

**Gilbert Pelletier, Norman Fleury, Sherry Farrell-Racette**

**Video 1**

**Start 11.38.29.20 GILBERT PELLETIER** - You know, we travelled around a lot, and, you know, from Yorkton, well I was born in Yorkton, and where it was straight Michif community. Everybody spoke Michif. Nobody spoke English, everybody spoke Michif there. And when we left there to go around working we came back in the '50s, because that's the only place I had to go to school. We weren't allowed to go to school anywhere else. We couldn't get school anywhere else. And I, that's when we started school, in the '50s, when I started school and, you know, our only mode of travel was horses and wagon. And like Norman mentioned, they were gifted, my Dad was gifted in fixing wagons when they had a breakdown. Have a breakdown, and he'll find a way to fix it, you know, or harnesses, mending harnesses, and doctoring horses, cause horses did get sick too sometimes eh? But he'd never get a vet or that I never knew of such thing as a vet, he did it all himself, you know, a horse had a bad cut or something, he'd go to a slough and get some whatever he gathers there and you know, wraps it around the horse and that was it.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - He could heal her.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Horse was okay, the horse was healed. That's, yeah, he was, he was real good at that, and he spoke seven different languages fluently eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Seven?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - He spoke French in Quebec, that Quebec-French he spoke it fluently, and different like the Crees, he spoke Cree. And a lot of languages from the States, you know different Indian dialects...

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - So like Sioux.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - He spoke seven different languages.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - I think that that, that's almost hard for a person growing up now to think of, cause like me, I speak one, you know, and compare to say our long ago people, not even that long ago.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well I speak one language too, real good. The only language I could speak good is Michif.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - That's still your first.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - That's my first language, and then my second language I guess is English, because all I've ever spoken was Michif. Even today, as long as I can find a Michif speaking person, that's all I'll talk is Michif, I won't talk English.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Do you think in Michif?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - I'm pretty well, I do, I think in Michif, regardless what, what I do, it's always in Michif. And you know, cause a, sometimes it is hard for me, I sit on some commissions and, you know, everybody talks English, they all speak English and all well educated people, and there I am, thinking my Michif. You know, my mind is Michif eh?

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - You have to translate all the time.

**(Video Time: 11:40.59.28) GILBERT PELLETIER** - I've gotta translate it, I gotta translate all the time. And when I started school in Yorkton, after that well, that's where we settled. Then we didn't move around so much. We just go out and go work in the summer time and then come back same place. You

know, during the holidays we go to work. Then I left home, quite early in life. Went on my own, went to the States. You know, hiked around the country.

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

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You know about that, just being a wild kid. You know, not really interested in nothing but you know, having a few drinks, having a lot of fun. That's all I ever thought about. You know, work enough to get a few bucks so you can go on to the next party.

**End 11.41.44.26**

**Start: 11.42.10.21 SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Where did you learn the stories?

**(Video Time: 11:42.12.09) GILBERT PELLETIER** - From my Grandma actually, I learnt the stories, but the hunting I learned from my Dad. The hunting, I used to go with Dad when I was just a little kid, you know, as long as you didn't go too far. I'd go out a part-ways, I'd be able to go home, as long as I could see the house then he let me go home alone.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - All right.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - But I used to go with him. As I grew older I went farther and farther with him. He taught me all about hunting, cause I used to hunt a lot too. You know, I trapped a lot and hunt a lot and, you know, you would snare everything, rabbits and squirrels, you know, we used to sell 'em. So that's where we got our money. Get even two cents a squirrel or something that was still money to us.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Yeah back then it meant something, eh.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Well it meant something.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Get something with a penny.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – Yeah, oh yeah. You were able to go in a store with five cents and buy something, actually buy something, you know. Not like today, that's I...

**NORMAN FLEURY** – It's different today.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – ...oh yeah, today it's different. And I learnt stories from them and when we, in our travels, you know, we used to travel the road allowance eh? Wherever there was a nice slough, the water was good all over. You would hit a slough, the water was good to drink.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - You could just drink it like that?

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - You could just drink it like that.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Wow.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Today you can't do it eh, you kinda just strain it a bit and it's good to drink. You can't do that today, but then, you know, and then other people somehow another they'd find each other, and then they'd stay there for about two, three days, just camp there, and that's where the stories would come in. You know, stories would come in then.

**(Video Time: 11:43.41.18) 15.3 NORMAN FLEURY** - See, like years ago there was, there was no ways of like, the, the media we didn't have the media that we have today. There was no television, there was no radio. We never had any radio, or we never had any television, so when people visited, they'd tell each other the stories about, or just things that happened in the communities that they came from. So and so got married. So and so had, you know, children.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - It's a good visit.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Good visit, and I remember as a young child if somebody came to visit we were so excited to, to see people come to visit,

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - ...we were looking forward to and, and, and in wintertime, especially when my uncle came, well then we knew there was something come because a dog again would bark, or the dog would look. They knew there was somebody coming. And, and the dog gave a different bark and a different personality than he would if it was me or us coming home.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** – A stranger.

**End 11.44.41.26**