retired from the Bay, they moved up here and lived here and Auntie Rose was here.

Joanne: Do you know how many years your grandad was with the Bay?

Shirley: Oh gee I couldn't tell you, he came from Scotland started with the Bay and retired with the Bay.

Ray: He was born in Scotland was he?

Shirley: Un-hum.

Joanne: Fred McLeod. Was he?

Shirley: As far as I know. I don't know.

Laura: Grandpa was born up in Fort Franklin.

Ray: Who Murdock McLeod?

Laura: No, he was born in Scotland. And my dad was born in Franklin in Bear Lake Lake. And then when he was 16 he started to work for the Bay.

Joanne: And how many years did he work for them?

Laura: Yes, let's see he was 62 when he came up, he worked from 16 til he was 62.

Ray: Fred McLeod was your dad.

Laura: Yes, that was my dad.

Ray: And he was married to a Firth. And Murdock McLeod was your grandfather and he was married to a girl in Edmonton.

Laura: Yeah, Mary Taylor.

....from the time he got married in 1902 to 24 or 25, when my dad was married then he came to Providence.

Joanne: (laugh) He's having a tough time.

Ray: No, I know something that you don't know, Joanne, you see, I know that <sup>the</sup> McLeod family that went up from Fort Nelson, and from Peace River to Fort Nelson and Fort Liard. And there's a McLeod family that went up that way and I'm trying to tie these

two together. That's what I'm trying to do.

Joanne: These are your Uncles aren't they?

Laura: That's the one that got killed came in from Peace River.

Ray: No before that, this is in the 1800's.

Joanne: The McLeod family was around quite awhile in Nelson.

Laura: Yes a long time you see I was born there my dad got married they used to all come down to Fort Simpson. There was the Christie family, the Bosley family, the Camsell family, the Gaudet family, and Johnny McPherson.

Ray: What I can't tie in is where Murdock McLeod fits in. You say he comes from Scotland, you see that's what doesn't tie in.

Laura: You see he got married in Edmonton I guess.

Joanne: Was he a young man when he came from Scotland?

Laura: Yeah he was young when he came.

Ray: You see when he came there was a McLeod here already in the Peace River country

Laura: No, my dad never went in the Peace River country.

Ray: No, that's what I'm trying to see if there's any connection between these McLeods.

Laura: When we went up there there was all the Gairdner family, all the Gairdner family was up there. George Gairdner, Archie G,

Ray: Yeah, the Gairdner I've read about but it's the McLeods I'm very confused about because I can't get a tie because unfortunately, they're both in the same part of the country, Ft Nelson and Ft Liard and there doesn't seem to be any family connection.

Joanne: Did your grandfather Murdock McLeod have any brothers with him?

Lsaura: Yeah it could be, Ivan McLeod, a brother to him. But my own dad never went to the Peace River country.

Ray: No it's just that they went thru this area that's all, but your dad was the HBC manager in Ft Liard for a long time and very early on, in 1902, that's a long time ago.

Laura; Yeah, we're in the 70's now we're way up in 77.

Ray: And your grandad was married before he came into the north, did he get married in Edmonton?

Laura: Yes, he married in Edmonton then they came north with the Hudson Bay with the old oars boat, before they had real boats, they started up the Post yrs ago up in Franklin and when my dad got 16 yrs old they sent him out working with other guys. My own dad's two brothers came down, Willy and Johnny. But I think Johnny is still in Calgary and I got one Uncle's boy, Ivan, we call him Bud McLeod. He goes back and forth from Nelson and Edmonton. Kind of mining and trying to find tales.

Joanne: Where does Bud live?

Laura: In Edmonton, he has a family is big now and married too and he goes into McPherson. His name is really. Ivan is in Woodward store. Bud is just a nick name I don't know his real name.

Joanne: Maybe we should get his address.

Ray: I've lost the relationship, Joanne can you tell me?

Joanne: Your Uncle's son.

Laura: Uncle Charlie's son, and Charlie used to be up in Fort Nelson.

Ray: How old a man would he be now?

Laura: He's in his 50's

Joanne: He's your cousin.

Laura: Cousin yuh. He goes around collecting information, he used to work for - make roofs, had contracts in Edmonton years ago, when I was young. But now he just travels back and forth, he's got a mine in Ft Nelson and some creek, him and his wife just left now.

Ray: What's he doing with this information that he's collecting?

Laura: I don't know.

Joanne: Is he doing it on his own family?

Laura: Yeah.

Ray: Well that's very interesting isn't it Joanne?

Laura: His name is Bud and his wife's name is Bessie but Ivan is his brother who works in Woodwards.

(We were just asked if we were tired of her bullshit) (laugh)

Bud's address: Bud McLeod  
9360 - 79 St                      Ph: 466 - 6183  
Edmonton, Alta.

He is a cousin of Laura Loutitts and he has been collecting info on his family. Laura has mentioned of her 4 cousins that died last year and one of them had been badly shot up in the war. Who was he?

Laura: Cecile McLeod a son to Charlie McLeod that lives next door to Bud.

Frank was a fireman fighting fires in Edmonton and that.

Ray: Can I go back to the one who served, where did he serve?

Laura: Overseas, when I went out to my Auntie's who passed away in '45 he must have been in two wars. He's got 4 children and a wife.

Ray: When was he shot up?

Laura: When he was in the 2nd War.

Ray: Did he serve in the Infantry, the RAF, the Air Force?

Laura: I think it was the Infantry he was in.

Ray: He volunteered did he?

Laura: Oh yeah, all those poor boys did, my husband was in the war, my son was in the War. The old man was for 3 yrs.

Ray: When?

Laura: I got the papers here.

Ray: Where? Do you know what he served in?

Laura: A soldier - (get that envelope in my night kit)

Ray: I think it would be really interesting to get the names of all those that served in the war.

Laura: and got killed in the War, my husband didn't get killed in the War, he got home alright but ..

Joanne: Was he ever wounded?

Laura: No, my brother was wounded badly.

Joanne: Which brother?

Laura: Frank, he's up in Fort St. John, he really got wounded bad but he's on pension now.

Ray: In the Second World War I guess.

Laura: Yes

Shirley: Uncle Bert was in the First World War.

Ray: Who's Uncle Bert.

Shirley: That's mom's brother-in-law.

Laura: Joanne's husband, she lives in Edmonton, but she never talks about her husband she can't get over the shock of losing him, he was a trapper he used to trap in the bush. So when the War broke out he joined up so when he joined up, my brother Frank joined up too.

Joanne: So this is your sister's husband.

Laura: Yeah

Joanne: And what was his last name?

Laura: Bert Edge, he's got 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys, all well-to-do there. Got a nice job and a nice family, my sister stays in Edmonton, She wants me to stay out there but I just can't make up my mind to live in the city.

Raymond: Can't leave your little house.

Laura: Yeah, not only that not worth to worry about, I couldn't make my mind to climb up and down those apartments. That gets me.

Ray: There's a note here that Collin Henry Loutitt's regimental number was 3214784. When he served when did you marry him?

Laura: 1926

Ray: Oh he already served you didn't know him when he went overseas.

Laura: No.

Joanne: What year was he born?

Laura: 1894

Joanne; So he was quite young about 19 or 20 when he went in the War.

Laura: They all volunteered.

Ray: Where was he when he went and joined?

Laura: Fort Chipewyan.

Ray: And he just went marching out?

Laura: No, there was a man that come around and wanted to know if you were interested in joining.

Ray: Did he ever talk about his time in the Forces?

Laura: Oh yes but I guess I didn't listen very good.

Ray: Did he enjoy it?

Laura: Well he didn't like it when they were fighting, but he like it when they had days off, he enjoyed.

Ray: Was he on the front line?

Laura: No, he never got to the front line, they were over there for 3 months but they were training for about 3 yrs, and then he went over but my brother he was right in the fields, he was driving those things big with the guns.

Ray: The tanks, in this last war?

Laura: In the last war, from beginning and end. I still have letters from him that he wrote to me from overseas.

Ray: What kind of a time that he had in the forces?

Laura: Oh he had a good time, that's how he got to know about our relations in Scotland, Loutitt relations and McLeod, before we never kept tabs of anybody. But we told him that we might have relations in Aberdene in Scotland when he left. Sure enough he found them the names and everything, he said he really had a good time, he was in the War for 4 yrs in Xmas time. Uncle Frank.

Ray: AND he got out unscaved?

Laura: No, he got shot right thru here just passed his heart, he's got a metal or steel plate big wound, lucky he didn't get his heart. He was fine until this last spring I went over to visit them to Edmonton, he wasn't feeling very good so his wife took him to a hospital and here they found a great big lead in his leg and



and there's still another lead that's closer to the bone, there's still one in there the Doctors couldn't take out but they took this big one out of his leg. And yet he gets around, quite happy , I have pictures of him.