TAPE OF MRS. EVA ST. ONGE
JUNE 14, 1977

Eva: Now this is a poem I wrote when I was on the trap line. I call it the Trappers Home.

Nestled away at the foot of the hills,
Where the air is pure and sweet,
There's a fragrant smell of spruce and pine,

There's a lovely big cabin,
And a spring that is crystal clear,
And a wonderful big hay meadow,
Where the pack horses grazed a good part of the year.
This is our home,
Ten months of the year.
Let it sunshine, rain, or snow.
We don't have to worry none,
Though it's often sixty below.
There's lots of wood in the woodshed,
And plenty of grub in the cashe.
There's moose meat in the meat house,
And the cellar there's spuds by the sack.
We have to take in grub enough to last us all the year.
The nearest store is the Trading Post,
And that's fifty miles from here.
So if you do run out of things,
Your out slick and clean,
You have no neighbours to borrow from,
Their few and far between.
We have a little world all of our own,
Away up there on the hills,
Where the Northern lights play overhead,
And just watching them gives you a thrill.
It was pretty lonely at first, I'll admitt,
With no one to talk to for days.
As I said before we have no neighbours,
Their fifty miles away.
As you sit alone in your cabin at night,
When your husband's away on the line,
All of a sudden you'll hear the wolves howel,
And it sends cold chills up and down your spine.
I sat in the cabin and watched them play,
On the meadow in the bright moonlight night.
And they'll take to the woods in a hurry if you just shout
or show a bright light.
At times the going is pretty tough,
On the trail in the bitter cold.
But you don't seem to mind the hardships,
For it won't be long until your furs are sold.
That's when you go on a buying spree,
Your taking the town what there is to see.

A show or two,
And you visit old friends,
It's fine at first,
But you're glad when it ends.
So when you work with supplies for another year,
You ride out to the lake in the truck,
And get the boat loaded up before dark,
To be sure of an early start.
We have a long trip down river,
As well as crossing numerous lakes,
There we leave the boat for the winter,
And with the horses, we start the long hike.
It's a long steady time to the sumitt,
Then unload and camp for the night.
Start out about daylight next morning,
With good luck you'll be home the same night.
You are tired and you're hungry,
And the horses are too,
But they need no erging to go,
When the big meadow comes into view.
Their anxious to be unloaded,
Their days work is through.
From the glaciers of Northern Alaska,
To California's sweltering heat,
The North woods of British Columbia,
Are pretty hard to beat.
I've been in lots of places,
And I've lived a much different life.
But give me the wide open spaces,
And just go on being a Trapper's wife.

Interviewer: When was this poem written?

Eva: It was written in 1936 or 37 one or the other. I'm not quite sure.

Interviewer: You have mentioned before where you were. Could you just pin it down to tell us.

Eva: Well, we've lived, went from Prince George, down river, the Crooked River. The Pack River first then the Crooked River. Then we crossed lakes, Davy Lakes, Red Rock Lake, and then.....I can't remember the name of the lake. And then we had another big lake that we stopped at, where the Hudson Bay Post was. There we stayed overnight there. But we loaded up at Summitt Lake when we left Prince George we loaded up our boat from there. And then we went down, right on down through to which we docked at the Hudson Bay Post. Then we went on down the river to where we left the Parsnick River. It went about thirty-five miles down river and we left the Parsnick River and hauled the boat out. We took our packs, everything out and then we pulled the boat out. And turned it up over the stakes, we had big trees that we cut off, and pulled the boat out and turned it upside down on there so the porcupines couldn't chew on it. Because where your hands are on the gunnels of your boat, they will chew 'cause it's the salt that they want. It's more or less the persperation form your hands, leaves a on it. And they'll chew the gunnels of your boat all to pieces. So we tinned the posts that the boats was on so that they couldn't climb it. And we never had any difficulty with it. And then the next day we'd start packing, getting the pack boxes ready for our, put on the pack horses. We had six head of horses and we'd load the boxes up and they all have to be balanced. If you don't balance your boxes properly the pack will slip and the first thing you know the pack's under the horses belly instead of on it's back. Then when we got them all packed like that we, it took us two weeks to take our supplies in. It was 'cause we took over

two tons in for winter supply. We took over two tons of provisions in and we had everything. I think I could have started a grocery store with everything that I had in there. Because there was everything you could possibly think of.

Interviewer:: Excuss me for talking, but when you came down there and you took the boat. Now when you left, where were the horses inbetween time?

Eva: They were on a place called Skobles Flat. And that's on the Parsnick River. And that's where they stayed while we were out for the summer months. For the length of time that we were out, they stayed there. And then when we went on up, then we camped on the top of the, practicality above, three and a half miles from the summitt. Is where we camped because that was where trees ended, that you could tie your horses to. And after that the trees got so small they were just like little bits of shrub, so you had nothing to tie to. And then we went over the top then, from then on we went up over the top and down on the other side. That took us two days to make the trip from the Parsnick end.

Interviewer: When you were saying your horses you had them packed even....for supplies, just what did you take?

Eva: Well, we took in four hundred pounds of flour, four hundred pounds of white flour, and two hundred pounds of the whole wheat flour, and we took in four hundred pounds of sugar, the size....maybe twelve, fifteen pounds of rice, beans, and all the dried fruit, we had every kind, apricots, pears, peaches, apples, logenberries, strawberries, prunes, raisins, both the dark and the light raisins. And we take in ten pounds, not the whole nuts, we take in ten pounds of walnuts, peanuts and almonds. And we had everything, and the mixed fruit we used to take the mixed fruits and I could made a fruit cake and everything.

Interviewer: Did you use yeast or sourdough?

Eva: We used the sourdough. I made sourdough and I always left a starter when I left the camp I always left a starter and I could start my bread right away.

Interviewer: Right.

Eva: And as far as vegetables we took in potatoes, in the big cans and there just like the potatoes that you buy in these packages now that you can buy. And we had the potatoes dehydrated potatoes, beet, carrots, parsnip, turnups, cabbage, and onions. And they were all taken in in cans. And then for soup when I'd make soup, we'd get the big cans like the same size as the big fruit tins that you get now, fruit juice tins. And they had a mixed vegetabe in. There was everything you could think of in those cans. And when you wanted to make soup all you had to do was take a half a cup full of that mixed vegetables and put in your soup and you had vegetable soup without any. But we couldn't take in the fresh vegetables because they would't keep. We had a cellar and we'd take in four cases of eggs and there was thirty dozen to the case. We took four cases of eggs in. And we took in two hundred pounds of butter for the winter, for the year. But the eggs, as soon as I would get in that was the first thing, slabs of bacon, the eggs, the butter, and the sugar were taken in first in case of rain. So that it wouldn't get wet. And then the rest of the anything else. But we didn't take any canned, no canned food in at all.

Interviewer: That's what I was going to ask you. I was trying to figure out When you

Eva: No. I didn't. No, I didn't like that stuff. It's horrible, I didn't like it. No, the way I processed my eggs was I had a big soup kettle, a good big one. I took a piece of netting, a fine chicken netting, and I made just like a basket. I put the kettle on. I put this pot on it, got the water just a rolling hard boil. And you put eight or ten or a dozen eggs, depend on the size, in this cage and drop them down in the boiling water and count, one, two, three, four. Lift them out and lay them out on bath towels on the table and they'll keep for a year. The last ones you use

are just as....taste just as fresh as the first ones. Then they were packed put back in the cases and put into the cellar and the cellar was cut right out of the perma frost. And boarded up with the split logs. It was all sealed up and you could put you butter and your eggs in there and they were just as fresh and nice as anything could be when we'd come out.

Interviewer: And then of couse, for your meat, you had moose meat.

Eva: Oh yes, we had moose meat. We had....we used to get lots of grouse. Because the grouse were thick in there. And I'd stand in the cabin door and knock the head off of the grouse with a twenty-two. And make a ....have a good dinner out of a couple of grouse. Made a real good dinner.

Interviewer: Now also, in some reminiscence you were telling....you mentioned once you had shot a grizzly.

Eva: No, a black bear, a big black bear.

Interviewer: Now could you mind, do you mind describing...

Eva: Well, it was in the spring of the year when the ice went out. Well as the ice went out it flooded everything, you see, coming down the river and out of the lakes. It just flooded the part of the meadow. And the traps, some of the beaver traps were still in, in the water and the lakes. And it came on so suddenly that you sometimes get caught with some of your traps in. Well we cut long poles of willow poles, and spring their traps and leave the poles sticking up. So that we wouldn't catch any beaver out of....so they wouldn't spoil, the pelts would spoil. Well then when the water went down, we'd go up and take the pole and pull the pole out. We all had hip boots, and we'd go and take our hip boots and we could wade out through that and get the pole and pull the trap right out of the water. To be sure then that you didn't have any animal in the trap. And I was going up my husband went one way and I said well I'll go up the meadow and pick up those traps at the beaver pond. As I was going along right in the middle of our big meadow where we cut the hay, there was a big bunch of willow. We left that so as the horses could go in there and keep the flies off of them in the summer and the mosquitos. And when I was going along I seen this, as I thought was a moose when I first seen it. But then when I stepped around it was a big black bear. Well, he stood up on his hind legs and I thought Oh Boy, there's trouble, but I had my twenty-two with me with a long shell in it. And he dropped down on his front quarters and started towards me and I said "Well old by it's either you or me and it's not going to be me" and I let him have it. I stunned him I hit him between the eyes, it stunned him but he went down on his side and I wasn't satisfied so then I went up and put one in his ear and that finished him.

Interviewer: You'd pretty well have to wouldn't you because.....

Eva: Yes, just with a knock....just... there's a soft part just above the nose and the eyes, there's a soft spot. And I happen to hit it right. And that stunned him, but then I went up and gave him another shot and that was, that finished him.

Interviewer: You used the fat for cooking?

Eva: No. When it came up...I don't think there was five pounds of fat on it, because he had just come out of hibernation. But his hide when we stretched it on the side of the cabin, we stretched it and then it was just two or three days before we were coming out. And of course it was still green. So we left it and I rubbed it with salt and alum so that the porcupines wouldn't bother it. And when we came in we didn't bother taking the head, we just cut it off right at the neck. And when we put it on the floor, it stretched from one end of the bunk to the other. And the bunk was six feet long. And it stretched from one end.... oh it was....

Interviewer: I'm sorry I was interupting you, we've been talking about alright now, where were you born?

Eva: I was born in Indianville, Ontario.

Interviewer: Ah, were you used to come to this, not B.C Northern land, but....

Eva: No, never was out in the woods, to live out in the woods before. No it was, as I said in the poem that it was a very different life to what I was accustomed to. But I thoroughly enjoyed it, I was very sorry when we had to give up the trap line.

Interviewer: It was alot of work at times.

Eva: Oh, it was alot of work but I enjoyed it and I took, used to take all, I used to skin and stretch all the pelts. Outside of the heavy, the bigs ones that would, couldn't be carried in. But any that was small like mink, martin, fisher, armin, squirrels, and all of that I would, that I would get at home around house. Or when he, my husband would bring them in his packsack. I used to stretch them all. And that gave me something to do and I never got lonely.

Interviewer: Right. don't . You really don't get lonely.

Eva: No, you don't get lonely, it was wonderful. I really enjoyed it.

Interviewer: We were going to talk about fishing in the ice as one thing. You were saying that you use fish.

Eva: Yes.

Interviewer: How?

Eva: Well my husband would go over to the lake and he'd take, we had a big chisel on a pole, a big broad chisel. You could use it for ice, copping ice. And he'd cut this big hole in the ice and I'd take a piece of moose meat, put it on the hook. On a very short pole and just a little, maybe about a six or eight foot line. And catch the trout out of the lake. And as soon as they would hit the ice you'd get, didn't even have a barb on the hook. As soon as it would go down well they were hungry you see and they'd come after it and get the hook, get it. And you just give it a shake and they'd fall off of it and hit the ice and they'd give a couple of flips and they were froze, froze solid. And I'd get enough that I thought would do for several good meals. And when I'd come home I'd taken the big wash tub, put in on the, put a canvas down in the cabin. And get, go to the spring and get three of four buckets of water and put it in. Dump the fish into them and then throw a canvas over the top and in a few minutes you'd hear them flopping and splashing around and they'd come to. They were froze but they'd come to. And you'd catch them, get them out and then we'd clean them, run a wire through the gills or through the eyes, and hang them up on a line. And they'd be froze well when all you wanted when you wanted a fresh fish just go out and knock, take them off.

Interviewer: About how big were they?

Eva: Oh, some of them were, be from fourteen to eighteen inches. They were good big....

Interviewer: And they were trout.

Eva. Oh, they were trout yes, beautiful, great big trout. So we had quite a variety of...we had ducks, at times when they'd come through we'd have ducks. Sometimes we'd happen to get a goose. And there grouse. So we didn't to eat straight moose meat. We had quite a variety.

Interviewer: And also you had the weather with you, you didn't need a deep freeze.

Eva: No, we didn't need a deep freeze. We used the old cabin for a meet house and we'd hang the, cut the meat all up. And put it, we'd cut, while it was still fresh, we'd cut it up into steaks, roasts, boiling pieces or what ever we wanted. And put it in the old cabin. We had a shelf, a swinging shelf, it was with wire and this swinging shelf. No mice or anything could get at it. And that's where we hung our meats as we put it in there.

Interviewer: Well, like your snowshoeing would be, had to be one of your means of terms of I think you mentioned once your husband made them.

Eva: Yes, my husband.....

Interviewer: How?

Eva: Well, you get the, the way we'd get the birch. The snowshoes were made of birch wood. And you'd get the birch wood but there, there wasn't any

around where we were. And when we were out at Fort Macleod, where the Hudson Bay post was. We'd cut a birch down and cut it up into strips, split it into strips, you see, because birch is a very, wonderful grain, there's really no grain to birch. And we'd take that in and clean them down to the shape that we wanted. And then we'd steam them. And then turn the bend the shoes the way, shape that we wanted. And then we'd get, what they called babbish, the Indian, that's an untanned moose hide or sometimes if we could we'd get a steer hide. And it split, that would all be cut in different size strips. And that's what we laced our shoes with. But the moose was really stretched too much and so we'd get if we could we'd get a steer hide while we were out and have it all cut in strips. And that's what we made our snowshoes of.

Interviewer: How long did it take you to learn to use those?

Eva: No. I didn't take me, I first, couple of times, the first time I used them it was a little difficult. But it was a very short time and I learned to use them. I had two pairs, I had what we called the rackers, that's were you go through trails and then there was the little trail shoes, they were small. After you got your trail broke, then you could use the smaller snowshoes. But the snow up there was very, very slot, it never pressed, it was just like powder. And if you stepped off your snowshoes, stepped off of the trail you were in snow and you had a dignet getting out.

Interviewer: Now, what time did spring break, you put the winter, what time was the spring break.

Eva: Well, it was usually around the middle of May, that the ice went out. You see we were so high up and the snow, there was still snow on the ground, but the ice was going out, and when that ice went out you could hear it all over the valley. Because it would crack and snap and it would pile up along the side of the river and everything in it was old. Huge big chuncks of ice going out. When the waters started up in the mountains, when the streams started coming down then the beaver ponds would break up. And they would go over the dam, sometimes they would break the beaver dam. And then they would have to build their dams all up again. But when the ice was going down the river it was huge big capes of ice that was going down the river and you could hear it just like, oh, you could hear crack and you'd think someone was shooting off a gun, a riffle, that would crack when it's going out.

Interviewer: Well, then you didn't stay there in the summer.

Eva: No, we went, we left, we went in the last week or ten days of July and we came out any where, we came out any where from the tenth to the twentyth of June.

Interviewer: And that was well after the spring break.

Eva: Yes, that after the spring break, 'cause we couldn't get out, out before that. One year we came out the twentyth of June and the snow on the summit was up to the horses bellies. And we had to break trail ahead of the horses, so they could get through with the packs. Because they couldn't get through so they broke trails through the paths so that the horses could get through.

Interviewer: Well, now you're this far you've mentioned as you mentioned in your poem, no near neighbours. Did you have any knowledge of first aid what so ever?

Eva: Oh yes, oh yes. But all the time we were in there they, none of us ever got a cold. We never got a cold.

Interviewer: Did you have any bad accidents?

Eva: Yes, I broke my arm in there. My husband is away on the trap, line and he wasn't, wouldn't be home 'til the following day. I was feeding the horses, and I slipped on the ice and came down and broke my, just about an inch above the wrist joint. Well I was stuck, I didn't know what to do. So I came in and that fall, or that summer, when we went in I took in three or four yards of unbleached muslin. For why I took it I don't know. But I went to the dresser drawer and I got it and I clipped it with the scissors, with the left hand because my right hand wrist that I broke. I clipped it and I got a hold of it with my teeth and my, I pulled and pulled and I ripped off a full, the whole lenght of it. I put the bandage around the palm of my hand a couple of

times and then put it up around my wrist. I pulled the table out from the wall, stuck my hand in back of the table and shoved it up tight against the logs and pulled. And it popped into place and then I wrapped it. And when my husband came home I had my hand all wrapped up in theses, with this bandage. And I had it slung up my, held it up against me with a hundred pound flour sack. And then I had him when he came home, then I had him make a pair, make some splints out of one of the pack boxes. And I came out, when we came out in the later part of June, I went to the, up to the, went to the doctor to see if it was alright. And he said it was set perfectly.

Interviewer: Well, you kept imagining your first aid kit, did you have pain killers?

Eva: Oh, we had pain killers. I had hypo and everything and I never thought about it. But that night I walked the floor, the pain was, it was paining pretty badly. And I couldn't undress so I had to go to bed with my clothes on, 'cause I couldn't get my clothes off.

Interviewer: And how did you manage to keep your fire going?

Eva: Oh I had, we had a great big heater and all I had to do was slide the lid off and put the, drops the logs down into it so I had plenty of...

Interviewer: You had lots of fuel to run....

Eva: Oh yes, we had plenty of fuel.

Interviewer: I guess in a case like that.....

Eva: Cords and cords of wood that were cut in the spring before we went out was cut and all dried and everything by the time we got back in.

Interviewer: Was it handy for you....

Eva: Oh yes, my husband never left the house, left for his run that he didn't pile a, put a great big pile of wood in the cabin that I didn't have to go out and get any at all. So I was, I was alright.

Interviewer: Oh, that was lucky. Because that could have been very tragic otherwise.

Eva: Oh yes, if I hadn't had presence of mind to of done that, by the next day it might have been pretty hard to set because it would have swollen, swelled up so you see. I would have been so badly swollen that you couldn't of..... and I know he wouldn't wanted to have pulled it because he would have been afraid he'd hurt me.

Interviewer: Oh you really were very fortunate weren't you though. And not just you but, when you read all we know of so many times that first aid is needed, accidents happen. And that's what made me wonder how you had made out.

Eva: Well, it was just, I guess it was just common sense is all that I can say, because I had never done anything like that before. It was just common sense that, I just put my hand back there and shoved the table against it and pulled. I'll tell you it hurt when I did it, I had to put my head down on the table for a few minutes, because everything turned black and I layed there for a few minutes but then I got the bandage on and it was fine. And it was set perfectly.

Interviewer: Thank-you.

Interviewer: When you took the total of your stuff in, how did you store it when you had it in?

Eva: When we, before we took it into the into the trap line?

Interviewer: When you got it into the trap line.

Eva: Well, first when we left the river we had a cabin that was at Scovals Flat. It had no windows in it. It was just a good sized log cabin and it had a big bin at the, in it. That anything like flour, and anything that the rats or anything could get in it wasn't rat proof. And anything that the rats or mice could get in, it was all put in this big bin. And it was all tinned inside so as that if they did chew through the wood, they couldn't get into it. And that had a good cover on it and it was pad locked. And then we had a, close the door and we had a secret lock on the, you wouldn't know that there was a lock on the door. And it was a secret way of opening the door, opening and locking the door. That nobody knew anything about. And the Indians couldn't get into it. They tried to figure out how to get in, but they couldn't get into

it. And so that was where we kept our stuff while we were packing in. But the first loads we would pack, we put a certain amount of, we'd have the boxes setting by each, for each horse would be. And they'd be two things, there'd be one in each box, exactly the same size and weight. And then a strip of bacon would go right, when we'd get that all packed, there'd be a slab of bacon go on the top of each box. And then the, that was all we did on the first load. We took in.....

Interviewer: Why bacon?

Eva: Well, because it was flat, you see it was flat. And you could put anything that was rounding, you could put right over the top of that. But we took in also with our, in our packs, we put in, took in canned bacon and canned ham. The whole hams, we would take in in the cans. And they would go, there'd be one in each box, so as to level the, to even the boxes up. And you had to be careful because certain horses could take a heavier load than the others. And we'd put the heavier loads on the bigger horses. Then the smaller horses didn't have the amount that the heavier horses had. And then right on the top would be either a sack of sugar or a sack of flour right up on the top of the load. So as to round your load up and your tarp was put on the top of that. And then we put what we called the diamond hitch, was a heavy rope and it was made, it was a certain way of putting the rope on that formed just like a diamond on the top of the pack. And all you had to do when you went to take it off was pull one rope and the whole thing would fall off. But you had to know how to twist it to give it this certain twist on the top to make the hitch on the top. And that was the way we packed our horses.

Interviewer: Yah, but when you ride, how did you store back?

Eva: Well, when we arrived we would take down the eggs and the butter, were taken into the house. And then the other was all put up in the cashe, which was built up on big, high poles, we had. And we fortunate enough that there was four trees that were a certain distance apart. Cutting the other trees out it left the four trees for the end poles. And then there was a frame put on top of that that was made solid of poles. And then the flour and the sugar and all the dried fruits and everything like that that we didn't want in the house was all put up in that cashe. And it was well built so as no mice, no flying squirrels, which we had lots of them there, no flying squirrels or anything could get into them. And a ladder that we could lean up against the and go in through the, into the cashe, and when we needed anything out of the cashe.

Interviewer: And couldn't you, the way you describe it, couldn't a bear or something, couldn't they climb it.

Eva: No. They couldn't have climbed it because they, well you see the bear has, as soon as it gets about, oh, a couple or three feet of snow on the ground, the bear go in, they hybernate. And nothing else could get into it, because the poles were all covered with tin. Anything, any tin that we had we never threw out, they were all split open and nailed onto the poles, so as nothing could climb the poles. That way nothing could get into it.

Interviewer: Well, did you have any problems with going from winter to summer? Forest fires.

Eva: No, we never had any forest fires whatsoever up in there because we were always very careful and we watched very careful on the counter fires because if we did have a fire we'd lose everything. We never had any fires at all.

Interviewer: Well then, I'm going back a little bit now, again to, I think we mentioned earlier on about wolves. Did you ever have any personal experience?

Eva: No, never did. The wolves were, if you come out, if there happen to be a wolf out in the, out, you happen to see one and he seen you, he would disappear. You'd wonder how they could move so fast. They never, and we never had any trouble with them. There's only one kind that I knew of in all the years that we were in there. That I knew of anybody that was ever bothered with wolves. But that was a young fellow going out for Christmas and he had his toboggan, and he had his dogs. And it wasn't him they were after, it was his dogs. But he shot the lead wolf and when he shot the lead wolf that stopped

them because, when you draw blood on a wolf or if you shoot a wolf and their in a pack they'll tear the other wolf to pieces, they'll eat it. So by the time they got that wolf all tore to pieces he was away off down and they never bothered him because that was, but that's the only time I ever heard of anybody, of a wolf a pack ever following them, but that was the dogs they were after, not the man. While we were in there I hear a peculiar little noise one night and I couldn't figure out what it was. I heard it several times, so when my husband came home I said there's a funny little noise and I says I can't figure out what it tis. I says it sounds like something humming or singing. I says I can't figure out what it tis. And he said well I wouldn't know what it was. And then while we were, we had gone to bed and I heard it and I says there it tis again. Well he says we'll see what it tis. So we took, we had a big flashlight, so we went out very quietly to see what it was. And it was a porcupine, an old female porcupine, sitting in the little shed back of the cabin where we have our meat house. And she was sitting there nursing her babies. She had two little babies, and she was nursing them she was singing, sitting there with her arms around them and singing to them. And just a little huh, huh,huh,huh, and it just sounded like a mother singing to her babies. And I had never heard of anybody seeing a porcupine in the wild that was feeding her babies before nor since.

Interviewer: That is really interesting.

Eva: It was very, very interesting. And another thing that was very interesting, when they beaver had their young, there was a lake that was just, oh, just a short distance from the from the cabin. In fact it was a double lake with the house in, their house was inbetween the two lakes. And we would go down and we'd go up back at this little nole and we'd sit on the top of the nole and look right down into the beaver pond. And the old girl, she would come out with a little beaver, oh, they'd be maybe about eight inches long, little bits of fellows. And they, she'd come out with one on her, hanging on her back and swim out get, get up close to the beaver house and it would jump off and shake itself and get on the beaver house. Then she'd go down and she'd bring the others. They usually have from two to four not many more than that. But sometimes she'd have two, sometimes three and very seldom you'd ever see four. And she'd bring them all out and then she'd teach them to swim. And she'd take the first one and she'd take it out and when it start to go down, she'd put her nose underneath it and lift it up and it would paddle away there and then she'd take it back to the to the dirt. And take each one of them, but you had to sit perfectly still, if you moved she would hit her tail and you could sound just like a pop of a gun. And everything would be perfectly quiet and they just laid flat on their house and you couldn't tell them from a piece of earth. On the beaver house. But that's the way she used to bring them out and it was very interesting to watch them.. But just let anything make a move and she would always go right down underneath and all you could see was just her eyes and it just looked like a frog, about the size of a frog on the pond. You couldn't see anything else but her, she would be right down under the water. And then 'till everything quieted down then she'd come up and swim back to the to the, to her babies again. But it was very interesting to watch.

Interviewer: Well, saying that you had to be still, did you notice there sounds of the Northern Lights. Did you ever hear....

Eva: Oh yes, we heard the, we heard the, I heard the Northern Lights and I've seen the most gorgeous display of Northern Lights that I think anybody has ever seen 'cause it was, you could look up and it just looked like a big flower opening up, of all the different colours, the pale pastel shades of flowers. Like it was just a flower opening up. And then the big streamers coming from the, goodness knows where they come from, nobody knows what the Northern Lights are, what they come from. But there would be big streamers shooting up all over the, the whole, the whole place would be lit up with the Northern Lights. And all different colours. Just looked like search lights going up and down

all around. They were gorgeous.

Interviewer: The star houses are more beautiful.

Eva: Oh, the stars are so brillant, and you can, there's nothing to stop them, up there, everything is so clear. And you could see them sparkling just like they were flashing. They would be so...And the moon at times you'd, it'd be so, the snow, everything was so white and when the moon was out, in full moon, you could almost read a paper from the moonlight it was so it was so clear.

Interviewer: And 'cause your days were very short.

Eva: Oh yes, our days were very short, you wouldn't have daylight 'till around about nine o'clock in the morning. And then at three, half past three in the after noon you'd have to light your lights again.

Interviewer: What about your summer time?

Eva: Oh in the summer time we had the daylight was daylight around, oh, day, you'd have daylight real daylight by four o'clock in the morning it would be real bright daylight. And then you wouldn't have darkness until around about nine ten o'clock at night. And then it really for a couple or hours it wouldn't be, what you call really dark, it'd be more like a deep twilight, unitl about three o'clock in the morning. But then it would start to get real light again.

Interviewer: Uh, when you looked back, you say you had, when you opened this you were saying that in your poem that your life had been different, before.

Eva: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you, would you do it again?

Eva: Yes, I surely would. I would again yes, I'd go through it again if I could. Of course I'm getting old now but, if I was younger I'd go through the same thing again it was so wonderful up in there.

Interviewer: What most now you can compare, try to compare what we have now to what you had then. What most appealed to you? Like the silence, the quietness.

Eva: Well, yes, the silence the quietness and your, well if you wanted to work you could work and if you didn't want to work you were your own boss you didn't have to work if you didn't want to. And we had some wonderful times in there. Especially when we were cutting hay. We had, we didn't have a wagon, we took and made a stone bolt of the trees that the, we found trees that had, when they'd come up it had a crook at the root. Well those we took and cut and made runners out and put poles across and then we hooked, had harness on two of the horses, you could put a harness on, the others were, could just, pack horses. But these two you could harness. And that's the way we brought our hay in. And we loaded it in, onto the, made the, put the haystacks up, stacks of hay up. And that we cut about seventy ton of hay every fall, we's cut seventy tons of hay after we went in. And that was stacked. And it's the first time I ever stacked, put in, worked on a stack of hay. But I done the stacking and my husband done the pitching. And I stacked the hay and it stayed, it never fell over, it was the first time I had ever done any hay stacking. But it had, got good results from it anyway. But that was the feed for, to last us from oh from the first of October 'till the 'till up to about May, we had to feed. So it took alot of hay for six head of horses, feeding twice a day it took a-lot of hay. And that hay was all cut by hand, with the mower, with the hand, with the sithe it was all cut with, it couldn't take a mower and you couldn't take a wagon in.

Interviewer: No, it was done by hand.

Eva: All cut, all cut by sithe it was all cut by hand.

Interviewer: It was alot of hay.

Eva: Yes, it was alot of hay but oh it was wonderful. And it, it was so, and you'd go out and cut the hay off and cut and feed it start feeding it, it was, oh the smell from it was wonderful. Because it was all, we took in timothey seed and scattered it, broadcast it and we had timothey and red clover mostly and the horses, it was really a wonderful feed for the horses.

You Know if I had to do it over again, although I'm getting older, if I was younger, I'd do it, go through the same thing again, because the life that I

had in there was absolutely wonderful and I had the most wonderful husband that anybody ever had. And we were very, very happy and we were both very dissappointed when we couldn't have the trap line any longer. But the snow, the snow shoeing was too much for him, and so then we left and came to the city. And I sure didn't like it after we got to the city.