

**Hap Boyer, Rose Richardson, Sherry Farrell-Racette**  
**Video 1**

**Start: 10:19.23.02 Hap Boyer** - My Grandpa he was born in St. Louis. He was a jigger and a fiddler and a, and, and, he went to Battleford and then he went into the First World War.

**Sherry** - Oh right.

**Hap Boyer** – Yeah.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Was he the one who taught you how to play the fiddle?

**Hap Boyer** - No, Dad used to play the fiddle a bit and he'd tune it up for me and that got me started. And I used go to the house dances and listen to these old Métis fiddle players and I thought they were so great, you know, and I'd...(Inaudible)...should watch them, and I'd go home and practice. And I'd get mad because I, "How come," I said, "that old fiddle player can't even write his name and he's deaf, he can't tune his fiddle and then he could play like that."

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Do you remember the names of some of those old fiddle players?

**Hap Boyer** - Delorme.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Delormes?

**Hap Boyer** - Yeah. Good fiddler, yeah.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Lots of different songs?

**Hap Boyer** - Oh yeah. My, I never forget, I don't know if I was getting on my Mother's nerve or what, but she says to me, "If you want to be a good fiddle player," she says, "You wait for a nice big moon in late night," she says, "And you go out and find a crossroads," and she says, "At midnight," she says, "You stand on that crossroad and play a tune." And she says, "You'll become a fiddle player." "Oh," I said. I kept that in mind until one harvest night with a big moon. So I went in the barn and I got the horse, saddled it up, and about 12, 11:30 at night I went out, put my fiddle in the, in the pillowcase. I didn't know if it was okay, I got on the horseback and I went up about a quarter of a mile down the road. I tied the horse to the fence, and I, then I got the fiddle, I went stand right in the middle of that crossroad and I waited till 12 o'clock and then I started playing the fiddle. And I finished and I got on the horseback and come home, and I said, "Now I'll be a fiddle player eh?" I didn't tell anybody that.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Oh you didn't tell anyone that you did that?

**Hap Boyer** - But that's what happened eh?

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Did it help?

**Hap Boyer** - I don't know. Not much, not much.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Do you remember what tune you played?

**Hap Boyer** - You know my first tune, that's another story. I played Old Blanjo, **(Sings a song)**. I was so proud of it. I said, "Dad listen." And I'm playing that and after I finished playing he said, "What tune was that?" And to top it off, I was playing this Mexicali Rose Goodbye nice and slow. And my Grandpa listens and he says, "Are you playing for a funeral?"...**(Inaudible)**...

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - So you had critics?

**Hap Boyer** - Yeah. Yeah.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - So would you say that you learned mostly by yourself? Like listening?

**Hap Boyer** - Yeah. By myself.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - And that, and then that... **(Inaudible)**...

**Hap Boyer** - My cousin played the guitar, and he knew chords and that and, and my neighbour played the violin and he had no .22 at that time. And I had no fiddle at the early, earlier part of my life there. So he lend me his fiddle and I lend him my .22...

**Rose Richardson** - ... **(Inaudible)**...

**Hap Boyer** - But after a while we went to an auction sale and got a fiddle, but my first fiddle was, and I was about seven years old. My brother got the wooden fiddle and I got the little fiddle made of tin. I was mad. Yep.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** – So you first started out with a tin fiddle?

**Hap Boyer** - Yeah, a tin fiddle.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Well how old were you when you first started playing then if you got your first fiddle...

**Hap Boyer** - Well I had a little fiddle but I was just fooling around with it eh? But I didn't really start playing till I was fourteen years old, fifteen I was, I got serious. I could go to bed and hear fiddle music, fiddle music right

through my ears and then I'd get up and I'd, at night and they thought I was crazy I was trying to play. So I learned that tune.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Just tunes that you heard?

**Hap Boyer** - Yeah, yeah.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Or tunes that you heard other fiddlers play?

**Hap Boyer** - Other fiddlers play.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - So how old were you when you went and stood on the crossroads?

**Hap Boyer** - Oh, I must be about, oh thirteen years old. Maybe 12.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Okay, just a kid.

**Hap Boyer** - Yeah.

**Rose Richardson** - And then you heard the fiddle music in your head after that?

**Hap Boyer** - I heard the fiddle music and ohhhh. They say that's the devil instrument. Is that right?

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Oh I don't know.

**Hap Boyer** - Did you know that the fiddle...

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - But I did, I have heard stories yeah.

**Hap Boyer** - Did you know that the fiddle is a, is a woman?

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - No I didn't know that.

**Hap Boyer** – You didn't know?

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Well that explains everything.

**Hap Boyer** - You ever hear, you always hear an old fiddler say, "She's a good sounding fiddle. She's a good sounding fiddle eh?" She's gotta be a woman.

**END 10:25.10.24**