

A 50:43 Ohh ... not really ... they still had a hard time though, because, today it's easier, because today, ~~me~~ I pretty well Commercial fish in the winter, it's faster to travel, I use a skidoo (50:54) and it's a lot easier you know. Long ago, they used to have to go early, 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning because it was slow to travel ... (Interviewer talks a bit in the background) they used horses and dogs, Just like before, I'd go with my dad, we'd use dogs, we'd leave early in the morning, it'd be still dark outside and cold. We'd leave and finally get there and we'd stay a long time, like on the trap line. But today it's different, it only takes ten or fifteen minutes to get there, (51:27) we'd get done then we'd come back. It's so fast, it's easy today now.

Q 51:36 Your kids, did you teach them anything as they grew up?

A 51:48 Oh that one, he's right into it that Irwin, He won't go to school. So he had no choice but to fish. For three winters now he's helped me, and good. He won't leave Sandy Point. When he goes out it's only for one or two nights, then he's back here. He's only sixteen now, but I want him to have a little more responsibility and not to go bad.

Q 52:19 Now, who else do you know who talks Michef?

A 52:23 Boy... It must be those who live around here that talk that way, I guess.

Q 52:30 Could you tell me how to say some words in Michef? I only talk Cree.

A 52:38 Me to, I only talk Cree, I don't, I wonder how?

Q You don't have Michef? (laughs)

A No, I talk Cree, that's right.

Q 52:47 Iss-lais your dad used to say .. Iss-lais...

A Isss-lais I guess

Q Yes, Iss-Lais he used to say Ca-Muh-soon-wah, ...
(???? they go on here but talk a little to fast and both talk at once.)

(He says something about talking French)

Q She thanks him for talking with her.

A Thank You
END

Larry Ahenakew

21 AUG 1999

Tape #2 - Interview #5 - Ile a La Crosse/ Sandy Point

Michif Translations

2:53:14

Okay, all rolling

Okay

Larry Ahenakew is what I'm called

This is Sandy Point.. where I grew up, 1951, Not long ago, I was about 4 years old, when my Grandmother and my grandfather had come and gotten me, from over there on the other side It had already snowed at that time.

Ahh, they came with horses and we got here at Sandy Point. I had been here before and I remembered it.

From there, my grandmother and my grandfather kept me all the time, till I went back to school again, At that time when I used to stay here I remember I used to go around with my grandmother we lived just over here and she used to teach me, I'd watch her as she set her traps, how she would put her set them. One time I went with her before we did anything else. We went down there to go and see the traps and we had a mink in one. Boy, we'll eat good now. That mink was still alive. Larry, get a stick so we can hit him and kill it she said. So I went and got a stick and we hit that mink. He was laying there real still we put it in our pack sack and she was carrying it as we started walking away. We must have just knocked it out because it started moving and she felt it. She started hollering she was so scared. It sure gave us a hard time. That's what I was remembering after so long ago. How I learned, what we did and how I did it.

When I think about those times and I think about my formal schooling, I think I liked those times better, better. Because you weren't being taught in a formal sense, it was more sort of see what I do and learn from it. And if you learned it was good and if you didn't choose to learn it was still good, it was okay, you didn't fail, but you could learn it the next time because it was repetitive.

When I think about Sandy Point, or Nee-yaw-kow-sik as we say it, I think about those times. Over the years I eventually came back to build a cabin on the Island, because I needed a place I could go to when I needed time to think, when I needed time to rest, because when I think of my grandfather

he used to tell me this is it, look at it, this our home, our land this is where I took it, it was for those dreams that I came back.

My grandfather and my grandmother meant a lot to me, when I think about them now, I feel some sadness that there not here with us today, to share the things that we've seen and the people that we have become. I remember my grandfather one evening as we were sitting around the supper table and for what ever reasons, began to tell me

Nooose-sim (grandson), living on the land here, fishing, that won't be your way of life, to live you will live by the pen. When I think about that now, I think and say to my self, my grandfather was a smart man. He saw into the future if you will. Just from the way we acted as young people. And he told me that was the way I was going to make my living. Not on the trap line, not out Commercial fishing, or any of the other traditional ways, he said no, your way will be by the pen. And it's been that way for the last 30 years, that's the way I've made my living. When I feel a need to clear my mind, when I feel a need to revive my spirit, I come back to Sandy Point, because it's a chance to rest, its a chance to think, It's a chance to reminisce about the things that were.

From there you understand, I have, I see, and the next time I leave, the next time I go to work, the same as a young man my mind is clear and sharp. My grandmother and my grandfather taught me a lot of things, how to love, how to believe, many other things like helping each other, anything there was to know that they knew they showed me. They didn't say "Hey, this is what I am going to teach you, this is what you will learn", No, we as young people had a chance to learn at our leisure, we didn't have to ask them questions, we just watched them. How something was supposed to be done, how they did it. From there we started to learn how we could survive. That's why today, I'm thankful to them for what they have shown me.

If there is something that I want, that I want to see, that I yearn for, is like them, that my children and their children to not leave this behind, to come here for peace, Sandy Point this place is called, not to forget it, I want them to be able to come back here to get the same understanding that I get from it and to feel filled and at peace as I do when I am here. That's what I would like.

Gee I wonder what it is, its just like I lost something and found it again coming here, I've been thinking so hard.

Today I really am thinking about why I came here to speak, I have a lot of understanding, like

I'm one of the family, the family of those who grew up at Sandy Point, But acceptance was probably there for years and years and years and I just never understood it till today. It come back to me and said come to me actually. Because I am a part of this family. That what I do matters to the people that grew up in Sandy Point. Again when I think about my grandfather and Grandmother I think of that work ethic they instilled

in my me and my brothers and sisters. Of what it means to look after yourself, what it means to be who you want to be, because that ability is within each and everyone of us. And so it was in that giving from my grandparents that I feel so proud to call myself a person from sandy Point.

When I walked up to day after coming from across the lake, I saw many people that I hadn't seen for years, I started shaking hands and the smiles were there. They acknowledged me, that I was a part of this family. Deep in my... Ahhh ... what can I say, Its great that I was have a good mind to see what I do here, even though I was only four when I first came here to live.

As I look out across the bay here I see the house that I grew up in, it's not there any more but I see the house I grew up in. I see my grandmother washing clothes, I see my grandfather building a boat, I see all that because the work ethic was there, the need to survive, the connection with the land, And there is that continued need with us with our children and with our grandchildren, to show them the importance of what is here. If we don't do it, nobody else will. Because you have to have that connection to this particular place, in order to be able to do that.

Well I sure have a lot to think about today, I sure think hard why was I chosen to come here and speak. Why is it that on this land we are all chosen to get to gather here together. Some of them I don't even know now, Why is it that I to took this land to come and all meet Maybe it s because we are all....

END OF TAPE