

**Jimmy LaRoque, Guy Blondeau, Sherry Farrell-Racette**  
**Video 2**

**Start: 11.52.10.17 Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Did you, did anyone make like medicine from the bush or use plants or anything for medicine?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** The only things that we—my mother, I don't know where she found it—a plant with a white flower and that kind of fern leaves, eh. It looked like fern leaves, eh, and she used to pick that and make some kind of a mixture with it—I don't know what it was—and put it on a sore, a poultice like, eh? And that's the only thing that my mother did, and where she got that from I don't know. But you'd have as a kid, you know, the sore full of puss and this and that. She'd put that on a couple days, one here, one tomorrow and that, and it'd clear up. Now, that wasn't Native medicine, I don't know what she did that.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** What about you?

**Guy Blondeau:** I've heard about tobacco leaves being used, you know, on, on infections and stuff like that, and I can remember, you know, you get a boil or a, a stye or something, and the, the bread and milk poultice go on there, you know, and that was supposed to dry out the thing. And we never did this at home, but I heard about it, being used, you know, you heat up the glass. Yeah, get it hot, and then put it over, and as the air cools it, it contracts, eh, and sucks, you know, thing out of boils. I think boils and stuff it was most effective for, but I remember this bread and milk was awful messy stuff, you know, and they'd slap it on you and it'd drip. And, of course, there was the old molasses and sulphur thing in the springtime, you know, to thicken your blood again was the idea. And didn't they ever use chewing tobacco? I think I remember hearing about chewing tobacco being used as something.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Okay.

**Guy Blondeau:** And tobacco, tobacco leaves. Honey, raw honey, something else I heard about, and that apparently is still, I think, that's still in, in, accepted by modern medicine. Not refined honey, but raw, you know, pure honey.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** The raw honey.

**Guy Blondeau:** As a very, very powerful anti-, antibacterial agent.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Oh really?

**Guy Blondeau:** You know, yeah.

**11.54.34 Sherry Farrell-Racette:** What do you do for a stye, you know, if someone gets a stye in their eye? Do you remember what people used to do? Didn't get them much?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** I think I only had one stye in my life. My wife always says you got a stye or something there. "I'll be alright tomorrow." And you were gone the next day, so can't be a stye, but I don't know what.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Someone from the valley told me you rub a gold ring on it. So, ever since then, I rub a gold ring on it and it goes away right away.

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Is that right?

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Yeah. So that's ...

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Good for you. You got a gold ring have you?

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Well, not on me. But I got one at home, digging around looking for my gold ring.

**Guy Blondeau:** Well, that's, that's useful, 'cause everybody gets styes once in a while.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Yeah, try it. It worked for me.

**Guy Blondeau:** Kids and grandchildren.

**11.55.26 Sherry Farrell -Racette:** What about when people got colds? Was there any sort of home remedies that were used for colds?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Mustard plaster. That's my, mustard plaster 'cause I used to, well, I [?], when they get hot and, you know, sweat, eh? And then I'd lay down in the snow till I cooled off and catch pneumonia. And mustard plaster, boy, day and night for maybe ten days, back and front. You'd get better.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Back and front?

**Jimmy LaRocque:** Both. But at that time, in fact, one time I was that sick that they took the window out of the house in the middle of winter and put a, a sheet in there, eh? That the air would come in and I laid there with mustard plaster, and I laid there for, I don't know, eight, ten days. The doctor came and said, "No, he's gonna make it."

**Guy Blondeau:** I can remember a spoonful of sugar and you'd put a drop, couple drops of kerosene in it.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Holy.

**Guy Blondeau:** And, and, you know, you eat this slowly, and you inhale the kerosene vapours, you know, and that sure it did it. It cleared out, you know. I don't know what the harm of the kerosene would have done, the ...

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** The side effects.

**Guy Blondeau:** ... but, but it sure it did clean out, you know, the sinuses and the, and the throat it did, and I remember that.

**Sherry Farrell-Racette:** Sugar and kerosene?

**Guy Blondeau:** And the kerosene made it, you know, the sugar, I mean, made it palatable. It tasted, tasted just fine, you know. I was glad to get a spoon of sugar.

**End: 11.57.12.04**