

## Transcribed by David Morin

### GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE FOLKLORE INTERVIEWS

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#### Videotape 2

**(Video Time: 15:17.53.29) SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Was there any protocols around storytelling and learning to tell stories, you know, like there is in First Nations tradition? Do you recall?

**0.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well if you did exchange, like gifts, well we never were never aware of it. Like if you were, you were always supposed to be sharing and giving. You just, you didn't just do it for specific reasons in the Michif world, especially where I grew up. Like if, if Grandma and Grandpa, or whomever, thought you deserved a story or some really, something that really they shared and they would cherish and they would share it with you because you deserved it. You know they would know to share with you. Like if you brought Grandma and Grandpa's wood in for instance or you did certain things, those were some of the protocols. Like if you went and got some wood that day together or you went hunting with them or trapping or doing something with Grandma and she felt that she should share something with you and there was a need, it was based on a need, that's when they'd actually do it. Like a bedtime stories, you know, those kinds of things. But you had to deserve those kinds of things too, like I mean if, in terms of protocol people didn't just give you anything just out of the blue. It was something that they wanted to share with you and it was part of the teaching.

**1.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, and I think it was the same for us as well. It was the same for just about all over, wherever the Michif, the Métis were. You know, the same thing was, went for us as well.

**(Video Time: 15:19.32.22) 1.9 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So if someone felt that a child had earned a story or the occasion sort of required it. And then plus, did you find that the stories were also used to create bonds within the family? That when storytelling was a way of sort of making family? Do you know what I mean?

**2.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well I think it did. It really did, you know, it really bonded families together all these stories tell them. 'Cause a story meant something, it always have to mean something. You know, it wasn't just a story. They didn't just tell a story for the sake of telling a story. You know, it had, it had a meaning.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It was always a reason.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – There was always a reason behind it.

**2.8 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - When you were little did you always know the reason behind it or did that come to you later?

**2.9 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well no that came later. No. We were just, when we were just young kids that were just interested in listening, you know, that, 'cause I was always interested in stories regardless who told them, you know, especially stories about years ago, way in the past, and things that happened. I was always interested in that.

**3.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - It was entertainment. It was a form of entertainment, but I think I know with my experiences and even with myself today, you never invent stories or you never try to invent or create an, an

environment or an atmosphere, there's gotta, and in order to do that there has to be a special time in your mind and your heart and then it'll come out, it'll flow.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And it just sort of...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It just comes out. Like, I, I can't just go and talk about something just like that at the spur of the moment. There's gotta be, you'd call it an atmosphere, it's gotta be the right time, it's gotta be prime, and then you talk about. It's like talking about for instance at home with my, with my Mom and her sisters, they would talk about different things, but their healing and their wellness was each other. Like, I could see those ladies, they'd cry together, and it was normal, it was totally acceptable. Nobody says what the hell are they crying for, you know, and stuff, nobody...**(Inaudible)**...it was part of our growing up, it was the way that was part of their healing and they would say **(speaks Michif 4.6 – 4.7)**. You know, you gotta, like putting a fire out, whatever's in your heart you gotta learn to heal. You know and, and we were, we were, like that was part again of I guess, psychiatry. They were therapists, that was our therapy. And, you know, and, that's how they did it at home, that's how they're, that's how they healed when they were hurt.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - See that's what I, I...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - The crying was an emotional time and you had to cry because that was in you and you had to get that out because that was a load that was there and it was in your way, you had to get it out of your mind. And people were willing to talk about things more in those days. At the dinner table was a right place...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Around like when you're...

**(Video Time: 15:22.52.25) NORMAN FLEURY** - Or together, or in the evening or if you were just visiting, you know, if you were playing cards they might just joke, that night will be all the joke night, it'll be just joke night. Another night somebody will be, and they'd stop and say, **(speaks Michif 5.7 – 5.8)**. You know, something's bothering me, I'd like to talk to you about it. And they, that's when it would, it would come out, you see those were the kind of things you could not invent those kinds of things, it was a purpose was there for that time and place, and I remember those times were there. And I remember another thing that they do is when they were singing songs like at certain occasions and those songs brought back memories and some of them would laugh, some would cry. It was all the time of a therapy, as this therapy they were doing it was a healing process. We talk about healing today, well that's how people healed, that was their wellness. Like that's, that was the way they worked you know, so like I mean, when you talk about protocol or we're talking about protocol here, that was sometimes those kind of things occurred at the special time eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - But it couldn't be predicted?

**NORMAN FLEURY** – No, no, no.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And it couldn't sort of be created artificially?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - No, no cause it wouldn't work.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It wouldn't.

**6.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It was just sort of when the occasion was right when that person felt like speaking or when that story was appropriate?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya. Exactly.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I would think too that as, like as if you describe yourself both as you know, as children interested in learning about history and interested about, you know, time before, that the adults then would have known that you were interested in learning about the past. And so when they would see you, you know, they would have maybe a story that they would be ready to pass on to you because you'd see that interest you know. So you're the student and they're the teacher, this one wants to learn our history so then we're gonna teach, teach this one.

**(Video Time: 15:24.53.00) 7.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - I notice the old people at home didn't fool around. They had no time of the day for you if you're just gonna take their time and fool around they didn't want you there.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh is that right?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They'd say, **(Speaks Michif)**, but if they knew you were interested, especially the older people, they would open up and share with you. If they knew that this person is interested and this person will learn from what, they were more than willing to share.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - How would they know?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They seemed to have sensed it.

**7.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well they can sense it, well you know, they can sense when somebody's not serious and when somebody's serious, they can sense that. And I think it's easy to tell.

**8.0 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Show your respect.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Be helpful, like you talk about, bringing in wood, hauling water is one that I've heard. You know, you go and kind of work for that person, be, be good to that person and then be rewarded with those teachings that you were demonstrating an interest.

**8.3 NORMAN FLEURY** - Exactly, that's the word, that you're rewarding. Ya they would reward you with something. Or I remember they would even feed you eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, oh ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - They'd feed ya?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They'd feed a little kid come into their place and they'd say, **(Speaks Michif)**, you must be hungry, this little boy, feed him. So they'd, they'd feed you whatever. It didn't have to be sweet. It could be anything that they had, but they would feed you.

**8.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Whatever they had, whatever they had. If all they had was bannock, that's what you'll get.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And tea.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's all they had, bannock and tea, if that's all they had then that's what you'll get. They'd give you whatever they had. They'll share with whatever they had.

**9.0 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So whenever people were together like eating food, playing cards or sitting around visiting around, you know, a fire or something then, then that would probably be the time of the stories.

**9.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - It would trigger off whatever was gonna have to transpire ya.

**(Video Time: 15:26.34.24) 9.2 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And then whatever, it's almost like how it would start like, you had mentioned earlier, if someone would start with a Rou Garou story then probably someone else would have one and someone else would have one and that night when all be...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That, that would all be straight Rou Garou stories.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And same thing with the jokes, if it was with the jokes then that, you would just, one would build...

**9.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And of course the jokes would get a little, little later when the kids are in bed it gets...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh so you get wilder and wilder?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They get a little wilder.

**9.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - They were always conscientious of the people that was around them eh? **(Speaks Michif)** There's kids here.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Kids are here so watch.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Be careful.

**10.0 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So they had um, like those kinds of protocols like what was appropriate...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Exactly.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, exactly.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - For that, who was there, but you know...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, depending on who was there.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ya, so, this is for a different age, you'd know this and if the kids were in bed then. So always, and also when you had mentioned earlier about, what age you were when, you know...**(Inaudible)**...were there when the animals were giving birth and that kind of thing, that, just that sense of what is appropriate at different ages.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Different ages, stages.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So people had a, you know, a sense of what children needed at different times of their lives.

**(Video Time: 15:27.49.10) 10.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - See and the ladies also visited, the ladies had their night. And the men would be over here smoking or whatever, they'd visit. And the ladies would be visiting. There was nights like that. And then there was nights that you all got together.

**10.9 GILBERT PELLETIER** - They'd smoke their kinickinic. You know, I remember my Dad tobacco, you know, scraping that red willow and mixing it with his tobacco. So he'd get just about twice as much from a can as he would smoking straight.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So you remember that?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, he did that lots of times. You know, he'd buy a can of tobacco and then he'd go get a bunch of red bull and then he'd peel



them and then put them on top the stove which those would kind of dry it up, and then he'd mix it in with his tobacco. You know, then he'd smoke that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That would have a distinct smell.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya.

**(Video Time: 15:28.37.22) 11.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was times also, you'd, at home I remember with my Grandparents when we were there, Grandma would be sewing, or she'd be braiding mats or making hook rugs, and Grandpa would either be smoking. And he, he was able to read the French, so he'd be reading his bible, the little missal. And us kids, we would be outside playing or we would be doing our homework and it was a night that was quiet, it was a quiet night, you have to learn to appreciate silence also. You had to learn to appreciate silence, silence was part of your life. Or they'd be sitting, the lamp was off or they'd have just, a lamp very low, and those stoves they had, you could see the fire.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You could see the fire, you could see it flapping, you know.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And you'd sit there and you'd look into the fire and you'd meditate. That was another thing you'd do again.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So you would have quiet periods?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Yes. Ya, ya, it was quiet periods of time and then sometimes it'd be a...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Your mind would be somewhere else when you're staring at that fire.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya. So that was another lesson I guess. How to appreciate silence, you know, because it's also a teaching.

**12.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** – They, they had so many different ways, you know, of teaching and teaching the younger people. I don't know if they even realize it, what exactly what they were doing, but, you know, it really, it was really teaching the younger generation.

**13.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - But it's generational too eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya it is generational too ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – Passed on like we were saying before, we took everything for granted so, we...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Well, when we were young...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was just a point of life.

**13.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya we took everything for granted because we never thought well you know, this is the way it's gonna be all the time.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - This is the purpose.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - This is the purpose of this and this, you know, we just took things for granted at that time.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That it will always be like that?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, and now look what we're doing today.

**(Video Time: 15:30.39.02) 13.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Well, like I can think of things, like there were, that you can see bits and pieces of that, that had survived. But like you say, it's harder to maintain it, but I think that the, that, that Michif style of telling the stories when they're appropriate and sort of the occasion demanding the story. You did mention though that there were some stories that were only told in the winter.

**14.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - That was the protocol.

**14.2 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That it was in the wintertime?

**NORMAN FLEURY** – Wintertime.

**14.2 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well ya, because, you know, well look, it's lot, it gets dark lot quicker in the, in the winter than it does in summer.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – (Speaks Michif.)

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, ya.

**14.4 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What's a translation?

**14.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - I said don't tell those legends now cause it'll snow.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ohhhhhh.

**14.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Save it for winter.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It would make it, it would make it snow?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – It would make it snow, so save it for winter.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Well that's when you'd really appreciate them you know, when you think of it, now like, how it is...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Because you see it gets dark early so we, you'd have time, you wouldn't have to go to bed too early.

**(Video Time: 15:31.43.15) 14.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was times like where they would, it would be history time. Like the history of the Métis people and their survival and their experiences and, and, and how they, they talk about Louis Riel.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes I heard stories of Louis Riel growing up.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And they talk about the, the movement, the resistance, and, you know, we'd hear those kinds of things.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Was that done at a certain time of year or was that kind of all the time?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - No, just whenever.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Whenever?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, you know, like it might be, maybe at Remembrance Day.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Right, 'cause it was around there.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, was around that time, or there was certain stories that were told.

**15.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - You know, and the way they measured distances. You know, if you put a horse up on a hill and you could see under his belly, that's a mile.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - That's a mile.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's, they used to race as well. You know, people used to race horses. They didn't have racetracks like they do today, but they used to race them out there, but that's the way they measured a mile.

**15.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - They call it Indian racing because they were bareback.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh right, ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was no saddles.

**16.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well I guess the reason for that, they couldn't afford a saddle.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They couldn't afford a saddle.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They had no money eh?

**16.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - But the bareback was the way to go.

**16.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, that was the way to go, I mean that's the way we learned to ride horses.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Is bareback?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Bareback. We used to ride horses all the time.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So if you could see, how did that go for a mile?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - If you could see under the horse's belly.

**16.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - From a distance.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - From a distance.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And you knew that was a mile.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That was then that horse was a mile away.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Okay, I'll try that.

**(Video Time: 15:33.21.29) NORMAN FLEURY** - Or they would so many looks, how far you could see was a distance again, that's how they'd, they see distance.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh that's neat. How would you say ghost stories in Michif? Is there a ghost stories?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Well we just said, **(Speaks Michif)** was a ghost.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – **(Says word in Michif)**

**NORMAN FLEURY** – **(Repeats word in Michif then they both say it again.)**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - That was again the, what you call that again? (**Says words in Michif again**). Is the ...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - All Saints Day.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - All Saints Day (**Says words in Michif**). And then that was, they'd talk about li. I guess they called them the, what did they call, (**Says Michif word**). They'd say too, but it was more a skeleton eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER and NORMAN FLEURY** – (**Speak Michif**).

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So those would be told around All Saints, All Saints or?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya.

**17.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And see the ghost stories were usually bad ones. There was not too many good ones. A ghost was usually bad.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - ...(**Inaudible**)...something to be afraid of?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, it was something to respect and be afraid of.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Stay away from?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya.

(**Video Time: 15:34.40.29**) **17.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well they'd have different stories, like, for instance if you were going to, you had to respect where they thought there might have been a burial ground. You never camped there.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You never camped there, no.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You didn't bother that?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - No because the ghost would never leave you alone...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - They'd follow you?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - ...because you were disturbing them. You see, and those were, that's, those were the kind of stories they would talk about, about ghosts.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So they would teach you to respect that...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Respect that...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - ...and not to go bother that.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Yeah, yeah.

**18.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - But you know, even those days there was some bad guys too that didn't believe in anything.

**(Video Time: 15:35.25.29) 18.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes I suppose. Would they tell stories about them too? I know I'd asked you, one of the things that we had mentioned, just sort of referred to earlier in the day and that was some of the stories about the devil. How did you say that in Michif?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Says it in Michif, **GILBERT PELLETIER** repeats it, and **SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** repeats it.



**19.2 NORMAN FLEURY – (Says another Michif word)** is a female, but then **(Michif Word)** is the male. And they would talk about the **(Michif Word)** again it was a deterrent so you wouldn't get into bad habits of doing certain things, and they'd also talk about hell. They related **(Michif Word)** is hell, with **(Michif Word)**, and they'd also say if you were bad when you died, the devil's gonna get you and is gonna throw you in this big pot of hot water and make a good meal, so. So they'd always talk about those kind of things.

**19.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Usually the devil was well-dressed eh? He was a well-dressed guy usually.

**19.9 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So that's how they would describe him, would be well-dressed? So you'd look out for the well-dressed?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Yep.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did they ever...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - The well-dressed stranger.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh the well-dressed stranger? Were there ever...

**20.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** – Because it had to be a stranger because, you know, you could be well-dressed and people would pull you a good, you know, if he came with well-dressed we'd know he's not the devil. We'd say that's Norman Fleury.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - But if a stranger came in and was well-dressed?

**NORMAN FLEURY and GILBERT PELLETIER - ... (Inaudible)...**

**GILBERT PELLETIER - ... knew us well...**

**20.5 NORMAN FLEURY - Especially during Lent.**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So Lent was a time...**

**NORMAN FLEURY - And (Michif Word) too was there. But when you were bad, like I'd say (Michif Word) was there too. (Speaks Michif) was the, the devil owned him.**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Sounds awful.**

**NORMAN FLEURY - Well that's the way they were doing it.**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - But they had such a strong sense of right and wrong. It seems to me that that came so strongly through the stories, you know...**

**(Video Time: 15:37.43.12) NORMAN FLEURY - Well you had to be very conscious of, of your surroundings and your actions at all times. You had to be always on top of saying I'm doing right or I'm doing wrong or I shouldn't be doing this, and I did that and I shouldn't have done that. Those were strong morals that were built in you immediately and told you right from wrong. And we used the commandments as guidance, you know?**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - The ten commandments?**

**NORMAN FLEURY - The ten commandments was very, very important because again we're talking about being Catholic. Catholicism was very, very important, and it was not only imposed on us, it was actually, it was**

generational again, so it was just an automatic thing that we grew up in, with.

**21.9 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Couple of the stories that you told today sort of are, again, not against gambling, but, you know, in some of the stories you do too much so gambling would be one thing that was sort of discouraged through the stories. What were some of the other things?

**22.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - Glutton was another thing.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Gluttony?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, that was, that was looked down upon. Like lying was another one.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, that was, you didn't do that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So lying was...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, and, and hurting your **(Speaks Michif)**. We used to say like the, your neighbour like, you know, and that was a bad thing. Gossip was a bad thing.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Gossip was one of the worst.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Because you know, you could hurt lot of people through gossip eh?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - So they were very, very, very, down on that.

**22.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - But they were very careful what they said when there's a person like that around. You know, nobody would talk too much, nobody would tell any stories, you know, things would be very quiet and because they don't want, they don't trust this person.

**22.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - And that person would make those stories for himself, like the way he'd like to see them, he'd twist them around, it was a twister. Twist the stories around.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And you were talking about different kinds of liars.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - That person said that, but it wasn't true, you see, so they were very, very wary of that.

**23.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - This morning we were talking about different liars, you know there's some good liars and there was some bad liars.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Leg pullers, tall tales, and then there was the malicious.

**(Video Time: 15:40.03.05) GILBERT PELLETIER** - Like there's a lot of people that I know that tells these tall tales but they're harmless. You know, they're not out there to hurt anybody, and it's mostly about themselves. Not about anybody else eh? But there, there are those that will talk not about themselves but about other people, lies, telling lies about other people. Those are, those are the bad ones, cause those are the people that could really hurt people eh?

**23.9 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - But it just sounds to me that the stories are creating this really clear sense of value to the teachings in the

stories and the things that the, you know, like what you should do, what you shouldn't do, what is good behaviour. Very strong guidelines.

**NORMAN FLEURY and GILBERT PELLETIER** - Beliefs

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Very clear guidelines for a good life. I think this is one of the reasons why we should hang on to the stories eh?

**(Video Time: 15:40.53.05) 24.3 NORMAN FLEURY** - And when you were told something, you made sure that you took note of what you were told, because you're gonna answer for it dearly, you're gonna pay the consequences.

**24.5 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So it does tend to come across again in the stories, that's another theme you know, that you sort of hear in the stories that, you know, if you do something bad then it comes, comes around on you, so, ya, that's interesting. I just find it interesting just even looking at the stories that we, you know, that you shared today, that they had this very clear sense of teaching and you get the idea that through the protocols and the teachings and the stories that, you know, that they were showing young people a very clear way.

**25.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well you know it wasn't only the old people that would remind you of things. It was your, your friends, your peers would also remind you, and in those days, I remember going to town as a young teenager, and if I did wrong, strangers that I considered weren't even family, were allowed to strike me out. They could kick me in the rear.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh really?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Yes, it was acceptable and my Mom said, "Good, you did a good thing." So you were watched by other people.

**25.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Someone else could give you a licking and that's acceptable, you know.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - If you were doing wrong.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, if you did something wrong.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And your family would thank you for straightening him out.

**25.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - Or they'd say, **(Speaks Michif)**. I'll tell your mother on you, your Dad, and you minded.

**25.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - You never talked more to anybody like kids do today. Now kids, it's nothing for a kid to swear at you on the street now or something. Swear at you and you know, call you names and everything else. I never heard that in, in a Michif community because if you did, that person you swore at could give you a licking and you get home and you got another one.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Never talk back to anybody.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Never talk back to elders.

**26.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - Or Elders, you never did. And when we had visitors, like at home, you never ever walked in front of those people, you walked around them. And you never listened either when there's certain stories, you were gone, you were told to go.

**26.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you know, if you wanted, if you had to go across somebody, you had to tell, you know, your, your Dad, or your uncle

or somebody, you know, can I go across there. And then he'll say go, and then you can go.

**NORMAN FLEURY - (Speaks Michif).**

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, but you don't come back. You stay away from there, they won't allow you to come back.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You can't be running back and forth?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No, you can't be running back and forth, no.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So stay or go but...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You're never gonna make noise when there's storytelling, you don't make a noise, you know, you stay away from there. You don't go make noise, you sit down, you listen, but don't make no noise or out you go.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So they, that respectful listening was really strictly...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Exactly.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - ...(Inaudible)...

**(Video Time: 15:43.48.02) 27.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - When we were eating also, like the older people would eat first, and the visitors. The kids would play, but there was always food.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - There was always something.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Always they'd keep some for the kids, but the, the older people, the elders and their visitors would eat first. And then you would eat after, the kids ate after. **(Speaks Michif)**. Go and play for now. **(Speaks Michif)**.

**27.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - They made sure that visitors didn't go away hungry. If somebody visits you, you feed em, you know, that's the first thing you do. You gotta feed em, you gotta ask em, you gotta feed him right away. And you feed him before he goes home, especially if he's walking or if he's got a long way to go.

**27.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - And **(Speaks Michif)**. Take a lunch first. **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – **(Speaks Michif)**.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They never said **(Speaks Michif)** very often, that came automatically.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, that came automatically. **(Speaks Michif)**. They'll say, we'll drink some, we'll have some tea first, but then the food comes with the...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And bread or bannock, or whatever, you have a good meal again before you went home.

**28.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Before you went home you always got something to eat.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So when you got there, and then before you went home and if you were going long, a little lunch to take too.



**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, ya. Make sure you don't get hungry on the road.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Looked after each other eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, they all, they all looked after each other.

**(Video Time: 15:45.06.18) 28.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - That was what the extended family did, you know.

**28.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's, ya, that's one of the Métis traditions.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was a belief I guess.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Michif tradition, I guess so yep.

**28.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - One of the morals, one of your beliefs, one of your, that's how you lived.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - To be a good person?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Good person. We're talking about the sharing too, it, it's not with everybody, but a lot of people would gift you.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, oh ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - When you visit. When you visit.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Send you away with something.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, give you something.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Like if you'd say, "Oh, you got a nice coat," **(Speaks Michif)** you know. **(Speaks Michif)** they'd give it to you. It was nothing for them to, to give anything away eh?

**29.4 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And if a horse went down or when he came to visit and his horse got sick or it started limping for some reason. It's nothing, they'll give you a horse, you take that one home, **(Speaks Michif)**, leave your horse, if he's good he's good eh?

**29.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – **(Speaks Michif 29.7 – 30.0)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – What's that?

**30.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** – We'll see you in the morning. Said thank you very much for being with us...**(Inaudible)**...talking to us, we'll see you in the morning.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya. Gonna give you some tea.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Okay good.

**30.3 Silence 30.3 – 31.8**

**(Video Time: 9:00.27.17). 31.9 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Out takes like on those movies. So good morning.

**32.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - Good morning. **(Speaks Michif)**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Is that how you say it?

**32.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - How are you this morning?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - (Speaks Michif)

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I'm okay.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - I'm okay, I'm okay. You gave the wrong answer.

**NORMAN FLEURY** (Speaks Michif)

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Just say yes or no.

**32.3 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes, no, wait, I wasn't sure about it.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - (Speaks Michif)

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What's he saying?

**32.4 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Did you dream last night? If you did, what did you dream about?

**32.5 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes, my kids.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - (Speaks Michif).

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - My kids. And loud noises. I'm sleeping on top of the bar I think so there's all kinds of thumping noises and little kids running around.

**32.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - (Speaks Michif).

**32.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - There was no noise where I was.

**32.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - I had the same problem last night too with the kids running around and apparently a hockey team in town.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Oh right.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But ya, well, yesterday, we, Gilbert and I went for food and I guess it's part of our tradition when you're having a meal together, like we were talking about, that's where we shared a lot of our common feelings and talked about different things. And a lot of good things came out of that and as we were talking about traditions, like traditionally and that's where I think we used to exchange a lot of our differences and similarities and our, just our feelings and talk about different things. It really helped, it helped me a lot.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, most certainly.

**33.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So you were saying that you wanted to talk a little bit about the language or to explain the language?

**(Video Time: 9:02.15.21) 33.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya cause, like as director of the Michif languages I, I'm, and also a person that spoke this language, you know, like we were talking about yesterday, I spoke Michif as, as a young man, as a young boy, as a child. And, but I always was curious about what was this Michif all about because when we were kids, when I was a young person we were, we were li Michif. We weren't les Métisse or we weren't Métis, we were li Michif. And so I asked my grandmother I said, you know I said, I said "Nokohm, **(Speaks Michif)**." I said, "We call this Cree but where, where's this language come from?" And so she explained to me briefly she said, "**(speaks Michif 34.8 – 35.9)**". So, and it was, what she

was saying is, when God created man he gave them, he gave them a language. Also when he created the English people he gave them English was their language, and the French, the French people... **(Inaudible)**...when he created us, he also gave us a language." So she looked at our language as a God-given language, a spiritual language, and that's our Michif language. But also with other, li Michif, other Métis people, they spoke, they were very diversified in, in different languages, like they spoke different languages. But those languages don't belong to us. The Saulteaux, if you speak Saulteaux it don't belong to you, it belongs to the Saulteaux people or the Ojibway people. If you speak Cree, it don't belong to you, it belongs to the Cree people. And that's what in essence she was saying, that this belongs to us. This is ours. It was given to us by God as a new creation as a new Nation. So I always looked at Michif as this, as a God-given spiritual language, it's something that belongs to the Métis people. We could say it's ours.

**37.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** – And something that nobody can take away from you.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Your special language.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Yes.

**37.2 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did people speak about the language when you were growing up?

**37.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh certainly, the same way.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Same way? That it was special?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, it was special and it was yours, you know, it was your own language that you, you couldn't give it away, nobody could take it away from you. That's, that was yours.

**(Video Time: 9:05.59.24) 37.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And it's very, it's a very, so enriching and it's, it's very emotional when you talk about something like that because, you're talking about your ancestral right. You're talking about a right that you have, culturally, traditionally, as a new people. And a lot of people, I think, when, when we talk to different people they, they try to invent something about we, the Métis people and what was our lifestyle and who we were. Well when I grew up and where I grew up at St. Lazare, Manitoba, close to, the very enriching community of a rich culture in Ste. Madeleine wasn't too far away and Fort Ellice. And in Saskatchewan, we had relatives in Saskatchewan also and we were, we were pulled together by our culture. There was no such things as boundaries, like Saskatchewan didn't separate us or any other provinces. There was no such thing. Or the States. The relatives were in the States also and our language was the strongest thing that made the bonding between us. Even though I never knew Gilbert ever in my whole life, as soon as we met, we had a bonding because we had something that was very common, it was our language. As soon as I said, "Tansi," and I'd say to him "**(Speaks Michif)**" or I might even say, "mon cousin," and there's no relation. But we were powerful in our, our, and the relationship was so strong.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Because of the language?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Because of the language.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And my brother-in-law, he'd be my brother-in-law, he'd be my **(Speaks Michif)** or he would be mon cousin or...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, my cousin.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, and, mon frère, you know, my brother, and, and those were the kind of things that were very, very powerful at home. My Mom to this day, like well there's not many left now, but she's a 101 years old. But I remember when her first cousins come to visit, they would be ma soeur and mon frère, like my, my brother and my sister. And so like that was very enriching, like that kept us together and it also, it made you very conscious of your, your family, the family tree, and there was no, no incest involved also because the relationship of family was so powerful. You were told, that's your cousin, you don't go with your cousin, you don't marry your cousin, and those were again another teaching that was very powerful and you made sure, and it also was to do with respect like, very much so. And all the older people that were Nohkom (**Speaks Michif**) even if you weren't related to them it was (**Speaks Michif**).

**(Video Time: 9:08.50.11) 40.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, because of the age, there was, they're that much older than you had, you had respect so you call them Grandma and Grandpa. Grandma and Grandpa. Moshom, Nohkom.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You said the same?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya.

**40.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - Ma tante and mon oncle, even if you weren't related.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Even if you weren't related.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, if I met Gilbert and his Dad and Mom were there, I'd call them right away ma tante or mon oncle.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - For respect?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya. But even if there was no relations. And like he said, you know, we call each other cousin or brother when we meet each other, and that was a, that was as soon as we met each other, cause we had that special thing between us.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You shared a language?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It's the language.

**(Video Time: 9:09.36.29) 41.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - It was also in the family eh? Like my Grandma, like her older brothers and sisters, there's a special word in our language. It's, they would say, **(Michif Word)** which is an older sister. Okay, and **(Michif Word)** is my older brother. And then if you talked about my younger, you'd say, **(Michif Word)**. You see would be my little one, my younger one. And that's how they, they looked at the family lineage and it, and it also was for respect. And they would say **(Michif Word)** to, that was something else, they'd say **(Michif Word)** would be somebody older than you. And they'd use that, but I know my, with my grandmother, especially my Mom's mother, I, I learned a whole lot of who I am and what I'm all, what I'm about as a Métis person. And I still refer to those you know, although they're not used everyday like we used to, it was, it was something that, but if she'd always, she'd talk about her brothers and sisters, she'd always use that **(Michif words)**. And they were because they were older than her and younger and that was for respect again, to respect your older. And they had the older brothers and sisters also had certain responsibilities as older brothers and sisters in the family. Like if you lost your Mom and Dad, those people, the, those older brothers and sisters, if they're old enough would, they would take on the family. They would become your parents. And then being Catholic, your Godparents, they made an oath.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So that's who would raise you?



**NORMAN FLEURY** - That would raise you. They took that oath right away, because I remember when I was a kid they said well, (**speaks Michif 43.6 – 44.2**).

**(Video Time: 9:12.10.29) 44.2 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you know they'd ya, they'd do it without question. You know, they will, they will, they will take 'em in without any question. They're not gonna ask well why should I take you or why should I take this one. You know, it just came. And, and, and it's not only the language that we're losing our language, we're losing the respect that we grew up with.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Because it was part of the language how you address people?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Exactly. You know, and we're losing all that as well. You know, nowadays kids, it's nothing for them to tell you to shut your mouth or, you know, give you the finger, especially these kids when you're driving by eh? They like to give you the finger. Well of course we never had a car to drive by and give em the finger, you know, with horses they could always catch up to you. But, you know that's a, it was never heard of, to be, to swear at your, at your peers, at your elders. You know, just, and your aunts, your uncles, you had a lot of respect for them, you didn't swear at them.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Cause you saw all the older people in your community as your relatives?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Nowadays, your nephews will hit you, they want to fight you, they swear at you and...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They'll say hey you.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, they'll say hey you, they won't, they got no respect they won't say uncle. They'll call you by your first name, and which we never, never did call anybody by their first name. And now they'll call their own parents by the first name.

**(Video Time: 9:13.36.24) 45.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - Some nieces and nephews, they will still say uncle and auntie, because it's still strong in, but some of them haven't been taught.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Some of them hadn't been taught that.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They didn't have the same teachings, so if you had those teachings I think they do stick with you, especially if they were maintained in the home. If it was a culture that you had in your home, and it was part of the environment you lived in. But I think it was a lot stronger.

**46.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, that, well I try to teach my kids what I've learned as well. You know, have respect for your elders regardless of who they are, whether they get mad at you or whatever, you know, you don't have to say a lot to them. They're older than you are, you know, have a little respect. And I, I think they're, the most, the most times they got a lotta respect for their elders. And I never heard 'em swear at, at their elders or, you know, give 'em the finger as they drive by. Cause if I did, if I did they.. **(Inaudible)**... you know, even though they're on their own or married, I'm still the boss, and as long as I live I always will be.

**46.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - And that was a, that was a rich thing in the family, that was acknowledged, you know, and I know for a fact, because like my Mom that's a 101 years old, we dare not talk back to her.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Still?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - She's still the boss.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - She's the boss and she says it too, you know.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Whatever she says goes.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – And she'll remind you.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Oh ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – (Speaks Michif 47.4 – 47.6) with **GILBERT PELLETIER** (Responding in Michif).

**47.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh you don't talk back, you don't talk back to her. No, you, she gets mad at you. I've seen her slap my brother that was older than I was, you know, just went out there and just smacked him.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – (Speaks Michif).

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Because he had little, got a little too smart eh? And he never said a word. He kept quiet. He knew better so.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And that was part of it.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That was part of our culture though. You know.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was acceptable.

(Video Time: 9:15.49.21) **GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya it was. Like we were also talking about laws. We had unwritten laws that were followed cause we lived by them. Now they got laws, written laws that they break everyday.

You know, now that they want to have everything on paper, you know, well you gotta follow this law. Those laws are being broken everyday. The laws that we live by were never broken.

**48.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - They were the laws that governed the Nation of the Métis people also. And the lives of the Métis people, those were laws that you had in your home. You had laws when you went on the hunt, you had laws when you did certain things. There were rules, there were laws, and you lived and abided by them.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And other people would make sure that you followed them?

**NORMAN FLEURY** – Ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Like the older people?

**49.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, they'd remind you, you know, and you didn't forget because you grew up with it. You know, you knew it because you didn't have to be reminded all the time.

**49.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - And they'd tell you, **(Speaks Michif)**. You minded. **(Speaks Michif)**

**49.4 GILBERT PELLETIER** - You didn't dare make a noise, when they say keep quiet you kept quiet.

**49.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya. You know, and, and that's all, it was the law of the household too, and in the home there was a lot of respect in that home.

**49.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh in the home there was a lot of respect, you didn't walk in the front of anybody that, that was talking or you know to walk in the front of company especially. That was a no-no, you did not do that, you had to ask permission to go across eh?

**(Video Time: 9:17.25.08) 49.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - There was acceptable joking time but if you did something out of the ordinary, you were told, **(Speaks Michif)**.

**50.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - You know, you told jokes but they had to be clean jokes eh?

**50.2 NORMAN FLEURY - (Speaks Michif)** This is not a line, you know, they would remind you that you minded in that home. And because, and, and, you know, it was good because that's why it, it, they went from one generation to another, you just automatically lived it eh? You know, like it, it was something that you lived. It, you didn't have to say well...

**50.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** – And, you know, I can go from Saskatchewan here and go, go, Norman's place and it will be the same thing. It wouldn't be no different than it was at home.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Have you gone into the States and meet people in the States that speak the language or...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh certainly, oh ya. Well I got lot of relatives in the States eh? A lot, we had a lot of relatives that's speaks the same language that we do.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You can go down there and speak to them?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Ya, ya.

**51.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - Around Belcourt and...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Dunseith.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - ...Dunseith and there's Rolla and St. John, North Dakota.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They're all...

**(Video Time: 9:18.30.13) NORMAN FLEURY** - See before I was born and raised in St. Lazare, there's people, the Morrisseaus and the Brausseaus, the Langdons. As a matter of fact, some of those people were born in the States and they had relatives in Canada so they came back to live in Canada permanently. And so we had relatives on both sides of the border but we didn't even realize that border was there.

**51.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - The border was there, we didn't know the borders, we don't get, there was no borders for us. You know, there was no Saskatchewan Manitoba borders, we just went across, it was still the same damn country anyway.

**51.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - When you've travelled, how many if you think of, what's the furthest away you've been able to speak Michif with other people, would you think? Montana?

**51.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well I'll tell you, I went to Montana last year actually, that was part of our Manitoba Metis Federation and Michif language project.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh right.

**(Video Time: 9:19.22.17) NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was myself and another person that spoke Michif and a few other people with us and we were able to speak to this lady who lived in around Lewistown, Montana. And she was 93 years old, and she hadn't spoken that language for so long, but as soon as we start speaking to her, it came back and she started to smile. And she started to really rejuvenate and she got really into it. So she said, "Oh ya, that's the language we spoke over here years ago." So the language is way into Montana and south. You go further south I think there's three states for sure in the, in the States that spoke li Michif.

**53.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** - But those people are all spread out now from Dunseith and you know, they're all over the States now, so you pretty well find people all over the States that speaks Michif now eh...

**53.1 NORMAN FLEURY** – Rocky Boy, Montana is another place that they speak. But like again, like we were saying those are our same people that travelled on the buffalo hunt. Like when they, they moved around and for some reason they just decide we'll stay here. And, and some of them after the Louis Riel Resistance, the first Resistance, some of them followed Louis Riel into the States and they stayed there, and some of them never came back. So those are our same people that are living in the States.

**53.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - When you were growing up did you hear stories, like did, did anyone ever tell you when you were a child that there were relatives in the States, or did they ever talk about...

**52.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh, oh certainly. Oh certainly, that's, well my Dad was from the States so, you know, most of his relatives were out there eh? And when he would, while he was here, years and years before I was born but, he'd talk about all the relatives there and he went back. We went, we all went with him to, well the older kids went with him to go to visit his

relatives out back in the States. And, you know, he went, we went couple weeks or something that we were there.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That'd be around Turtle Mountain?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's when we did the Sun Dance. Ya that's Turtle Mountain. So he knew pretty well all the older people that were there, you know, cause he was related to most of them. There's an awful lot of Pelletiers there too.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes I've met some.

**(Video Time: 9:21.40.14) GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya there's lots of them all over the place eh? But I was gonna say, I went to B.C., my daughter was there, oh this is quite a few years back, and I went to B.C., and my daughter was living out there and they were picking these blueberries. So I went out there and this guy, I met this guy he says, he asked me where I was from, I come from the Arctic. He says, "What language do you speak?" I told him I speak Michif. Well he grabbed my hand he was so happy he stood there for years and he couldn't find anybody that was able to speak Michif eh? And by the way, he started speaking Michif and that's the only language he spoke all the time that I was there, you know, cause he was so happy to hear, to see that somebody else was able to speak Michif there.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Where was he from?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - He was from Manitoba.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - He was from Manitoba and he moved out there?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - He was from Manitoba ya, he moved out there.



**54.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - So our language is spread out.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya it's spread out now.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But the strongest speaking Michif communities you'd find mostly in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. That's, and if you go to the States I don't know how strong they are there but there's still some speakers.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They are pretty strong around Dunseith and that area, that's about the only area that... **(Inaudible)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But they're losing their language also, same as we are here. But as far as a, if you want to speak Michif you travel to Saskatchewan or to Manitoba, you'll find somebody.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Up along the border there?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, if you go to Yorkton area and Qu'Appelle and St. Lazare, Russell...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - St. Clara.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Binscarth, St. Clara, Bonny Creek. Some people at St. Eustache, St. Ambroise, Portage La Prairie, Brandon and, Regina, and Saskatoon. Like there's a lot of people that speak Michif, and Fort Qu'Appelle there's a lot, Lebret.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, Lebret or they...

**(Video Time: 9:23.38.02) 55.8 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Well in Fort Qu'Appelle there's a couple of older gentlemen that are starting like a Michif club. Just to get together and speak, you know, just so they...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Just lately they started that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ya, ya, just so that they can just get together and...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - I knew that, I'm one of them.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Are you in that? Ya, you're one of them?

**56.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - They, they, they call me, they call me in there, so I went.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And that's what we need.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - But they're, just, they're all of them are from around there, I'm the only one that's from not, from around Fort Qu'Appelle. But I knew Mr. Desjarlais for years, so he's the one that phoned me...**(Inaudible)**...

**(Video Time: 9:24.11.17) 56.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - It's to preserve this language we have to form what they call the **(Michif Word)** like language nests. And like groups like that and without the speakers you're not going to document and revitalize and retrieve the language. We need to have the speakers. It's very important because that's where the history of the culture is, it's with the speakers, with the people. And you take linguists, they can only do their studies but without their studies they're not going to be able to, to do anything. Like this Peter Bakker from Denmark who I work with and he

did his Ph.D on the Michif language in 1987, or '89 and he lived here in Canada with them, he went to the States and studied the Michif, he also studied, lived with the Cree just along, not far from Prince Albert. And he was adopted into the Cree family, but he was very, very good at really dissecting and really looking at the language sector and the different languages and he's the one that came to this own self-realization that this language is the most unique in the world. There's no language in the world such as Michif that's got two languages in it and the nouns in one language like French and the verbs in Cree. Like there's just no other language, and it's also a language that was just recently born in this world with a new Nation. So like it's, it's the youngest language in the world, one of the youngest languages in the world. So like, it's a very unique language.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I wonder when, when do you think people started speaking Michif? How old do you think it is?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Well if you look at the language itself, for instance, my Mom's gonna be 102. Her parents were born in 1873, they spoke it. And her Grandparents were born in 1840 spoke it. So that tells you right there that it's a very old language.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It was around for awhile.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – It's been around for awhile.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, and a hundred years is a long time, even if you just look at a hundred years.

**58.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you know that, well they used to be, we used to be known as Half-breeds. You know, but our Métis, or our Métis today they were just, they knew each other as Michif, not Métis, they were not Métis, they were not Half-breeds, they were Michif.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That's what they called themselves...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And they'd say well, you know, **(Speaks Michif)**. You know, we'll go visit these Michif out there. But they all called themselves Michif and they ask them what they, what language they speak, Michif.

**(Video Time: 9:26.53.18) 59.3 NORMAN FLEURY - (Speaks Michif) and GILBERT PELLETIER (Answers in Michif 59.3 – 59.9).**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - We speak Michif but now and more and more it's, it's, you relate your language with your nationality.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, ya, with your nationality.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And that's Michif you see, and that's how that became about. And there's another person actually, her name is Nicole Rosen, she's from Winnipeg and it's the first time ever in the history of Canada that somebody other than another country has taken time to do their Ph.D on Michif. And I'm her consultant, and she goes to the University of Toronto, she's in Ottawa right now and she's doing her Ph.D on Michif and she's a Canadian so, that's another way, another milestone in history for the, for the Michif language. So there's a lot of people that are interested, especially the scholars and a lot of people, the historians, and more and more our Canadian heritage is starting to realize that this Nation, that we never did much or had much to do with, have very much to offer and they're part of the, the Canadian, you know, the flag and being Canadians. They were here, they'd been here, they did this, these are their contributions and, and now they want to know. And it makes me happy to know that I'm one of those people that had that rich culture and rich history in the language.

**(Video Time: 9:28.49.07) 61.3 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What I find is that so much of the, like, just listening to you over the last little while, so much of the, you can really see when people talk about how the culture is in the language. Cause in the stories and just, just in the, like the ways that language was used every day, how you would refer to other people, it's like the important values. You can really, you know, you can really see that, how much this was passed on in terms of how you conduct yourself, what is considered good and bad, what is considered a good life or a bad life in a way, social control but also respect, and just everything was, was passed on through the language, when you start moving away from that...

**62.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - And they also had a governmental structure. You know, like similar like to what they had with Louis Riel and his government. And that remained with our people, they had a structure and it was, and it was passed on from the laws of the hunt and just the laws of government, and that remained in the homes. Like there was respect in the homes and people were, took pride in who they were years ago.

**62.5 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did you ever hear people talk about like how they used to organize and the names that they had for different things? Like what the, like, and I've read old interviews with people and they, but of course they were writing in English and they didn't say how they would have described it in their own language. Like there was, Patrice Fleury left a manuscript in the archives board and he talked about how there would be one, you know, they'd have a council and a captain and all of that. Did you ever hear anyone, what words in Michif would be used to describe those things?

**63.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well they would use words like **(Michif Word)**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – (Repeats Michif Word).**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And ...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - How would you say...

**NORMAN FLEURY** – (Michif word).

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – (Michif Word).

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, like and, there would be well, (Michif Word)

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well they'd pick a leader and they'd say (Michif Word), you know, you'll be our leader in our camp or whatever.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – (Speaks Michif). That's the skull, (Says Michif Word), you know, where things are and ...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - They were important eh?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They were very important and they would say, (Speaks Michif). That's the skinnners. And they, they were all organized that way. (Speaks Michif 63.9 – 64.0)

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - This one will look after the horses.

(Video Time: 9:31.23.29) **NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, and they would, say (Speaks Michif). So they, they would, they were very, very well organized. And this Patrice Fleury was actually, his relatives were of my relatives from back home, and he's the one that they always remember as he was involved in the Louis Riel Resistance.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Uh hmm, ya, I think that's...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And, and I remember old Edward Belhumeur and Joe Venne, they came over here and actually to Batoche, to go and look for relatives of Pat, Patrice Fleury's relatives. So, so they had that connection. They knew who they were, and they knew where they come from and they kept in touch. Like it might have been you know, like you were saying, there was no way of phoning anybody, but they, they had certain ways. They'd visit, and they'd travel. But ya they did have, they had methods for everything.

**65.1 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did you ever hear the phrase, what was it, **(Speaks Michif)**, like the guys that rode on the side, kinda sharp dressed. I would come across some of...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - That's like cavalry.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ya, like...

**NORMAN FLEURY** – **(Says Michif word)**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Cause they would, I've seen drawings of them and stuff, these are all sharp dressed guys and they would have, like their shot pouch here in this. They're flashy young guys with flashy horses and lots of stuff, I don't know if you ever heard anyone talk or use that **(Speaks Michif)**.

**65.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well just **(Michif Word)**, they had songs and the, the **(Michif Word)** in the songs.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - They would sing?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Sing songs. Put in the words like that, **(Michif Word)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So they would be, so I guess they would, those...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But also **(Michif Word)** was a boyfriend.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Yup.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh really?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, like...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So they're dashing young guys that's it.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Dashing young men.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Like you would say, like you know, **(Michif Word)** that's my boyfriend eh? My boyfriend.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And we would say my **(Speaks Michif)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE and GILBERT PELLETIER** - ...**(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Or **(Michif Word)** and we don't know where **(Speaks Michif)**

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Speaks Michif)**.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, like, we always heard that word and people would say well he's got a girlfriend over there. He's got **(Michif Word)** over there, **(Michif Word)**. So that's, and it's amazing that they use that. Paul



Chartrand was telling me they use that in St. Laurent also, and he didn't realize that we used it and other people used it, it was universal.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Yup, we used it as well.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So it wasn't just your town or your...

**66.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - ...In the States they all used to say...

**66.7 NORMAN FLEURY - (Michif Word)** But **(Michif Word)**, that's all we ever heard eh? There was no, no such thing as **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – **(Speaks Michif)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I guess everyone wants a hero eh?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And they always said things like **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You had to...**(Inaudible)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY and GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Speaks Michif)**.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Did you ever have a **(Michif Word)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - She doesn't want to answer.

**(Video Time: 9:34.27.05) 67.2 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It's early, you guys are gonna pull a fast one on me.

**67.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well see we got that advantage. We can do that, you don't understand it.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You could tease me in two languages.

**(Video Time: 9:34.42.21) 67.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, they used those, terminology was used, like you said, **(Michif Word)**, like there was a lot of the terminology. As a matter of fact my, actually he was like a step-uncle, but he said to me, he was Belgian. But he was, from like **(Unknown Word)**, what they spoke French in that part of Belgium. And he said, "You know, your grandfather and your family, when they speak French they use the old terminology, the old French." Where he came from, like the Parisian French, or the old French. So that said that, you'd look at the beginning of times when the, the French married with the Cree.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Whatever time period that...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, they use the old language and it stayed.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And it was preserved like?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was preserved, you know, that's the same thing as with the music. Some people actually from the Orkney Islands came to Norway House to get some of their old music back which they had lost in the Orkneys. They came to Norway House where the Crees and there's Métis living there. They came back there to get, to retrieve some of their music. We have some of our music, which is from the Orkney Islands. Like the Métis, the Métis tunes, and the Métis songs. Like Pierre Falcon, his songs are songs that we now still have, and there's some in the books, like Métis songs which were interviews were done by the old people, well the older people were interviewed. And there was a lot of those old songs, they're from Pierre Falcon. They're also from Quebec, they're also French songs. And, you know, the ironic part about singing, a person that can't speak French at all will be able to sing French songs, will sing those French songs. But yet they can't speak French, and they do a good job.

**69.4 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Which reminds me, which reminds me talking about songs, Norman's gonna sing us a song in Michif that he knows. Song's in Michif so he's gonna do one for us.

**69.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well actually they're French songs. But they're Michif songs.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - But they're Michif songs, but in, in French.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, French.

**69.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Do you, do you remember people singing songs that like in, singing songs at special occasions?

**69.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Oh ya all the time.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - But they were all in French when there was, when they sang. Even the Michif will sing it, it would be in French eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So the songs are mostly in, in French?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya.

**(Video Time: 9:37.08.19) 69.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - They were all French...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - All French?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Except for some of the old diddies, they called them, **(Michif Word)**. Like there's those kinds songs, or **(Speaks Michif)**

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Ya...**(Inaudible)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, **(Speaks Michif)** means we're gonna take a pillow and a, or a blanket with us and when we come back we're gonna come back with a baby, like that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That's your snagging song?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Snagging song.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's, that's our snagging song.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But those are some songs and they'd laugh, and they'd, they'd just fool around and have a few songs. And then there was the serious type song, so like, like I know like my grandfather, when there was especially New Year's, we were talking about that, that's when they old songs came out. Like the old wedding songs, and war songs and...

**(Video Time: 9:38.10.06) 70.9 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well I, actually, there's no different than today they have the sad songs, the love songs, and the happy songs, you know.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was similar.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We, we, we, it's similar, we had those songs. We had the sad ones, and we had the lively ones that'll make you laugh. And we had the love songs, like he just said.

**71.3 NORMAN FLEURY** - And war songs like Pierre Falcon songs.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – That’s a war song?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - War songs yep.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And, but there’s different songs like my grandfather would, my Mom’s gonna be a 102 and this is an old wedding song that he sang, but it was just one verse. Like that, we never, and our culture was oral, it was, it wasn’t written so that’s another reason why we lost a lot of our culture because we never wrote things, because people didn’t write.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No we didn’t, but nobody was able to write.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - So it was all memory, everything was done in memory, so you memorized things.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - If we have ‘em taped we could put them on tape.

**(Video Time: 9:39.11.02) 71.9 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So were the songs made up for the occasion? So, like would your grandfather have made up the song or was it a special song that was...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was a song that was passed on.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So that song was often sung at weddings?

**72.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - Like this song, it’ll go like...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Speaks Michif)**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - ...the wedding song, **(Speaks Michif)** they used to call them. You know, like my grandfather, this song, I remember just a verse, it

would, it'd go like, if I could remember it, it goes. **(Sings song 72.4 – 72.7)**. That's one verse.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That's lovely.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – Ya, and, and that was his wedding song. And that's a wedding song that's, my Mom's a 102, that's an old song, but it kept on going.

**72.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - It sounds good like this when he, the way he sang it. But the, if you translate into English, it's different. You know, it, it's somehow, like it has a different meaning to it somehow in English eh, than it does in Michif or French.

**(Video Time: 9:40.22.16) 73.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - And there's other songs they would sing like just little, when they were having a few drinks they'd sing a few other songs. Like, oh there was old songs I remember my grandfather, and the old people, like my Dad's uncles, the old Fleurys they were good singers. They, like again, they were the singers in the family.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They were the singers in the family.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was some that were known to do different things, but there was the singers. Like this one song is. **(Sings song 73.6 – 74.0)**. That's just part of a song again see. And it's like, if I had wings I was a bird I'd go and, you know, perch myself and I would sing. And, and then what did I do to you to, to make you, you know, so sad, or, you know, and the song goes on, it's, it's different songs.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So there were men songs and women songs?

**74.4 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, ya, oh ya. There was songs that women only sing, like, like today, you know.

**74.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - Louis Riel songs. And I'll get you a Métis songs book and this is what I brought with me and this lady that works in Brandon University, Lynn Whitten, it was under the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research, it's on the Métis songs. But Lynn Whitten she, she interviewed some of the people and she wanted to do some of the translations, and some of these Métis people that were interviewed were from Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the United States. Like we're talking about Belcourt and those were the songs that we still have amongst ourselves as family songs, and they're songs. But now people would like to, to translate some of these songs cause they don't know what they, there's Antoine Ferguson from Duck Lake, and John Gosselin from **(Speaks Michif)**, which he comes from Lebret, but he sings the song about the Turtle Mountains which is...**(Inaudible)**...

**75.4 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I, I heard about this song, someone told me that they used to sing a song about going to Turtle Mountain, that he...

**75.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - It's **(speaks Michif 75.5 – 75.7)** and that's going to the Turtle Mountains, and we'll wear moccasins and we're gonna eat pemmican.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Sounds good.

**(Video Time: 9:43.06.28) NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya. And, and that's the song and this one, **(Speaks Michif)**, that's from Crane River, Manitoba. And he sings it a little different, it's sort of a, an old song put with a new song today, like, automobile **(Michif Word)** you see, instead of **(Michif Word)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – (Repeats word in Michif).

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You see, it's (**Speaks Michif**), if you like me, we'll get married right away. And we're gonna go in the automobile, automobile (**Speaks Michif**), I'm going to Edmonton. And (**Speaks Michif**) you see, we'll eat and we'll drink. There's always love and eating both together for some reason, and drinking.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That's why you get fat after you get married eh?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And this was a, a rabbit song that's a young man, Blaine Leduc from Camperville. His, actually his mother, Grace Leduc is with our Michif program in Manitoba and they're Michif speakers. Some of the Michifs, and he's a young man that still knows Michif cause his Grandpa and Grandma speak Michif.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - How old is he then?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - He's, quite, not quite forty I don't think, and so there are still some young people, but that's because it is still a family language in their home.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Need to be speaking in the home.

**(Video Time: 9:44.32.21) NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, in the home, and like I was saying, it was a family language, a commercial language, and it was also ceremonial language. So some of the prayers and some of the singing, and you relate to, is done. And there's Joe Venne the boat song. You know, and that's, that's an old song and the people sang that around home, people became teary eyed too also, they get kind of emotional about it cause it brings back good old memories. So those, those, that's, I know this old man



used to sing this at home, old Ben Peppin was his name. He sang this song I'm told by my, my family, and it goes. **(Sings song 77.9 – 78.2)**. And the song just, you sing the whole thing. And you notice our people never had any accompaniment with piano or guitar, they just straight...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No, no, they just, they just straight singing, with no, no instrument eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Just a cappella, isn't that what they call it?

**GILBERT PELLETIER and NORMAN FLEURY** - ...**(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)**...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did anyone go like, were there tapping or?

**GILBERT PELLETIER and NORMAN FLEURY** - ...**(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)**

**78.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya they'll tap their, they'll tap their knee or something or their feet eh? Just to keep in time I guess too.

**78.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - But people used to sing too. Do you know any songs?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Can you give us a tune?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No, I'm not gonna sing that.

**(Video Time: 9:45.58.20) 78.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - Like my Grandpa **(Sings from 78.9 – 79.0)**. And then they would dance around and that's there **(Speaks Michif)** means, think, it's a drinking song there.

**79.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - See that group that started in Fort Qu'Appelle, the straight Michif hey, there was a dozen of us that started, there was a dozen of us when I first went there. And every one of them spoke Michif, and what we're hoping to do is to get out in the country and relive some of the, the ways that the Michif used to live. And hopefully we get a building somewhere, an old building that we can, just go in there and have an old time dance just with the violin, guitar, you know, the way the Michif used to dance. And we'll have people jigging and you know, and when we'll also have some storytelling there.

**79.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - See this song here **(Speaks Michif)** that's a Louis Riel song. And when he was incarcerated he, he was gonna write a letter, or his Mom wrote him a letter, but he was gonna write this letter back to his Mom and he didn't, he couldn't. So what he decided to do, he took his pen knife and he stuck himself and he used his blood and wrote her a letter in blood and that's what this song's all about. And Joe Venne, who is a relative of mine, he, he's actually a, a nephew of Patrice Belhumeur, who was a brother-in-law of Louis Riel, and they kept this in their family, and this is a real, real...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - How does it go? Just give us a line.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Well just a line here, **(sings song in Michif)**. And that's just part of it, and then he said, "**(Speaks Michif)**." See I received a letter from my mother but I didn't have any ink or a pen, which a plume in those days, **(Speaks Michif)**, so I could answer her." So he said, "**(Speaks Michif)**." And when, and also, she said, when she got this letter, she said, "**(Speaks Michif)**, let's kneel down your." And she called her children, she

said, "Let's pray, (**Speaks Michif**), let's pray for your brother who is in the regiment." And that, that song goes on, and that's when she says, "You know, we're going to die, we have to die, let's die as brave people, and we all have to die someday." And that's what that song's all about. It's a very touching song actually.

**81.8 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Were there songs that were sung say, at wakes or stories that were told at wakes?

**81.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well at wakes, mostly (**Michif Word**).

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, mostly prayers and stories.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And some stories, you'd visit eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, you visit, but mostly it's prayers. And that's where you'd use the rosary, when you say a prayer.

**(Video Time: 9:49.16.01) NORMAN FLEURY** - And this is a young girl who wanted to get married, (**Speaks Michif**) and it's a song about this girl who went and asked for permission, because in those days, like we were talking about, you had to go and ask permission from your parents, in order to get married. And this girl had found somebody that she liked and she wanted to get married, so that's sort of a love song like we were talking about. And the other one's a war song of Louis Riel.

**82.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - See the guy used to take the, their son to go and ask for the girl's to marry their son, that their son wanted to marry the girl. So they'd go and ask and usually they'd take a drink or something, they'd have a, give em a drink. And hopefully they'd, they'd soften 'em up enough that the, the guy will accept the guy for, to marry his daughter eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So who would approach who?

**83.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - It was the father.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It was the father that would approach you.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - The father of the...?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Of the girl.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Of the, of the girl.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Of the girl.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - If the girl wanted to marry the boy really bad or, or it could be vice versa.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But like, let's say, we wanted to, I wanted to get married I would say, Gilbert was my father, **(Speaks Michif)**. So **(Michif Word)** I would say eh, Dad, you know.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And then I would take him and go and ask.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You'd say oh I'm just suffering here Dad. [?]

**GILBERT PELLETIER (Speaks Michif)**.

**(Video Time: 9:50.48.05) NORMAN FLEURY** – Ya, that's where they came from I guess, **(Speaks Michif)**. They had different terms too. If you weren't married in church they'd say you were married under the blanket, **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER (Speaks Michif)**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Did you have a good time at your wedding?

**84.0 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I had a really small wedding, actually, a really small wedding. Didn't have much of a party, we had a good party with my, when my daughter got married. How long did weddings used to go on for in the old days? Couple days?

**84.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - Some days.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, and you'd party for about two, three days...

**NORMAN FLEURY** – My...(Inaudible)...when she got married in 1923, and she said it was the responsibility of her parents to make the wedding, and that was again another thing that the girl's parents had the responsibility. So they had a huge, one of the biggest weddings, she said, in that community and they, her Dad butchered a, a beef and a hog, and they made that all into li boulettes and roasts. And people came, ate, and danced, and that was for two days, like that, you'd say the Ukrainians had big weddings, well the Métis also had big weddings.

**85.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you know, regardless where, as long as there's a feast, you'll always find li boulettes.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Li bouletes ya.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's one of the main, that was all traditional foods, li boulettes.

**85.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - And you know, they were really very, very particular on having a nice big wedding and because it was a tradition and

we got the picture yet of my Mom's wedding and they had beautiful horses all dressed beautiful dressage with plumes and some of them used like **(Speaks Michif)** those are plumes.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, those are plumes.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They put them all on the head of the horses.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Speaks Michif)**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif)**. They'd use bells in winter, wintertime, depends on when you got married. And, but they were beautifully decorated and ...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Ribbons?

**(Video Time: 9:52.42.24) NORMAN FLEURY** – And the same as like, my Mom's father took her to the church and this, her husband's father took him to the church and that's where they met with team, with their, with the buggies...**(Inaudible)**...and then everybody, and then at the weddings there was going to the weddings, it was such an important occasion that like the, the slipper of the bride was taken and it was auctioned. They auctioned it off. And, and there was somebody that auctioned this shoe and you got the proceeds and you did what you wanted with those proceeds. You maybe bought a cow or bought something for your...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Where was, when was this? Like do you remember when was the last time you saw someone do that?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - I actually...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You know, or when you heard of it?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It's been a long time, and I think they did it at Dave **(Unknown Name)** and Victoria **(Unknown Name)** wedding, I think that was the last time that, that I remember.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Seen it.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But they, they, like for people from the Ste. Madeleine area, they were people that kept their traditions going for a long time. As a matter of fact they try to still practice the old ways of New Year's and, like the weddings. But those kind of things happened and, and also at the, at the, at the weddings, the older people sang the songs.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, oh ya, ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – I remember that. It was Arthur Bruce and this, I forget her, LaPierre girl, from Birtle, that's where I saw a traditional wedding actually. And the older people sang the songs, it was an honour for the older people to sing and it was an honour for the, for the bride and groom to have those old people singing.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So it would be like a gift to honour the marriage?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - A gift to honour them ya, so, so that's...

**87.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - This is St. Pierre, my auntie, she's 90 something years old now. I remember her Dad and he was, he was one of the leaders and he used to sing. And his boys took over the tradition of playing, he knew we were violin players, he had, he had a couple of sons that were able to play violin eh? And Arthur, guy by the name of Arthur, he was passed on quite a few years now, he was a great fiddle player, he was

our fiddle player in Crescent Lake when we used to have dances. He was always the one we called out to come play violin for us.

**88.1 NORMAN FLEURY – (Unknown Name)** St. Pierre, she said, (Speaks Michif).

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, ya, well that's, that's his brother that's, that was one of...

**NORMAN FLEURY - (Speaks Michif).**

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - But her, her Dad used to sing as well, her Dad used to sing.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So in the same family you'd have singers and...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, oh ya, ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Fiddle players and...

**(Video Time: 9:55.21.24) NORMAN FLEURY** - It's like today, you know, who, who's the singer and who are the, the musicians eh? So it was the same in those days actually. But, but in those days people were looked at, at high regards like, you, you didn't have to go and give them a gift, but they were somehow, they were still given something in return, you know, they were gifted somehow.

**89.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And we would go pick 'em up, you know, with the horses, of course, we'd go pick 'em up and then we'd take 'em home. You know, because he's done us a favour and we couldn't, couldn't give him



nothing else because we had nothing else to give him. But he was always there, willing to come, you know, always.

**89.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - And food was a big part.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – And food was a big part of it...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Because not everybody had the, the richness of having food. So let's say you had just butchered something or you went hunting and you, you'd give them something in return, those are the kind of gifts that we gifted each other with, but it was more survival.

**(Video Time: 9:56.21.26) 89.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And I think it, it meant something, you know, it really meant something to get somebody for, to get something from someone who went out and got it, you know. This wasn't given to him, he had to go out and you know, he had to, he had to walk for that, he had to work for it. You know, so I guess it, it, it means more to give something that you really earned yourself instead of you know, to have to go buy it and give it, it's so simple that you can buy something today and give it, you know, give it as a... But they, these guys, these people worked for it. They really had to work to get them to give that thing, and yet they give it away. They used to give horses and horses meant a lot to them because that was their only mode of travel. You know, and, they still gave them away too, and they had a lot of... I remember we cut brush with an axe, you know, five acres of bush and you can imagine how, how big five acres is today. And you try to get in there with an axe and cut it when trees were about like that, you know, and all you had was an axe. And we did that, and we piled the branches and piled the wood and burned the branches afterwards. You know, and that was, and we had to do that and my Dad used to work for horses and cows.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That's how he would get paid?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's how he'd get paid. And he'd give it away, you know, as a, as a gift to someone that came from a long ways or someone who he hadn't seen for years and, he'd give 'em, you know, he'd work hard for it and, so he just gave it.

**91.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - See the horse and the rifle were significance of survival and those were the most powerful things.

**91.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Those, those are the most powerful things that you can give away, because that meant your life. You know, a horse, you needed a horse to travel, and you needed a gun to, or rifle to survive, to get your food.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So for a man to give another man a rifle...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It meant, it meant, it really meant something you know.

**(Video Time: 9:58.30.00) 91.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And they gave things away, but, and one thing that if you gave a knife to somebody it wasn't good, you don't give a knife, you can give them but they have to buy it, they have to pay you for it. Because there's a danger, a sharpness, and, it could mean danger so if you gave somebody a knife they gave you something in return. It could be a pin, it could be a penny, they gave you something. So you had to exchange there when you gave anything sharp away.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So that had to be like ya, a trade or...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Because you could hurt somebody, you see, it could be bad luck, you could fall on it, you know, it could injure you, and, and that was the significance.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - But a gun was not looked at the same way?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - No, the gun was the same way, because it was a different way, it was survival, it was for hunting stuff. So there was different things.

**92.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - It would have been pretty hard to try to kill a deer with a knife.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes, I think so.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You know, it would be a little difficult to do that, I think it...

**(Video Time: 9:59.29.13) 92.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And it was used for skinning and, and stuff like that. And, you know, there's a lot of things we, we can talk about the survival of the Métis people when we're talking about things like that now. I remember my grandfather telling me he could build a house in just about a day, or two days. Like he would have a house built, logs. He just, there was no, nothing fancy, you wanted to build yourself a home and you squared those logs it would take longer. But if you just put them together and you know, as a log house, just put the logs together. But you had to cut them a certain way at the end so they fit properly, and you know, they never used no nails, cause it's just the way they sat. Sod roof, and the girls or the boys and the, and the mothers and the grandmas would make the plaster, and...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - With the, they mixed the mud, the kids usually would mix mud too you know because they...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Is that what they put on the outside?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya.

**GILBERT PELLETIER, NORMAN FLEURY, and SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - ...(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - On the inside also, and then whitewash it.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What did you call, what you put inside there?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Chinking the logs.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Was there a word for it in Michif?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Oh (**Michif Word**) comes from the word (**Speaks Michif**). And that's when you take plaster it, and then just smooth it off.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And they white wash it inside.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - (**Speaks Michif**).

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you know, you get, you dig that up, yep.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Get lime.

**(Video Time: 10:01.01.16) 94.3 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Someone told me that, if you, you know, were really keeping your house nice, you would, you would do that once a year in the spring, they'd haul everything out and then whitewash it again.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, whitewash it again, ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Take everything out.

**94.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya and do the inside and the outside.

**94.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Really do, really do a good job.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Like spring cleaning, like, like...

**94.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And in the fall.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - And in the fall?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, because in, the kids would knock the mud off or it would fall off or, you know, or something. If you had a big dance, the walls would shake and the muds, the mud would come down. But there was different reasons for spring and fall cleaning and, I know, it was also a big thing that their life was organized eh? Like in the springtime there's certain things you would do, you'd put your, get your gardens ready. And then you'd go berry picking, you'd dry those berries. Like I remember my grandmother, she'd have a canvass or blanket and she'd pour all those berries there and they'd dry, especially the saskatoons.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Just loose like that?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Loose, just loose. And then you'd, she'd, she'd bag them, and you didn't use plastic or anything, there was none. Or there was no paper bags, it was all out of cloth, **(Michif Word)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No freezer bags.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - No freezer bags.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - No I guess not.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You used these bags, and I remember grandma in the, in the winter time especially, she'd get a cup or two of these nice dried saskatoons, she'd soak them and they'd puff right up. And she'd mix her stuff and they'd have beautiful pies and they're fresh pies in wintertime with the saskatoons.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That's dried like?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Dried, ya.

**95.9 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you know, that kind of living was for, that was all over, not just the one area that did that. We all did it, all Métis did, pretty well did the same thing...**(Inaudible)**...

**96.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Michif Word)** They'd have a root cellar.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And cob.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And cob, and **(Michif Word)**,

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Speaks Michif)**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And they'll put all...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They'll dig a cellar in the house.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And they'll put their turnips, especially turnips, were a very important vegetable.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And potatoes, ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Potatoes, li carrot.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Li carrot.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And **(Michif Word)** onion.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - There was nothing, nothing fancy.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Fancy.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Can we take a break guys?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ya.

**96.8 – 97.4 No audio**

**(Video Time: 10:37.27.01) 97.5 NORMAN FLEURY - (Speaks Michif with GILBERT PELLETIER)**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Now what?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - That's right.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Ya...**(Inaudible)**...

**97.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – You had mentioned that there was like, that weddings and food went, love and food go together and the food seems to go with a lot of special occasions in the old Michif way of life. What were some of those special foods, like we talk about li boulettes.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Speaks Michif)**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - repeats last (**Michif Word**)

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - (**Speaks Michif**)

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What's the last part? Didn't get that.

**98.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well turnips.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Turnips.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Carrots, potatoes, meat pies, and if you had roast, then you got li boulettes like, meatballs.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Wild game?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Wild game, deer, and, but they'd also do things like, like making those special kind of cakes and see those were...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh yes, ya, molasses....

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Molasses cake was one of the favourite cakes and it was a traditional Michif cake. Like I said some people made the three-tier cakes, and you had to sing for those, you know. To get some cake. But they also had like...

## **98.7 End of Audio Side A**

### **Audio Side B**



**0.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - ...well you call them li grandpere, which are really a dumpling, and they had those also at some of the occasions, especially New Year's. New Year's was when you really...

**0.4 GILBERT PELLETIER - (Speaks Michif)** You know, what they call baking powder biscuits.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh ya.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's small, small bannock with raisins in 'em eh. That was a kind of a treat.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - A treat?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya.

**(Video Time: 10:39.16.02) 0.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And then if you were like, again it was seasonal food eh? Like when you butchered in the fall, like when you slaughtered animals, like you made blood sausage, **(Michif Word)** and then you also ate **(Michif Word)**, well that's whenever **(Michif Word)**s they were butchering in the fall you'd have **(Michif Word)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh right that's...

**NORMAN FLEURY and GILBERT PELLETIER** – **(speak Michif)**.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And you'd have **(Michif Word)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What's that?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - What's, what's what?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - (Michif Word)?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - (Speaks Michif). That's the entrails, that's the inside.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - The insides of an animal, that's what they called.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - The internal organs.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Okay, like the heart, kidneys...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - The heart and the kidneys and the liver and those, those were very, very popular items at the table.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - We'll be fighting over the...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was also procedure, like I remember at home that they would, like if Grandpa was gonna be butchering they would, my Grandma would ask for either of the kids, her daughters or somebody else to come to help, because it was a big day. The day was a full day was taken because you had to do everything, you didn't go and buy your, what do you call that, casings, like intestines, from a store. Like you took them right from the animal.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You have to clean and all that.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You had to clean it yourself...(Inaudible)...and also you had to go there when they did the, the slaughtering, you had to know how to take the blood and they'd put salt in this pail or whatever so the blood wouldn't clot. You had to keep stirring it, and then they'd bring actually the whole tub of the entrails in it, and the ladies would go, grandma used to go

through that and take a certain casing you used, you didn't use the big casing, you used the smaller casing for making blood sausage.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh the one that's really long?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - The small one, long, that's what they used. And then they had to turn it inside out and they had to clean it. There was a whole procedure, a whole process, and that was very important to do. And then with the animal again, you had to know what to do with it, how to cut it up, and how to butcher it. And there's certain ways they use water, you had to boil the water, get the barrel ready, and the men, that was their job.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That was their job that...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And the ladies had their job in the house. And men they start making this, this pork rind, **(Michif Word)** they made their, they rendered their own, their own lard.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Their own, ya, lard.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - The lard was rendered from the, from the pork.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What would you store it in?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They had their own container **(Michif Word)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Cans even.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif 3.5 – 3.8 with Gilbert Pelletier)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That made quite a bit wouldn't it?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, oh ya, that's how much you butchered ya, oh ya.

**(Video Time: 10:42.12.09) NORMAN FLEURY** - Well it depends, in those days, when they slaughtered too they, they...**(Inaudible)**...bigger animals eh? And it was the same thing with the cow. Like, my grandfather actually, well I call him grandpa but he was my grandma's brother and he was the butcher in the community. So it was just a, a story though but this kind of just a, kind of a, they made a joke out of it but. And actually it wasn't a joke it was what they did, his wife used to take all the big intestines of the, of the animal when he butchered the, the steer or cow or whatever. And they would dry them and hang them out and dry them, and they were nice big guts hanging on the clothesline. So this guy drove by going to church and he seen those guts hanging there and he said, "My god that old man must spend a lot of money buying nylons for his daughters." You know, like he, he thought they were actually, the nylons were white in those days, and so it was sort of kind of a joke but it did happen, like they had them there and the lady used to cut all those up and they would boil them with potatoes, and different vegetables, and broth was so, so good for you. Like it was medicinal, like broth was very medicinal, and anything they'd boil like deer especially, and most of the food was boiled eh, in those days. Like there was some roast but most of everything was boiled.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh really?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And, and, and the food was boiled.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So not fried?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Very, they fried some things.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They fried some...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Fresh stuff eh? Like a partridge or...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, they'd fry the...(Inaudible)...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Or...(Inaudible)...fish was fresh, fresh meat, they would fry. But anything like the other stuff they would boil, and they'd always make **(Michif Word)** they used to call it **(Michif Word)** and it, **(Michif Word)**.

**5.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What would they use for the **(Michif Word)**.

**5.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - Just basically just that meat that you boiled and a little salt and paper and maybe some onion eh.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Maybe some onion.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And that's what they would use for, and the broth I knew as a young child that for especially chicken.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - They give that to you when you were sick eh?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Yep, it was very, very, very medicinal and it was really good so like the foods were so important, like we were talking about **(Michif Word)**.

**(Video Time: 10:44.23.12) 6.2 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, ya or, we were talking about, **(Michif Word)** we used to eat, that's wild turnip. There's still some around, you know...(Inaudible)...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh it grows wild?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, it grows wild up in the hills, and along, usually in the valleys along side the hill you'll find them eh? And they're really nice tasting things. Especially the younger ones, they're really nice, you know, you dig them up and you peel 'em, and you just eat them like that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did they used to use them for cooking, put in stew?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh certainly, oh ya, oh ya, they used them for cooking ya.

**(Video Time: 10:44.52.09) 6.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was certain herbs too like that they use, the most, lot of herbs, the herbs in roots especially for medicine, very medicinal, but I remember they call them **(Michif Word)** they called them. They're a plant that grows instead of, they didn't have yeast for baking, they would use that certain plant and it was like little bulbs, like little white bulbs that grew on the trees. They used those for, for you, making the bread, for, for yeast, that's how they, they use that for, for yeast.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I wonder how that worked?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Well it was no different than anything else actually they just kind of soaked it in water and it, it fermented. It had a fermentive process, fermentation.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So it'd make it rise?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And it make, and it made good bread. Because I remember what we were like, grandpa, and they'd say, **(speaks Michif 7.4**

– **7.9**). So another thing too, like we were saying things were seasonal, like what was timed, like when they used to go dig Seneca root for instance. That was another time of their life, and then when it was time for berry picking, and it was a whole process. Like you had to, like choke cherries (**Michif Word**), that was a big process of crushing those choke cherries.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What did they use?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And they used stones.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Stones.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - So you had to get certain stones too.

**8.4 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, certain stones, and you got a certain shaped stone, they gotta be flat...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And this one was kinda different.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - ... this one was kinda different, the one you used to, to...(Inaudible)...ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So it would be fairly big?

**8.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - The bottom one.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - The bottom one would be.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - One of the nice big ones for the bottom ones?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, ya, because you know, you'd, and you'd move them aside eh? And then you'd put them in this container, but I remember they would, they would, they'd take a handful and just (makes sound) a few of them.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, few at a time.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, just a few, you didn't go "oof" and ...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Smush, smush, smush.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - No, you didn't do that because you didn't want to eat them, what do you call those, we used to call them little stones but...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Those little seeds?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - The bones or the seeds?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - The bones, we used to say, **(Speaks Michif)** which means bones. And ...

**9.2 GILBERT PELLETIER** - You had to smash them up real good. And you couldn't take a bunch at a time, you just had to take a, just a few at a time.

**NORMAN FLEURY (Speaks Michif)**

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya.

**(Video Time: 10:47.38.15) 9.3 NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, **(Speaks Michif)** and then they used to take that and, **(Speaks Michif)** cause they were still kinda mushy eh? You know, and, and then they would take saskatoon's and like I was saying, you know, the way they prepared them.



But my grandma used to cook them with these, the rinds, pork rind, **(Michif Word)**, and put sugar with them, brown sugar and make a nice, it, it was a half dessert and half...**(Inaudible)**...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - ...**(Inaudible to overlapping talk)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Real meaty, you know, it was, and it was very meaty, it was very, very good, and that was, they call that **(Michif Word)**.

**10.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, it, it tastes very good, to us it did anyway. I don't know about somebody else.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Have you, when was the last time you had it?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - A long time.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - A long time ago.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Long time.

**10.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - But we can still do it.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It was a treat?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, I still know how to, how it's done.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Actually a few years ago, I had a, a person from the reserve working for me and I thought well I'll give him a treat and so I made it. And they used to make pudding, **(Michif Word)** pudding with the saskatoons. They'd make pudding with, boil it and thicken it with flour or

whatever you had. You'd thicken it, thicken it, with tapioca today, they would use, but it was flour in those days.

**(Video Time: 10:48.54.26) 10.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That sounds good. You're making me hungry with all this good food. Did people eat baked beans out here? Was that, cause that's, that's a big dish in my family...

**10.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - Now that you mention it, that was actually, Sunday was the...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Baked beans.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - When grandma invited people she had a big pot of beans and that's, she entertained them, like that's how they, that's what they ate. You had nothing else with it, but li beans, and they were the navy beans.

**11.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And my grandma like, well wanted to buy them but she didn't know how to say them in English, but she bought them anyway. She made these people understand what she wanted, you know, she'd show 'em. She'd look around till she finds them and then she'll show 'em. I want this.

**11.4 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did they used to cook them, like in the big pots?

**11.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well, just whatever they had...**(Inaudible)**...they would cook them in the oven. I remember them cooking them in the oven also with slices, big slices of salt pork. Salt pork was one of the main necessities also for cooking rabbit, or cooking beans, and they always used the salt pork. I remember them eating it with eggs, they'd boil the salt pork

first, throw the water out and then you'd boil it. But they also ate something, like we were talking about slaughtering they'd eat, **(Michif Word)**. That was the, the stomach of the, of the cow. And I remember this, I was butchering at my sister's place in Binscarth and this, and our auntie, she was 99 years old, and she said, "**(speaks Michif 12.2 - 12.3)**." She was blind this lady, she was 99 years old so I said, "**(Speaks Michif)**, I'll bring some **(speaks Michif 12.4 – 12.5)**." So I took her some and, and her, and her daughter, Madeline, said "**(Speaks Michif)**, don't tell her. **(Speaks Michif)** See what if she knows what we're feeding her." So she put this **(Michif Word)** through the meat grinder and she went and says that, "Momma, **(Speaks Michif)**." And she gave her a piece of that and, and she ate it and she said, "Oh la la **(Speaks Michif)**." She knew right away. Isn't that amazing? We were really surprised actually, couldn't fool the old lady. But that was a main source of food because in those days, lot of those people couldn't afford, they didn't have any cattle and they couldn't afford buying a piece.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Couldn't afford to buy anything.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - So when they went slaughtering, the farmer would give them, what we call, the leftovers. **(Michif Word)**

**(Video Time: 10:51.44.04) 13.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And they had a slaughter house in Yorkton, and it, I gotta tell you this because it, it's kinda funny. My sister, my older sister and my aunt went to the slaughter house to get **(Michif Word)** and my auntie was kinda shy of everything eh. Like she was shy if there was any White people around, she didn't like White people to see her, what she was gonna get, what they were gonna eat. And then they were, and they had this trailer, sorta trailer like thing where they put all this stuff, and then we used to just go in there and get it. And my sister and my aunt went there and a car was coming so my aunt was gonna run back to her car to go and hide eh, but my sister grabbed this long, a long thing that it just threw it and just got her like a lasso around the neck eh, and held her

back there, she couldn't run away. But she, she had to stay there. So she couldn't run away, and she couldn't run eh? So they had to, she stayed there and then filled up and said, "Let's get out of here." You know, so they come out and then they go to a slough and wash it, clean it out first roughly eh? Bring it back to the house and then do the rest of it there eh?

**14.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So they'd take that, that humble, that humble food and then, then make it good?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, ya.

**14.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - And see the slaughter house is there, they, they, that's what, they were very important...**(Inaudible)**...they'd go to the slaughter house once a week or whatever and get those things, the food...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That someone was just gonna throw away?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Well they'd throw them away because they didn't use them.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - ...**(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Like even the feet of the, of the cows...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Of the cows, the head.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They would singe them, and, and clean them nice and, and it's like eating the, the pork feet too, like...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Pork hocks.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Pork hocks, and they'd make head cheese and different things. Which, which people wouldn't even think of eating. I don't think those people ever ate those kinds of things, like, like the stomach and the, the guts we used to say.

**15.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - But now they do sell it in the stores, but then, you know, the way they got it prepared, prepared that I...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It's not the same.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It's not the same eh.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It doesn't taste the same?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No, it doesn't taste the same.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You tried the stuff?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya I did, I did. I bought it and then we tried. It's not the same at all. I don't even like it.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - No.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Maybe because it's not fresh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Could be, it could be ya, ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Cause you could get quite fresh eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It was always fresh, ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Treated right or whatever.

**GILBERT PELLETTIER** - Ya.

**(Video Time: 10:54.10.28) 15.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - And they'd have little jokes too about this one person made up this story about, these guys went to the slaughter house and they gave him the head of the cow and they gave them the legs and, and the stomach and different parts and... But they were drinking, they'd been drinking, they were in the bar, so they were going home and I guess, they were too busy visiting and talking and they hit the ditch, the ditch and, and the trunk flew open and everything went flying all over. And a cop came along, and said, "Can I see your driver's license?" Asked him everything, wrote everything down and he said, "By the way, how fast were you going when you hit that cow?" He thought they hit the cow cause the head was over here and the legs were over here, and...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - They totally bought it...(Inaudible)...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, they just had, and try to explain to somebody that you're gonna eat this stuff, that, doesn't even know that you can eat that food. So that was another hard part of a, an explanation, like what...

**GILBERT PELLETTIER** - ...(Inaudible)...just an excuse.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh right ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, and another time this guy had, his mother had given him **(Michif Word)** - that's the piggy puffs. The rind of the pig.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh ya.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And I guess they were stopped for some reason, a cop says, "What do ya got there?" And he says, "Oh that's Indian popcorn," you know, cause he didn't know how to explain it.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well ya, how else do you explain it?

**(Video Time: 10:55.46.27) NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, and, and there's miscommunications, it's the same thing as, as, going to, to court. Like this one guy back home, because they didn't have, their first language was Michif, it was so powerful that they hardly ever spoke...**(Inaudible)**...When you went to the, to, to a farmer, they automatically knew you were there for stooking or for threshing, and you didn't even speak their language. You spoke your own language most of the time. So this guy, back home, went to court and I guess he was in court and the judge asked him, "Have you ever been up before me before?" He says, "I don't know, what time did you get up?" Like, he, you know, just a miscommunication eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - If you never heard it you...**(Inaudible)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And he asked him like, how far did you go to school? Oh about two miles. But he was asking the grade.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh right the way the words are different.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, and they said, and the cop came to this one guy's place at home and said, "Well where did this road go to?" Well he says, "I've lived hear for forty years it hasn't gone anyplace yet." It's just your expression eh? Like, you know, how far does this road go to, but that's the way he understood it. And it was hard...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They weren't just trying to be smart, you know, it's the way they understood something so they...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - So it was miscommunications, and there's a lot of that, that has happened eh?

**(Video Time: 10:57.06.10) 18.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Like if a cop asked you that now, well that's, just be a smart remark on your part if you told him that I've been here for forty years, that wouldn't have went over. But, you know, then you're just a smart remark on your part because you understand what they're talking about now.

**19.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - Have you got any previous records? Ya, I got a few of Johnny Cash and Andy Desjarlais, you know like, because to him records are, record what you play eh? Still thinking maybe they don't understand, and that was the best he could do.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I guess that used to happen quite a bit.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya. Like this guy went to court and they gave him six month, he says, "Well that's nothing. I could do that standing on my head." He says, the judge says, "Well I'll give you another six months to get back on your feet."

**(Video Time: 10:57.46.07) 19.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Well, one of the things that you had mentioned was some of the nicknames that people had. Can you think of, were the nicknames in English or Michif or everything?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They were all Michif nicknames pretty well.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - All Michif? Ya.



**19.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - They were all Michif, most of them were Michif nicknames, you know, that English, you wouldn't understand them in English.

**20.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - And the nicknames, I think it's sort of a universal thing, like it's a universal, it's a cultural thing, because I think a lot, most ethnic groups use, that I know, use, have nicknames. Today they'll have nicknames for certain hockey players or ball players or kids who will give each other nicknames. But in those days, they really described that person. A lot of times they would use names to describe that individual, or, or things that might have happened or something, but for some reason there was somebody would give you a nickname, like somebody in the family would give you a nickname. All of a sudden you had a nickname, like I know that...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It would stick with you.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It would stick with you.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It would stick with you.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Give me some examples from where you're from.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Like this one person, we knew him and he's gone now, and, and, and he had...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So we can talk about him?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And, and he had, he liked **(Michif Word)**, no he's passed on actually and his name **(Speaks Michif)**. You know and **(Michif Word)** was his nickname. Well, he might have said to grandma or his Mom, all the time asked for the bannock, you know.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ya I had friend whose nickname was Bannock.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - So they'll say well, **(Speaks Michif)** You know...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Because he always asked for...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Because he always wanted bannock...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - He wanted bannock, so, there's different, different reasons, like, they would give him **(Michif Word)** or somebody went dancing a lot, like to dance, they would call them maybe **(Michif Word)**. There was a man called **(Michif Word)**. **(Michif Word)** was his nickname this guy. So he probably was a jigger, you know.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Can, what are some from...

**(Video Time: 10:59.32.06) 21.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - But **(Michif Word)**, and dog. They weren't, I guess they weren't, the first time they went to Edmonton, the big city, and well they were able to read and write a little bit eh? And there was a sign there says no dogs allowed, they were gonna go into this café and eat and they said no dogs allowed. Well we can't go in here, well we're not allowed in here, he says, cause one of them was named **(Michif Word)** which means dog too eh, and one of them was named dog. So they weren't allowed to go into the café. He was laughing at himself because it, that was his nickname eh, that was, that was just a nicknames. One of them was Hubert and one of them was Alec I think eh. Alec and Hubert, wasn't that their name? Their real name?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - I think so, ya. **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And a lot of these people like...**(Inaudible)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya Eileen and that, ya.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's the only way I know, is by their nickname. I don't know...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif)**

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's **(Michif Word)** brother though.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, Dog, ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So what was the first name...**(Inaudible)**...

**22.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - And then my, my family they had **(speaks Michif)**, that could have been louse or skin, I don't know, that was my nickname **(Michif Word)**. They used to call me **(Michif Word)**. And, and there was the **(Michif Word)** was my brother and that, an old lady gave him that name **(Michif Word)**. See it was again older people that gave you...

**22.9 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, and, ours was, my, my older brother was name was **(Michif Word)** and my younger brother was, Bert was his real name, but they called him **(Michif Word)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - **(Repeats word in Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Says word in Michif again)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ya that's a common one.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya that's a common name **(Michif Word)** and they called him that, that's his nickname **(Michif Word)**.

**(Video Time: 11:01.11.17) 23.2 NORMAN FLEURY - (Michif Word)** was one of my cousins too, **(Michif Word)**. It was **(Michif Word)**. Baker was my, one of my brothers, he's gone now but he, my Mom tells me, when any time she bake he was there. So she called him Baker. That was his nickname. And there was, and some of them didn't have nicknames at home.

**23.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - See, I knew, I knew this lady, **(Michif Word)**, I don't know her real name, that's the only way I knew her was **(Michif Word)**, well you know her real name, I don't know her real name, but that's the only way I know her is **(Michif Word)**, and I knew her for a long time.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And everybody knew her's, that.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, and **(Michif Word)** was her nickname, and her name, her sister's name was **(Michif Word)** and what was the other one?

**NORMAN FLEURY - (Michif Word)**

**GILBERT PELLETIER – (Repeats in Michif).**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Well do those translate?

**23.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well they got them somehow, we don't know, like **(Michif Word)**,

**GILBERT PELLETIER - (Michif Word)** I don't know what that is. I don't know, what does **(Michif Word)** mean, I don't even know what it means in...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It's just a nickname.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It's just, it's just a nickname.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But **(Michif Word)** means small eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Little.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - My sister, they called her in English my oldest sister, her name was My Girl. And it always stayed, people knew her as My Girl, no, it was...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - How do you say that?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif)**

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - **(Speaks Michif)**

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Or ma fille you see. But it's My Girl, and her name was in English.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ma fille is my girl.

**(Video Time: 11:02.27.18) NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, and Mary **(Unknown Name)** was one of them and they had just different names, but I remember one of our sisters we used to call her **(Michif Word)**, one particular sister we called her **(Michif Word)** was our oldest sister. But that was the way you used to actually, that was the word that you'd use, but as far as nicknames go, there was a lot of nicknames, and...

**24.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And all that means a man eh? One of them back home, that's what, that was his nickname you know. And his sister they

would have some company and they said, "Oh **(Michif Word)**." That means that he's coming, like he's coming and his name was Joe, his real name was Joe, but his nickname was **(Michif Word)** so they figured some stranger was coming, a man was coming eh? Because **(Michif Word)** is a man, and this guy looked out, he says, "Where? I don't see no man coming." You know, cause he was just a young kid.

**25.3 NORMAN FLEURY** - And they used to have a lot of names I remember, most of everybody had a nickname, like **(Michif Word)** was another one.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh, I will find it out.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - My cousin, that hockey player's Dad, his name was **(Michif Word)** and we don't know where that name comes from **(Michif Word)**. And my cousin his name was Souris, mouse, cause when he was born he was no more than two and half pounds premature. And Grandma had made her, their own, what do you call that, where they keep the babies that are premature?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh like an incubator?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Incubator, incubator, and they had him in a shoe box and they kept him, and no electricity so, close to the oven.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - In the oven?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And they kept that night, that boy survived, but because of that, his condition, they call him Souris, mouse.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Cause he probably looked like a little mouse eh?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, and he was small, and so you see those, there was all a reasons for why people got these, these nicknames.

**(Video Time: 11:04.21.14) GILBERT PELLETIER and NORMAN FLEURY**  
– (speak Michif 26.4 – 26.5).

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Oh ya, that's right.

**26.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - He's a magician, that's his nickname...(Inaudible)...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, that's Fred, Fred ya.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - ...real good, ya, Fred, Fred was his real name. But he doesn't like that name anymore eh? And that's why they call him **(Michif Word)**.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – (Repeats Michif Word).

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - But I make sure I'm a ways away when I call him that.

**26.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - But you see there's certain things our people did and I, as a young boy, a kid, I remember them talking about this person who was a magician, you know, and, and, and he was good, he is apparently really, real good. Now he goes making shows.

**(Video Time: 11:05.02.14) 27.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - He's really good. He's also a musician eh? He's, he's really good at it though. He used to, he married my, he married into my relation, one of my relations. They got

divorced and he left and I haven't seen him for years and now he's back again. He's in his seventies now, you know.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - He's not a young person.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - He's not a young man anymore but he's still acts young. He wants to go with the teenagers eh?

**27.5 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well that's good to be like that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – To a point...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - I had an uncle, my Grandpa...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You can't keep up to those young guys.

**(Video Time: 11:05.36.11) NORMAN FLEURY** - The grandfather who died at 89 years old actually was my grandfather's brother, he preferred the young people and that was actually what it gave him...

**27.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Maybe keep him young or something, like Fred, he prefers young people than people his age eh. But he was a good, he was a friend of mine, ever since I knew him.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - For years.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - For years eh, and he was a nice guy.

**(Video Time: 11:05.59.14) 28.0 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - One of the things that you mentioned at the break and yesterday when we were having our lunch was some of the traditional practices around natural



phenomena. Like how beliefs that people used to protect themselves during storms and things like that?

**28.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well we used to go hunting and my Dad used to go, you know, when he went out, he come home after midnight, it was... **(Inaudible)**...he wasn't afraid of nothing, you know. And, but he had respect for storms, and when I used to go out with him, and I remember this one time we were caught in the storm. It was a, an electric storm, you know, there was no rain for a long time, it was just lightning and thunder really bad eh? The lightning would just shine, it was at night, it was dark already. We were coming home, from a hunt, and, and we come and, well he knew where this thorn bush was... **(Inaudible)**... bushes he'd call it, he was, he knew what it was. So he says, "Let's head for there." So we went there and he pulled out you know, these sharp...

**NORMAN FLEURY** – Needles?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - ... needle-like things from a thorn, you know. And he says, "Put this on your cap." So I picked one off, put it on my cap, and he'd done the same thing. And now he says that it won't bother us now, we're free now cause, you know, we were carrying our guns, and we were trying to hide them so the barrel wouldn't shine from the lightning, you know, the steel part wouldn't shine eh. And after that we just walked with our guns the way we only carried them and nothing happened.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What was the belief about the thorn? What was the significance of the thorn?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well because they, they think it's, it would protect you because when Jesus died, if you notice there was thorn around her head, around his head, and that's, you know, if you have that then...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You'd put that...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You'd put that in your hat and it's gonna protect you.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was the significance.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It was, ya, significant to...

**29.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - ...those people because Jesus survived.

**29.9 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - How would you say, how did you say thorn in Michif?

**GILBERT PELLETIER and NORMAN FLEURY say it in Michif and SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE repeats it and then GILBERT PELLETIER continues speaking in Michif.**

**(Video Time: 11:08.00.20) 30.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - There was other things too, like I remember my grandmother if there was a storm, a thunderstorm, lightning storm, she would use holy water. She'd take the holy water and she'd make the sign of the cross and pray and give it a blessing in the home.

...(Inaudible)...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And the palm, **(Michif Word)** the palm. They call the holy water, **(Michif Word)**, but **(Michif Word)** the palm. And she would take that and she would burn some of it, and that smoke was supposed to be going up and to clear things and it was also a spiritual significance, basically is what it was, it was more the spiritual significance. And my mother used to take the pillows and see she said, "Put those pillows around your head and

you won't be struck by lightning." Because you're very, very seldom, you never here of, of, especially wild fowl, like birds ever getting strike, struck by lightning.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - No they don't do they.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And they used that...

**(Video Time: 11:09.02.22) 31.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And in a tent, Dad always kept a fire going, so the lightning won't come down the chimney. Something, it says when, if you make a fire well it'll keep the lightning away from striking the tent.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So inside?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, inside you had a little stove, and, you know, you had always had a stove inside of a tent. So when it rained it was kinda miserable, it was damp and blankets would get damp and you made a fire just to keep the dampness away. But in the electric storm he'd make it because, so the lightning won't strike the tent.

**31.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - It's like grandma said, "We're God-given people." And we were, they're related to most things in spiritually. Like when they, my grandma, I used to go with her to dig her medicines and she'd always have her rosary with her and she'd pray and if she didn't have any tobacco. She was taught to use a little tobacco and, because she says, "I'm, I'm ,I'm giving life to somebody from you, so I'm giving you something back in return." And if she didn't have any she'd kneel down and she'd say prayers, and if she had nothing but her prayers that's what she used or she had a little holy water or something. But everything was done spiritually.

**32.2 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And my grandma did the very same thing.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Same thing?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - The very same thing, the very same thing. You know, she always had, never without her rosary, always, always carried her rosary with her. And tobacco she used, always tried to keep a certain amount of tobacco, you know, to give, ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Then she would take medicine or pick something...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, leave something, leave something back.

**(Video Time: 11:10.40.14) 32.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And yet it was never used for exchange eh, like to give you something. But they used it for that particular reason, for more spiritually when you're doing your medicines or picking medicines.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Like on your own, when you're out gathering it?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, when you're out gathering medicine.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - But they were very also, the Métis people that, where I grew up in, they were also very, very aware of the First Nations ways of doing things, like medicines. Actually they feared some medicines, they'd say bad medicine. Like you wouldn't want to bring that back they'd say, "But these are the good medicines where you heal and cure and you don't hurt anybody." There was also medicines, like I remember my Mom telling me they used to go to **(Michif Word)** and it's called Lizard Point, or **(Michif Word)** and they used to go to picnics in Rossburn on the reserve, and they'd have horse races, and they'd have different kind of races with eggs, and bag

race and different races. But they also had the horse race was a very important part again, because the horse was what they used for everything, but this is where my Mom said, this lady, an older lady she walked right across the path where the horse races were, like she cut across because the horses were coming around. And when those horses came there, even the good horses sorta slowed down, but her grandson won the race. She had put a curse there, she had put medicine, she used medicine. So those were the kind of things that our people were also aware of, they retained them, but they never went bragging about them and they never went...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - They were aware of it?

**(Video Time: 11:12.25.02) NORMAN FLEURY** - Aware of it, they were always aware, and my, my, my Mom's brother and sister were very good dancers, the Red River jig. So they went there to compete and one lady from the reserve came there and she said to them, she says, "**(Speaks Michif)** you're making people mad." She says, "**(Speaks Michif)**." She says...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We'll give you something so nobody can harm you.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Protection medicine. So they gave my auntie and my uncle this protection medicine and my auntie and uncle are both gone now, but the said, "**(Speaks Michif)** like it disappeared."

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It disappeared, they didn't know where it went.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Like it disappeared.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - When they went to get it, it was...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - It was gone.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It was gone.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It was gone.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, they didn't, because I, we'd say, you know, how we were curious. **(Speaks Michif)** what did you do with your medicine you know, did you use it again? They said, "**(Speaks Michif)**." How did they say that, it just disappeared, you know. **(Speaks Michif)** but it, the medicine disappeared.

**35.8 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You talked about the little, the little rabbits that were inside the fur, and, were there any other things that people did for luck or for protection, that you can think of?

**36.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well for one thing I know the old people they prayed eh.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They prayed.

**(Video Time: 11:14.02.10) NORMAN FLEURY** - They, they, they had a special prayer for themselves because I, I remember that's what I was saying, that you call it either belief or religion or. But I remember like my grandfather for instance, like my Mom's father, if he had a little piece of bannock, he would always do the sign of the cross, and he, he had his blessing and he, he gave thanks. You see, that was part of our culture to give thanks. We were always giving thanks for what we, what we received, and it was like offering the tobacco or, or saying a special prayers when we gave thanks, and that was a very important part of our life.

**36.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, and before you go hunting too, you pray for good luck eh? And then when you did kill something then you prayed for getting that good luck, or whatever you want to call it. But it's, you did pray

for, for everything. So that's, you know, they always thought that we were, Métis were really religious people. We always, we're always taught to respect our religion. And we knew that there was, you know, some...

**NORMAN FLEURY** – Great power.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Greater power that could destroy the world if it wanted to or, you know, that's, take you if it wants to, strike you down if it wanted to and you know. We always knew there was a great power out there somewhere, and we respected that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Well I guess living so close to nature you would be so aware of it all the time eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well ya, ya.

**37.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And they always said, about bad luck eh?  
(Speaks Michif), you know.

(Video Time: 11:15.38.05) **37.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Don't stop for anything, or don't laugh at other people, don't make fun of people because that's, that's not nice, it's bad luck eh, to do that. You don't make fun of people regardless who they are or what they look like.

**37.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - And if you were among certain people, they would say, (Speaks Michif). You know, they got bad medicine, they'll put a curse, your mouth will go sideways, you know. Like, go, especially if you were...(Inaudible)...

**38.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - So you never did, you never made fun of anybody else, you know, of, of anybody, you didn't make fun of people because they looked different maybe, you know, or maybe they're ugly, or

they're handsome. You don't make fun of anybody regardless, you know, maybe they're big, they're fat, or they're skinny, and, you know, that, you know, you never made fun of people like that. You don't laugh at people.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So you could tease in a kind way, but to be cruel was bad luck.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - To be cruel was bad luck, you weren't cruel to anybody.

**38.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And animals, you never abused an animal. Especially the animal because, they couldn't protect themselves.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They couldn't protect themselves, how could an animal protect himself?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And there was this mercy killing we were talking about.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Ya, so you don't suffer.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You don't suffer anything, so that was very important. They would say, would say if the dog was hurt or something they say, **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - End his suffering because it's...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya, so they would go and do away with that animal right away. So we were taught that.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - To not suffer something.



**NORMAN FLEURY** - Not to suffer anything. You know, that was the important part of our, our upbringing was, we were very fortunate that we were in that era...

**(Video Time: 11:17.17.06) 39.4 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, and I guess that's why we took, we took things for granted I think at that time that we didn't, you know, it was just our way of life I guess. And we just took it for granted that that's the way it's going to be and we never did ...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Realize that we might be losing it.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Realize that we might be losing it eh?

**(Video Time: 11:17.34.15) 39.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Well, now, what are you, like what are you doing now when you, when you're looking sort of forward to things that you can do to preserve the stories or the teachings and the language, you're, you're involved in different things.

**40.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** - I'm teaching my, my grandchildren the language, the Michif language. You know, and they're anywhere from 2 years old, just about not even 2 years old to 22, 24 years old, and they're, and I'm teaching them to speak the language. And, you know, and I'm telling them, never be ashamed of who you are. You are who you are, you're Métis so never be ashamed of it. And I don't care where I am, or how many people I'm with. I'll always admit who I am. I'll always admit my traditional foods. You know, I'm not ashamed of it.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Speak your language.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - I'm not ashamed to speak my language, it's my language. Why should I be ashamed of it? You know, if I'm in the, if I'm in

the White world, there's nobody else but the White, they're not ashamed of their language, why should I be ashamed of mine?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Do you think that's why people stopped speaking it partly?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - A lot of it I think that's what it is, they're ashamed to speak their own language. And a lot of it because we weren't allowed to speak our own language in school.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So the Michif were also not allowed to speak their languages?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We were not allowed to speak our own, when I went to school we weren't allowed to speak our language. I don't know about Norman but, we weren't allowed to speak our language in school.

**(Video Time: 11:19.00.03) 41.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well it wasn't acceptable there because they spoke only English and, and if we tried we wouldn't even, nobody would listen to us. Like so, like it, it was, and you always had to be, I think like I was always an advocate of the people, the Aboriginal people, the First Nations people, the Métis people. I've always been sort of like a, a teacher to teach people that are not aware of our culture. Even our own people are not aware themselves, and, and such a rich, rich heritage that we have, that we don't have to borrow somebody else's, we've had our own rich culture. If we abide by our rules, our regulations, and what our forefathers gave us, we have so much richness in our lives and part of our culture. So I've always been a teacher, like I, I live in the community where it's mainly Anglo-Saxon people in that area. But they've lived by reservations, or reserves, and they're not, and one particular person didn't even realize that those were Dakota people, they were Sioux

people. He thought they were Crees. That's how much interest. Like there is racism.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes, there is.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And there is, we can't say there is no racism. Another thing we have to do as Métis people, we have to tell other people that look, we, we don't live on reserves, and we, we, we don't have these rights, and we don't have this because are still thinking that we get things for nothing. And there's no such thing as receive anything for nothing. Like I know where we live, when I bought cattle and horses and I bought land. People in that area and this friend of mine who is, is none, not a Métis person, he told me, he said, "You know, people around here." He says, "I straightened them out because they say, well Norman got that land for nothing." And, and somebody came to my wife at the school, she teaches school, and this person said, "You're, you're kinda lucky aren't you?" And she says, "Well what do you mean?" "Well, your husband, doesn't he get all those things that you got for nothing?" And she says, "Listen here," my wife's not a Métis person. She says, "Norman has, has a number, same as you, and that's a social insurance number. And he pays all his dues like everybody else and that land is on Norman and Ruth's name, it's nobody else's name. We pay our taxes, we pay all our dues." So there's just, you call that ignorance or, you know, it's people that don't know their culture. And I remember one person that I was talking to said, "Well this man over here is a Métis, he's got his number now." I said, "What do you mean, his number?" "Well you know, that number, the treaty number." I says, "Look it, he's a Métis." I says, "He hasn't got a, a treaty number, it's a, a Métis card which identifies him with a certain local in a certain region belonging to the organization," that's basically what it is. It's a membership card. So you see, they had a lot of work to do, we have to tell people who we are as Métis people, what's the significance. Like what do we represent and, and, and it's with pride that I do that.

**(Video Time: 11:22.26.26) 45.0 GILBERT PELLETIER** - A lot of people don't realize that we pay taxes like everybody else eh? That we pay our taxes too like everybody else. We buy something we gotta pay taxes. We don't get things for nothing. We go to the store, buy something, buy clothes or something, we gotta pay our taxes. We go buy a car we gotta pay taxes on that car as well, you know, as well as anybody else. But they'll say "Oh, there's the guy that's spending our tax dollars."

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh right, that's the perception...**(Inaudible)**...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We gotta change it, and there's an awful lot of work to do that because there's so many people out there that, you know, wanna look at you and say well, here's where our tax dollars going, look at the car that guy's driving, you know.

**45.8 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So you see that as part of it, so part of it is trying to preserve the traditions but also always addressing that ignorance and racism so that people are feeling bitter and...

**45.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - But you gotta do it in, you also gotta do it not with anger.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That's hard.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You've gotta do it, you know it is, well, but I mean I've learned to overcome. As a matter of fact, this lady, which was an older person told me, your criticism that you receive take it positively and use that as strength, and that's what I did. I used all the negativeness as strength, and it's good because you don't turn to foreign things such as alcoholism. You don't turn to drugs. You just keep going, you use your spirituality, you,

you use your good upbringing and your morals and standards in life and that keeps you going straight and your head above water. I know Mom still says today, "Keep your head up. Don't go around walking with your head down, be proud."

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, be proud of who you are.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And that's what you have to do.

**(Video Time: 11:24.10.20) 46.9 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And I learnt years ago to control my temper, you know, if any of these gentlemen would come and say, well look at that dirty Half-breed. I'm not gonna just get up and swat them, you know. I wouldn't, I wouldn't do nothing to retaliate to, in anger. I'd maybe say something, but I wouldn't be mad at them, you know, I've learned to control it eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It's hard though eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - At times it is hard, because especially with a guy like me, it is hard because I used to be a wild kid when I was young in my teenage days. I was all over the States and you know, I drank quite a bit, and I was real vile kid. I ran around with a gang, you know that had a gang that got into trouble all the time. We'd go into bars and, clean out a bar in Yorkton eh, that's. Like I wasn't well liked in Yorkton, I was hated at one time, but now it's different. I, I left, I had to leave pretty well, when I left my old gang, I had to leave because I had too many enemies around there. But when I came back, you know, people kinda forgot and, you know, sort of accepted me again.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Kind of a chance to start over.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - I had to, I had a chance to start over and now I'm glad I did have that chance.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - In the same place?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - In the same place. And now today I got respect in that place. People respect me in that place.

**48.4 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So you're, you're teaching now, you teaching the language to the kids. Do you tell stories to your...

**(Video Time: 11:25.36.21) 48.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - I do, I do tell stories to them. And I do tell them, like, what they're gonna go through in life, you know, especially the young ones. You know, it's not a lot of roses, it's gonna be tough for you, because people are gonna look down on you, and you know they're gonna be doing this, saying this to you. And, you know, I teach them all that, all the things I went through.

**48.9 NORMAN FLEURY** - See part of the, my, my employment, and, and part of the work that I do as a director of Michif language for the Manitoba Métis Federation, we've done video documentaries. So that's how we're preserving a lot of the traditions is through the language and through the different like feasts, celebrations. We go out there and, and put Michif language displays, and we do opening prayers in Michif which we have never done before.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh starting...

...(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - I was asked by the President at the time, was Gerald Morin of the MNC, Métis National Council. And asked me at Batoche Days to

do the opening prayer in Michif. I had a display there also. And there was other, like the President of Manitoba Métis Federation asked me to do the opening prayers at the annual general assembly in, in Manitoba. We've also done Michif language displays. We've had workshops at the AGA, where I've spoken in Michif and the, the Métis French and, and Cree, and also done a bit of Saulteaux. Because we have all those different people that are represented there and some people in Manitoba speak like different languages so we're always doing that. And in Ste. Madeleine at the Ste. Madeleine Métis Days, we've interviewed elders right at the, the graveyard, because that's all there's left there now is the graveyard.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Do they still have that?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Plus Métis Days, every summer, and they have Métis, they do calendars now. They put together calendars of, of the older people and the different events. And there's a, a, a prayer in Michif that I was asked by my Vice-president in the Southwest Region, like Le Laplante, that's quite a few years ago already now that she said, "Norman, we're always doing our prayers in English, and we're proud about our language, could you do a generic prayer in Michif?" And I said sure, so I put a generic prayer together and that generic prayer now is in the dictionary that we have in Manitoba. We're working on another dictionary and a handbook, which will be finished. A CD I did with Peter Bakker from Denmark, where the computer games will be finished in the, in the new year on Michif language. So we're doing many, many things and now we're, we've got our pamphlets "Let's speak Michif" in the communities in Manitoba. We've done a lot, a lot of work in Manitoba and there's a lot more work but that's within the organization. But I as a Métis person, I've always had, I don't know for whatever reason, I've always loved to talk to older people, because that's where you get your teachings, from the elders. And I've learnt my language through them, my traditions, my legends, the stories and the folklore. Those were my richest times in my life with teachers. Like going to Yorkton when you people invited George Pelletier

and I to come in and do workshop in Michif, that was one of the better times of my life because in the evening we'd dance and square dance, Gilbert called. And we had some...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Oh you called?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - ...**(Inaudible)**...after the square dancing we had some fiddlers and what really touched me the most is when you told me Gilbert, that your Mom never ever spoke in public.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Never. Never.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And then when we had this conference, she all of a sudden starts speaking up and I, but I didn't know that, you see...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – In the crowd.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - In a crowd...

**NORMAN FLEURY and GILBERT PELLETIER** - ...**(inaudible due to overlapping talk)**...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - She heard Michif; finally she felt right at home and she...

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, because of the language.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Because of language. So that's what language does to people and we had other people speaking there, and that was one of the better times of my life. Like because, and then I interviewed the elders, and they told me stories like you say, we can live, I don't know how far apart



from different provinces or different country and we're the same people, and we have all these in common.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We're the same, ya, we're all, we all have...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Same stories?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - We have it together.

**(Video Time: 11:30.03.09) 53.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - The storytelling, the dancing, the jigging, and, you know, the singing.

**53.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - So like that really made my day, like and there's more of that to come. Visiting here and doing stories is a very, very important part of my life and I really feel at home and I'm very happy as you can see. The songs that I sang were songs that I heard as a young child, but I never was asked to, to participate and sing at weddings or, because people didn't realize that I had them. But it's a gift that I have, which I'm starting to recognize. Sometimes it takes you years to recognize your ability, and your skills, because I am very, very much believe that we're all, all gifted for certain talents. And, and those are the kind of things, I love history, I love my people, the Michif people, and I love our way of life, and I'm always willing to share.

**54.5 GILBERT PELLETIER** - I went to their Métis Days a couple of years ago.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Which ones?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Their Métis Days in Manitoba.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - In Ste. Madeleine?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - In Ste. Madeleine, I went there for a couple years and then the wife and I went and I, I was asked to go say a few words there. You were there Norman eh, and I really enjoyed it there. You know, I met so many people there, Michif speaking people eh. That, well I felt right at home because of, because of the language I guess again eh. I felt right at home because everybody I met there was, spoke Michif to me and that...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - We're all family.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We're all family, of course Norman and I got together right away so to be seeing each other because, you know, as long as we saw one another I think we just hit it off as friends eh. So now when we see each other right away we go for each other and we'll start talking Michif because that's all we talk when we're together.

**55.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - And there's people we met there and I'd say, **(Speaks Michif)**. The first thing, you know, it's as if you knew him or her.

**55.8 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh ya, ya, just you know, as if you know them for years eh, started talking and in no time I had my car parked, I had a few chairs in the trunk so I brought them all out and in no time at all there was people sitting all over there, that, they were all strangers to me to begin with but, you know, in just a very short time, as if I knew these people years.

**56.2 NORMAN FLEURY** - If we'd a said that in English, it wouldn't have been the same would it?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No it wouldn't have been, it wouldn't have been the same.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - So it was the language?

**56.3 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, it, it was the language.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - If we'd have said it in English it would have built nothing.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - No, it wouldn't had mean nothing, and they wouldn't have even come, but you know, we're all sitting around there speaking...

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And joking.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - ... in the Michif language, and joking around in our Michif language eh? Well of course, there were all grown ups there so, some of the jokes were a little bit wild but, we, we had a ball.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - We had a ball.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, right.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Did you stay over, do you camp over when you go over there?

**(Video Time: 11:32.43.29) 56.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - So all the people can, but quite a few don't, and there's always a, an evening where they have a dance and they honour the elders. Like last year in Ste., Ste. Madeleine, they're the Binscarth people, which are my family, my relatives, because that's where my Dad was born and raised in Ste. Madeleine. His relatives, like close relatives, my relatives, like they'll, they're involved in the, in the organization, and friends of ours. And they, they honour older people and in March of last year, they had an evening just to honour the, honour the elders in that community. And it was very, very nice. Those that were born prior to

1939, that remember why they had to leave Ste. Madeleine, which was converted into a community pasture, it was a Métis community. So a lot of those people that were there were family of families that came from there and their grandparents, so it was quite a, quite an emotional and beautiful festivity, it was a very nice...

**58.0 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - That must be a healing thing. That was such a terrible thing that happened to that community.

**58.1 NORMAN FLEURY** - It, it was, that's exactly it. We're talking about wellness and part of the healing and that was part of the healing process for those people. And, and there's still a lot of hurt, and there's, because it actually destroyed the lives of many people because all of a sudden they were in no man's land. Like, not knowing where to go, they dispersed and went to different communities and that's where our language was lost again.

**58.6 GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well there, well at least they got their cemetery yet. They still got that.

**NORMAN FLEURY** – They got the cemetery.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We don't even have that. We don't have nothing.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - At Crescent Lake?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - At Crescent Lake we have nothing. The school is there, we can't even use it anymore. Our Métis school that was built for the Métis.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - It's there?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It's still standing there, we can't even use it.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - How come?

**(Video Time: 11:34.39.09) GILBERT PELLETIER** - We used to go and have a, you know, picnics there every year, we used to meet there every year, now we can't even meet there, because it's privately. It's rented out by...**(Inaudible)**...Mind you it was another Métis, but, you know, certain laws, doesn't want any other Métis to go near there anymore.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - ...**(Inaudible)**...Métis Heritage Act, you know, there's some things belong to everybody eh?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, it should have been, but ...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - But that happened in a lot of communities.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You know, actually it's my ex-brother-in-law.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Your ex-brother-in-law?

**59.8 NORMAN FLEURY** - So it's happened in a lot of communities.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It's happened a lot of communities so.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - A lot of people got driven off.

**(Video Time: 11:35.24.01) NORMAN FLEURY** - Ya. See another thing that's happening with the Michif language also is what we're doing, we've had, we hosted in Manitoba the first ever Michif language conference. Although they had one in 1985, which was hosted in Manitoba, but this one was a language conference that we had. And then the second language conference was here in Saskatoon and that really helps to bring people

together. And our own people are starting to understand now the rich culture and the rich heritage that we have, and the language, because there was, there was a bit of a, people are saying, well what is Michif? Like, a lot of people still don't know what is Michif and why it's called Michif. And now people are having to conceptualize in their mind the Michif language and the significance, you know. So, so we've come a long ways, and we've got a long way to go yet in terms of trying to revitalize and document our stories, our history, our legends and the folklore. And, and we're just touching the tip of the iceberg because you can go on forever and ever, because you take like the legends, you can tell legends all winter.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - All winter long you could tell legends. I mean we could sit here for days and talk about legends.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Chi-Jean?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And Chi-Jean and Nanabush, Wesakejack, or Kasamea, they used to call him in Quebec. And, and, and it's the same, it's the same character. And, you know, there's teaching that come from that too. They, they, they were put there for a purpose, for the teachings, and our people took a lot of those examples from those teachings. Like not to be greedy, you know, there's greed...

**61.9 GILBERT PELLETIER** - We could sit here all winter and talk about things like, what you have. We can talk about 'em all winter and, you know, we're just touching the very, very tip of the iceberg say...

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - What's your favourite story? Do you have one?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Chi-Jean is my favourite story, about Chi-Jean. Any story about Chi-Jean is my favourite.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - About Chi-Jean?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - About Chi-Jean. Ya, I like that guy. Nice, he's a nice guy. Ya, he's a trickster.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - He's a funny guy.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - He's a funny guy.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Good entertainer.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Good entertainment ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - You too.

**(Video Time: 11:37.42.27) 62.6 NORMAN FLEURY** - The same thing or, were stories that I heard of the history of our people, the Métis people. Like Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, and the other Métis people like Poitras Fleury, and, and all those other Métis people that were involved in the, like the Belhumeurs. And Margaret Belhumeur actually having her relatives right in, in Manitoba where I'm from, from Ste. Madeleine, and St. Lazare. Like, you know, it's just so close to home.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** – Yes it is.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - So ...

**63.1 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you'll find a lot of Fleurys, a lot of Pelletiers all over the world.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - They're all over the place.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - They're all over the place.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - ...realize we have people all over.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - We're all over.

**63.4 NORMAN FLEURY** - And, and they're from Europe, right to the States, into Canada.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Ya, all in the States there's lots. Canada's got a lot. Well you must have heard a lot about...

**63.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - I think he wants us to stop.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – But we're the nice guys.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Yes you are. You are.

**63.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - **(Speaks Michif)**.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - **(Michif Word)**.

**SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE** - Thank you. **(Speaks Michif)**.

**NORMAN FLEURY** **(Speaks Michif)**.

**63.9 End of Side B**