

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

**Start: 10:35.18.13 Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Did they have those parties where they used to take most of the furniture out of the house and just have chairs around the outside? I haven't been to one of those for years, but the last one I was at, like, that was at Fort Qu'Appelle.

**Rose Richardson** - Yeah, they, they have a, the dance would start like a New Year's dance and people would start coming, they'd play the music and eventually, you know, one piece of furniture would move and then finally they'd take down the chimney and move the stove out.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Holy. You too? Did they have parties like that at home?

**19.6 - Hap Boyer** - My Grandma told me a story, this is true. Every Métis family took their turn, turn on Saturday nights to make a house dance. And who made the dance had to supply the sandwiches and the coffee. And it was at this place had their dance and they couldn't figure out, they were very, very poor, you know, and they said, "How are you gonna feed the people?" Fiddle players were, they'd go and play but when the food start to come out they had to have, feed the people. They had two coyote dogs. Now this the truth. Why they had two, one was a catcher and one was a killer, and a coyote.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Oh, right they were trained?

**Hap Boyer** - Trained, oh yeah, they were good coyote dogs, and one was, he chased the coyote and knock him over and the other guy come and grab by the throat, hold him there. But he had two coyote dogs and they had a big dance that night and by golly they had sandwiches. Everybody had

sandwiches, everybody ate. Next day there was no, no dogs to be seen. Figure it out.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** – You do what you have to do eh?

**Hap Boyer** - That's the truth.

**21.3 - Rose Richardson** - And what they said they'd done to is they, they'd put a coin, they'd make a cake and they'd put a coin into the cake and whoever ended up getting the piece with the coin is the one that had to have the following dance.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Oh is that how it worked?

**Rose Richardson** - Yeah.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Cause I know when I was a kid we used to have the coin in the cake. It was good luck if you got it eh? So that's how they figured out who got the next dance for the next week?

**Rose Richardson** - Exactly.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette** - Oh that's neat. That's really neat. I guess you know, when people used to all live together in one community, now everyone seems to be spread around and a lot of those traditions have stopped.

**Rose Richardson** - And it was like, people lived together in communities and everybody looked after one another. Like when they'd go hunting, food was always shared, so one person would get a moose and they'd share it with other people in the community. They'd help out their widows and the elderly, single, single parents. Actually, in my years I guess a single parent family, there wasn't that many because most of 'em just lived alone with

their parents, you know. So, and housing was not easy to come by, so large families lived in small houses and sort of shared the workload all the time. But I guess it's, it's really neat when you think about how they looked after one another and how the communities cared for one another. And like, when a child went out, if there was a person that they had to watch, like, okay, let's say somebody got labelled as a, a pedophile or something like that. Children were like, the community looked after it so what happened is if the children went out it was all the people's responsibility to look after that child. So if they labelled somebody it was okay. If he was, if a person was walking and was you know, not regarded as a very respectful person, then just anybody would end up picking up the child and saying "Okay, you come here and you wait, I'll take you home to your parents," or, or just a lot of protection like that. Like today we sort of feel it's not our business and you can't interfere with somebody's life. Before it was everybody looked after everybody's children and everybody cared and if you disciplined somebody's child it was because you cared. You know, now you can't do that.

**End 10:40.49.13**