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the Grand Council wigwam, then the people used to have a meal together, a feast. This was customary of Micmac people whenever they got together. They would have a big feast with lots of singing and dancing. The rituals made by visiting Chiefs and Captains are called neskkawak'n, in which the visiting Captains or Chiefs thanks his hosts by performing a song and dance and thanking and shaking hands of all the men sitting around in the circle. There was a big circle by the Grand Council wigwam which in Micmac was called kittoy'miktasek. The men sitting around in the circle are called soldiers. When the Chief/Captain performs the song and dance of thankful? ness he says, "I greet you all my brothers with a kiss." I have seen the Grand Council deteriorating for a long time and it seems that the people don't care. I have tried to keep it going. At every meeting I would mention it. There was one big meeting that was held in Sydney. I asked the assembly whether they wanted to keep it going or if they wanted to dissolve it. It seemed that people didn't have the interest and didn't care. I am still dragging it. It seems like I am alone in Cape Breton Island. If it wasn't for me the Grand Council wouldn't exist today. People don't know what it is and nobody has explained it to them. The last hereditary Chief John Denny was the one responsible for bringing the Grand Council up to date and maintaining it. In 1910 it was still going strong in all of Micmac country. (How has Chapel Island Mission changed over the years?) What has changed is the Grand Council is gone. What is keeping the Grand Council is the St. Ann's organization, that is all. That is what is holding it together. I've seen it this year: St. Ann brought a lot of people to the island this year. Some people were spending more time on the island. Some of them have spent two Sundays in Chapel Island and a lot of people were present for the procession and all through the mission. (Are you saying that the Grand Council played two roles--the political and religious--and that the political aspect of it is gone?) Yes. I have worked for the Grand Council a long time. I used to write for my father and read his letters. He was a Captain for 25 years. My father used to get letters from the Grand Chief John Denny. These letters were sent out before feast days like Christmas, Easter, etc. When Advent started four weeks before Christmas people

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