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INFORMANT: MRS. CATHERINE LAMER
(nee KENNEDY)

SUBJECT: autobiographical

PERIOD: 1903 - 1960

INTERVIEWED BY: A. Borgstede
March 16th/77

LENGTH OF TAPE: 1 hour, 15 mins.

#there is another (unidentified) speaker who seems very familiar to details (sister? maybe factor)

soft
VOICE

006 - 008 Catherine Kennedy Lamer, born St. Albert, July 21, 1903.

009 - 030 Father was Miles Kennedy, born in Glengarry County in Ontario, in ~1850. Came west because of health in 1894 with wife, Catherine, and eight children (probably by train)

031 -065 Settled in St. Albert, 3 miles east of town on south side of the river (present location of Sturgeon Valley Golf Course). Over the years, bought land from Arneault, Hogan, Savard. Lived in a log house that was on the property. Eventually ended up with about 800 acres which was later divided up between sons. Had to clear the land he got. Did mixed farming, grain and some stock.

066 - 135 Had 12 children in all: Alexander, left St. Albert, farmed in Killam. Angus, stayed on the farm. Marguerite, trained for a nurse, moved to Winnipeg. Hugh, clerked in stores, had his own store on the corner of Perron St. and Mission Ave. which he rented for a couple of years. (vague discussion) Christine, married Alex Perron, lived in St. Albert for a while, then moved to the States (Montana) John and Donald, killed overseas in WWI. Belle (Paré) living in Edmonton, Albert stayed on farm, Elizabeth (Deane) took up nursing, Andrew, stayed on farm.

136 - 151 The log house was added on to; heated by coal stoves, lighted with Aladin lamps.

152 - 182 Personal reflections of father: Tall man, stout, very easy to get along with, was well-liked, a religious man. Served on the school board of the Bellerose school, on church council. Died October 27th, 1926 (corrected date)

183 - 196 Mother was very quiet, family entertained a lot, people visited on weekends from all over. People often stayed for a few days.

197 - 222 Mother worked with no hired help, made clothing, preserved food, meat, cured hams etc. she had a garden.

223 - 262 Bellerose School: older children attended it when it was across the river. The district was later moved to 1 mile south on the Hogan property. It was a one-roomed school, eventually torn down. Recalls Inspector Fife, and Mr. Parker, a teacher. + moved to Ft. Edmonton

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- 263 - 284 Bellerose School went to grade 8, then attended high school at the "brick school" in St. Albert. *Nurses trained 3 yrs at a hospital did not need high school.*
- 285 - 292 The farm had a well for drinking water, stock were watered from the river.
- 293 - 341 Medical services: Four children were born on the farm with mid-wife, Mrs. MacDonald. During the flu epidemic (1918-19) all family members caught it, neighbours came to do chores. While there were a number of deaths around St. Albert, especially among the Métis, none of the immediate neighbours died.
- 342 - 348 Mother never complained, didn't go out much.
- 349 - 372 Childhood fun: skated on the river, picnics, etc. Mr Harle moved an old building out from Edmonton called the Bellerose Hall or Harold's Hall which was used for dances by people as far away as Namao.
- 373 - 400 Took trips into St. Albert for church and shopping. Trips into Edmonton were very special, for buying machinery etc. (Father had one of the first cars in the area, a ford)
- 401 - 427 Immediate neighbours included: Gardiners, Bellerose, Arcands (across river), Aikensons (later), Croziars, Harles, MacDonalds, Ed Hogan.
- 428 - 485 Christmas and New Years: always had lots of company, open house, attended Midnight Mass, had traditional Christmas dinner, gifts included dolls, clothes, toys (homemade) and remembers a wicker set of sofa and chair for dolls. *NY's eve was most jovial. Toured around houses partying.*
- 486 - 505 As one of the few English speaking families in a French community, felt no conflict. *Parents spoke Gaelic.*
- 506 - 568 New house was built about 1925 by Mr. Peters, a contractor. Mother died in 1929, Angus stayed on the farm, later Alex sold his farm in Killam and moved in (developed phlebitus, had leg amputated) Elizabeth stayed home with the boys. Farm was eventually sold to a syndicate and developed into a golf course.
- 569 - 602 Went to grade 9 in the brick school, stayed with her sister, Mrs. Alex Perron. As a teenage attended dances at Bagkey's Hall in St. Albert. *Taught by Sr. Savard*
- 603 - After leaving school, worked in the central telephone office for Mrs. Mauckle, situated at 2 Sturgeon Road. Previously it was located on St. Anne's street, where present Dance Studio is. Mrs. Veness was the first operator. The telephone served both the town and rural area. Switchboard was open all day but Mr. Mauckle would answer at night. Worked there for a year, Dorothy Mauckle then worked.

SIDE II

- 003 - 005 Boarded with Hugh Kennedy in St. Albert.
- 006 - 018 Married in 1931. Until her marriage she worked at the telephone office in Edmonton.
Married Hector Lamer, from St. Albert. [Catherine says it's one in Ontario]
- 019 - 032 First home was in the Legault Building, Hecotr built store in 1932 (corner of St. Anne St. and Perron St.), same fall built the house at 22 St. Anne St. Poirier Bros., local contractor, built the house for about \$3100.
- 033 - 057 House had kitchen, dining room, living room, sun porch, and two bedrooms. Later the bedroom was finished with a bedroom and a pantry was added. It was heated by coal furnace, power was put in when the house was built, water was delivered from Edmonton and stored in cistern. Had running water put in c1954.
- 058 - 066 Were married in St. Albert, had dinner at the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Lamer, Sn. also put on a big dinner for them.
- 067 - 087 Hecotr had a general store, Catherine did not work.
- 088 - 101 Depression: took potatoes and produce in for trade at the store, work was scarce, money had to be watched.
- 102 - 116 In 1941, adopted Raymond, in 1944, daughter ^{Laurette} (Lorette Catherine) was born, in 1947 (Mary Elizabeth) was born, both in the General Hospital in Edmonton.
- 117 - 126 Belonged to the C.W.L. and a sewing club that turned into a bridge club. Helped with church dinners etc. Hector did not have time. 9pm-10pm work schedule
- 127 - 142 The Community Hall, built in 1939 with volunteer labour. Recalls the first dance held there, returned home to get curtains to hang in the washroom.
- 143 - 158 Businesses in St. Albert: Eugene Perron, Joyal, LeBlanc's Ice Cream Parlour.
- 159 - 162 Kept the store for 37 years, sold in 1959 and moved to Edm.
- 163 - 174 WW II: quite a number of young men enlisted (not as many as the first war.)
- 175 - 195 Hector bought land in 1944 in Sturgeon Heights area for speculation.
some vague discussion on land.
- 196 - 201 Children attended school in St. Albert until they moved into Edm.
- 202 - 210 Had a car when they married: did take some trips to the coast by train.

- 212 - 253 Pilgrimages: attended when very young, later drove the car. Went for the day.
Building of the chapel and Mission Park.
Parish Priests: Father Jan, Father Mèrèr, Father Bidault, Father LaRose, Father LeMarchand, married by Father Cozenant.
Father, Miles Kennedy, served on the committee that finished the present church. Others on the committee felt that the church would be too big. Concerts were held to raise money. Volunteer labour was used.
- 254 - 261 Unveiling of the statue: was impressed by the important men who gave speeches. Held on "a bright, sunny, Sunday."
- 262 - 270 No recollections of Father Lacombe or Bishop Grandin. Knew Chick Harnois, Father Lacombe's nephew.
- 271 - 276 Museum: volunteer work under Father Bidault. ☆ ~ 19m 11
- 277 - 297 The Bruin Inn had the only mixed drinking around. People from the city would park anywhere, everywhere, some problems but they brought trade to the stores.
- 298 - 308 Mr. Michelot and Mr. Joyal both served as local policemen. RCMP came in shortly after they were married, rented Lamer's (Sn.) house, put a jail in there.
- 309 - 357 Windsor Hotel, possibly burned down and rebuilt as the Astoria Dawson Block, 2 livery barns.
Stores up near the railway station: Hunt's Drug store, DeMarco's boarding House, ball diamond, implement agent, Skinner's Blacksmith, Bagley's Dance Hall, Toupin's store.
- 358 - 387 Prominent women: Both the first and second Mrs. Hogan (Mike) Second Mrs. Hogan worked in the office with her husband. Mrs. Harle and Mrs. Descartes from the country started the first Women's Institute.
- 388 - 488 Changes in St. Albert: new houses were built on their berry picking areas.
Sold their house to Mr. Beckett, a contractor, who planned to build on the extra lot, office block with apartments above. Zoning laws would not allow it. House is now being used by the veterinarian.
Reflection of their life.

End of tape.