…Brings fear to an individual. At times it is not, at times you just hear it as if somebody crying with mournful sound, sort of talking and at times it is not, sometimes it is a simply howling or screaming and it travels very fast but its not necessarily travelling with the wind. It can travel without wind, sometimes at night sometimes in the beautiful day. But sometimes some people would say there are an elder that still lives today in XXMiniskowayodaywusXX who said he had heard such things the human voice that he can, he can hear it in the gust of wind in the winter time, in the fall. And he said that it brings fear to him temporarily. And as it goes away the fear seems to go away with it. According to my grandmother, some people in the past (not too far distant past) have actually seen the thing and they describe it as a bones, just a bone, human bones attached together. But it has a lung and it has a heart and it also has a vocal voice, and that is were the voice is coming from but no flesh, but some of them say has some skin, transparent skin and it just travels in the air. More like defying the gravity. It was said at times that you know some people of found it stuck in a tree. Some times during the stormy weather or windy weather and it has a voice and it begs to be released.

Well, I’m not going to go any further than that, but it some people or see the thing is an omen or sometimes it is it an indication or prediction of disaster that is going to occur in the family those who have heared it or seen it. Sometimes it was not so according to some stories two men have seen it stuck in the tree and it talked and they talked to it and it answered back in their own language.

It even said that those two people will release it from the tree had asked it for that their life its gonna extend or to tell it their future and sure enough one of them has said to
one of them it told him that his he would live long till his hair is turned white and the other it told him that he won’t live long. There was a set time he was told that he was not going to live, and it did happen accordingly.

Well, so much for that. This is something that that is a mystery to the people and it happens recently it happens after the white mans have arrived in the Bay area. And the last time it I think anyone has have heared it maybe we didn’t, twenty years or thirty years or so. I cannot tell the name of these persons because I do not wish to involve them. But there is two different kinds - not only two different kinds, what I mean to say it to some people who hear it, not actually seeing it, they think that is the thing that makes the noise they say it has a terror voice which brings fear to an individual. And in time past there are the people who did not bothered by it and still they manage to see it. Now that is a mystery or whether it is a fiction.

Another one is a story about Windigos or Weetigo I think they call that in Cree. And this thing is it again it is in the shape of human form but usually emerges during the spring season after the sun has sort of melt away in patches. And this such thing does not stay materialized like an ordinary human being. It seems that it can disappear or it can will itself away. But it is very terrifying if it comes near the human being. It seems bother the people at times. At times it will not bother the human being, it will be just seen or even seen a track of it and then the track will disappear. Whatever it is it is a mystery amongst the people.

And then there is another story, which is most fascinating also. They call it the “Red Lipped Human.” It doesn’t add human but just the “Red Lipped” that’s all it says. This thing appears, usually they say, in the old beaver houses and it seems to live underwater. People begin to believe that the oldest or whatever there is a certain thing that happens when to trap the beaver. (When you trap a beaver the oldest – the old type of beaver of beaver house and everything which has existed for years usually you could kill easily the beavers the small young beavers and there’s three different kind of beavers you find so they – you can kill the youngest beavers last years and the second year and the third year and then the oldest. But sometimes you cannot catch the oldest. Sometimes you could catch the mother. Sometimes you cannot catch the mother sometime you can catch only the male and then sometimes the male is the one you cannot
catch and it is so smart – it is so clever, it can do away with your set, trap set whatever it is). And one time, so it is said, two men were coming around this big beaver house and as they approach it they hear as they sort of approach it they hear a big splash on the other side. And then they just sort of go around to look. All they see was a human form which looks like a human form and it has a head and face but the lips seems to have a red like open fresh or even scab it and that’s why they call it Red-Lipped, Red-Lipped being. Well this thing it…that’s as far as it goes but there are many stories to it, many others that have repeated the story it never, it never really believed whether it was true or not.

I’m going back to this Weetigo thing this Weetigo whatever it is. Many people have seen this thing Weetigo. Sometimes it has followed them in the springtime, in summertime but in the wintertime not too much whatever reason it is. I will come to that later some of the part to explain a bit more about the shamanism.

There were many other, many other things that occurred long time ago which was so short stories that they could not be, they could not be carried on, they just don’t go any further just that. It just seems to - very brief stories, very few sentences but they are very fierce-some amongst Indian people it’s more like a taboo you don’t talk about those things.

But there are certain incidents that occurred amongst Indian people that terrified them so much an they could never recover. Some humans, some natives could not even stay away from other human being they have to be nearby somebody to support them because they – this thing has affected them so bad.

And so these are the few things that I want to include in here. If anybody tried to explain about these mystery things they usually resort to this shamanism they say that some other person some other shaman is making, poke fun at them or because shamanism is something that is not very pleasant to talk about when it gets bad, but when its good its very nice. Like, like this, like when they try to explain about these things is that some shaman some people who have acquired shaman power were able to project fearsome object into the person they bother. So they can, they can they can make illusion something to appear to a person which they want to bother and this is where the explanation XXto-gama-go em geesXX mystery things. Some people try to explain that it all – that is a shaman the will make you see these things. Somebody that you might
have insulted shaman, without your awareness. So usually that is as far as the explanation goes.

I would have to talk more about shamanism. As I said I have talked about a good part of it and I couldn’t talk about the bad side of it the bad side is not very pleasant sometimes it is very humorous and it is very interesting sometimes but it is too long of a story to tell because I only have a small tape to record this because there are comments that I want to make which are much more important in my opinion.

Now! There is other things that are a mystery to me. The mystery would do with something that has existed amongst our native people – our Cree natives – not only Crees probably also had amongst the other tribes. That is the an incident that happens to indicate that you are going to be involved in a tragic accident or death things that happen to you, or to individual or to a group to indicate the tragic incident will come upon you or to the group in the future. It foretells the tragic accident. Sometime your relatives will die or your friends will die or you yourself will die. So these are the signs that let you know your, your tragic events will come about soon. So that is another mystery about the Indian people.

Another one is, this one is – is not related to anything tragic actually but it does really in a way. And going back to the shaman and practice in a part where they use a shaking tent. Shaking tent itself is not very common. I mean it was not practiced by every shaman, as I said before some people develop this skill of using or acquire the skill to use a shaking tent as a medium. The expert can use it to contact relatives far apart. Can be, it could be a hundred mile, fifty miles, twenty miles, ten miles, or even five hundred miles. I don’t know how far this, this radar system is going, that the only way I can describe it. And I am not going to explain exactly what many things because it’s too much of a long story.

There is a stories, many stories, that are related to this thing, related incidents amongst the tribes in the past, amongst our Cree tribes in the past. Not only Crees, the Ojibways and all the tribes have used that. And it was beneficial to the group, at times it was beneficial because it foretells what is going to happen sometimes it tells the future sometimes it tells the present condition of the their relatives that lives apart from the group. But the scan itself did not specifically go far. It didn’t prompt the unknown that
has not advocate to the tribes or to the person. That is the only shortcoming about this thing. Now, it took a lot of training to acquire such things. It requires lots of fasting, a lot of other things. Of course when the Christianity arrive, when the missionaries arrived, they condemned such action, condemned it to evil practice - the devil’s own practice. So it has been declining. I don’t think there is anybody in Canada or within the district that does practice such thing anymore. They did practice not long ago, maybe fifty years ago, such person who did practice.

Now! There is a big story about this shaking tent. Shaking tent, whatever this – it is not uniform again. Sometimes a group of people - a group of practitioners can associate together and use the shaking tents for the benefit or for the bothersome to other groups, of natives. Now these are the mysteries, which requires a lot of studies, training, research whatever it is if necessary, because these things do not occur anymore amongst Indian people these things are – these are the traditional things, these are cultures, part of the culture.

Now, another thing that fascinated me most is the way the Indian people have come about to bring about, to enforce the morality. But they did not create this thing themselves, the did not create it, they did not make this thing to happen. They just aware of it and they confirm it because it, it marks, it marks upon the life. So that is to, to talk about blasphemy – I think that is what it calls in English. Blasphemy, there is, I found that in the Old Testament I found that in the, in the New Testament also. But this blasphemy that I’m talking about it was not from the Christianity, it was amongst the Indian people before the Christianity. There were rules amongst people, amongst the Indian people. There were moral rules, moral laws maybe? At least there were rules to be followed for the morality, for morals sake. These, these rules they cover everything. They cover everything for the protection of the human being, for individuals. One of them was that that has fascinated me in a part where the rule says before the white man was that, that the Indian people or anybody, the hunter whatever he is, trapper, not to overlook any, not to overkill animals or not to fool around with the animals, not to be cruel to the animal even thought they want to kill it for their own purpose, for their own survival. Take for example the story about the three men. They are going to make briefly. The three men, they were very, very good hunters. One of them was
especially was very good, and this was recently. This happens when the fur trade was
around, when the fur trade was already taking hold of the people. And they were after
the foxes. This happened somewhere in the James, Hudson Bay area. And the men who
was trapping the foxes had the bad luck in one winter. He just couldn’t seem to catch
white fox, and he was after the white fox. And he was so mad he couldn’t get any, and
the in the one time in the summertime when he was travelling with his friends, in the area
where the white foxes have a den. They come upon this white fox, and he remembers
that he couldn’t kill it in the wintertime. So he urges his friends, he says let’s catch them,
he say let’s dig the den and take them out, we’ll skin them alive. So sure enough with
this enthusiasm, they tackled the dens and they blacked the ends and all that stuff and
they sometimes the fox will come out from the hole and run away and then go around for
a while and chase them around and then make them so exhausted then go back in the hole.
And the chased them, blocked the hole, again and then they smoked it out, and then find
the fox has to come out. So they grabbed the white fox because they were waiting for
him. And they grabbed it and they skin it alive, they take the skin off the body, they
leave it only in the paws and the feet and the head I think. And then they let him go
alive, and the fox run away, without skin, without fur.

That’s the story, and umm it went again into the hole and it chased it again,
they still didn’t come to grip about what he did when he was so excited. Apparently, they
start digging again then there was lots of holes in the den, and then finally when they
were trying to block the rest of the holes, the fox popped out from the other hole, and it
appears to hold the human hand, a human skeleton hand, just the bones. By this time, it
shocked them to see that vision, or whatever make them see.

There instantly they realized they have committed blasphemy. They were so
scared terrified and then they just give up, they couldn’t catch the fox, the fox just
disappeared again. And then they went home without saying, without mentioning
anything, they just couldn’t mention it, because they know they break the law, they break
the rule that they should not have done such things. The cruelty to they animal, that was
the rule that was forbidden amongst the Indian people. And then, in time past the same
three young men, the young people - they were not young one of them was married and
the other, I don’t know whether he married, but they were young men, whether he was
single or not. The next winter, they were trapping again and they were freeze to death, it was so cold. They got lost in the big whiteout and the three of them just bundled together and they sit there and they die. Apparently, nobody knows this. Only later, the next summer or next two summers, I guess next summer maybe, people happened to walk around. They know they were there, somebody said, they died somewhere. And one person walked around in the area and happened to come upon this foxholes and walked around the few brushes around, and then he came upon around the white foxes and along with the human skulls. Especially the hands, been eaten by the fox and then they come with the rest of the human bones, three human beings. And this they say was the blasphemy. Who ever told the story, I think one of the three had old the story what they did and when they were found, they didn’t, the fox eaten them after they were dead bodies. It was a close then that was a blasphemy, an act of blasphemy, punishable by death by nature. That’s one of the rules of the Indian people. Before, even after the white man.

Well then, the lesson of the story that I have heard my grandmother say: she happened to see or own relatives born deformed. And she used to describe to us what he looked like. It was a man. A big large man, and she says that was her uncle. Her mother’s brother, second cousin sort of thing. From a cousin of her mother’s son, whatever it was. And his name is George. He lives not long ago, probably sixty years ago, and the shape of his head was just like a seal. And his hands would not come, his hands at the elbow just smooth like a seal, like a fin. And they say this may have come about from bestiality. And that is another mystery that is something that is something that is forbidden, bestiality was forbidden amongst the Indian people, but they did practise. And they think that this is where the deformity came from, whether it was the mother, whether it was the father or the ancestors in the past. These happen in the past. It may happen in present day in any part of the world. That is the stories that are mysterious that are very sometimes horrifying to me. Sometimes blasphemy is something that existed amongst the Indian tribes. In action and in also in words. A person that uses that very severe word against somebody live to regret live to pay and that is the blasphemy. It has existed among the Indian people they believe in this. That is why the rule, the moral rule, was so strong and so forceful to the young children to listen.
And today these things are not used, today the old traditional culture is dying off these are not expressed amongst our young people today. These are the stories that I like to tell. Blasphemy the act of blasphemy has occurred a long time ago. They are stories that existed. I don’t know many of them.

[END OF TAPE]
[total running time: 30 min 19 sec]