

Jeanne Pelletier, Clementine Longworth, Maria Campbell
Video 1

Start 2:34.06.26 Maria Campbell: What did you do? Besides work and dance?

2.34.14 Jeanne Pelletier: Well, we fooled around. We hadn't ...

Maria Campbell: So it wasn't quite as strict when you were ...

Jeanne Pelletier: No, no, not me, not, not for us. Well, for me anyway. We, we did the chores and stuff like that as we were told and we all had made a game of it. My brother would make us haul in his wood, and he said you go and sell this wood, you know. So we'd haul it to the house or where we were going, and he did the same thing with the ice. Like we hauled pails of ice for drinking water. But for playing we used to go sliding. We were able to go sliding on the hill and making, we used to go and watch my uncle making tops, great big tops. And at night the, the older men, they used to make these tops fight, just like a boxing match. When one, when one got knocked out, he was out of the game. And then again, the other one would go until the last one was the winner.

Maria Campbell: I never heard of that.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, the big wooden tops. Uncle Ernest used to make those tops all the time, and I asked him, oh, about three years ago before he passed, that, if he remembered how to make a, a top.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember how many they used?

Jeanne Pelletier: One, one for each player, and they'd be two, and then they'd clear up this ice hutch, and then that's where they'd start ...

Maria Campbell: Oh, they'd do it outside?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, it was an outdoor game at night in the moonlight.

Maria Campbell: It was on the ice?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, on the ice. It was an outdoor game, on the ice. They used to whip these tops, and you could just hear them humming.

Maria Campbell: What did they whip them with?

Jeanne Pelletier: A little whip, like a little horsewhip.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, and that thing would dance. Whip them and whip them, and that thing would go round, round, round, fast.

Jeanne Pelletier: And then, just like they'd, they'd guide them to, to see whose top will get knocked out, or whose top will break in half, you know? That was their game. I used to go and watch my uncle and my dad used to play that game, and there was other guys but I ...

Maria Campbell: Did they bet money on them?

Jeanne Pelletier: I don't know, I just watched them.

Maria Campbell: What was it called? Was it a, was there a Michif name for that game?

Jeanne Pelletier: I can't remember.

Clementine Longworth: Remember, that remember how they called them.

Jeanne Pelletier: And I know they were tops made out of wood, but I, I can't remember hearing them say, say it in Michif, what kind of a game it was.

Clementine Longworth: (inaudible) good whip them, that thing, that thing go round and round fast, hey.

Jeanne Pelletier: They used to they used to say [**Michif word**].

Maria Campbell: [repeats Michif word]

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. Wrestling, I guess.

Maria Campbell: [says Michif word]

Jeanne Pelletier: [repeats Michif word]. We'll play wrestling. That's what I thought it was. So I used to go, I was about eight years old, and I used to go and sit there and watch my dad play, playing this game with Uncle Ernest and Uncle (**unknown name**), and they used to, used to play this game.

Maria Campbell: And it was always at night?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: We'll have to ask about that somewhere.

Clementine Longworth: That was their good game, eh? They had their whip and....

Jeanne Pelletier: When I go home, I'll have to ...

Clementine Longworth: I bet you they don't even play that game now, eh?

Jeanne Pelletier: Well, last year, well, three years ago, and I asked my uncle, like Uncle Ernest, I know he was one of them that, that made the, yeah, those things. And I asked him, and he just looked at me and started to laugh. He didn't say whether he could build them, and his dad was a very good builder.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, his dad was.

Jeanne Pelletier: He built chairs and tables and stuff like that.

Maria Campbell: I'd never seen the big ones like that.

Jeanne Pelletier: They were big.

Maria Campbell: But my, my grandpa used to make them out of spools of thread, yeah, the spools, and then we'd sit like this at night. And, but it was kids, eh, and we'd play them, but I never saw the big ones ...

Clementine Longworth: Oh, they used those on the ice.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah these ones were on ice outdoor game. That was the adult sport I used to go and watch. And after that they had sailing with boats and a big sheet.

Maria Campbell: In the summertime?

2.28.34 Jeanne Pelletier: No, in the wintertime, in the wind. It had to be windy, and you'd see them going, going across the lake. We had, we lived right where there's nice lake, and all around like this, there was houses, eh? And we lived here, and right across this way they'd go in, and they'd come back with little sled with a, made like a sailboat.

Maria Campbell: Oh, so they'd use a sleigh ...

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that's right they'd sit in it and the wind would carry them.

Maria Campbell: Did they go a long way and pretty fast?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, yeah, they went pretty fast. That's when the ice first starts freezing, after it's frozen quite a bit, and there's no snow.

Maria Campbell: In the fall.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. More or less, that's when they would go. And it was really nice. Like, that's why I say that.

Maria Campbell: And was it, did they have races like that, or did they just go visiting?

Jeanne Pelletier: They just played. Just for sport. See who would have the, who would go the farthest, or who would have the best sailing sled.

Clementine Longworth: See, the young people that I know, a lot of young people, they do that, they can play with that because...

Jeanne Pelletier: Everybody took turns around. Who would go the farthest or who would go the fastest. Everybody took turns.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, have a good time.

2.39.45 Jeanne Pelletier: Sometimes when they would be going to the store or something, they'd take their sled and their sail, and just go, to go fast. It was a fast way of travelling.

Maria Campbell: Then you'd have to wait for the wind to come back.

Jeanne Pelletier: No, they'd walk home they'd drag their sled home with their groceries or whatever they had, but if the wind turned I guess they would.

End 2:40.06.09