

**Darren Préfontaine (DP.) Interview – Clementine Longworth (CL) – June 22, 1999**

**CL:** Hello.

**DP:** Hello Clementine?

**CL:** Yea speaking.

**DP:** Can you hear me?

**CL:** Oh yes, really good.

**DP:** OK good, cause I got my speakerphone on.

**CL:** Oh yah.

**DP:** So you can hear me no problem eh?

**CL:** Yah no problem Yah.

**DP:** Okay that's good. Um, are you ready to start now or did you want to...?

**CL:** What you want me to talk like?

**DP:** Okay well, how about if I ask you a few questions relating to where you were born and who your parents were and then we'll work our way into what life was like for Métis people when you were young and then we'll talk a bit about the Michif language, is that okay?

**CL:** Yah that'd be okay.

**DP:** Okay I guess my first question to you is where and when were you born?

**CL:** I was born 1922, March 25, and about 40 miles south of Yorkton in Crooked Lake that's where I was born but you know.

**DP:** Mm hmm now was Crooked Lake a Métis community then or were there all kinds of people?

**CL:** Métis people yeah. There was a big church. We live about mm, let's say about two miles from there, there was a big church, a big school there, Indian school. That's where we were born and we were a big family, six brothers and five sisters. We were twelve, twelve in the family.

**DP:** Twelve in the family. And what were, excuse me, ah what were your parents' names?

**CL:** My daddy was Alec Flammand and my mom it was Maria Delhalarie before she was married but he was married to my dad you know, it was Marie Dale Flammand.

**DP:** And both your parents were Métis?

**CL:** Oh yeah, both my, well, my mom was from the reserve and dad was married to my, you know.

**DP:** Mm hmm and you said there was twelve in your family?

**CL:** Yah twelve yah.

**DP:** In those days, they did have big families back then?

**CL:** Yah not like today ha ha.

**DP:** No, no, no they sure don't. Uh what roles did your brothers and sisters and your parents play while you were growing up...

**CL:** Well, mostly they were used to play that used to call that tag, tag, that game you know. That was mostly they used to play. They didn't play very much ball because we had to make that, the boys they had some kind of a... with rags with balls when they want to try to play ball you know, things like that, you know and the same thing with the girls. We used to make some dolls with rags you know, like that, was nothing.

**DP:** Okay, I think what I wanted to ask you was what chores did you do, like in those communities, ah... in the old days, the Métis people had different chores like picking berries, and.

**CL:** Oh yah that we used to do that a lot, yah, we used to pick a lot chokecherries, and Saskatoons, you know. Dried, my mom used to dry Saskatoons for the winter, you know, we used to pick by pail full and dry them for the winter and the same thing with chokecherries. We used to grind them; you know and dry them. Those, we used dry them, though, outside, you know, in a bag for the winter, yah, that's how we used to do a lot of that stuff. Well that's all we had to do, you know, mostly, them days, you know there was nothing else.

**DP:** Um hmm, did your father hunt deer?

**CL:** Yes my dad used to hunt a lot and in the winter time he used to hunt oise (goose?) you know and that and the boys they used to hunt some rabbits you know thing like that and in winter time and summer the same thing you know they use to hunt rabbits and pheasants you know thing like that.

**DP:** Prairie Chickens?

**CL:** Um hmm, yah prairies chickens yah.

**DP:** Did your... oh I'm sorry did you?

**CL:** Was a good meal.

**DP:** Yah it is mighty tasty food.

**CL:** Yah make some *rababou* ha ha ha.

**DP:** Rab... oh yah that's the Métis stew right?

**CL:** Yah that's the stew that. Um hmm and mom used to always make some bannock you know and once in a while used to make bread thing like that you know.

**DP:** Did you...I'm sorry...Did you eat any fish that your father may have caught?

**CL:** Yah, my dad used to fish a lot in wintertime. We live right beside the big Crooked Lake. I wonder if you ever see that Crooked Lake in the?

**DP:** No I've heard of it though.

**CL:** A big lake yah that's where we used dad he used to fish a lot in and he used to sell some fish you know thing like that, trade for some meat you know. That's what my dad used to do. Never stop working and the boys they had to haul the oats for the winter you know chop the oats there was no machine them days like cut the oats.

**DP:** It was all manual work.

**CL:** Yah with the axe yah had to do everything yah the hard way yah.

**DP:** When people were finished their work in the evenings and on weekends and during weddings there were a lot of dances and things right?

**CL:** Yah there was lots and we had to go to church every Sunday.

**DP:** Every Sunday?

**CL:** Oh yah dad he was a very strong Catholic yah.

**DP:** Yes

**CL:** Yah we couldn't eat any meat on Friday.

**DP:** Now when you went to church were the relations with the priest and nuns good with the local Métis people...?

**CL:** oh yah Métis peoples oh yah well mostly mixed because that church was on the reserve there you know a lot of Indians and the Métis they had to all go that church yah it was in Crooked Lake there that's where.

**DP:** And the Indians and the Métis got along well

**CL:** Oh yah well my dad used to get along with everybody so's my mom you know they used to have a lot of friends yah they come down and visit on Sunday afternoon after church like you know and they play cards thing like that you know.

**DP:** Did they have any non-Aboriginal friends like French Canadians or English Canadians?

**CL:** Well yah my dad he had a lot of friend see... my dad talk French you know he had all kinda friends you know.

**DP:** Oh okay.

**CL:** Peoples like that you know so's mom you know.

**DP:** So the French Canadians and the Métis got along well?

**CL:** Yah they got along very well yah. I'll say that any time because I know you know my dad and mom they sure had a lot of good friends. . They get along with everybody. So that that was 1934, I think we move to Yorkton.

**DP:** Yorkton, so you were a city person after then or?

**CL:** Oh we live dad bought a some land about twelve miles south of Yorkton they bought a place there that's where we grew up all us... that's where we got married most of us you know all growing up there yuh.

**DP:** So when you got married, who did you marry?

**CL:** I marry with a George Henry from Crooked Lake a man.

**DP:** And he was a Métis man?

**CL:** Oh yah mm hmm was Métis man just yah.

**DP:** And did you have any children with Mr. Henry?

**CL:** Yah I had three boys and two girls we had yah...

**DP:** And your children all grew up and left home and...

**CL:** Yah they all left. They all grew up but I only got a one boy and two girls. I lost two boys you know.

**DP:** During...when they were small?

**CL:** No they were both. The youngest one he was sixteen when I lost. And my oldest boy was thirty-eight years old.

**DP:** Oh okay, I thought perhaps maybe in childbirth cause in the old days they lost a lot of babies.

**CL:** Oh. Oh no they were all on their teenager when they were gone.

**DP:** When Métis women had babies in your community were there Métis midwives to help or did they have doctors?

**CL:** I never had a doctor when I had my kids.

**DP:** You never had a doctor

**CL:** No.

**DP:** Really, so it was the Métis midwife?

**CL:** Yah and they were all healthy, my kids yah well most the women never seen doctor them days you know.

**DP:** Your mother and the other women in the community would have practiced the traditional medicine. They would have known what herbs to apply. What berries to use etc.?

**CL:** Yah, they know what kind of medicine to give you when you have a baby or something, when, you know, they all had their medicine the old peoples a long time ago because there was no doctors, you know, you couldn't... Far to go to doctors. They always find something to get used.

**DP:** Yah

**CL:** Yah, that's how it is yah. Today is different I tell you.

**DP:** Mm hmm sure is.

**CL:** Eeyah.

**DP:** Were you able to attend school or?

**CL:** No! Not one of us went to school.

**DP:** Not one of your brothers or sisters?

**CL:** Nah, no not even a day we never went to school and we work hard right through trying to make our living with no education I tell you. You know that was the biggest thing that I used to always think that I never went to school. Still the age I am you

know I always miss how come I never went to school. You know all my family the boys they work so hard with no education you know so's the girls you know all of us you know.

**DP:** But that was pretty much the same for all the local Métis families wasn't it?

**CL:** Yah that's right. I don't know why that was... why we couldn't go to school. See we live right beside a school there about two miles er mile and half. We couldn't go that school that Indian school. We couldn't go in that school.

**DP:** Oh, it was a reserve school and they wouldn't take Métis kids.

**CL:** Yah, mm hmm. But we couldn't go that school there.

**DP:** But you did learn a lot of valuable lessons and knowledge from the local people though.

**CL:** Yah, that's right well that's only the way you know, you have to try to learn, try'n talk English or everything in the hard way you know just check there n' try to learn.

**DP:** There were a lot of Elders to teach you about the ways of the past...how to live off the land so you did receive an education ... just a traditional one.

**CL:** Yah that's right. You're right, that's right. But after when I had my kids, they all went to school, I tell you. They all went to school my... when I had a chance. Well I live...we bought some land close to a school t'was only about a quarter a mile so all my kids went to school so. Yah

**DP:** Mm hmm. You just lived in Crooked Lake and Yorkton in your youth? Did you live in any other communities?

**CL:** No that's only place. Only two place, Crooked Lake I was born and then I was about twelve you know when we move to Yorkton. That's how, that's the only place, we never move, we all had a place, we all growing there. I raise all my kids there, he he. 1969, that's the time I left Yorkton, we move to Moose Jaw, that's the time. But now my kids they were all grown up when I moved to Moose Jaw. Was working there in the hospital.

**DP:** Mm hmm

**CL:** Yah.

**DP:** Regarding work outside the family, for yourself, your parents and your siblings, were there any wage labour that you worked or like did you work for local farmers? Did you have...?

**CL:** No, mostly the boys when they had a chance to go to work, the boys they used to go but the girls they used to always stay home you know and do the work for the you know help my mom you know. We never used to work out when I was at home.

**DP:** Mm hmm

**CL:** No

**DP:** Just chores around the house?

**CL:** Just worked around the house, yah. Do the cooking and clean up that was my work all the time.

**DP:** Mm hmm, when you became an adult and had a family of your own did you work outside the home?

**CL:** Oh yah, I work outside when I had like our own place you know. We had some cattle. I had to do the outside and those milkings and everything like that you know.

**DP:** Mm hmm.

**CL:** I done that a lot, yah.

**DP:** Yah. In your home community of Crooked Lake, were there different languages spoken like was there Cree spoken? Saulteaux? French? English or?

**CL:** Did you used to talk a lot French and Saulteaux you know and we talk Cree you know. See that's how I could understand Cree and French and ah Saulteaux and English like. There's four language like I understand but just catches like this you know. Cause I use to hear lot of people talking dif... So, that's how I learn a lot. That's why I learn you know.

**DP:** So, that's all those different languages that were spoken...

**CL:** Different languages, yah.

**DP:** Were easy, like they allowed the creation of the Métis language Michif?

**CL:** Yah, Métchif (Michif), and yah, that's how. The (Métchif) Michif, like there lot of French words like you know, they not, like, you know, there's lota, not like, there's a lot of words that just about de same, you know. Like Cree n French, you know thing like dat.

**DP:** So you could speak Cree?

**CL:** Oh yah I could speak Cree. Oh heck, that's my language, that's what I like talking.

**DP:** Your first language?

**CL:** Yah

**DP:** You can speak Michif as well?

**CL:** Oh yah I can speak Cree really good. That's my language. I like talking Cree.

**DP:** So you call Cree what we call Michif. That's the mix or...?

**CL:** Yah Métchif (Michif) language yah.

**DP:** So, that's what you call Cree then, Clementine?

**CL:** Yah Cree yah that's how we talk. Yah well that's my language you know that's how we used talk...home you know.

**DP:** And you could understand Saulteaux I bet?

**CL:** I could understand the words, just a few words, you know.

**DP:** Just a few.

**CL:** Like French, so I could understand a few words, not right through but mostly I couldn't understand you know because you know they were always mixed all the time where I was you know, where I grew.

**DP:** And the Métis people had an ability to change the language?

**CL:** Yah this is right yah.

**DP:** Like the Métis Cree you speak has Cree from the reserve but also has French from the local French community?

**CL:** Yah that's right.

**DP:** But it made it different. Was that how you see it?

**CL:** Yah that's how it is that's true yah. Cause you know when you see some people they talk French or Saulteaux you know and catch on some few words there.

**DP:** Mm hmm but when you speak your Cree, you could be saying French or Saulteaux words and it might be different from the French and Saulteaux words...

**CL:** Yah that's right...ya like if I talk really Cree like you know like the other people, they wouldn't understand because the way we talk. You talk Cree too?

**DP:** No, no, I can speak French though, sort of.

**CL:** Oh you talk French, eh?

**DP:** Yes. My background is more French Canadian than Métis.



**CL:** Oh...

**DP:** And there were a lot of Métis people there.

**CL:** Yah.

**DP:** And plus Rolland of course spoke Métis French too.

**CL:** Yah, like to talk Cree, it's nice, oh I'm so happy when I hear my talking with my own people in Cree. Tried talking English all time, ha ha.

**DP:** So it was a good time to speak with the other Elders at the Michif conference in Yorkton?

**CL:** Yah yah it's so nice you know. It's so easy to say a joke, like, you know, to laugh like you know. Not like different languages, you know it's all secret you know. But like that our language you could say all kind things and laugh ha ha ha ha. That's what I like about it you know we had a lot of good times that meeting we had there.

**DP:** There will be more of those I believe.

**CL:** Yah gee I wouldn't mind to have that kind of a meeting again. I sure like those kind of meetings you know. It was really nice. That was nice meeting we had there, eh?

**DP:** Yah, you could do a lot of reminiscing.

**CL:** Yah that's for sure.

**DP:** Were you able to teach any of your children Michif?

**CL:** Well my, they talk the way I talk, oh hell yah. My kid they talk Cree. Like my son talks good Cree and my daughters they talk good. Well, I used to talk just that language because I never went to school you know. I just had to talk Cree with them you know and they talk really good, my kids. Yah they all talk. My...good.

**DP:** But your grandchildren are they able to?

**CL:** Ya, my grandchildren they always trying to ask me to teach them, but, see like, their grandmother like, they don't want to taught them. That's what I always tell my girls I said teach them how to talk I says be a day they'll be asking you, you know that's nice to talk to the kids like that you know.

**DP:** It's part of their heritage.

**CL:** Well, surrre!

**DP:** Yes

**CL:** Yah that's supposed to be the proper way. I like talking Cree, me. That's my language.

**DP:** Mm hmm, Were other people in the community speaking Cree, other than the Métis people, like your kind of Cree?

**CL:** Oh yah there was lot of people where I was growing up in Crooked Lake and Yorkton almost all the people there talk straight Cree.

**DP:** Straight Cree, reserve Cree?

**CL:** Oh yah they never talk English you know. Just a few years now they start to talk English you know. All the old peoples I guess there gone you know that's what I think me. Now the young peoples they just talk English now you know. They use to be all of them they used talk straight Cree you know. It was nice but now... gone. It's gone for good I think too.

**DP:** Well what we can do perhaps is preserve a bit of the language and interview people.

**CL:** Well we should try that, a lot of us, a bunch of us, we should try teach the young people how to talk. We shouldn't lose our language. We lost everything. At least we should keep that at least we should keep that that's all we got now. We should keep that language now, we shouldn't lose it.

**DP:** It would be important because Métis people had to struggle very hard to survive.

**CL:** Yah that's right that's true.

**DP:** And something should be left to remember all those Métis people who made a life out here?

**CL:** Yah and they made a good life too you know. We were happy and it was clean you know everything. Too bad, too bad but you know it's hard. They don't talk. Most of the young people now they don't talk Cree. Talk to them they just laugh at you ha ha ha.

**DP:** Yes that's the sad fact.

**CL:** That's very sad yah.

**DP:** However there are a lot people here at the Gabriel Dumont Institute that would welcome the opportunity to study Michif Cree.

**CL:** Yah.

**DP:** So there are some young people that are interested I guess. The question is just getting the Elders together and getting the young people together.

**CL:** Yah teach them and just straight talk Cree, no English. That's only the way they going to learn.

**DP:** Totally immersion in Cree?

**CL:** Yah, look me. That's how I learn in English. You know, I never, my dad and mom they didn't talk English nothing, but I just catch on did few words there. That's how I learn how to talk English. That's, everybody could do the same thing. If they want to learn, they will learn I tell you. If you want to you know, but you gotta try.

**DP:** Yes, in your home community of Crooked Lake, was it known by any other names?

**CL:** No. It... that's was the only name I know, Crooked Lake.

**DP:** So there was no name in Cree?

**CL:** No, they didn't say anything about that, they that's just how we talk, just Cree, straight Cree.

**DP:** So you would say something in Cree and then I gotta go to Crooked Lake?

**CL:** Yah that's right like that that's how we used to talk yah. Yah it was real nice but now it changes so much you know. But, that's how it is. We'll never change our colour. The only thing that might change is the speaking but our colour ha ha ha.

**DP:** When you were growing up, did you ever refer to yourself as a Michif or Métis?

**CL:** I always believe myself, that I was a Métchif (Michif) that was all, because my dad and mom they were nothing else.

**DP:** So no one would say I am Métis?

**CL:** Yah a Métchif (Michif) yah.

**DP:** So it was Métchif (Michif)?

**CL:** Yah a Métchif (Michif) yah

**DP:** And every Métis family called themselves Michif?

**CL:** Oh yah and there were lots when we move south of Yorkton. There lots li Métchif (Michif) there. Like see my dad one of his brother he fought with Riel you know.

**DP:** Oh really, what was his name?

**CL:** Robert Flammand, my dad, and his brother.

**DP:** Oh yes

**CL:** My dad he was the baby in the family.

**DP:** So he missed 1885?

**CL:** Yah, but one his brothers he was fighting with Riel, my dad his brother and I remember my uncle really good before he died yah.

**DP:** After 1885, did your father tell you how hard it was for Métis people to live in society like with racism and ...

**CL:** You know my dad he was a man who didn't talk about things like that, you know. Only the thing, when we ask him something like that, he'll tell us, you know. Was not a man that say, oh that thing, that. He was just always working hard my dad. He had no education, my dad, too, you know and so he had to work hard, with a bunch of kids ha ha ha.

**DP:** Yes, did your mom and dad, did they own their own home or did you kind...?

**CL:** Oh yah, my dad always had his own home, yah.

**DP:** So you dad received a scrip patent and took that and bought land with it.

**CL:** Yah that's what he done, yah.

**DP:** Ok, so your family never squatted on the land and road allowances then, you had your own land?

**CL:** We had our own home, yah, all I could remember, but in summer we used to travel a lot, you know, camping and like in summer time you know, like digging Seneca root. I guess you know what I'm talking about.

**DP:** Yes

**CL:** Seneca root, you know what that...

**DP:** For medicinal purposes? For the pharmaceutical companies?

**CL:** Yah they used to sell it, you know, yah, that's the one. They use to do that a lot, my parents.

**DP:** In the summertime?

**CL:** Summertime yah.

**DP:** Were there any Métis people around your community that didn't have their own home?

**CL:** Oh yah, there were lot, they didn't no, in the road allowance they used to live, you know.

**DP:** Yah, did the local Métis community look after the poor Métis folks?

**CL:** Oh no, they just had to get out and work if they want to live, there was no help that time. Not like today I tell you ha ha.

**DP:** So, if say, for instance, a family...

**CL:** Yah they had to work.

**DP:** They had to work, like...

**CL:** Yah, they had to work for their food, yah.

**DP:** But at the same time, even if the Métis people could have helped them the other Métis people chances are they wouldn't have had enough money and enough...

**CL:** Yah, this is right, there was no money.

**DP:** There was just enough for you own family.

**CL:** That was 1930, you know that was the hardest. That's the time I guess, yah, it was very hard that time, I tell you. I could just remember, you know.

**DP:** Hmm and a lot of Métis people left that community during the Depression?

**CL:** After the Depression they left a lot, you know, go and move to Regina. Move in there, you know. Then after we move to Yorkton, so. There were lots of them, after that, they start to move, the people, yah.

**DP:** Was life easier after you moved to Yorkton?

**CL:** Oh, well there was no easier. I remember we used to work hard when we were up there. Yeah...never an easy life

**DP:** Might have been easier to live in Crooked Lake because you were your own boss, maybe?

**CL:** Yah well, we were our own boss too in south of Yorkton. We had our own place there too. In Crooked Lake too, you know. We were always trying to have a home like you know, yah.

**DP:** When you were living in Yorkton, did you ever experience racism against you because you were an Aboriginal person?

**CL:** No, you know I never notice that you know. Seems to be all the people we used to get along everybody. We moved to Yorkton nineteen thirty-two, thirty-four when we moved to Yorkton. I was very young that time. But I remember really good at the time. You know we used to make a lot of garden stuff I tell you that. Ah ha ha.

**DP:** You grew a big garden then?

**CL:** We had to make some big gardens I tell you, a lot of potatoes for the winter heh heh yah.

**DP:** That was good country for growing a garden.

**CL:** Oh yah that was really good country yah. `Twas really nice you know. Well I think of it now but that was only the thing I was wishing to go to school but I never had a chance and I think I'll never have a chance to go to school.

**DP:** But later in life when you were an adult, you went to SIAST didn't you?

**CL:** Yah I went to SIAST. It was about, I went there for three years I think. Yah I used to love going to school there. Ah ha ha. It was like I was alive, just like I was a teenager. I used to love it.

**DP:** So you enjoyed learning?

**CL:** Oh yah I love learning. I like learning a lot yah.

**DP:** It's really a life process.

**CL:** I guess it's a life to read and write you know to talk good English to learn some. Like what a you saying all the words you know like this you just have to catch on you make a lot of mistakes when you talk. Like you know but now I'm catching on quite a bit now. Yah , learning very fast ah ha ha.

**DP:** Well life is about learning. You never stop learning.

**CL:** That's right. Today, you gotta learn in life.

**DP:** I'm only twenty-eight and I got a lifetime to learn. So, we still keep learning.

**CL:** You just start your life.

**DP:** During the Depression, how did your family make a living?

**CL:** Very hard, very hard.

**DP:** Farming? Gathering?

**CL:** Yah we just had to. The boys they had to work hard...to make... selling oats you know by the load you know they one day they chop oat all day the next day they go and

sell it you know. They didn't get very much. I think they used to only get \$2.00 a load or \$2.50 a load. I tell you they didn't get very much them days I tell you that. A lot of work

**DP:** And in them days the local government really frowned on giving relief for people that had a hard time making it?

**CL:** There was no relief you know. Didn't know what's that yah.

**DP:** During the depression, did you ever encounter, you were just a young girl then, but did you ever encounter Métis politicians trying to make things better for the Métis people?

**CL:** You know, I don't remember that maybe I was too young to know thing like that have meeting you know. Things like that I don't remember you know. Seems to be it was always the same just work, work all the time.

**DP:** No one had time for politics. So, your dad was never involved in politics?

**CL:** No my dad, he was not. I never know my dad to go to a meeting thing like that you know.

**DP:** But you do remember World War II when it came?

**CL:** Oh yah I remember that very well yah real good.

**DP:** And you were how old when World War II started in 1939?

**CL:** 1939, I was about eighteen years old, nineteen years old that time already.

**DP:** So you were of the age then, eh?

**CL:** Yah that's right I come age ah ha ha.

**DP:** And you were living in Yorkton?

**CL:** Yah we were living in Yorkton yah.

**DP:** And you were already married right?

**CL:** I was married 1940.

**DP:** Okay. Were there anybody in your family that went into the Canadian Army or the American Army?

**CL:** Yah my brother Albert, he was in the army.

**DP:** In the army and he served in France and the Netherlands and all that?

**CL:** Yah yah I don't know which where but I know my brother he was in the army yah Albert. That was the only one he was in the army.

**DP:** But there a lot of Métis people from your community that did enlist though, eh?

**CL:** Yah there were lots yah. That time there a lot of people go into the army you know.

**DP:** It was a good way for Métis people to make an honest living was to go into the military.

**CL:** Yah that... that's right, your right.

**DP:** So a lot of the men probably sent cheques over to their wives, mothers or...?

**CL:** My brother wasn't married yet when he was in the army. He was single.

**DP:** And your brother Albert came back all right from the war?

**CL:** Oh yah he was he was came back all right. But he's gone already too.

**DP:** Oh he is, is he?

**CL:** Yah hmm.

**DP:** So he served during the whole course of the war?

**CL:** Yah he did yah.

**DP:** Did you do any special work during World War II for the government or...?

**CL:** No.

**DP:** Just look after you family kind of thing?

**CL:** Yah, I was just starting to have a family you know. My first one was born 1941 there from there.

**DP:** And who was your oldest child?

**CL:** That was Alec my oldest one but he's gone too.

**DP:** Alec's gone? And your other children? How are they? Did they...survive? You said you had some that died?

**CL:** My two daughter, they're alive. One of my son is alive. See my youngest one and my oldest one they're gone. One boy too, that one is gone too. I raise another boy too.

**DP:** You raised someone else's child?



**CL:** Oh yah I did yah hmm.

**DP:** That was pretty common in the old days.

**CL:** Yah that's right. That kid had no home so I took him. Was just like my own. He was only about nine months when I took that boy.

**DP:** He was a Métis boy?

**CL:** Oh yah he was a Métis boy yah. Was Métis like me ha ha.

**DP:** Okay, well I think we covered just about pretty much everything else. Unless you want to talk a bit about the Michif language and after World War II if your interested? We could continue on.

**CL:** What, like what?

**DP:** Well, I was curious to know what were some of the names of the traditional Métis holidays in Michif, like New Years, Easter?

**CL:** New Years, boy that was my dad's big day I tell you that.

**DP:** That was the best day of the year for him?

**CL:** Well New Years, holy, boy my dad used to love that holiday. My dad used to play the violin you know. Yah used to play the violin. Almost all my brothers they used to play the violin.

**DP:** So the Red River Jig and all that stuff?

**CL:** Oh yah two of my sisters they used to dance that.

**DP:** So everyone knew how to jig?

**CL:** Yah they used to jig dance the jig in New Years. 12 o'clock... big meal and after that they start to play the violin. Yah the old days are gone no more.

**DP:** Yes and you had a New Years Mass for Christmas?

**CL:** Oh yah that's right oh my dad he was a very strong Catholic yah.

**DP:** And for Easter, how did you celebrate Easter?

**CL:** Oh yah Easter holiday the same thing. We couldn't do nothing for forty days through the lent we couldn't do nothing. We had to stay home. You couldn't go to a dance till lent is over. A lot is different today I tell you, they don't even know lent today.

**DP:** Mm hmm , it sounds like your family was pretty strong Catholic?

**CL:** Yah they were very, my dad and mom, they were very strong. Catholic yah no today there's nothing today. Sonavagun, so much different today.

**DP:** I don't think are less religious, it's just they don't go to church as much.

**CL:** Yah that's rights seems to me. was the biggest thing to go to church them days you know. Quite a few years back they never used to miss go to church. I always remember we had nothing no money my dad he give us each five cents to donate that money in church.

**DP:** In the collection?

**CL:** We had nothing to eat. We still had to donate that money. I'll always remember that.

**DP:** Well CL, I guess that's about it. I think we covered quite a bit in this half-hour, eh?

**CL:** Ok now what you going to do with this one here I like to know?

**DP:** Well, were going to transcribe it. That means were gonna get it typed and then we might publish it in the *New Breed* magazine or we might save it and put it in the collection of interviews of Métis Elders. But when it's typed, I'm going to send you a typed copy of it.

**CL:** Oh that'd be nice.

**DP:** So you can have something to remember this discussion and I'm going to send you a gift in the mail for this interview. I'm going to try get you an honorarium or a fiddling tape or something.

**CL:** Yah that'd be nice.

**DP:** Just to say thanks from the Institute for all the memories that you have provided us with because this is really going to help us when we try to understand what it was like for Métis people in the traditional communities. How they spoke Michif. So this was a good interview and hopefully we'll be able to do a bigger liver one with you in Michif. There's a fellow, remember the Michif Elder's conference? There was a fellow called Norman Fleury. He wants to interview you in Michif. So there's going to be a bigger interview with you perhaps in Michif to come. This is just to start...to show some of the knowledge you have. So hopefully we'll be able to have more interviews with you in the future if you like.

**CL:** Sure, I'll do anything for you.

**DP:** It was really nice talking to you CL. I really appreciate it and I'm gonna try and get this typed for you as soon as I can, all right?

**CL:** Okay thank you very much. Let me know when they going to have another meeting like that kind we had.

**DP:** There is more coming I believe. I'm not in charge of that. But the lady who would know for sure would be Leah Dorion, remember Leah. The lady I work with and when there's another conference, she's going to contact all the Elders that were there.

**CL:** Oh well that'd be good.

**DP:** Thank you CL.

**CL:** Okay then, thank you very much.

**DP:** You're welcome, bye-bye.