

Transcribed by David Morin

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE FOLKLORE INTERVIEWS

Gilbert Pelletier, Norman Fleury and Sherry Farrell Racette

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(Video Time: 11:30.10.21) 0.3 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – One of the things that I'd like to just ask, to start with, just to begin, because most of the time you'll be speaking in Michif, it's just to tell me how it is that you come to be fluent Michif speakers, where you grew up, family. You want to start here. Watch me, you know, watch me point with my lips.

0.6 GILBERT PELLETTIER – What are you asking though?

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Well both of you, but who wants to go first?

GILBERT PELLETTIER - Go ahead.

0.8 NORMAN FLEURY - Okay. Thanks. Well for myself personally, I've always spoke Michif and I was born with the Michif language. Like when I was in my mother's womb I heard the Michif language because that was essentially our first language.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Right.

NORMAN FLEURY – And it was just a normal thing for me like to just, I didn't know there was any other language.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Until you were how old?

NORMAN FLEURY - Then we'd have visitors that might come from, like we lived in a community which was predominately French/Métis community, and even if we go to town shopping, you know, there would be French speaking, and a lot of Michif speaking. So we knew there was the French in the community, so I heard French and since, just about 50% of our language, the Michif language, is French. Like the nouns are in French, then, then I knew, I wasn't lost with, and I, and I got to learn the French language very, very, very easily.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you speak French as well?

(Video Time: 11:31.41.05) NORMAN FLEURY - And I also speak French, but not only French because the people back home, the Métis people were known as people that were very diverse in, in, in all languages because it, it was just the normal thing in life because they grew up either in the community where there might have been Reserves close by and then you learned those languages also, or they had to speak different languages to survive. And they are known as the interpreters and the translations, translators when Treaties were made.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Right.

NORMAN FLEURY - And when Treaty were signed. So our Métis people were always very diverse in languages. I know some people back home that spoke Lakota which is the Sioux language, they spoke Saulteaux, they spoke Cree, they spoke French French, Métis French, and Michif, and Cree, like Plains Cree, and I speak all those languages.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya, I know people that spoke French Michif, Cree, Saulteaux, and English, so, you know, they're all related languages but that, you know, except for English but five, ya.

NORMAN FLEURY – But Michif was our first language.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That's what you spoke at home?

(Video Time: 11:32.46.21) NORMAN FLEURY – And that's what I spoke at home, and my Mom she lives in Brandon, she'll be a hundred and two in June, and it, it was our family language. It was also our commercial language, it was also a ceremonial language. When you prayed, you prayed in Michif, so it was no problem for me to...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Did you have a big family?

NORMAN FLEURY – My Mom would have had, or she did have 13 children but there was nine living.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – Nine?

NORMAN FLEURY - Yeah, so I grew up in a fair sized family.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Older people living with the family?
Grandparents?

NORMAN FLEURY - Well my Grandparents actually lived on the same little farm that we lived on.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Neighbours.

(Video Time: 11:33.23.20) NORMAN FLEURY - And, and, and my Grandparents were actually more so than my mother, my Grandparents were my teachers. They taught me all their culture, the traditions, the stories, the folklore, the legends. I learned all from my Grandparents, and they were the ones that also in that generation spoke highly of Louis Riel and, and the

Métis people who were part of the Resistance, part of the movement of the Métis people. And that's where I heard of Louis Riel.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Your Grandparents, what were their names?

NORMAN FLEURY - My Grandparents, like my maternal Grandparents were Jean-Baptiste Leclair and Flora Lepine, that was her maiden name, but she used to say Lepiney. She says my name is Lepiney it's not Lepine, because she felt it was more Francophone when you said Lepine, but it was Lepiney that was more Michif.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So that's how they pronounced it?

NORMAN FLEURY - That's how she pronounced it and her Dad pronounced it Lepiney also.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh really?

(Video Time: 11:34.26.15) NORMAN FLEURY - And those were my maternal, my paternal Grandparents were John Fleury and my grandmother was a Vermette, Rose-Anna Vermette was her name. And so I also learned genealogy. I was very, very much involved in genealogy. My family today, they all ask me who was Grandpa's parents and who were the relatives and what did they do. And so I was, I guess as a young boy, they used to call me kid that was very curious, but my curiosity led me to where I am today. Where I'm one of the people that know the legends, the stories, the history, and the folklore of our people because I was curious. But then another thing we would talk about is, those kinds of things are, you're gifted, like in, we, we believe that people were gifted with certain things in life, and I was gifted to be a historian or folklorist, or people like, knew legends and stuff. And there was people if we were talking about with Gilbert, like yesterday we were talking and this morning and we were talking about different things

about how the people came to be talented and skilled in their areas. Like some people are horse people, some people knew good horses.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That's a gift?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, that's a gift, and some were dog people. The dog, you'd, one time you'd use dogs for hunting, for trapping, and they were the means of transportation, so those, those, and those were people. There was also people that were the storytellers, the people that told legends, and, and if, and there was the medicine people. Like if you were sick, people'd say well go see that individual, that person knows medicines. And, and certain people knew certain medicines for certain ailments. There were herbalists, they knew roots, and they knew the ways of, of healing, and like my Mom's mother, she was one of those people.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - My Grandma too.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, and there was also spirituality involved in, in when you, when you went digging medicine or when you are giving medicine to people, there was spirituality involved, you had to pray. It wasn't the first, my Grandma used to say, I'm not the person that's healing you, it's God, it's, it's, it's a spiritual thing. So, so those were the kinds of things that they related, because my grandmother also told us as young people, we were God-given people and we had a God-given language, and God created us. So those were the kinds of things, but like when we're talking in Michif, those kinds of things are, you can highlight more things in Michif, in your own language, and you could, you could be more creative and artistic when you're starting to talk about who you are and what you're all about, and about your way of life.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Is that right?

NORMAN FLEURY - And I could just feel it here.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – Ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - I can feel the emotions when I start talking about those things, you kinda feel tight in the throat and you feel hair going up in the back of your neck and you know you're with it. You know, and those, I think that's, that's the thing about being Michif.

(Video Time: 11:37.36.23) 8.4 GILBERT PELLETIER - Well I'm, I guess the only difference between Norman and I was we were like, more like gypsies, we moved around a lot.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Right.

GILBERT PELLETIER - You know, like my Dad was, worked for farmers mostly, that's all he ever, worked for farmers. And my grandmother was with us. My Grandpa died before I could remember my Grandpa, and my mother's, my Dad's Dad. But my Grandma was with us. Her name was Helen, and her maiden name was St. Pierre.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - All right, okay.

GILBERT PELLETIER – And my grandfather was Abraham, and on my mother's side, well my Grandpa was Louis Flamont.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay.

GILBERT PELLETIER - And Ruth O'Henry was my grandmother.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - O'Henry?

GILBERT PELLETIER - O'Henry, that was my grandmother.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Well it's just Métis history right in these names you know.

(Video Time: 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. Louis spoke English, everybody spoke Michif. And when we left there to go around working we came back in the '50s, because that's when...**(Inaudible)**...had to go to school. We weren't allowed to go to school anywhere else. We couldn't get school anywhere else. And 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 you'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...**(Inaudible)**...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, ya, he was, he was real good at that, and he spoke several 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 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... **(Inaudible)**... 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, you know, 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.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Yeah well I think there is a few of you.

GILBERT PELLETIER - But I've quit. I don't, I very seldom have a drink. Now I have a drink now and again with you, I'll have a couple of drinks, and I quit smoking years ago so. Actually I'm getting to be a good boy. I don't know, maybe it's too late.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - It's never too late.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Never too late.

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 to far. I'd go out 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, 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 of it. Even two cents a squirrel or something that was still money to us.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya back then it meant something, eh?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Well it meant something.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Get something with a penny.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Ya, oh ya. You were able to go in a store with five cents and buy something, actually buy something, you know. Not like today, that's, oh yeah, today it's different. And I learnt that the way from them and when we, in our travels, you know, we used to travel the road allowance eh? Wherever there was a nice slope, 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 ya, ya, ya.

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 a...**(Inaudible)**...he knew when there was a stranger. And the horses, you could hear the chains from the harness or you can hear the bells. But my grand, my uncle used to come and visit us and then we'd sit down and visit and we'd talk about things. There was always something to talk about. Always things to talk about or, he was a great one, this is my Mom's brother, the only brother, and they always hosted dances or parties. So he'd say

we're having a dance, we come and, we're coming to invite you to come on Saturday, there's a dance at home. And that's how the news went around. Or when, and there was some people in, around our community that moved around a lot. They were the people that would go around visiting. They were visitors. So when they came to your place they'd tell you about so and so, and, and that's how the news got around. And, and it was so interesting, you know, because you knew when people were coming you would learn something, you'd have a good visit, and if they were gonna stay too long it was nothing to throw a blanket on the floor if there was enough beds, which there was normally not enough beds. And the person would sleep beside the stove if he had to, to keep warm, and there was always room. There was hospitality, we always had...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So it didn't matter?

NORMAN FLEURY - ...good hospitality, whether it was, you, you didn't, and there was no such thing as a telephone, so I couldn't warn you I was coming. So just whenever somebody came, they were there, and you took it for granted that they were either gonna stay for a day or a week.

GILBERT PELLETTIER - Or a week, ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - And, and if they have to, if they, they might have to, they'd stay longer. And it, it, it, and I don't know how we did it, but we, we were able to accommodate a lot of people in our homes. And there was always, those people were also willing to help. If you were doing chores...

GILBERT PELLETTIER - Oh ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...they'd be out there to help you do chores. If you're going to go for a load of wood, they'd go with you and cut a load of wood because they didn't come dressed up in a, in a three piece suit normally. You

were dressed up for the weather for the season, and if you were going to go out there trapping or hunting, they were gone with you also. So like people are always prepared for, for whatever. It was like it was seasonal and they were prepared for, for the venture that you were going to introduce to them. If it was time to butcher pigs, or whatever, they were there, they would help you. It was milking time, they would help you also. So it was...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you earned your way?

(Video Time: 11:46.59.10) NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, like I mean, and you didn't even think of paying because like well, you were helping, and if you went to their place you got the same hospitality.

GILBERT PELLETIER - And you wouldn't even think of asking a person for money...

NORMAN FLEURY - Nope.

GILBERT PELLETIER - ...just because you did some work for him.

NORMAN FLEURY - And you know why? People didn't have money anyway.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Well they didn't have it I guess but.

NORMAN FLEURY - Like they didn't really.

GILBERT PELLETIER - No, no, there was no money...**(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)**...

NORMAN FLEURY - Like the only money that we really had in our community is if somebody was working, but the Grandparents had old age pension. That was mainly the only, the money that was in our district and we

knew Grandma and Grandpa were gonna get their old age pension. And old age pension day meant you'd get a candy from Grandma, or they'd, they'd have something a little extra for you. Like, and when Grandma got paid and Grandpa, it was everybody's payday. That's the way it was around home, because the people at home, most Métis people at home that I knew this, especially the older people, and my Mom's still like that, they were givers, they weren't takers. My Mom today, at a hundred and one years old, you can go to her place, and I'll go there, and she'll say, "do you have any money?" She'll say, "Well here, I don't need money. What do I want money for? I'm in the house, I don't go any place I'm not like you, I don't travel." She says, "You have it." And she'll empty her little purse and give you her last cent.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, and they don't lend you that money, they give it to you. They don't lend it, they don't expect any payback.

NORMAN FLEURY - No. No.

GILBERT PELLETIER – You know, I think that's they way it was all over the place with the Métis people.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Generous.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, very generous.

(Video Time: 11:48.30.06) NORMAN FLEURY - Very generous because see Grandma lived, Grandma lived in the same farm yard, and like, my aunty and uncle, but then they moved away. Then my, my uncle, my uncle's boy, my first cousin lived next door and then we lived over here. And you were never short of anything because you could go to them and ask them for salt or sugar and you could borrow and you never expected to get paid back because you were gonna be short someday and you're gonna go back...

GILBERT PELLETIER - You're gonna go and get some.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...and go and get some. So there was always little tin cans or little jar, or, or they'd even tie something in the handkerchief and they, especially things like oatmeal, sugar, flour. Those were the main necessities it seemed.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Ya.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – Ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - And see and when Grandpa butchered, like he'd always have in the fall, they did butchering pigs, and they did different things, they made blood sausage, and they, they'd render their own fat down. They'd make head cheese and it was a day that everybody worked together. And then he had six girls and one boy, everybody got a share of that, the butchering of those hogs. And Grandma would say, "Well we'll give this one that, this one, this one that," and everybody, they knew when Grandpa was gonna butcher, they took it for granted that they, it was part of theirs.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – And your Grandma would divide it up?

NORMAN FLEURY - The ownership, the ownership, the Grandma and Grandpa would divide it up, and ownership was based on your lineage, on your family. Your extended family was so important, that you made sure that they survived also, and that's the way it was around home.

GILBERT PELLETIER - There was nobody better than anybody else. Nobody was richer than anyone.

NORMAN FLEURY – It was equal.

(Video Time: 11:50.08.11) 22.4 GILBERT PELLETIER - Everybody was equal, I think that's why they made it so, so nice to live those days because not like today, those days everybody was happy. They all got along with you all.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Métis people are known as happy people.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya.

(Video Time: 11:50.24.13) 22.7 NORMAN FLEURY - They were happy and joyful. I remember when somebody come to visit, like especially my, my aunty and uncle, like Louis Fleury and my aunt Mary Fleury, they were like the musicians in their, their family. Theoren Fleury, the NHL player, well he's my first cousin's boy. And his Grandparents were very joyful and they were the musicians, so when they come at home and the first thing you'd know, there was, the fiddle was going, they were tuning up, the guitar was going and nobody didn't say, well we're gonna have a dance.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Kitchen parties.

NORMAN FLEURY – And, and it was a kitchen party and their music was on and they were jigging and that's how people shared their, actually their way of being able to do dances. It was their teaching, like those were the teachings, anything you'd done were specifically teachings, that's how I learnt because they, they taught us things, not directly, but indirectly, but you were supposed to be, actually, always paying attention to what's going on. And if you didn't pay attention, you lost out. And it was your own fault. Like when you were going hunting for instance. I remember going hunting with my grandfather as a little boy and he'd trap and he'd snare rabbits at the same time. So, every morning we'd pick up rabbits in the snares, and I was just a little kid, and there was this rabbit in the snare, it was still alive. So, I thought, as being a young boy, well, pet rabbit. So I grabbed this rabbit

and Grandpa said, "No." "No, noshom," he said. "Grand, grandson," he said, "You don't do that, because," he said, "You'll kill the spirit of our hunt if you abuse that animal. God gave us those animals for us to, to eat, for our survival." So right away I seen him take this little rabbit and he kinda put his thumb and his finger underneath the, the ribcage and dislocated the heart of the little rabbit. Put him out of his misery.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Die innocently.

NORMAN FLEURY - Die innocently. So you did that.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you knew how to show mercy?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - You showed mercy, you'd never, and he, he taught me that lesson. It was a spiritual lesson, it was a way of hunting, but it was a way of saying to you, those things were provided by God, and you're supposed to take life only for survival, and you kill with mercy. Mercy killing. And that's what it was, and as a little boy, I saw that. But he also told me, he said, "Grandson, this is the way we do things." And, and then I remember, like now we're talking about different things eh. Like we're talking about hunting rights for instance for the Métis people. Well for me, hunting rights are fine and dandy but, if you don't know the conservation rules and laws of the land, what's the sense of having hunting rights, and that's why...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - It doesn't just mean go and bang around.

(Video Time: 11:53.25.27) NORMAN FLEURY - No, no, like you have to have co-management with conservation. Like as far as I'm concerned, I wanna teach my son and my daughter to hunt at the right time, because there's migratory laws. There's times when the birds are having their young,

where the animals are having their young. I remember when they'd come and visit at home on Sundays, they would, we would go hunting, like we would just say, well we're gonna go get a deer, or two deer. But if it wasn't the right time, my Grandma and Grandpa would say, "Look you boys, it's not time to hunt now." They'd say, "They're having their little ones, so you don't go now." And it was the same thing with the ducks. They would eat duck eggs and mud hen eggs when they used to travel, they would always leave one or two eggs in the nest. They would never take them all, and that was again, conservation. And that was heart feeling, the feelings for the land and for the birds and everything that was provided to us by the Creator, by, like those were spiritual things.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - You're looking after it.

NORMAN FLEURY - And looking after the land, it will look after you, and, and, and see I learnt those...

(Video Time: 11:54.36.13) 27.3 GILBERT PELLETIER - I, I, I guess it was, that was the difference them days than today. Today people shoot things for no reason. We never did kill anything just for the fun of killing something. When we killed an animal we made use of it. You know, we didn't kill for the fun of it, but we didn't kill just to, when we go out and kill a deer, we made use of everything. My Grandma used to tan the hide, and, you know, you'd make different things out of, out of whatever it is. Whatever you could use out of the deer you used. You know, we didn't just shoot it and leave it there. You know, the meat was eaten, the meat was shared by, to everybody that was around. You know, we didn't just, not like today, today you kill some, people kill something and they just leave it to rot. We never did that, I never, never seen anybody do that. When they killed something, they made use of it.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - When you were like, so people taught you, like by their example eh? When they would have you beside them, but did they also teach you through stories?

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh certainly, oh certainly, ya, a lot of it was done through stories.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Can you, can you think of one? Can you think of one just off the top of your head?

(Video Time: 11:55.44.24) 28.5 NORMAN FLEURY - Well there was, like stories for me I guess, if you want to talk about, it depends on what kind of story you'd like to, like we'd like to talk about here, it depends on, like is it survival techniques or...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Well there's all kinds of different stories aren't there?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, like, like, like I know we just sit around and tell different stories but there would be stories more or less about the importance of being a human being and being a Michif person. And the survival techniques was, and if we're talking, you know, of the hunt, you know, and, like I know they used to tell the stories about buffalo hunt.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh did they?

NORMAN FLEURY - The stories of the buffalo hunt, like my Grandmother and Grandpa used to tell me the stories of the buffalo hunt when I was just a kid. And they'd tell me how, you know, when they first started off on the

buffalo hunt, they said it's not, it's not as simple as you think, because what you were saying, somebody had to know how to repair those carts.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Well ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - And somebody, you had to know how to take care of those horses, you had to know how to tether those horses at night and those cows, and you had to keep them so they, or those oxen, so they wouldn't wander off. And they had to eat also, so you had to take time to feed them at certain times of the day, and that's when you broke up for camp. And that's when different things they would do, like they would, they'd play games. The kids would have to have entertainment, and some people actually, you talk about daycare today, well they had their own daycares. The, the elderly ladies took care of the kids. Those that couldn't do anything as part of the camp work anymore, they would take care of the kids and the boys would take care of the horses. They would, they would be the herders. They would take care of the horses, they'd take care of the cattle, and some people, if the harness broke down, there was somebody there that knew how to repair a harness. So those kinds of things. And they also had to be very careful when you're on the hunt and those days it was, my Grandfather used to say, it was the endangered times also because there was other tribes, like that were out that might come and, and attack you. Or they might come and take your goods, you know. So if you seen a wolf, it was not always a wolf, it was a man that was dressed as a wolf and he was coming out to sneak and...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - To scout.

NORMAN FLEURY – ...scout and see where you were.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Scout, ya, scout the camp.

NORMAN FLEURY - So like those, we're talking, things of many, many years ago now, we're talking about the 1860s. You know, like those, those, that was a long time.

(Video Time: 11:58.19.02) 31.2 GILBERT PELLETIER - You also had to know how to hunt buffalo. You don't just, you know, it's not as simple as just getting on your horse and chasing a buffalo and going right beside it and shooting it. Those buffalo could turn around and charge the horse eh? So you had to be very careful, you had to know how to do it, you don't just ride up to the buffalo and then shoot him.

NORMAN FLEURY - Spook.

GILBERT PELLETIER - It wasn't that simple like they, they have on TV, I guess now, but, you know, people, people had to know how to ride. They had no saddles so you had to be able to ride a horse with no saddle. And, you know, hanging on with just your knees, pressing your knees on the horse and then having your both hands free to shoot it.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - I find it hard to even imagine how people did it. You know like...

(Video Time: 11:58.54.20) 31.8 NORMAN FLEURY - Like sixteen hundred people, twelve hundred horses and oxen and, and maybe, maybe three, three thousand carts. Because they didn't only use the one cart here, you'd, you'd have your cart here, but behind here, you'd also have two or three more carts that they were attached, tied to the other carts, and nobody was driving those. And remember those horses.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Were like a train.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - Like a train, and those oxen and horses didn't have to be driven, because they'd been done there many times before, they actually...

GILBERT PELLETIER - ...**(Inaudible)**...

NORMAN FLEURY - And, and, and they'd go where they were going, so if these ones were, there were camped here, and bedded down, my Grandmother said they were already had, they ate already. These guys over here were just getting to the camp. That's how far, and that's how far away from each other they were. That's how long those trains were.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Long the train was.

(Video Time: 11:59.48.05) 32.8 GILBERT PELLETIER - And you had to make sure that you don't lose your horses, especially at night. They used to, my Grandma used to say **(speaks Michif)**. That means we hobbled them. And they'd take the bit out of the horse and they'd take the hem straps and wrap it around the front legs eh? So the horse can't move too fast. It's that they don't go too far, they could just take short little steps, or else tether them with a long rope eh.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – How do you say hobble in Michif? You just said it.

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

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay, I just wanted to make sure that they got it in there. No, it sounds neat, you know, 'cus just those little things that are just...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, that means, that means to hobble a horse.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - When, how would you say in Michif, you know, we're gonna go like camping or going on a camp, how would they say that?

GILBERT PELLETIER – **(Speaks Michif)**. Or that's, ya. **(Speaks Michif)**. That's to camp, we're going camping, ya.

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

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

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - We're going to camp.

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

33.8 NORMAN FLEURY - **(Speaks Michif)**. That's digging Seneca root. So if they said **(speaks Michif)**, automatically you knew you were going to camp.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, you are going camping...**(Inaudible)**...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you're going to get Seneca root you know.

NORMAN FLEURY - Or **(speaks Michif)** like, we're gonna go hunting. And they'd be gone for two, three days, to hunt and trap.

34.1 GILBERT PELLETIER - **(Speaks Michif)**. We didn't just go just for the pleasure of going camping.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Always a purpose.

GILBERT PELLETIER - It's always a purpose to go. Ya, it was never just to go camping, not like today. Well today, last year I went camping quite a bit.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh did ya?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, went fishing and lay around by the lake.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And that's not how it was?

GILBERT PELLETIER - No, that, that's a different form of camping, and I even got a TV in my camp.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - No.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, in my camper. Oh ya.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That's not Michif camping eh?

GILBERT PELLETIER – No, it's not, it's Michif camping anymore.

(Video Time: 12:01.34.06) 34.7 NORMAN FLEURY – But, you know, we looked forward to go camping, with like my Grandfather. He tried to drive a car but you wouldn't want to ride with him. He's very dangerous. So as a matter of fact, he was never given a license or never got one, because we said no, he shouldn't have one. But his, his mode of travelling was with horses. Well he was born in 1873, so when we went, stooking, was a big thing, that's how they made money. That's stooking...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya that's the money part, that's how they made money – threshing.

NORMAN FLEURY - Putting up the, the fields that are cut with the binders into sheaves.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Right.

NORMAN FLEURY - And then you make stooks out of them. You put, what was there 6 or...

GILBERT PELLETIER - 6, 7 sometimes.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Did you do that yourselves?

PELLETIER AND FLEURY – Oh ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - We did a lot of that.

NORMAN FLEURY - And, but we did it by hand, my Grandpa did it with a pitchfork.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - With a fork, he could stand them up with, and you had to be very skilful to do that.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, my Dad did that. He was about the only one. I tried, I could never do something like that.

NORMAN FLEURY - So when you were traveling with the horses...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - It looks hard.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...going to where you're going, you're destination, there was always a gun, a .22, it was never a rifle...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Never a rifle.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...always a .22 and you had your dog, always had a dog with you. And the dog helped you for getting your, he was a, retrieved your ducks or retrieved your birds or he was your guard or different things.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Did people train their dogs?

(Video Time: 12:02.50.19) 36.2 GILBERT PELLETIER - And if you were trapping, he'd tell you where the mink is, if you're trapping minks or something. You know, you'd choose the dog, he'd tell you exactly where that mink is.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So did they train them or did you just have smart dogs?

NORMAN FLEURY - They were trained but I think it was more of a genetic thing. It was, it was bred in them, basically.

GILBERT PELLETIER - We have a dog that, you know, my Dad used to take all the time when we was trapping. And that dog would get on a trail and then he'd just follow him and if he finds something he barks. And if you hear him barking trying to dig, well in the wintertime they can't dig but they're trying. You know, they'd make a noise when they're digging, so that's how they finds him.

36.8 NORMAN FLEURY - But you know, you're always going when you're going stooking, you're, you're going to a farmer that's maybe 20 miles away. So Grandpa used to shoot our, our dinner. There was a rabbit or a partridge

and that was our dinner. Like we prepared, they always were ready for, well we have to eat. So they'd have food, and Grandma would make bannock right out there on the fire.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Ya, right out in the open.

NORMAN FLEURY – And, and Grandma was the cook and then she would go to the field and stook also. She was a real good stoker, my Grandmother. And you were always prepared, like they were going stooking, my Mom tells the story, they were all going stooking, this is how you made your money because there was no other income.

GILBERT PELLETIER - There was no other income, there was no other way to make money.

NORMAN FLEURY – So my mother was to have one of her babies. So they were, the wagons were going and, and she said, she said, “Momma **(speaks Michif)**.” “Well,” I said, “**(speaks Michif)** we'll go home.” **(Speaks Michif)** said, “They'll go ahead.” So anyways, Mom, they went to the house, Mom and Grandma. Grandma was a midwife, she had six daughters, all their children were born at home, we were all born at home.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Your Grandma was your...

NORMAN FLEURY -Grandma was a medicine woman, she was the midwife, she was a herbalist, she did all these things. So when these people came back, they said, “**(speaks Michif)**, Mom had a little boy.” And the little kids would say, “**(speaks Michif)**, how did that little boy get here?” **(Speaks Michif)** Come riding on a rabbit. It wasn't the story, it was the rabbit...**(Inaudible)**...

GILBERT PELLETIER - We all arrived on rabbits.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - How do you say that again?

GILBERT PELLETIER - All Michif arrived on rabbits (**speaks Michif**).

NORMAN FLEURY - (**Speaks Michif**). So that's another story again that you can go into the, how they taught the kids, the. Like you didn't go into detail, you know, because you always wanted to kept, keep their minds focused on reality in life, but also to respect life. Like those were the kind of things, and sex education, you either learned that on your own, or you were told certain things, and that's what it. You know, like I remember my Mom telling me this, my brother Rene, he was just a little, little kid, and I was to be born, and she woke them up in the middle of the night about three in the morning or four in the morning when she was starting to have pains. And I have, get up, (**speaks Michif**), why? "You have to go to Grandma, (**speaks Michif**) I got a sore stomach," she says. My older brother said, "Well Mom when I have a sore stomach I don't wake you up at four o'clock in the morning so we can go to Grandma's." But she didn't say, "I'm gonna have this baby," and that was the same thing on the farm

GILBERT PELLETIER - (**Speaks Michif**)

NORMAN FLEURY - The animals when we're gonna have like, cow's gonna calf, or the horse gonna have a colt, or the sow's gonna have piglets, they didn't let you go there.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - No?

GILBERT PELLETIER - No, they wouldn't let you see that.

NORMAN FLEURY - They wouldn't let you see that.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Really?

GILBERT PELLETIER - No, they wouldn't let you see that.

NORMAN FLEURY - No, no.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Not 'till you were older.

NORMAN FLEURY – 'Till you were old enough.

GILBERT PELLETIER – 'Till you were old enough.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - About how old?

NORMAN FLEURY - 13, 14 maybe, when you were able to work with those animals.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, when you were...

NORMAN FLEURY - When you were able to understand and to look after them. When the responsibility came, that's when you start to learn. Otherwise those things you weren't...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Not your business, no.

NORMAN FLEURY -That wasn't your business.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay.

NORMAN FLEURY -So those were the kinds of things eh? It's like, so everybody had their way of learning, and those were our teachings.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And then the kids would listen.

NORMAN FLEURY –Oh, you had to.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Oh, you had no choice but to listen, you had to listen.

NORMAN FLEURY -Ya, because you would make a, a willow. You went and cut your own little willow.

(Video Time: 12:07.49.08) 41.4 GILBERT PELLETIER - And it had to be big enough you know. Usually when you go get your own willow you wanted to get the little wee ones eh? They don't hurt too much, it'll break. Well they send you right back out to get another one.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - You had to cut your own?

GILBERT PELLETIER - You had to cut your own, and that's what they used on you.

41.7 NORMAN FLEURY - But you know...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - You wouldn't do that too many times?

NORMAN FLEURY - ...they weren't wicked and you didn't have to have to do it many times.

GILBERT PELLETIER - You didn't have to do it many times.

NORMAN FLEURY - Because you had it once, you learnt.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Yep.

NORMAN FLEURY - That's why it was a real harsh punishment in the beginning. So you would learn. It was, it was a learning experience, and if you didn't there was something wrong with you, you know.

(Video Time: 12:08.23.21) 42.1 GILBERT PELLETIER - But then see, a lot of your siblings didn't, didn't get it because they saw you.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh you were the oldest?

GILBERT PELLETIER - I was the oldest and they saw what you got so they wouldn't do it, they wouldn't dare try it eh? Like in our family there was 15 of us.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ho, I can't imagine, as a woman, raising 15 kids.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Well there was 12 that , that was...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - But you'd lose some. Some would be lost?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya, we lost three, there was 12 of us that, for years there was 12.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That's still a lot of kids.

GILBERT PELLETIER - That's still a lot of kids.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - People now think two is a handful.

NORMAN FLEURY - Were they all born at home...**(Inaudible)**...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, most of them were born at home too, the same thing.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Who helped your Mom?

(Video Time: 12:09.00.27) GILBERT PELLETIER – See my, my, my auntie, Mrs. St. Pierre, well that, Norman knows her. She's from Yorkton and she was a midwife too eh? But then we did have quite a few midwives around in the, in Métis communities, but she was one of them. And she's, and she's one that you'd like to talk to cause she's got a lot of interesting stories. She's 90 some years old now. She is, and you know, she'd be able to tell stories. I'm really interested in seeing her, listening to her tell stories.

43.3 NORMAN FLEURY - You know, people never even thought about going to a hospital when they were going to have a baby. There was no such thing around home. You never, they would just say well, so and so is gonna have a baby so I'll be called over just about any time now. And, and true enough, there was a sleigh or a team of horses or somebody came and Grandma was gone. And, and, and they stayed with those, women had to stay in the bed in those days, they were taken care of for maybe 5, 6 days, they wouldn't let them get out of bed. They were well taken care of. My Grandma took care of those ladies really, really well.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Thus, better than they'd look after them in the hospital.

44.1 GILBERT PELLETIER - And the kids. They never took their kids to the hospital. They'd say, well go see that one. You know, there's a doctor there, go see that one...**(Inaudible)**...Métis.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you...

GILBERT PELLETIER - And one of the best that I've seen or heard of was a man by the name of Alec Perrault. He was my uncle. He was a real good doctor. I took my kids there.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - You have?

GILBERT PELLETIER - A few times.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Where did he get his medicines?

GILBERT PELLETIER - He was the seventh boy.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - And they call him **(speaks Michif)**.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh it's like a...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, that was...

NORMAN FLEURY and GILBERT PELLETIER – **(both repeat word in Michif)**.

GILBERT PELLETIER – **(Says the word in Michif)** They call him. That's the way we say it in Michif.

(Video Time: 12:10.52.03) 44.8 NORMAN FLEURY - The seventh one was always gifted eh? 5 boys, 7 boys or 7 girls. The seventh one was always gifted. And they never ever told you about it either. You had to go and ask them.

45.0 GILBERT PELLETIER - But he was the one that treated my kid. My, my kid took sick and we couldn't get him to the hospital because I didn't have the money, you know. So I was gonna fix that doctor but good, he would have needed a doctor himself, when I got through with him. But they got me out of there and Mom said "Well," my mother said, "Let's take him to, to Alex."

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - You mean they wouldn't look after him?

GILBERT PELLETIER - They wouldn't look after him because they, we had no, we had no money.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - They were gonna turn you away?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, they did turn us away.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Really?

GILBERT PELLETIER - They did, because we had no money.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That's awful.

(Video Time: 12:11.37.24) GILBERT PELLETIER - So we drove over there, we had to drive, I don't know, about 15 miles I guess out of town. So, and this was in wintertime though, you know, it was cold and the roads weren't so good. But we made it there. And when we got there, the old man was drunk. You know, he was drunk when we got there. So he said, "That's okay," he said, "Don't worry about it." He says, and he was standing around here praying his medicine eh? He was trying to give it to him and he wouldn't take it, like it was just a baby, he wouldn't take it, you know, cause it tastes awful. "Oh," he said, "That's okay," he said. So he put out, he made the sign of the cross on his forehead with it and then he took him to the other room,

he took him to his bedroom. So he come out he says, "Oh," he said, "In fifteen minutes he'll be okay." You know, before he even got out he started playing, started playing around.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That fast?

GILBERT PELLETIER - That fast. He told us in fifteen minutes he'll be all right. He says, "Don't worry about it. It won't happen again." And it never did.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Wow, I wonder what he did?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya he was a...

46.6 NORMAN FLEURY – They were, it was a mysterious thing and they were...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you didn't know...

NORMAN FLEURY - They didn't know and you didn't try to find out.

GILBERT PELLETIER - And, no, you didn't try to find out, that was...

NORMAN FLEURY - Because it was one of those mysterious things eh.

GILBERT PELLETIER - It worked and that's all I worried about, you know. I didn't care how he did it so long as it worked.

NORMAN FLEURY - Mrs. Tom Fleury, Leah...**(Inaudible)**...was her name. She was the seventh, and she would do things also. Like, and there was another person too, I forget, this kid had a toothache and she said, "Well come here." So she just rubbed that kid, and the toothache was gone.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Just to touch?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya.

(Video Time: 12:13.12.24) 47.4 GILBERT PELLETIER – And, you know he used to take the long way when we're walking around with Alec and he's telling me all these, you know, you see some flowers, certain flowers eh? And he'd pick them, he said, "This is medicine." You know how to mix this, this is good medicine and for certain things, different things, different kind of plants are for different kind of sickness eh. He used to say, "But you got to mix it with something else," but he'd never explain what else you had to mix it with.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - It was quite complicated I think, all that they knew.

GILBERT PELLETIER - And you had to dig certain roots, or certain plants that you had to dig up.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Certain time...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, at a certain time.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, to be a botanist mostly is what they were.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya, I think so, botanist, ya.

48.4 NORMAN FLEURY - They were botanists, you know, like my Grandmother used, she'd tell us certain things about medicines, like she'd say **(speaks Michif)**. That mint eh? **(Speaks Michif)** was another one, that's for when women are having their, you know, women problems. And

there was different medicines for the heart, there was medicines for the heart.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - How do say that in English, **(says word in Michif)**?

NORMAN FLEURY - Just mint eh?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Mint ya, ya.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - There's two kinds?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - There's **(says word in Michif)** that's mush, in the muskeg you get that.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, the muskeg you get that.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - The low?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, the low, and the **(says word in Michif)** that's the, it's more of a purple flower and it grows taller.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - On the higher ground?

NORMAN FLEURY - On the higher ground, but another thing she'd tell us too, is, there's certain things that they did with medicines. You did things in odd number or even numbers, that's for stopping things, making things go. And, and then when you're also, if you have let's say you have a root and, and you want to make the blood flow, you'd scrape your medicines

downwards, so that would make it flow. But if you were gonna stop something you scraped your medicines up.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – The other way?

NORMAN FLEURY - And it stopped it. So those are the kinds of things...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So everything was part of it? All of your...

NORMAN FLEURY - Everything was all a circle of, of wisdom. They knew the botany, and they knew not only that, but they also knew how to deal with, with Mother Nature, basically, and what, you know.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So two was to stop and three was to get something?

NORMAN FLEURY - Well there was an odd number and an even number.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Odd number?

(Video Time: 12:15.30.13) NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, and then there was the even number, that, that's, they used those. When you were making your medicines, you'd put odd, three of this, and three of that, and you'd put two of this and two of this and something else.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That would help you remember too eh?

GILBERT PELLETIER: Oh ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya. So, so, so...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Cause everything was in the memory...

GILBERT PELLETIER – No, nothing was written down, they...

NORMAN FLEURY - My Grandma couldn't read or write, she never went to school.

GILBERT PELLETIER - No they didn't.

NORMAN FLEURY - But it was just something you learned by nature. It was something they learned by nature, but they were gifted again.

(Video Time: 12:16.02.02) 50.6 GILBERT PELLETIER - So they didn't have to write nothing down, they never did forget either. They wouldn't forget it. Like, you know, I gotta write, I gotta write things down now, otherwise I forget it. But they don't. They never forgot it.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That's amazing eh? All what they knew.

GILBERT PELLETIER - All what they knew, and they knew a lot.

50.8 NORMAN FLEURY - See my Grandmother told me that she learnt a lot of her medicines, there was a lady, she was Cree, a Cree lady, a Cree medicine woman, and she taught my Grandmother all these, the treatments...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Like took her on?

NORMAN FLEURY – And, and how to treat. My Grandmother treated, she cured tuberculosis, and she also cured many different ailments, you know. And it's sad that nobody actually took on, because in that community where you lived there was so many people, Métis people in the community, some person would have been a potential follower if they were taught, and some of

them were gifted, they, they, they actually were born with, with like, this, septieme, les septieme.

GILBERT PELLETIER - They, ya, they were born with it, they weren't...

NORMAN FLEURY - You know, but some people actually had the potential, like not everybody was a good midwife, and not even, they didn't even attempt to be, or pretend to be. Cause you were either, or you weren't. You would have to be able to play the role, and if you didn't, the lives of those people were in danger. Like you didn't pretend, like it was too, too much of a sacred thing and it also...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And everybody knew too, so everyone knew.

NORMAN FLEURY - Everybody knew, in the district.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, everybody knew...

(Video Time: 12:17.40.04) NORMAN FLEURY - Like where I grew up actually, there was Victor, it was a little community, there was St. Lazare here and the Métis community was Victor, in the Leclaire corner. And then there was also the Boyers that lived over in this other corner, and we lived over here and there was Métis communities. And they used to visit, somehow like we were saying, either by dances or at New Year's. New Year's Day is when you hitched up your team and you went to visit all the older people first, you visit your uncles, your Grandparents were the first ones, and your parents. Like I remember as a kid, my Mom and my uncle and the sisters used to come and visit Grandpa and the first thing they'd know is they'd do when they come to the house is they'd kneel done in front of Grandpa and Grandma...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, in front of Grandpa ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...my Grandpa gave them the blessing. The absolution.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - What do you call that in Michif, when they...

NORMAN FLEURY – Le Benediction.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And that would be the oldest?

NORMAN FLEURY - That's the Grandfather...(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - The Grandfather would do that?

NORMAN FLEURY - It'd be the Grandpa or the Dad. And that, and that's why the, the Métis, le Michif, like, the Michif people, their biggest celebration was New Year's. Christmas was important because it was the birth of Christ and they'd go to midnight mass.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya they go to midnight mass, ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - But at New Year's, but at New Year's was the, no, we didn't have big meals at Christmas, we had big meals, us guys, we had our meals.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Now, now they do, now we do at Christmas but not in those days it was New Year's.

NORMAN FLEURY - But not in those days, it was New Year's. And that's where you were talking about li boulettes, some of them would get that, the best part of the rabbit, they'd save the rabbit for a long time, and mix it with pork and they'd make li boulettes, meatballs.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh yummy, that sounds so good. It makes me hungry.

NORMAN FLEURY - And then you'd have your raisin pie and sometimes apple pie and some tarts. And my Grandma used to also make, it was part, it was a tradition in our family, you made it, three-tiered cake. It was a black molasses cake, and it was three-tiered, and you decorated it on top, you had decoration, and you just didn't get a piece of that cake, you had to sing for it at the table. You had to have, if you could sing, they'd say sing and instead of singing for a drink, you sang for...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - For your cake.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...cake.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Or you danced.

NORMAN FLEURY - Or dance.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Or dance ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, so that's why they used to do.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Did you have the same cake or something similar?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, ya we had it, ya, cake molasses, ya, molasses.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...(Inaudible due to overlapping talk)...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Does anyone make that still?

NORMAN FLEURY – Oh, I, I make that cake at home.

GILBERT PELLETIER - I never had it.

(Video Time: 12:20.16.00) NORMAN FLEURY - And my sister in St. Lazare, Dina, my sister, Mrs. Haney, she could make that cake that my Grandma, it was that, see again, that was a traditional cake. It was passed on from, and they used to make, le grandpere they used to call them too, the old, my, my Grandma's brother, his name was, St. Pierre, was his name, Lepiney. And his birthday was on the seventh of January. So they started on the first of January till the All King's Day, was when they quit dancing. They danced for seven days, and you'd go to different homes. But they'd come to his place the last dance.

55.9 GILBERT PELLETIER - Any house, any house you go to, you dance. You know, you just threw the furniture out and you start dancing. When you're done, you hauled it all back in. Nobody ever left without hauling everything being back in place again.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - They didn't leave them with their furniture in the snow banks.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, they don't, they never do that, they always, we always haul it back in.

56.2 NORMAN FLEURY - And the, and the table was set all day, you ate all day.

GILBERT PELLETIER - And where each and every house you'd eat...

NORMAN FLEURY - You had to eat.

GILBERT PELLETIER - ...every house you had to eat.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - It was bad luck if you didn't eat.

NORMAN FLEURY - And it disrespects, it was an insult.

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

NORMAN FLEURY - You had to eat, because otherwise...

GILBERT PELLETIER - It was disrespect to your people if you didn't eat, you had to eat everything.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Isn't it a shame that we don't do that anymore?

NORMAN FLEURY - I think some people, some people still do it but not very many.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Not very many, no, no. When my, my mother passed away not very long ago, but we used to all go to her place. You know, everybody would bring something on New Year's Day. That's the only place we go to do.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - How would you say New Year's Day in Michif?

NORMAN FLEURY – **(Says it in Michif)**.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And Happy New Year?

NORMAN FLEURY - La Bonne Année.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - La Bonne Année?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, La Bonne Année, it comes from, La Bonne Heureuse Année, La Bonne Année we'd say, we just say La Bonne Année.

57.1 GILBERT PELLETIER - And you hear lots of that Bonne Année, Bonne Année, ya, that's all you hear all day long, New Year's Day.

57.2 NORMAN FLEURY - And at home when I was a kid it was the men used to have a drink.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya, the men had a drink.

NORMAN FLEURY - But the ladies never.

GILBERT PELLETIER - No, every place the men had a drink. They had a drink of wine usually if they didn't... **(Inaudible)**...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So the guys got all the fun? The women would be working eh?

NORMAN FLEURY - The home brew, at one time, there's people at home that used to make home brew or they'd make a mash, beer mash.

GILBERT PELLETIER - La piquette.

NORMAN FLEURY - La piquette.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - La piquette?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Do you know what that is?

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Did you have moose milk?

NORMAN FLEURY - Well that's moose milk they'd call that home brew.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - It's home brew with oh, can milk there? That's what they used to call moose milk back home. That's the first thing I ever drank was, we snuck Mr. Pellarty's moose milk.

GILBERT PELLETIER - No never had that.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - It was home brew out of the jug?

NORMAN FLEURY - All they had was Carnation milk.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That condensed milk, that thick stuff, yeah, half that, half, half home brew, no, half that, half home brew, moose milk.

NORMAN FLEURY - Okay, no we never had that.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And then they had something else that they did with wine but I can't remember what it was.

NORMAN FLEURY - It was a new invention.

(Video Time: 12:23.01.08) SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - No, that was, maybe was just around where we were from, but there was ya, moose milk, that was the home brew.

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh, like years ago.

GILBERT PELLETIER - We're getting a little more modern maybe.

NORMAN FLEURY – Ya, got a little more modern.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – Ya, I guess I could afford to buy the canned milk.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Well ya, they could afford to buy the canned milk but we couldn't.

NORMAN FLEURY - But you know we always looked forward to those celebrations, always looked forward to those celebrations.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, that's...

(Video Time: 12:23.21.10) NORMAN FLEURY - Like, especially New Year's because we knew it was gonna be a lot of fun. Like when we were talking, going back now to not only celebrations but feasts, there were certain feasts. I remember when I was a little guy, and I killed my first rabbit. I snared my first rabbit. So my Grandmother said, "Well grandson we gotta invite the kids and we're gonna cook that rabbit." And we, because it's initiation as becoming a hunter. So she invited the kids, and cooked and we had that little, that meal.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So the other kids would be your cousins, your...

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, ya, and the neighbours, so it was a feast, but it was also initiation into manhood, becoming a hunter. So they had a lot of things

that nowadays you see we, you would say that Gilbert wouldn't you, we took too much for granted eh?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, we really did, we really did.

NORMAN FLEURY – You know, we took too much for granted. Like we, it was our way of life but we didn't even take time to say why is this happening, now we're trying to make those discoveries.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Now we're trying to make up.

NORMAN FLEURY - You know.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Bring it back.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, because we took, we took it, took it for granted that it was our way of life. Another thing why we're not having those celebrations anymore, I'll tell you why. I got a sister in Toronto, I got two in North Battleford, and, and some in another place in Ontario. You can't get together anymore.

GILBERT PELLETIER - You can't get together.

NORMAN FLEURY - In those days we were all happy families in one location.

(Video Time: 12:24.44.14) 60.2 GILBERT PELLETIER - Like in Crescent Lake there was a bunch, a lot of people that lived there eh. There was us Pelletiers, well there's quite a few Pelletiers.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - There sure are.

GILBERT PELLETIER - There's quite a few of them, and there was Flamonts, St. Pierres, Ashers, Allorys. You know, there was a lot of families living in a quarter section of land there.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh that is a lot in one small, ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - You know, most of them, but just a quarter section of land eh? So we were living pretty close together, but we still had to have horses to go drive around to every place eh? Because there was older people that went out too so...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So in the winter you would have sleighs?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, oh ya, we always had a sleigh, never without a sleigh and a wagon.

60.9 NORMAN FLEURY - But then there was also people that were good walkers and good runners eh?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, certainly.

NORMAN FLEURY - Some of them never drove. Never owned a horse. But there was certain people in our community, they were the runners, or they were the walkers. They could go for miles to walk and they could go for miles. Like walking was nothing to go to Binscarth or Russell on foot.

(Video Time: 12:25.41.21) 61.3 GILBERT PELLETIER - My Grandma used to go to the store and buy groceries and bring them home on her back, a five mile walk. It was five miles to get to town, in the, the nearest town we lived in, it was five miles. And it's nothing for her to just take off in the morning, go to town, come back, no...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - With all those groceries on her back?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - See we also walked a lot.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh we always walked, well we had no choice, you know.

NORMAN FLEURY - There was no choice.

GILBERT PELLETIER - By the time you go out catch the horse, hook him up, and go but you'd be there on foot.

NORMAN FLEURY - You'd be there already.

GILBERT PELLETIER – So we walked.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Not like jump in the car and go the 7-11. You need a break?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Yep.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay.

Pause in Audio from 61.9 to 62.8

(Video Time: 13:04.21.03) 62.8 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Wonder if you could tell us a Rou Garou story in Michif?

63.0 GILBERT PELLETIER - Well first of all you gotta understand what the Rou Garou is. A Rou Garou can be anything, you know. And it could turn into

a wolf, mostly it's a wolf. But it could turn into any kind of animal. I'll tell you that, (**speaks Michif with NORMAN FLEURY joining in at times 63.3 - 69.5**) Okay.

69.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - You have to translate. Just give me a little bit of the last part. That sounded really interesting.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Which?

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Just that last little bit that you were saying.

(**Video Time: 13:10.53.18**) **69.7 NORMAN FLEURY** - Well what we're talking about is like, we went from the Rou Garou, which is the werewolf, and why did it happen to people. Why did these people have the presence of, of those bad spirits, is because they weren't following a good way of life. Like they weren't following their religion, they were being bad people. And if they were, they're the ones that were victims, they were victimized by, by the Rou Garou. The Rou Garou came to get them.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh, okay, so sometimes...

NORMAN FLEURY - And to save the soul, you had to draw blood from these animals, like hit them on the nose and when you drew blood, you saved a soul and the animal disappeared.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Of the soul of the Rou Garou?

NORMAN FLEURY - The Rou Garou just disappeared.

GILBERT PELLETIER - But they only had 40 days.

NORMAN FLEURY - They owned so many souls eh? Like you say, they own so many souls, that people that died and went on in life, like after life, and if they were, if they, if the people said well, **(speaks Michif)**, the devil come and got that person, that wasn't a good person. So you saved the soul of those people of the departed, the people that went beyond in the, what do you call it, the mystery world, or the spirit world.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - You said 40 days, you only had 40 days?

71.2 GILBERT PELLETIER - They had 40 days to save that soul, and that's only during Lent...

NORMAN FLEURY - During Lent.

GILBERT PELLETIER - ...which is 40 days... **(Inaudible)**...that's the only time you'll see them actually. But we always, we were always afraid of him year round, but it was only that time that they were, that they were, went out.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So the Rou Garous were out at Lent?

GILBERT PELLETIER - At Lent and only after midnight. You wouldn't see them before midnight. They only...

(Video Time: 13:12.42.04) NORMAN FLEURY - See it was associated with religion, and that's why they got priests, they get the priests to come to the homes, and bless the homes and pray, and get rid of those bad spirits that were in those homes. So that's what...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So they would come as a wolf, as a dog, usually a black dog?

NORMAN FLEURY – Or horse, or a horse. Or a pig, or pig.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - A horse, horse sometimes?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya. And it could be part, could be part pig and part can't make this out. No, that's, it's not necessarily a whole horse or a whole person or whole dog, it could come part of, part of an animal. Maybe just a head would be the wolf.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Or a pig?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, or a pig or whatever.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Cause mostly I hear wolf or dog, but there's others too?

GILBERT PELLETIER - But in order to save it you had to draw that blood eh?

(Video Time: 13:13.29.23) 72.6 NORMAN FLEURY - Just like **(speaks Michif with GILBERT PELLETIER joining in at times from 72.7 - 75.3)**.

(Video Time: 13:16.29.23) 75.3 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Did they tell Rou Garou stories all the time or just during Lent?

75.4 GILBERT PELLETIER - Well at certain times, if they start on Rou Garou stories that'll, would probably go for the night. You know, it would straight Rou Garou stories for the night eh? Then maybe the next night they'll move on to something else. It could be, it could be something else. You know, it could be, maybe the straight devil they'll talk about. You know, but this is part of the devil, because that's the devil's hired help.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh that's how it was looked at? I was like...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, they work, these people work for the devil.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Were there...

GILBERT PELLETIER - They didn't have much choice actually I guess.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - They were taken like?

NORMAN FLEURY - They were hired.

GILBERT PELLETIER - They were hired by the devil.

(Video Time: 13:16.45.20) 75.9 NORMAN FLEURY - Because see, they lived a bad life. Automatically they became easy targets.

GILBERT PELLETIER - If you did something really bad, you know, if you'd, if you'd done something bad all the time, they will become the target for the...

NORMAN FLEURY - They were more vulnerable, is what they were. And that's how they, and then you see, the people you say they're working for the devil. And how they got paid is, they got a soul, a soul was given of the departed, you see, because the devil had them and so many of them in numbers. So he says, "You work for me and I'll give you a soul." And see that's, that's the way it happened. That was your pay.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That would really scare you as a kid when you would hear those.

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh ya.

76.8 GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, well see, that was the intention to hear the stories, but apparently you didn't see them if you didn't have a nerve, if that, they knew he was gonna kill you by looking at it by knowing what it was, that it'd give you a fatal heart attack, then you would never see it. It took somebody with a braver heart to be able to, you know, that, be able to face it, show himself, to a person that has enough nerve to stand up to it.

77.3 NORMAN FLEURY - A good, they'd say a good believer, or we used say a bonne Catholic, a good Catholic.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Good Catholic.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Ya good Catholic.

NORMAN FLEURY - They would not be afraid.

GILBERT PELLETIER - They would not be afraid of that.

NORMAN FLEURY - Because you're, you're not supposed to be afraid of evil when you, when you're well equipped.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - When you have nothing...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Strong Catholic shouldn't be.

NORMAN FLEURY - And that was the idea, that you were, they'd, they'd build you up so you could not have fear for anything. So, but, be cautious, this is what will happen.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay.

NORMAN FLEURY - You see, and that was...

(Video Time: 13:18.37.03) GILBERT PELLETIER - But there was a different kind of courage as well, there was a courage also from the devil that these people weren't afraid of anything, you know. But that's a different kind of courage.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So there's a good courage and bad courage.

GILBERT PELLETIER - That's right.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya. And my grandfather used to say there is only two roads. There's no such thing as a branch to a middle road, there's the good and the bad, follow the good. That's what his, that's what he, that's what he always say, "**(speaks Michif)** follow that good road..."

(Video Time: 13:19.11.10) 78.6 GILBERT PELLETIER – (Speaks Michif with NORMAN FLEURY joining in at times from 78.6 - 80.0)

(Video Time: 13:20.44.12) SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Can you just translate real quick what, what you said?

GILBERT PELLETIER - There was two cousins that weren't afraid of anything, that's the kind of courage I'm talking about. There's two, two cousins that used to gamble all the time until Lent. And they were warned never to gamble during Lent, you're not supposed to gamble during Lent. And they went out overnight, they weren't afraid of anything, they didn't believe in anything. So they weren't afraid, and they went. The third, the third night they were coming home they heard a horse coming behind 'em. The horse stopped, you know, being stupid and brave they just jump on the horse and the horse took him home. Two nights that happened, they took 'em home. And the second night they told, they told their Grandpa, they told

him, you know, they weren't, they weren't walking home, they got a ride home, horse was bringing them home. So the Grandpa told them the third night, the third time that horse is gonna take you all the way. He's not gonna drop you off anywhere, he's gonna take you all the way home. See that's the devil, that's not a horse you guys were riding. And that's what stopped them from going to gamble cause they knew what it was.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - At three I, I hear, I think it was from Cross Lake, there was also stories about, now this would be more like the devil than the Rou Garou. When someone slept with their fiddle under their pillow for three nights then the devil would come, and then make you a good fiddle player. Did you hear any stories like that?

GILBERT PELLETIER - I heard a story if you take the Ace of Spades and walk around the house three times you'll be, you'll meet the devil.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Three times, but you hear that three times...

GILBERT PELLETIER - The third time you, you'll meet him. So there's always a third time. He'll give you two chances without him taking you, but the third time, that's when you'll see him.

(Video Time: 13:22.30.00) 81.9 NORMAN FLEURY - I know my Mom's cousin, he was a good fiddler, he could play the fiddle, and Philip Lepine was his name, Lepiney. And anyways, he told us the story about this guy that was, I guess he got caught for doing something wrong so he went to, he was judged and he was sentenced to, to death. The death penalty. But they came to him and said to him, they gave him a fiddle, they knew he was a good, you know, like, well actually, this uncle of mine was saying this guy didn't know how to play the fiddle, that was in jail. But they challenged him and said, "If you could play us a tune, you're not gonna be hung, like we won't kill you." So apparently he thought, well what am I gonna do? So he took

this fiddle and he played a real good tune, and I think that's what they call the Devil's Reel, and that's where that's tune comes up, Devil's Dream, Devil's Reel. And this person, that's the legend of this tune, of this person that was sentenced to death that never could play anything, they gave him this fiddle and he played a tune. But you see again, he worked for the devil, the devil was involved, you see, his soul, he had given his soul to the devil.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So if you call...

GILBERT PELLETIER - That's why he was able to play so...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So good just like that?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Without, without any, without any practice or not even learning how to play.

NORMAN FLEURY - So isn't that amazing where your story was the Cree's in the North and the stories seem to...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya, they go like that.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...have evolved somehow and gone around and they intertwine in the different cultures that we have. Like I always say, with all the different nations, the Cree or the Ojibway, and all the different nations, we have more in common than we have differences. If we, like a lot of the things that are common, commonalities. Because when you start listening to their folklore or their stories, there's so much that we have in comparison, and yet we are separate nations, you know?

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya, some of the stories too...

GILBERT PELLETIER – Norman’s got a good one.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay, you’ll have to tell it.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, I’ll let him tell it (**Speaks Michif**).

(Video Time: 13:24.48.09) 84.2 NORMAN FLEURY - Oh that was, Nanabush one?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Nanabush ya, or Chi-Jean, or whichever one you want to call.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...(**Inaudible**)...the legends eh? Nanabush and Chi-Jean but, like when you’re talking about those legends eh? Like Nanabush, Chi-Jean, Wiisakaychak, that’s the same character.

GILBERT PELLETIER - That’s the same character.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So Chi-Jean would be like the Michif...

NORMAN FLEURY - Yeah, Michif character, Nanabush, Ojibway, Wiisakaychak and there’s another one **Kasamia (Unknown Spelling)** they call him in Quebec - **Kasamia (Unknown Spelling)** was his name.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh, oh, oh ya, right. Great. Okay.

NORMAN FLEURY - See there’s, that’s all different...

GILBERT PELLETIER - But he was, he was a trickster and he was a smart guy and a stupid guy and you know...

NORMAN FLEURY - He could do anything actually.

GILBERT PELLETIER - He could do anything, there's nothing he couldn't do.

NORMAN FLEURY - But he'd always do tricks.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Could he change?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, and he could change.

GILBERT PELLETIER - He can change and he can talk to animals, anything, he could talk to anything.

NORMAN FLEURY - Any language too. Any language.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Any language he could talk. He spoke to birds, you know, animals. He'll speak to anything.

NORMAN FLEURY - He also, he was sort of like a, a mediator between God and man. Like he'd help create the world, to make the world. Like he, he got involved in certain things, but it's, there's certain reasons why certain things look like they look and why, you know, those kinds...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Those are the stories?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, those are the stories that, one of them, you know. How the red willow came to be.

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh ya, like Chi-Jean, like Chi-Jean will call him, like, and, but Michif, it's, it seems to be a lot more flavoured.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Say it in Michif ya, and then you can explain me after.

(Video Time: 13:26.43.01) NORMAN FLEURY – But (Speaks Michif with GILBERT PELLETIER joining in at times from 86.1 - 96.0)

(Video Time: 13:36.09.09) SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay what was that last part?

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh that's a long story.

GILBERT PELLETIER - That's a long story and I don't know if we should even translate that one, but...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Well I got part of it.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Well ya. I don't know if we should translate that one.

NORMAN FLEURY - Well how did you get your, your, your bum actually is the story, that's how it ends. See this guy, this character, Chi-Jean, he was one that could do anything and he went and danced with the prairie chickens, you see. And that's where he told them you know.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Maybe their little legs or something.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, you close your eyes you know.

GILBERT PELLETIER - To dance with your eyes closed.

NORMAN FLEURY – Then, then he killed them. And that's how he, you know, he told his, he ate so much and he was full, so he had too much meat so he thought well I have to sleep now. So he had the fire and he put these

little, you know, pieces of meat like in the fire, like this all around to keep them you know, from getting...

97.2 End of Audio Tape 1 Side A

Tape 2

0.6 NORMAN FLEURY - from getting too cold eh. When that fire dies down. So when he said to his rear end he - you wake me up, he said...

GILBERT PELLETIER - He was able to talk to anything.

NORMAN FLEURY - Anything.

GILBERT PELLETIER - He talked to his own rear end. He was able to talk too...

NORMAN FLEURY - He said you wake, you me up when somebody comes to steal the meat. So of course that thing didn't wake him up. So anyways when he got up he was hungry so he went and told this leg, there was no meat there and he went around and there was no meat. So he got really, really angry, you know, he told his rear end, you didn't listen to me, I told you to wake me up. So, I'll, I'll, I'm gonna teach you a lesson so he took the, there was this rock there that was red red hot, so he sat on it, and of course he burnt eh? So when he was walking, like he left there, he was hungry, he had to keep moving, so when he was walking, the scabs fell off and they kick, and then they fell off along, and that's how we got the red willows today, they look like scabs you see. See that's, that's one story about how we got the red willow. **(Says a word in Michif)**. And then he goes on and he goes to another.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - See that, how I heard that story was that's how we got those black things on the asp, like on the, you know, like the aspens it has those black things? That's, so I guess...

NORMAN FLEURY - But this one has to do with the **(Word in Michif)**.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh with the **(Word in Michif)**.

NORMAN FLEURY - With the red willow, you know, and then always just, that story like we say can go on for ever. Like you know, and, with the legends, like it's winter stories.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So when you would hear, Gilbert, when you would hear the winter stories, who would tell them?

(Video Time: 13:38.42.16) 2.5 GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh my Dad would tell 'em. And, if we had a lot of company, the, the older people come to visit, and, well there were old people come to visit sometimes to come to visit my Grandma. And then they'd be starting to tell stories, my Grandmother would, would start off and then the company would, you know, would, more or less pick it up.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Take turns like?

GILBERT PELLETIER - They'd, ya, they'd more or less pick it up and then the company would tell more stories and people at home eh?

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh cause they'd have different stories?

GILBERT PELLETIER - They'd have different stories to tell.

3.1 NORMAN FLEURY - And as people spoke and one would remember about something else again, and somebody else.

3.2 GILBERT PELLETIER - It's always why things happen. Why things look this way. You know, it was always a reason why, the stories ended up with a reason why things looked the way they looked today. You know, that's how this began, it's the beginning of that.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So how, like how long, like the world as we know it...

NORMAN FLEURY - The formation of things.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya the formation of things.

(Video Time: 13:39.36.04) 3.6 NORMAN FLEURY - And the way things were to be like why does the, the buffalo have a humpback and why is the, the mudhen just, like it looks. Like there's different reasons why, you see, and Nanabush like, or Chi-Jean there when he saw all these geese in the lake one time and he, right away he got hungry. He likes to eat, Chi-Jean likes to eat, you know.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - He's always hungry.

NORMAN FLEURY - Always hungry.

GILBERT PELLETIER – And he was able to talk to...**(Inaudible)**...

NORMAN FLEURY - And was able to talk to. But he said, he thought, well, I'm gonna go and get a few of them. So he dove and he had a string and he said, "I'll tie a leg and that way they won't get away on me." But he got too greedy you see.

GILBERT PELLETIER - He took too many.

NORMAN FLEURY - And, and he, he tied the rest of them. Tied the legs to the rest of them because he thought he'll have more meat. But then he was running out of breath. He had to get up so he got out of the water and he scared all the geese so when they took off they took, they were tied, and they were tied so they'd go in the 'V' formation. That's why they go in a 'V' formation.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Right now, geese fly in a 'V' when they go up North, when they come North or when they go down South eh.

NORMAN FLEURY - Cause of there, so that's just, see that's another story.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Because this guy was tied too...

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya.

4.9 GILBERT PELLETIER - See it was always amazing.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh cause he tied them together?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Okay, all right.

GILBERT PELLETIER - So there's always a reason for a story, you know, why.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - To explain something, ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, too explain something why, how it began, and why things are the way they are.

(Video Time: 13:41.01.22) SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So when you were, when you were a child then, would the kids come to gather, would the adults just be telling stories, would it?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Just the adults would be telling stories, and usually when we're camped out when the, when they meet out, out in the Prairies or, you know. And they'd be, they'd have a big campfire going, and of course we had tents, you know, and you could always slip out the flap and sneak out eh? And that's what we used to do, we used to just get up and sneak out to just, to go and listen to the stories. We'd be laying just outside the, the tent listening to the stories because it's so late that you don't want us to stay up too late, so they send us to bed.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh and then they'd tell the story.

GILBERT PELLETIER - And then they'd tell stories but then we'd sneak out and listen anyway. And we could even, you could even hear 'em from inside the tent because the big fire's right in front of the tent is. They talk loud enough you could hear it, but then you want to watch the expression and the size they make with their hands eh? You like to see them.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So they would make...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, they'd make, you know body language.

NORMAN FLEURY - Body language.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, you know, they used a lot of body language. And at that, that kinda look funny to us in some cases too, you know, the way they'd put their hands, you know, telling the stories.

(Video Time: 13:42.09.27) 6.4 NORMAN FLEURY - But you'd go, and it was their form of entertainment. When people come to visit our place, there was only certain people, like my grandfather told stories at home. And then there was another gentleman, like my aunt was telling me when they were younger he'd come to visit. And, and, and when you did those stories you could also act like a clown, put a toque on or a...**(Inaudible)**...

GILBERT PELLETIER – You could act it out eh.

NORMAN FLEURY - ...and they'd dress different, they'd put different clothing on, and this guy would sit right in the middle of the floor and they'd sit around him, and they, and she said they would go on for hours and, and right into the wee hours of the morning.

GILBERT PELLETIER - They're all fairy tales. Like you know the English books where they have fairy tale stories, it's all, it's the same thing actually, it means in Michif and it's a little bit different.

NORMAN FLEURY - And my Grandpa would say, and I was there too, and I got tired and I was sleepy, he says, "You guys, it's time to go to bed." That's how he'd end the story.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - How would begin a story?

GILBERT PELLETIER - ...**(Inaudible)**...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Like what were the first words? Like you know in English it's once upon a time.

NORMAN FLEURY and GILBERT PELLETIER - (Both say the word in Michif).

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - What is it? Long ago?

NORMAN FLEURY - Long ago ya, long ago.

GILBERT PELLETIER - (Speaks Michif). You know, that's the way it would begin, long time ago this old man did this or he told the story.

(Video Time: 13:43.31.22) NORMAN FLEURY - They also had biblical stories too, stories from the Bible.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Yup, stories from the Bible.

NORMAN FLEURY - Like my, my, my mother was saying when Jesus was walking on Earth, when he was on Earth , he'd go visiting families. So these people saw him coming and, and this lady she had twins. She had a boy and a girl. And she said to the, to the other people, she said, she says, "I'm gonna test this guy." **(Speaks Michif 8.6 - 8.7)**. See what if he knows. So he says, she said to them, "We're gonna take those two, the twins and we're gonna put them, we'll hide them and put a blanket over them, they were sleeping." So he came and they were visiting and then, he said, "What do you have under that blanket there? Or that buffalo hide or buffalo robe." And she said, "Two bear, two cubs." So that was fine and he left, and she said, "Well I better go and see my babies." And when she went and took the robe off there was two little bears there, there was two bears. And now they're so close, the bear is so close to mankind.

GILBERT PELLETIER – To mankind. Now some when they stand up they say it looks, you know they say it looks like a person, once you skin them they look like a person.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya. And so that's one story of how they related the...

GILBERT PELLETIER - Why they look so much like, why they look so much like man.

NORMAN FLEURY - Like man. And another one they would use is like the beaver too eh? They live, clean life and they have their homes and...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - They work hard.

NORMAN FLEURY - They work hard, they also use that as one of the examples that resembles of mankind, you know, so that's, those were the kinds of things that...

(Video Time: 13:43.37.28) 10.4 GILBERT PELLETIER - See beavers are very hard working animals, you know, with the dams they build and the houses they build.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - They even look after their kids.

GILBERT PELLETIER - They look after the young ones. You know, look at the food they bring in for the winter. They get all their food for the winter, and they're very smart animals. You know, you bust their dam, they're right out there rebuilding, you know, they rebuild their dam.

10.8 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE- Would you tell us a story in Michif?

10.9 GILBERT PELLETIER - Well, ya, maybe.

11.0 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE- Wanna take a break or do you wanna, can we go now?

11.1 GILBERT PELLETIER - Okay, well, I'll, I'll, I'll tell that story, them, that you want me to tell.

NORMAN FLEURY – (Speaks Michif).

(Video Time: 13:46.20.22) GILBERT PELLETIER – (Tells story in Michif 11.2 - 15.5)

(Video Time: 13:50.37.09) 15.6 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Could you, just a quick translation?

15.7 GILBERT PELLETIER - This guy went to visit a cousin and they were in a tent, Métis was, always live in tents. Went and lived in the tent and they were, this guy was cleaning his rifle in the, his cousin went out at night. He went out to go for a pee, then he was cleaning his rifle and it accidentally went off. But he was pointing it in the wrong direction, he was pointing it straight to where he was standing out there and the bullet went right through the tent, of course, and hit him. But he didn't die instantly, but he knew he was hit bad so he said, "Well, we better run, they won't believe you anyway, the law wouldn't believe you, you better, you better run, because, try and save yourself that way." He said, "They'll come and find me," but they said, "They'll know you did it, so you run." So he took off. That's when he ran. Two years he ran from the law. You know, he come to Canada, and then he'd go make a big circle around and it's always on foot, he never had no horses, when they, after two years he gave up. You know, because of wintertime, you know, he was always cold, half frozen and, so he gave up, he took his little blanket and went on top a hill and, went to sleep. He said, "Well this is where they'll find me, I'll be easy to find on the hill." When he did go to sleep

he was starting to get cold and when he heard something coming it was a wolf that went to sleep at his feet. One in the front, one in the back, and one by his head. And that kept him warm all winter, all, all, all night. And the wolf never did leave him, all winter long. He just slept outside and the wolf kept him warm. Then he'd feed him. He'd shoot rabbit for game, deer, feed his share the food with his wolf. But that gave him speed and that gave him courage and you know, that, that really helped him. But he had a wife here and he had a wife there, he had wives all over the place, so he'd run from one place to the other, you know, keep ahead of the law eh? Whenever they figured the law, figures that he's gonna be here, well he'd run. And everytime he'd run away the wolf would come and find him. The wolf stayed with him all year round. They helped him. Whichever hardships he had, the wolves would be there to help.

(Video Time: 13:52.53.14) NORMAN FLEURY - He had the spirit of the wolf.

GILBERT PELLETIER - He had the spirit of the wolf, and that's how he survived. Ten years he survived running, so he gave up, said, "That's enough running." He told his family, "I'm gonna give myself up, take this rifle," went in, gave himself up. They let him go cause after ten years, years and years ago after ten years on the run you went, you went free because you suffered enough. So this, that's the way he survived for ten years because of the wolf. He had the speed that he was able to, he had the speed of the wolf.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - The way they run eh? The way they, ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - He had the speed of the wolf eh? And you know, wolf is a good hunter, so you had all the, all the knowledge a wolf had. And they even had the speed of the wolf though. He outran horses. Police couldn't catch him. They caught him in a tent once and he just took his knife, sliced the tent open and jumped out and started running and the police took

after him and they couldn't catch him with horses. He outran the horses. He got away. So he died of old age.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - He died of old age?

GILBERT PELLETIER - He died of old age.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - When abouts did he die?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh that's years, years ago.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Years ago.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Years, years, years ago.

NORMAN FLEURY - Kiyeahsh.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Before the automobile.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh right, ya, so it would be in the horse times eh?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - People really believe in animals eh?

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh ya.

(Video Time: 13:54.32.06) 19.9 GILBERT PELLETIER – (Speaks Michif with NORMAN FLEURY).

(Video Time: 13:55.47.09) 21.2 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Can you translate that little bit? That last little bit?

21.3 GILBERT PELLETIER - They used to tell us stories about Rou Garous to scare us. Especially during Lent, you know. They'd want us to go to dances as teenagers, like we'd go, like an ordinary teenager we like to go to a dance too. You know, we used to like going to dances. And if they didn't want us to go, well, they'd start telling us stories about the Rou Garous and of course we'd get scared because we certainly didn't want to meet one.

NORMAN FLEURY - Well what can happen to you.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya, it could happen, the same thing could happen to us.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - If you go the bad way?

GILBERT PELLETIER - If we went the bad way eh. If we didn't listen though. So, so we had to listen.

(Video Time: 13:56.26.26) 22.0 NORMAN FLEURY - You know, it's a develop good behavioral patterns in life. Just your lifestyle and good behavior and listening and accepting, you know, a lot of the things that had, have, that had happened.

22.3 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Well, like when I, when I'm listening to you I, some of it I can listen to, understand in Michif, well when you say, **(speaks Michif)** I got that thing.

22.6 GILBERT PELLETIER - That's why I say we gotta watch the language because...**(Inaudible)**...

22.7 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya, you know I'm gonna get when talk nice, I don't understand. Well, like when you listen to the stories, like there's lots that you can learn from it. Like, you know, the story about the guy who was helped by the, by the wolf. It's like the sacrifice of his friend.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya, ya.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Or his cousin, you know? Like, and so you get taught, you know, like you get taught lots of things. Like how he, you know, sacrificed himself to give his cousin even though his cousin is responsible for his death he gives. You know, he's helping his cousin out and his cousin, and then it's like because he didn't really do anything bad cause it was an accident...

GILBERT PELLETIER - It was an accident but, but...**(Inaudible)**...believe it was an accident.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya, but it's, so he's given that, given that, that help and that protection. Were there any other animals that people would like have beliefs about? Like the wolf?

(Video Time: 13:57.53.12) 23.6 NORMAN FLEURY - Well there was messengers like the owl, that was a bad messenger.

GILBERT PELLETIER - It's a bad omen...**(Inaudible)**...

NORMAN FLEURY - The owl, if he kept, keeps bothering you, following you around and...

24.0 GILBERT PELLETIER - Especially if he barks.

NORMAN FLEURY - And, ya.

GILBERT PELLETIER - An owl does bark like a dog.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Really?

GILBERT PELLETIER - It will bark like a dog, and if that happens, that's very bad, it's bad news, he's carrying bad news when he does that. An owl does bark like a dog, believe me.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - I just never heard one but I did guess it's a good thing.

NORMAN FLEURY – Well, it doesn't always bark.

GILBERT PELLETIER - No it doesn't always bark but that's when he carries really bad news, you know, when he barks that would, you know, something bad's happening or something bad's gonna happen to your family or a member of your family.

NORMAN FLEURY - Or a bird coming to hit the window, or come in, comes in the house.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Well certain birds.. **(Inaudible)**...they'll go in the house, they'll go into any building. But there's certain birds that never go into a place, that never goes into a house.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So if that bird comes then...

GILBERT PELLETIER - If that bird goes into a house then it's a bad...

NORMAN FLEURY - And the woodpecker too. **(Speaks Michif)**. That wasn't good if they bother you all the time.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - When woodpeckers hanging around...

GILBERT PELLETIER – If they come and tap on your house...

NORMAN FLEURY – If they insist and they come...

GILBERT PELLETIER - They come all the time.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And they're knocking like?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya ya.

(Video Time: 13:59.12.20) GILBERT PELLETIER - And if they scare them away they'll come back again. That's bad omen also. You know, things like that. And the old people really believe in that so. And I guess that's one way of telling us children to kind of behave, you know, rather than take a strap after us. I don't think they'd like strapping us as much as, we like getting a licking. You know, so rather than take the strap out...

25.6 NORMAN FLEURY - She had dreams also eh. People would, could tell a lot of things that were to happen through their dreams too.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - To what they saw or what they...

NORMAN FLEURY - To what they saw in their dreams, ya. That was another thing. They, and they could, some people could actually, they could translate your dream for you. They could tell you what it means, some of them could tell you if you dreamt about certain things they would tell you.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Would that be like a gift?

NORMAN FLEURY - That was again another gift ya.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So some people could do it.

26.1 GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya. Like not everybody.

NORMAN FLEURY - Certain people would tell dreams.

(Video Time: 14:00.15.26) 26.2 SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So there were things that were bad signs? Were there things that were good signs?

26.3 NORMAN FLEURY - Well there was things like we were talking about I think when we were talking about that, the rabbit, if you snare a rabbit and it has like little rabbits in between the hide. Like twins, like little rabbits, it's only the fur.

GILBERT PELLETIER - It's only the fur but it's between the hide and the meat.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And it looks like a little rabbit?

NORMAN FLEURY – And they're little rabbits.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya, they're little rabbits.

NORMAN FLEURY – And, and you, know, there, it's got no flesh, so you could keep it.

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

NORMAN FLEURY - It was a good luck...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh, okay, so it was like under here there'd be little bundles of fur and you could just take that out?

NORMAN FLEURY - And they used that for a lot of things like when they trapped eh? They'd put that through the trap or the snares or whatever and you'd have good luck. And that was good luck. So it wasn't the dead rabbit foot, like people say take the foot off, what's so lucky about losing your foot? This was actually, the, well the rabbits that were, that was intentional. And, and you'd say there, you'd find one in a thousands, like you just don't, you don't find them.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Very very seldom.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - What would call them in Michif, what would be the word for it?

NORMAN FLEURY - There is a word...**(Inaudible)**...**(speaks Michif)**, we used to say but...

GILBERT PELLETIER - There was something else they'd say. There was a name for it but I just don't know.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Were they just these little, it's a little small and they look like rabbits?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, ya, ya, and we used to say, **(says a word in Michif)** but there was a different word for it, I just can't remember it.

NORMAN FLEURY - There was a special word for it.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you would be going through like lots of rabbits when you're snaring and living a traditional lifestyle you'd be...

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh you'd know because they'd skin every rabbit.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - And you'd have, like you'd go through how many before...

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh like I say thousands. Maybe a family might get it in a lifetime and somebody that hunted all their life won't find one.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Won't find one...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh so it was very rare?

NORMAN FLEURY - Oh very very rare. It's like the white buffalo.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, just like the white buffalo, you know, they're, you don't see them all the time. I've never seen one.

(Video Time: 14:02.21.20) SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Did the Michif have stories about the white buffalo?

NORMAN FLEURY - Well they did, I think a long time ago and couldn't be, not just to only the white buffalo, there were certain animals, like a deer, or...

GILBERT PELLETIER - And you know the Michif had respect for other culture's beliefs, you know, they had respect for the different cultures and their beliefs. They all...

NORMAN FLEURY - Other nations. They had respect for that too.

(Video Time: 14:02.47.12) SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Well a lot of people they would have that in their family too, a great grandmother or

grandmother that would have come from a different, you know, they would have a connection sometimes.

NORMAN FLEURY - Well they'd have certain connections or certain cultural traits from, but not only that if, you know, you got to learn the cultures by living the, you know, near to other people. And you, you adapted, and you adopted some of their ways.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Some of their ways.

NORMAN FLEURY - It's like, for instance, I don't know where that came from but reading teacups, they used to do that at home a lot, and my aunt was really good, and my great uncle. Also, reading the cards.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Reading cards?

NORMAN FLEURY - Their cards, they could tell you your whole life history through the cards.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Just an ordinary deck of cards?

NORMAN FLEURY - Just an ordinary deck of cards, and this person, this is my Grandpa's brother, Gilbert Fleury was his name, Louis, and it was his wife was even better than he was. But it's amazing he could tell you just about accurately it was. Some things he didn't want to tell you because he could see things that he wouldn't tell you. They could see death, they could see different things through the cards but they also could see that in the cups, the tea, tea leaves.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Same thing where you from?

30.3 GILBERT PELLETIER - Yep, same thing.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Cards as well?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, cards as well. Ya, there used to be some people that, certain people that could do it. Only very few mind you, there's not too many that does it.

(Video Time: 14:04.19.10) 30.6 NORMAN FLEURY - No, again, they were special people, like they were gifted people to be able to do that and seeing to the future too some people.

GILBERT PELLETIER - Ya, they were able to see into the future.

NORMAN FLEURY - You know, you take those people, there was Métis people that used to do this shaky tent.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh ya.

NORMAN FLEURY - Like the **(speaks Michif)** they used to call that and those were again, visionaries, they were people that could see to do with like health, medical, or if you lose, if you lose things, they'll find them, and those were very, very special people. I know this Paul Fleury, he was a Second World War veteran and he said, this person asked him to drive him to the reserve so he could, he was, he wanted to find out something, so he knew this person who could do this shaky tent. **(Says word in Michif)**. So Paul said, "I don't believe that but I'll take you anyway." So when they got there, he, this medicine man, or this man that did perform the ceremony said there's somebody here that doesn't believe me. He says, "I want that person to tie me. I want him to tie me up." He says, "And roll me in that blanket and throw me in that shaky tent." So Paul Fleury said, "You know, I'm, I grew up with horses and I knew how to tie horses..."

GILBERT PELLETIER - Not getting away.

NORMAN FLEURY - So he says, "I tied him up." (**Speaks Michif 32.2 - 32.3**). "We threw him in the tent," he said. And then all of a sudden the ceremony was on. He said, "All of a sudden these ropes came flying out," and he says, "After that I believed because it was a very, very powerful ceremony." Like my grandfather told me when I was a little guy that he lost horses, and, he went to see this person and this person said, you know, he said, "Your horses, you know, one's standing facing north and the other one you won't find because the crows ate him already, he died." And it's true, he went and there was a dead horse and they found the other horse, but you see we're talking about dreams now and gifts about, telling, would you call that, where you could tell the future, look into the future.

GILBERT PELLETIER – Same as the white world about the psychics.

NORMAN FLEURY - Psychic.

GILBERT PELLETIER - They're similar to, they're similar to, very similar to those kind of people.

(Video Time: 14:07.00.29) NORMAN FLEURY - Because there was an old man and his grandsons were going to war. There was three of them going to war and he, he told the family he says, "There will be only one coming back." And he could predict that. This old man was gifted, and that's a Métis person, Michif. And true enough, after the war, those two, those two grandsons never came back, they died overseas. But he was able to predict that, so we had those kinds of people that were psychics and were able to predict those kind of things and they were very, very well respected people in the community.

34.0 GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya, only they did things a little bit different than the, than the, than the psychic, they, in the white world eh. Like they, they just did it a little bit different, but it's very similar too, how they can, how they do it.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - There were people like that in your community?

GILBERT PELLETIER - Oh ya. There were people like that all over I think, there were certain, well some were good and some weren't as good. Some can, some can do it fairly well and others, you know, can do it really well.

34.5 NORMAN FLEURY – (Speaks Michif) meaning powerful. **(Says word in Michif)**, you know, like they were...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ya, they had a powerful spirit.

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, ya.

(Video Time: 14:08.16.07) 34.7 GILBERT PELLETIER - They say the mind is an awful powerful thing, see the mind, you can do an awful lot with the mind. This old fella said, you know, "You could kill with the mind alone." You know, you don't have to use a gun or anything, you can kill just by, with the mind, you know.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – And they were aware of that power?

GILBERT PELLETIER - They were aware of that power, they knew about it, so then they were afraid of it.

35.1 NORMAN FLEURY - Oh ya, the people around home too, they, you didn't know those people sometimes and you lived in that community. You

didn't even know they were there until somebody one time might say, they might say, for some reason, but they didn't, they didn't brag about things. Like it was something that you didn't talk about, there were mysterious things like, you didn't go talking about those kinds of things. They were well respected because they were very, very powerfully spiritual eh? So you never talked about those things actually.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE – Just once in awhile?

NORMAN FLEURY - Ya, ya, ya, but otherwise you never did, like, they didn't, like, certain things, like my Mom would tell me but very, very seldom. Like there was certain things too like the, I didn't know this till my Mom just a few years ago. She said, you know, "I never ever washed my clothes with my boys clothes," she said, "Because that never ever happened in our time because it kills the spirit of those men, like the hunt, because you know, at certain times of the month, you know, the woman..."

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Oh right you're not supposed to bother any of the men's stuff.

NORMAN FLEURY - So that's why never, ever, ever, and she said, you know, "I never ever washed my clothes with your kids clothes, like your, my boys clothes." And we never knew that.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Just kept it separate?

NORMAN FLEURY - She kept, no it was just something she never talked about, she just did, you lived it, you lived your life, you lived your culture.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So you didn't realize she was doing it?

NORMAN FLEURY - No, no.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Until afterwards she commented on it.

(Video Time: 14.10.12.10) NORMAN FLEURY - And then there was a gentlemen come to visit my Mom's place and he put his hand on the floor and she said, she said **(speaks Michif 37.0 - 37.1)**, because she said, "If you put it on the floor and somebody walks over it, you'd get headaches. And it depends on who walks over it, it's something that you have to cherish because it's part of your mind." Like, see those were the kinds of things.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - So it's because it's close to here?

NORMAN FLEURY - Close to the spirit, it's close to the mind.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - That thing that's so powerful. You know, and you could kill that, you see.

NORMAN FLEURY - (Speaks Michif 37.5 -37.7) It's like killing it, see. So those are the kind of things that, that we grew up with, as li petit Michif.

37.8 GILBERT PELLETIER - That's the Michif beliefs. So now we covered the Rou Garous, we covered Chi-Jean.

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Ready for a break?

GILBERT PELLETIER - ...part of it.

NORMAN FLEURY - I guess we're getting close to it...

SHERRY FARRELL RACETTE - Can we have a break? We can take a look at...

38.2 End of Audio