

Jeanne Pelletier, Clementine Longworth, Maria Campbell
Video 1

Start 6.12.05 Jeanne Pelletier: I used to hear my, my, my grandpa. I had this one grandpa, he always used to come and grab me. They used to call him [?]. **[Maria Campbell repeats it]**. Yeah, they used to call him that, and then he'd take me to dance, so I'd get up and go dance with him, dance with him. And he'd be pushing me this way and that way it was like he was really. I used to think he was really bossy and I didn't like to dance with him because he pushed me around. So finally when this one woman would come in, boy, I'd be chucked to the corner and then my dancing with him, he danced with that other woman, but that's how I learned.

Maria Campbell: Who taught you how to dance, Clementine?

Clementine Longworth: Well, that's exactly what they did, you know. Somebody would come take you to dances. You couldn't dance, but they teach you how, yeah.

Maria Campbell: 'Cause I, we had an old uncle at home, kind of like that. He was a bachelor, oh, but he was such a good dancer, and that's, that's how I learned to waltz for the first time. All of the dances I learned to do with him.

Clementine Longworth: Listen to the music, they always say.

Maria Campbell: Yeah. Yeah, he was a really good dancer.

Jeanne Pelletier: That was a part of our entertainment when we, when we were home, is to learn, to learn how to dance. My mom used to whistle for us and we used to dance like my brother danced jig real well and my sister.

Maria Campbell: My grandpa used to play fiddle in, in the kitchen, and he'd make us jig and he'd throw a penny out to whoever was the best dancer, and we'd just be stepping like mad in the kitchen floor. We were just little kids, you know, learning how to jig for that money.

Jeanne Pelletier: Her sisters were good dancers, too. I used to learn the same way.

6.13.55 Maria Campbell: What was your favourite dance, Clementine?

Clementine Longworth: Square dance, I used to love, yeah.

Maria Campbell: Did you guys step dance when you, when you did square dancing?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, yeah, oh boy, the music when it's good, you know, you could do it.

Maria Campbell: What was your favourite dance?

Jeanne Pelletier: All dances. Anything. I like music. I like songs, I like music any kind. Indian songs, Michif songs, anything that had to do with music, that was my, my ...

Maria Campbell: Do you play any musical instrument at all?

Jeanne Pelletier: I play guitar. I play piano.

Maria Campbell: You play guitar?

Jeanne Pelletier: A little bit of each. I never played the fiddle. I tried to play the mandolin, but my sister's got it just now, so when she brings it back I'll try again.

Maria Campbell: So you were born way long time after her. They let women play guitar by the time you got older.

Jeanne Pelletier: I didn't play guitar till I was well in my twenties.

Maria Campbell: Oh so you didn't play at home.

Jeanne Pelletier: I used to listen to him and now all I have to do is watch somebody and I can pick it up. I'm very good at taking somebody's ...

Maria Campbell: Music.

Jeanne Pelletier: Music.

Maria Campbell: Fingers.

Jeanne Pelletier: Fingers. And I used to do that.

Maria Campbell: Where did you learn to play piano?

Jeanne Pelletier: In school. I just, I just took the first year, and then I left it alone 'cause you had to run up and down the scales many times before you got into the good stuff.

Maria Campbell: You just learned to play.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that's why I just learned to play after that, and that was it.

Maria Campbell: You taught dancing for years and years, too, didn't you, teaching kids how to dance? When did you start doing that?

6.15.38 Jeanne Pelletier: In the early '80s. You know, and I was the first one, first woman to call for a square dance to come out in the open, to call for square dances, and that was just out of force because the man I used to work with didn't want to, didn't want to, to teach the kids, so I took over, and I took over the calling, too, and I just, I just remembered. And I did research on it and I went and visited older people like that I knew that danced, were from back home. And I'd ask them and have tea with them and they'd tell me, and then I started putting the dances all together, the stories all together. And I, I like working with kids I always have. Now, and that's what inspired me, to and I, it all started out as a hobby like, you know I just went to this dance and then I asked this guy from back home what's the, "Let's, let's do square dancing like we did at home." "Okay," he said, "Who, who do we all know that know how?" So I started taking other people that lived in Regina that, that came from the place we lived and we had enough, and that's how we started. And then after that I was hosting the different dance on the different reserves.

Maria Campbell: So, yeah, 'cause I've never heard of women callers. There's ...

Jeanne Pelletier: And that's another, that's another ...

Maria Campbell: 'Cause that's almost lost now, too.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that's what I, I plan to do, is teach that, too, because when I did it for the, for education, I had to change quite a bit of the wording. I want the wording to be as, as I remembered, and half of it is in Michif and half of it is in French.

Maria Campbell: So have you ever done any recording of that calling?

Jeanne Pelletier: No.

Maria Campbell: That would be really neat.

Jeanne Pelletier: I've never, like, I have all the calls written up at home, like, but I never did try any recording, no. I did have, I didn't have the time. Now I have the time. Since I got sick, now I have the time. And you have to be right in the mood for it. You have to, like, you don't have to really like it.

End 6.17.54