

Gilbert Pelletier, Norman Fleury, Sherry Farrell-Racette

Video 2

Start: 9:56:04.21 **NORMAN FLEURY** - Because not everybody had the, the richness of having food. So let's say you had just butchered something or you went hunting and you, you'd give them something in return, those are the kind of gifts that we gifted each other with, but it was more survival.

(Video Time: 9:56.21.26) 89.5 GILBERT PELLETIER - And I think it, it meant something, you know, it really meant something to get somebody for, to get something from someone who went out and got it, you know. This wasn't given to him, he had to go out and you know, he had to, he had to walk for that, he had to work for it. You know, so I guess it, it, it means more to give something that you really earned yourself instead of you know, to have to go buy it and give it, it's so simple that you can buy something today and give it, you know, give it as a. But they, these guys, these people worked for it. They really had to work to get them to give that thing, and yet they give it away. They used to give horses and horses meant a lot to them because that was their only mode of travel. You know, and, they still gave them away to, and they had a lot of. I remember we cut brush with an axe, you know, five acres of bush and you can imagine how, how big five acres is today. And you try to get in there with an axe and cut it when trees were about like that, you know, and all you had was an axe. And we did that, and we piled the branches and piled the wood and burned the branches afterwards. You know, and that was, and we had to do that and my Dad used to work for horses and cows.

SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - That's how he would get paid?

GILBERT PELLETIER - That's how he'd get paid. And he'd give it away, you know, as a, as a gift to someone that came from a long ways or someone

who he hadn't seen for years and, he'd give 'em, you know, he'd work hard for it and, so he just gave it.

91.1 NORMAN FLEURY - See the horse and the rifle were significance of survival and those were the most powerful things.

91.3 GILBERT PELLETIER - Those, those are the most powerful things that you can give away, because that meant your life. You know, a horse, you needed a horse to travel, and you needed a gun to, or rifle to survive, to get your food.

SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - So for a man to give another man a rifle...

GILBERT PELLETIER - It meant, it meant, it really meant something you know.

(Video Time: 9:58.30.00) 91.6 NORMAN FLEURY - And they gave things away, but, and one thing that if you gave a knife to somebody it wasn't good, you don't give a knife, you can give them but they have to buy it, they have to pay you for it. Because there's a danger, a sharpness, and, it could mean danger so if you gave somebody a knife they gave you something in return. It could be a pin, it could be a penny, they gave you something. So you had to exchange there when you gave anything sharp away.

SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - So that had to be like yeah, a trade or...

NORMAN FLEURY - Because you could hurt somebody, you see, it could be bad luck, you could fall on it, you know, it could injure you, and, and that was the significance.

SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - But a gun was not looked at the same way.

NORMAN FLEURY - No, the gun was the same way, because it was a different way, it was survival, it was for hunting stuff. So there was different things.

92.5 GILBERT-PELLETIER - It would have been pretty hard to try to kill a deer with a knife.

SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - Yes, I think so.

GILBERT PELLETIER - You know, it would be a little difficult to do that, I think it...

(Video Time: 9:59.29.13) 92.6 NORMAN FLEURY - And it was used for skinning and, and stuff like that. And, you know, there's a lot of things we, we can talk about the survival of the Métis people when we're talking about things like that now. I remember my grandfather telling me he could build a house in just about a day, or two days. Like he would have a house built, logs. He just, there was no, nothing fancy, you wanted to build yourself a home and you squared those logs it would take longer. But if you just put them together and you know, as a log house, just put the logs together. But you had to cut them a certain way at the end so they fit properly, and you know, they never use no nails, 'cause it's just the way they sat. Sod roof, and the girls or the boys and the, and the mothers and the Grandmas would make the plaster, and...

GILBERT PELLETIER - With the, they mixed the mud, the kids usually would mix mud too you know because they...

SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - Is that what they put on the outside?

NORMAN FLEURY - Yeah.

GILBERT PELLETIER, NORMAN FLEURY, and SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - ... (Inaudible due to overlapping talk)...

NORMAN FLEURY - On the inside also, and then whitewash it.

SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE - What did you call, what you put inside there?

NORMAN FLEURY - Chinking the logs.

End: 10.00.53.11