

## Shooting Log

**Title:** GDI "Our Life"

**Camera Operator:**

**Camera:** Cam A-4

**Date:** 2000

**Location:** Crescent Lake

**Interview:** Grandma Pelletier and Grandma St. Pierre

- 0:20:09 Grandma Pelletier: "A long time ago when we were around..."
- 0:21:23 Grandma Pelletier: "We were in a nice place with my auntie and my Dad's sisters. We went and looked for twine in a straw pile."
- 0:21:36 Grandma Pelletier: "He had a little knife. He went and cut some willows. He went up the hill where the prairie chickens were dancing."
- 0:21:45 Grandma Pelletier: "They all flew up when he got there so they hung snares. All the snares were made out of twine."
- 0:21:59 Grandma Pelletier: "In the morning there was prairie chickens all over there. They caught them with the twine snares."
- 0:22:10 Grandma Pelletier: "There used to be lots but there's not that many now. You don't hear them dancing anywhere."
- 0:23:35 Grandma Pelletier: "We used to come and camp here lots of times didn't we? When we used to come and camp here it was just like coming home."
- 0:23:45 Grandma Pelletier: "Today now we don't care to come here. It looks too lonely out here when we're travelling down the road."
- 0:24:04 Grandma Pelletier: "Every spring we used to go out and dig seneca roots, trying to make some money. Oh we used to have lots of fun. There was a big hill and we were sitting around like this, a bunch of us. My old Dad, somebody asked him to play. There was a lot of us, about seven tents. They started playing (violin). An old guy said, "Let's dance." You wouldn't believe we danced all night till day light, right on the grass."
- 0:25:44 Grandma Pelletier: "In the morning, just like a little path all over where we danced. We used to have a lot of fun moving around. Everything was open around here."

- 0:25:49 Grandma Pelletier: "All this way, Melville it was all open. We used to go all over. Fall time we'd go down the valley. The spring time, we'd come up, go digging seneca roots."
- 0:26:01 Grandma Pelletier: "Hunting coyotes, cutting bush. Then when it's fall time we'd go back down the hill again, we'd come back up."
- 0:26:23 Grandma Pelletier: "We'd plaster in the fall, when it was cold."
- 0:26:35 Grandma Pelletier: "They were the boss of themselves along time ago. Nobody was the boss of you, you did what you want. We were the boss of ourselves. We didn't have to pay for nothing."
- 0:26:55 Grandma St. Pierre: "Everything's expensive today. Look at the butter, 20 cents a pound for butter. 20 cents, that's a whole pound, not lard, butter. It's a fright now what this white man did. They're sure not helping us any."
- 0:27:10 Grandma St. Pierre: "They spoiled it, they just spoiled it, they just spoiled us."
- 0:27:54 Grandma Pelletier: "Kids used to work. They used to cut wood, haul wood at night and make fire in the morning, cause it was cold in the morning. They hauled snow for water."
- 0:28:00 Grandma Pelletier: "Kids used to work lots. Today, now they don't work. They don't believe you, they figure you're telling fairy tales."
- 0:28:12 Grandma Pelletier: "They believe nothing now."
- 0:28:16 Grandma Pelletier: "They laugh at us."
- 0:28:24 Grandma St. Pierre: "People used to be tough a long time ago, they never used to get sick – but now there's all kinds of sickness now."
- 0:28:32 Grandma St. Pierre: "The li boom was our best medicine; that was our main medicine years ago. Today, now it's all pills, gotta be a doctor now. Never got needles, never had a needle. In the hospital you have to get needles."
- 0:30:01 Grandma Pelletier: "They come and give us needles in the house. You don't know what they give you."
- 0:30:17 Grandma Pelletier: "That nurse went around. That nurse came to your place, you got a needle too."

- 0:30:21 Grandma St. Pierre: "Can't remember if I ever had a needle."
- 0:30:24 Grandma Pelletier: "Could you remember, last fall everybody got a needle, but they still got sick. Didn't help us nothing to get a needle. Needles and pills now. A long time ago it was hard."
- 0:30:58 Grandma St. Pierre: "Mom used to suffer us when we got sick. She used to cover us real good so we could sweat."
- 0:31:06 Grandma St. Pierre: "Cover us with lots of blankets. We'd sneak our toes out just to try and cool off."
- 0:31:18 Grandma St. Pierre: "A long time ago that mustard too we picked. That used to be good medicine."
- 0:31:49 Grandma St. Pierre: "We had a horse, we were travelling around. They said stop here go dig whatever it is. Don't remember what it was, but some kind of root."
- 0:32:16 Grandma St. Pierre: "It's not! It's not wild turnip, we ate wild turnip, it's some kind of root."
- 0:32:30 Grandma St. Pierre: "They said boil it and after they boiled it they put it in a big wine bottle to cool it off. They had to go up on the hill."
- 0:32:40 Grandma St. Pierre: "My dad was told to go get up on the hill so he had to lift up the head to open the mouth. The old man wasn't able to see, he was just able to tell us. It is my uncle that says hurry up, he says his horse is hard to handle. We have to open his mouth to make the horse drink."
- 0:33:04 Grandma St. Pierre: "We used a chokecherry stick, the roots of a chokecherry stick is what we made the medicine out of."
- 0:33:06 Grandma St. Pierre: "Not too long after that the mare started walking away, it started eating. The mare was okay."
- 0:33:15 Grandma St. Pierre: "Flowers that grew on the hill, that was medicine. When the horses ate these, they would get the runs."
- 0:33:25 Grandma St. Pierre: "The horse started running around and eating."
- 0:34:12 Grandma Pelletier: "My old Grandpa was the first to come out here. They come from the valley around Crooked Lake."

- 0:34:55 Grandma Pelletier: "Frederick's dad, those were the first ones to come out here."
- 0:35:00 Grandma Pelletier: "Two families, everything was all open here, there was nobody here, no people here. I remember the very first time I came here, oh, it looked pitiful."
- 0:35:16 Grandma Pelletier: "You could make a house anywhere at all. Wherever you liked it. If you liked it you made a house right there."
- 0:35:22 Grandma Pelletier: "Haul your logs and build your house. You don't have to ask anybody, you just go take it."
- 0:35:39 Grandma St. Pierre: "People weren't that hateful a long time ago. They used to help each other out. Today they don't do that; they're too hateful now. Long time ago they didn't do that, they used to help each other."
- 0:36:10 Grandma St. Pierre: "The Michif, when something happens to one person, they were there to help. They were always helping."
- 0:36:26 Grandma St. Pierre: "Today you can't feed anybody. If you get a jumper you're scared that they will report you. They're too hateful; people used to help each other before, not like now."
- 0:36:50 Grandma Pelletier: "We used to suffer here. We lived a long time. There used to be a lot of log houses. Today you don't see nothing."
- 0:37:10 Grandma Pelletier: "A priest is the one that did that, they called father Dales. They went to find work at the mine and they went around looking for houses to rent and they moved us there as soon as we left our houses. Here our houses were wrecked. They either burnt it or tore it down."
- 0:37:49 Grandma Pelletier: "Ever since then we have to rent and try and live somewhere. We had to go to a road allowance."
- 0:37:58 Grandma Pelletier: "It was the priest that did that. They call him father Dale. It's him that ruined Crescent Lake."
- 0:38:18 Grandma Pelletier: "There would have still been somebody left; they wouldn't have left here. They left it in the summer time, they sent everybody."

- 0:38:29 Grandma Pelletier: "But when they came back they were homeless. This is their home."
- 0:38:25 Grandma Pelletier: "Every time the fleas were frozen, bed bugs froze. Oh, but in the summer time, there was lots."
- 0:38:49 Grandma Pelletier: "Butcher was going to kill these fleas, bed bugs. So they took his floor out, then they put some straw in the cellar, but he put too much straw and burnt his house down."
- 0:39:16 Grandma St. Pierre: "He killed them alright."
- 0:39:28 Grandma Pelletier: "The Priest, he burnt some of the houses, and he wrecked some of the houses. He hired people to do that, but they sure didn't save very much."
- 0:39:43 Grandma Pelletier: "The ones that didn't leave their houses, those are the ones that still have them."
- 0:39:57 Grandma Pelletier: "They wanted to ruin Crescent Lake. They didn't want the Michif to live here; they wanted to spread them out."
- 0:40:10 Grandma Pelletier: "Ever since then, wherever you could rent a house, that's where you lived. A long time ago we didn't have to rent, we used to build our own."
- 0:40:27 Grandma Pelletier: "We thought we owned them but we were mistaken. We never thought we'd leave this place."
- 0:40:45 Grandma Pelletier: "But we couldn't come back because they already wrecked the houses. We raised all our kids here."
- 0:48:14 Grandma Pelletier: (chokecherry demonstration) "This was the way I was taught to do this, not with a little machine. In summer we dried them, in the winter we cooked them."
- 0:48:31 Grandma Pelletier: "You cook them in grease with flour and water. They used to be fast long time ago."
- 0:48:50 Grandma Pelletier: "Those old people, they used about the same size of rocks they used to put in a frying pan. They weren't no bigger than this."
- 0:49:21 Grandma Pelletier: "Mom used to make some of this. That's just the way we were taught."

- 0:49:54 Grandma Pelletier: "My Mother never used a machine to crush them. It's getting better all the time; she's faster now."
- 0:50:10 Grandma Pelletier: "It won't be long. She'll know that's a good rock she's using."
- 0:50:39 Grandma Pelletier: "You could cook them right away with a little bit of grease, water and flour."
- 0:50:52 Grandma Pelletier: "If you want to keep it for winter, that's when you dry it."
- 0:51:04 Grandma Pelletier: "Long time ago you never had cellars to can anything."
- 0:51:11 Grandma Pelletier: "Saskatoons we dried, we dried saskatoons."
- 0:51:21 Grandma Pelletier: "Once they're dried they're like raisins and you put them in bannock."
- 0:51:51 Grandma Pelletier: "She's starting too good already. She's learning."
- 0:52:20 Grandma Pelletier: "A long time ago, not like today, you don't see this today. Just machines now to crush the saskatoons, the chokecherries."
- 0:53:16 Grandma Pelletier: "You got to talk to her in English; she doesn't understand Michif. Clean your rock now, clean your rock."
- 0:53:45 Grandma Pelletier: "You've got to understand Michif if you want to be one."
- 0:54:44 Grandma Pelletier: "You dry those now, or if you want to eat them you cook them right away."
- 0:59:28 Grandma Pelletier: "They're making a blanket here. You sew like this though don't you?"
- 0:59:39 Grandma Pelletier: "Her too, she makes nice blankets this old lady. You cut these up, then you sew them together."
- 0:59:44 Grandma Pelletier: "You've got to cut lots of these, then you sew them all together to make a nice blanket. She could only make blankets. She makes lots of blankets."

- 0:59:52 Grandma Pelletier: "We used to sew them by hand a long time ago. Today it is just straight machine. It used to take a long time when you do it by hand. A long time ago everything was by hand, nothing was by the machine. You didn't think it took a long time cause you were used to it so... These things are called squares; you sew all these together. You made these things too didn't you?"
- 1:00:52 Grandma Pelletier: "When you had different coloured squares, them you sew them all together."
- 1:01:20 Grandma Pelletier: "They used to sew blankets and they used to make big gardens."