

**Jimmy LaRoque, Guy Blondeau, Sherry Farrell-Racette**

**Video 1**

**Start: 13.54.28.27 Sherry Farrell-Racette:** I guess. "Following a number of short speeches, most of those recalling the days of eighty years ago and more, the tables were cleared, the floor made ready, and time honoured eight hand reel music by an old fiddler started these old timers into difficult steps, whirls of a dance that few people can execute correctly." That's something that I've heard people talk about. You know, that there's sort of with the dancing that there, that they did it before, it was done sort of properly or whatever. Do you ever recall seeing some of the real old people jigging?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** I, I always said too bad we didn't have video cameras at that time. I've seen square dances at night, you know, Saturday night, and beautiful dancing. Not like you see on TV, you know, mechanical stuff. Then it was smooth and went with the music, eh, but, and I said, oh I think when I see it on TV, "Holy hell, why, why didn't we have TV cameras at that." Could take a picture of these 'cause they were in a shack, they weren't in a house, you know. They were in a play I told you about besides this and square dancing, eh? Everybody else outside and square dancing going on inside, but beautiful, just, just beautiful, and that's what they talk about then, you see that.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Yeah.

**Jimmy LaRocque:** It smooth with the music they danced with, to music, not when you I remember to book the dancers on TV, with Don Messer, okay. Everything was nice, but it was 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, that sort of, the whole dance was 1, 2, 3, eh? It's alright. That's the way they dance now. Whatever. But these old people I'm sure don't say 1, 2, 3, when they were dancing. They danced beautiful [?] and of course some of those old, old ladies, like old lady

Cavanaugh. I always laugh. I said she was 102, but she could jump up and go to that door just as fast as you could. She'd jump up and move not far, but I saw her at home one time and the picture of her and my dad sitting together, and my dad got up and she jumped up right with him and walked like, and 102, eh. And I was standing there, and [?] with they say something you don't realize what you're witnessing until fifty, sixty years, or a hundred years later then.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Yeah, then you think, yeah, that was amazing. I know there was a, an older lady from the valley who must have been ninety, and she won at Batoche, probably in the 1980s, Mrs. Pelletier. A number of people talked about especially the, the women, the older women, how they danced. That's what I noticed, too, but what about jigging? Different steps?

**13.57.17 Jimmy LaRocque:** Well, [?] we were talking to him last night about, about Red River Jig, eh? The versions are different. One version is [?], one version of this, but you want to dance, some women were pretty, pretty good dancers 'cause when you played the Red River Jig, the man, the man jigged a certain part and the woman jigged, jigged another part, eh, of that same tune, eh? And, you know, he'd be playing his [?]. Playing the music and they match it to the man, that's, that's a [?]. He's just gonna give and she'd be following his step, you know, step for step she'd do the same. Okay, almost this dance would change tune a little bit, and then she'd start dancing and she'd just trot around. And I don't know what you call it, kinda shuffle around though. Around like that until all [?], start up the, the tune again, and he'd, he'd step dance and she'd step dance with him.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Would she go around him?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Not around him, but around, let's say he was here dancing and the fiddle player would be there or whatever—you decide. She'd be dancing over here, eh, and he'd be dancing, and she'd dancing, watch his

steps and she'd step the same as him. Keep on [?], and all at once he'd change his tune and she'd stop dancing, and she'd go, go this way, yeah, and stop and turn, come back this way. By that time, he get a little rested up and he'd start to play the fast part again, and he'd be jigging, but that jigger would be jigging and she'd take, call to him.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Who was the best jiggers that you remember as a, you know, among the older people?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Parisiennes and Charettes. They wear the shirt and [?] Charette, he had two brothers, but the brothers were lost, two things. But [?] Charette was the youngest and he could dance like never before. But the Parisiennes, the, the Norman Parisienne, or Boo Parisienne we'd call him, he could dance. You could put something on his shoulder and never fall off. That was a test of how good a dancer, you put something here and then stay there. He kept jigging, you were a good dancer.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** What would you put there?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Well, a matchbox or a chip or some damn thing, eh, but it wouldn't fall off.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** So you'd have to be smooth?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Well, your, your, see your legs are going, but the rest of you stands still. And Norman Parisienne was at the home coming in Lebrét in '89. And he went home from that and died in November.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Danced too hard, maybe, eh?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Well, I, I don't know. But he always said, "Where do live, Boo?" "Winnipeg." "Oh boy, in a home there?" "Yeah. I'm, my wife's on the seventh floor and I'm on the ninth." "Why?" "Well, it's cheaper that way."

**End: 14.00.28.05**