

Larry Ahenakew

21 & 22 AUG 1999

Tape #3 - Interview #1 (cont.. from Tape #2) - Ile a La Crosse/ Sandy Point

Michef Translations

Tape 65 minutes

3:00:07

...(continued from tape #2)

... to have this place to call home, to say that's where I'm from. I don't think there's ever been a time, that I didn't say I was from Sandy Point. Sometimes it took a moment to think, about where I was from. But in the end it was always. Oh, I grew up on Sandy Point, that's where I'm from. And so once you have that sense of belonging, you can always go back, to re-new your spirit, to re-new your mind, to re-new your body, give it a rest, this is the most beautiful place you can find to do that. I'm sure there are others who live elsewhere who feel the same way about their homes. Because that's the important thing, that's the key, it's home, if I want to go home this is where I come, I've lived in a lot of places through out this province, but when I want to go home, this is where I come.

It's here, my home, where I grew up, if my mind keeps working right if I go there and ever want to sit quietly, and think carefully of everything, it's here that I come. I can't say enough to day while I'm here, thinking of my grandparents they did right, that they watch us with their eyes and they think they raised us right we did right as they raised us, they did right as they raised us. So I tell you, my grandparents, (?????) I miss you and respect all you did for us, if ever a day comes when I do wrong, don't think bad of me... I grew up here, this is my home and I don't think I'll ever forget that

Thats enough now

3:03:42

RECORDER tape no. 38

END

People talking

3:03:42 Voices...PAN the Lake and sunset talk about it a bit

3:04:31 PAN sky and yellowish clouds from sunset

3:04:48 PAN back to lake and far shore buildings

Voice Yes, our house was right there ...almost in line with that (noise, didn't hear) .. sunset

3:05:04 PAN sunset and lake again Very nice sunset

Voices background

3:05:21 PAN across lake and houses

3:05:30 PAN back to sunset and lake

Voices

3:05:51 PAN water only (color is yellowish green)

3:05:56 sound ... hear a boat motor somewhere

3:06:04 PAN sky and land to left of lake

Voices

3:06:08 VOICE ... I was there the day they crossed it, I was there the day they jumped in ...(noise)

3:06:21 PAN LS kids playing in the water

Voices

3:06:40 PAN to kids in water (closer)

Voices ... Wuchuscus (muskrat)

3:06:45 Mike Durocher ??? There's a souvenir for you from Sandy Point ... it's from a muskrat, I just found it over there

3:06:57 (3guys Mike Durocher, Larry Ahenakew and ???)

Voice .. this guy was a scoundrel, now he's a lawyer (all laugh)

(...a little more talk all together)

3:07:15 Larry A. Oh, lots of memories, holy man

Mike D. Yes ... that's where I used to race my little boats, right there (points) ...and over there, that was a days fishing.

3:07:25 Larry A. Yes, and I was the buyer, they'd have to come and sell to me over there (points at area (PANNED it))

Mike D. .. cause I thought they'd grow, I always emptied my pockets outside the sand ___?___, that's where my rocks were, next day I'd fill'em up ...(noise) ...we'd race to see who had the most
3:07:43 ... ___?___ at the end of the day, it might not be politically correct now a days but back then we didn't care (all laugh)

3:07:50 Yes, we'd make notches on our slingshots ... (other voices) ...yes, on your first kill for good luck.

3:07:58 Voice ... I remember one time I put so many notches on, I went to shoot and the slingshot ... (noise) ... (all laugh)

3:08:02 Voices ...can't make out

3:08:08 Out on the water on a motor boat

3:09:10 PAN Shore and buildings of a town PAN IN - PAN OUT

3:09:35 Voices .. ??? (met someone on the lake or call to shore, but does not show them)

3:09:53 Voice ... Okay

3:10:08 ... got so drunk last night I came home... (lots of noise)

3:10:17 PAN Airplane landing in the water in front of boat

3:10:26 Angus Gardiner at motor in boat says: .. "Twin Otter"
(shows his wife and two kids in boat)

3:10:33 Voice ... they're picking up fire fighters

Voice ... Oh yes

PAN to back of boat

3:11:19 Out board motor cuts out ...

PAN to shore

3:11:40 PAN using paddles and pushing boat to shore, Angus and wife

PAN to shore and around boat

3:12:12 PAN from lake .. kids on dock

3:12:33 PAN Kids in the boat

3:12:45 PAN reeds along side of the boat

3:13:00 PAN on Shore - Everyone standing around getting ready for a group photo
(lots of voices)

3:13:10 Voice ... the kids can go in the front

3:13:13 Voice ... come forward a little ...

Okay

3:13:14 PAN .. everyone set for photo take

3:13:18 Voice ... Don't blink

3:13:38 Photographer says ... come forward a little bit more and kids come here (points to ground)

PANNING all around through the adults in the back

3:14:23 PAN Little girl, then PAN through all children in front of group

3:14:47 PAN around group (voices, laughing and small talk)

3:15:14 PAN FRAMES everyone standing nicely for photo

3:15:20 VOICES Okay your ready ... I'm ready to, I'll count to 400 then I'm going to take the picture

3:15:30 .. scattered voices

3:15:40 Okay, about 3 more pictures and I'm ready

3:16:03 People still standing for photo

PAN kids sitting on ground CU

3:16:23 PAN adults standing at back CU

NEW SCENE

3:16:25 MAN .. sawing wood with swede saw

3:17:01 Voice .. there

NEW SCENE

3:17:10: 28 Nap Gardener on beach speaking to camera.(He is talking fast, hard to do, but he is very fluent. And what he is saying is beautiful)

I want to thank you for listening to us and for wanting to know how we feel and speak about this here at Sandy Point. A lot of times when people hear us they wonder what we are talking, they call it a half language, our half breed language. We talked about everything that we used as we were growing up. 03:17:35:26. For instance, le cel, its a canoe or the big boat, le skiff. They used to say all kinds of words like that when I was growing up over here. 03:17:48:03. We tease each other here at this meeting, still using the same language and the different words we use to use we still say today. Le la prey (sloppy/the mess of wood chips) they'd say le sa la prey, that's how we use to say it. Le root (?) le port (door) Mohkoman (knife) Le cor to (knife) Anything at all us Halfbreeds used as we grew up here... the Morins, Gardiners and William Muspunach. And these people are interested in doing everything to save this language to. They wanted to come here to hear us. We all learned a lot here. The land taught us, it was the land that gave us our knowledge. The land and our parents... I think me, that's very good, you learn. We learned a lot from the land and its stories. It taught us and gave us strength to carry on with our lives and we carry this with us, from there if someone can talk it and understand it he can pass it on, because the old people that were raised on the land, they have a lot to offer and they passed on their traditions. They learned that kind of life and the language from the land. That's why it is valuable to speak your native tongue. They say that in doing this it will bring you closer to the land and to the God. To pray and that is very good. Its good for people to keep their language and their ties to the land. Your kids, your parents, grandparents, nieces and nephews, if all of them teach their kids to preserve their language that's good cause lots of other Metis communities are forgetting so we are glad for this opportunity to share some of our language in hopes that your young children can learn this and how we use to live, how we were taught, how we were raised. So I thank all you Halfbreeds from the south in trying to preserve the language. Maybe with us doing our part we will all save it. So one more time I say that is all, thank you. 03:20:50

FINISHED

3:20:50

NEW SCENE

3:20:55 PAN frying pan cooking food and everyone talking and laughing

3:21:13 we're going to get wet ...

3:21:22 ... come on my potatoes, cook ... boil ...

3:21:39 she adds wood to the fire while cooking (not a campfire)

Voices all talking

PANNING around the cooking

3:22:06 PAN .. 2 men sitting and watching the cooking

Voices

3:22:20 PAN another woman cooking

3:22:40 PAN CU man and Angus Gardiner

HELP

Talks about boards he used to give someone a hard time (they laugh)

VOICE:Angus Gardiner: .. then he went out from there, .. is that that what you came for, he said, just to give me a hard time he said, yes, I said, I'm going to tell you, you young people around here _____
 ??????_____

... just like when I went over there to ask for a girl for myself, if they wouldn't give her to me, then I have to come home, but no, just as long as I have blankets (he founders on his story) ... (they laugh politely... he talks a bit more he says) That's right

VOICE Woman: but you too Koo Koo out... but you couldn't ...?????

24:00 Voice Angus Gardiner: ... but no reason to take him out!

NEW SCENE

3:24:39 (Two Guys talking)

NOTE:

MAN-L = The Metis

MAN-R = Frenchman (from Quebec)

Man-L A long time ago I learned people would say atim-ooo-tuk-kie (laughs)

24:52 Man-R What I think in French is that

Man-L ...they understand it over there tuk-kie

Man-R ... its a translation, yes, I hope so, this guys not getting serious ... laughing

Man-L Anyway you come to Ile a La Crosse here, you meet the people here, you lived with them for a while, and your from Quebec, you speak French, the little bit of the language you hear here, is a mixture of French and Cree, what was your impressions ahh when you first got here and heard this?

Man-R Well, when I came here the first time, and met the people, mostly the elders, once in a while I can hear a Fench words in their language, in other words and I was aware of this that this existed in the language the mix of Cree and French of the voyager, But the thing that is stronger that I remember the most is talking French to the elders and how their French was mixed. How it was natural and how it was taught by ... ahh .. it sounds religious in some ways. The religious people come here, and there French was really the way the church talks French when we were young in Quebec, the same way. And also when they speak Cree they would tell me about lots of the words they use that come from the French, have table, spoon, spoon

Man-L ..it's all the old stuff like that

Man-R All the old stuff like that and all the old stuff Shiveerrrr

Man-L Pail

Man-R Pail..

Man-L All the old stuff "sloppy" (Mis sel le priet)

Man-R "sloppy" (Mis sel le piet)

Man-L remember we were talking about "Mis sel le priet"

Man-R yes

Man-L You were saying that it is was an old French or an old Quebec ...

Man-R "Mis sel le priet???" yes, something that is not very clean

Man-L yes

Man-R but it is also a slang word to say we don't do something right, the kids did some thing quite sloppy, you know, "Mis sel le priet???" you must have done lots of (them monsier ??) to remember the name (ahhh they laugh)

Man-L laughing I'm full of slop (Mis sel le priet) uhhh

Man-L But when you meet with the people, the elders, when you talked to the people, ahh in my mind anyway ahh, I feel that ahh, a lot of how you keep the language is you have to involve the culture with in it in order to keep it going,

Man-R yes

Man-L you have to live the culture in order for it to continue to survive?

Man-R Well it's part of you, part of your identity, I mean if you put that side aside of you, your losing a part of you, your language, how you been raised, the rhythm of the language and the words you say to people who understand it, they come out more than just the meaning of the word but there's the feeling within it. And all that is part of you and if you translate it, you give it to someone than they receive it, but then if you forget it, if you put it aside than you just try to speak the language of the common world like here its English, than you loose those feelings, there's warmed in the words of those feelings, you loose all of that, and it's not you any more, it's that part of you, it's a part of your identity and it's a part of what you were, the culture, all the words which activity or of feelings and all that is all part of your language

Man-L Just like ahhh ... cooking meat meat on a campfire (in cree) you have to go and get it outside and have a hard time (Man-R cuts in a few little unintelligible things??) So your trying to relate the language to the people that don't feel ... you see what I said was that if your standing by the fire frying moose meat in a frying pan outside in the sun, you know, I mean ... you have to feel that essence of it as one as the woman the people are cooking, their talking and feeling the environment (Man-R cuts in with a yes here and there) the same time ahhh?

Man-R yes and also they play with the words (Man-L Yes) they make it they give diferent feelings (Man-L oh yes) (confusing here as they both try to talk) ...they make it they... I like that part where humor is the best where they say lots of the words to make humor, twist them around and all that, that's how they use it.

Man-L Okay, (laughs) that's it for me... laughs ..

Man-R that's enough

Man-L Oh yes, that's enough

3:29:32

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3:30:29 PANNING Forest and the tree with the Virgin Mary mounted on it

CU 3:30:40 Pan Virgin Mary
 3:31:09 Pan Virgin Mary
 3:31:34 CU Virgin Mary
 3:31:09 Pan Out
 3:31:34 CU Virgin Mary
 3:31:47 CU of the cross on the Virgin Mary than PAN out to Virgin Mary and child statue
 32:25 OUT OF FOCUS
 3:32:35 PAN Camp... two men and one woman
 Woman Where did you finf it (to Man who is holding a hammer)
 Man Here

Voice 3:32:50 This one thinks he came to pray

Voice 3:32:55 I already seen that

Background Lots of voices laughing

Woman 3:33:21 Ahhh... you to you should do that

Background (lots of voices)

Woman 3:33:45 Bunny is beginning to get full
 (Voices)

Woman 3:34:05 Did you eat already? You want to eat a wiener?
 (Other voices) Or a hamburger?

Woman 3:34:12 What you want to eat?

(Voices)

3:34:35 ... nothing to eat over there?

(Voices)

Woman 3:34:41 Nothing? You don't want nothing... go home ... go (laughs)

Woman 3:34:55 If you want to be fussy, go home (teasing child)