

Transcribed by David Morin

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE FOLKLORE INTERVIEWS

Jeanne Pelletier, Clementine Longworth, and Maria Campbell

April 3 & 4, 2004

Videotape 1

2.02.13 Maria Campbell: So, it's good to have you in our kitchen. We worked really hard to get this all set up so it'd look, look like this. I want to ask you your names first, and maybe Clementine I'll start with you. What is your full name and ...

Clementine Longworth: From when I was married or?

Maria Campbell: Yeah, before you married and then your married name, and who you married.

Clementine Longworth: Clementine Flamont. That was my dad's name, Flamont. And then after, when I was married to George Henry, it was Henry, my last name.

Maria Campbell: And where were you born?

Clementine Longworth: I was born in Crooked Lake, about twelve miles south of Grayson, that's where I was born.

Maria Campbell: And your parents, who were they?

Clementine Longworth: What?

Maria Campbell: Your parents, what were your parents named?

Clementine Longworth: My dad, his name was Alexandre Flamont, and my mother was Adele Allery.

Maria Campbell: And your grandparents, do you remember your grandparents' names?

Clementine Longworth: No, they were gone before I was born.

Maria Campbell: Oh, both, both sets?

Clementine Longworth: Both sides, yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: And how old were you when you left there, or did you, did you grow up in, Crooked Lake, did you say?

Clementine Longworth: Well, we left Crooked Lake, when, I'll say I was about ten years old when we left for good. We moved to Yorkton, that's how, were raised, all of them, yeah.

Maria Campbell: And where did you go to school?

Clementine Longworth: I never went to school a day in my life.

Maria Campbell: And your husband, where did you meet him? Where did you meet your husband?

Clementine Longworth: In Yorkton, maybe, yeah.

Maria Campbell: And you're Michif?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Was that your language when you were growing up?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, we would talk, yeah, in mostly Cree and French. We'd talk a lot of French, too. My dad used to talk mostly French.

2.04.20 Maria Campbell: And where, what is your name, I should get your full name.

Jeanne Pelletier: Jean Pelletier, Jean Desjarlais Pelletier.

Maria Campbell: And where were you born?

Jeanne Pelletier: I was born in Crooked Lake, twelve miles south of Grayson, same as where she comes from.

Maria Campbell: And your parents?

Jeanne Pelletier: My, Roger and Seraphine Desjarlais. And my dad's, my dad's dead. My mom's still living—she's ninety-three years old.

Maria Campbell: Oh my.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yes.

Maria Campbell: And what was her maiden name?

Jeanne Pelletier: Lavallee.

Maria Campbell: Lavallee. From, from where?

Jeanne Pelletier: From Crooked Lake.

Maria Campbell: From Crooked Lake, too. And did you grow up in Crooked Lake?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yes, that's where I was born and that's where I, I was there till I was fifteen years old, and then I left.

Maria Campbell: And who were your grandparents?

Jeanne Pelletier: My grandparents was Jimmy Desjarlais and Theresa, Therese Pelletier.

Maria Campbell: On and, now, on the other side? That's your dad's side?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yes. The other side was Napoleon Lavallee, and I can't remember my grandmother's name. She died, she died before I was born, but she was a Sparvier.

Maria Campbell: I know some Sparviers there, but I can't think of their name right now.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, I just can't think of her name, and we were talking about it not too long ago, like we always talk about them.

Maria Campbell: Yeah. Crooked Lake, was that a, a big community?

Jeanne Pelletier: It's a, it's a yeah it was like a little Michif colony. There's, it's there was like a mission, a boarding school, and we lived on the outside of the river lots. We were the outsiders.

Maria Campbell: So it was a like a reserve?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, all bunch of reserves, like that, all around us there was reserves, and on this side was White people, and us in between.

Maria Campbell: Was it road allowance?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, yeah. I'm a road allowance woman. Born in a road allowance, raised in a road allowance.

2.06.28 Maria Campbell: What was it like there when you were young? I'll start with you.

Clementine Longworth: Well, I didn't know any different, know whatever we did there, we did, it's all we done, you know, don't know nothing. Mind you, we had a good life, you know. My parents, they were nice and yeah...

Maria Campbell: I guess we're going to stop for a few minutes.

2.06.46 [No Audio]

2.07.40 Maria Campbell: So, what was it—we'll start back again—what was it like growing up there? Was there a lot of people that were, were living in the community?

Clementine Longworth: Well, yeah, there were a lot of people that were living there, you know, every, I'll say over half, half a mile there was somebody lived there. [?] like this, eh.

Maria Campbell: Did people live, like, in your family was it just your dad, or did your grandmother and all of your aunties and uncles live close together?

Clementine Longworth: Before I was born, my grandpa, my grandfather and them were gone, so I didn't know them. Yeah. We had our own place.

Maria Campbell: And what about your uncles? They just lived further away, your aunties?

Clementine Longworth: One of my cousins there lived not too far from there, and so does my uncle. Yeah, my dad's [?] daughter.

Maria Campbell: And what year were you born?

Clementine Longworth: 1922.

Maria Campbell: 1922?

Clementine Longworth: I was born, yeah.

Maria Campbell: So it would have been...

Clementine Longworth: March the 25th.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, it would have been the road. You wouldn't have had hardly any roads out there...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's right, this is true, yeah.

2.08.46 Maria Campbell: So how did you get around?

Clementine Longworth: Well, mostly with the wagon and horses, you know. That's how they'd go shopping in Grayson. [?].

Maria Campbell: Just get in the wagon and...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's right, had nothing else.

2.09.05 Maria Campbell: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Clementine Longworth: Six brothers and six sisters, we're twelve of us.

Maria Campbell: Oh, big family.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

2.09.16 Maria Campbell: So, do you remember how many families lived in Crooked Lake when you were growing up?

Clementine Longworth: Oh boy, there were lots, there was quite a few. I know mostly all the, the Métis that lived there, didn't live in any other place, most of all, like my uncles and aunties, [?]. My dad's side and my mom's side, you know.

Maria Campbell: You had to work hard?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, I had to work hard [?], with no education.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, did you have a kind of a farm? Did you have animals and...

Clementine Longworth: No, just like that. We had horses like that, you know. Few head of cattle, that was all.

Maria Campbell: What kinds of things did your family do for a living?

Clementine Longworth: Well, mostly dad, he was always working.

Maria Campbell: What kind of work did they do?

Clementine Longworth: Well, they used to work in summertime with the farmers, you know, all kind of work like that, you know. In fall, they used to do threshing, you know, [?], threshing and like that.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, and what about your brothers and yourself, your sisters. Did you work around the community?

Clementine Longworth: No, and I never went [?] married when [?] always work in the house. We're washing for the boys, you know, ironing the clothes, that was my job.

Maria Campbell: I don't suppose you had a washing machine?

Clementine Longworth: [?] washing machine in them days. Had to do everything the hard way.

2.10.49 Maria Campbell: And, and what about you, Jean? What year, year were you born?

Jeanne Pelletier: 1940.

Maria Campbell: 1940, so you're the same age as I am.

Jeanne Pelletier: Hmmm.

Maria Campbell: And what was it like in Crooked Lake when you were growing up?

Jeanne Pelletier: Well, when, when asked that question, I always say I wouldn't trade, trade it all for today. Like with me, we used to live in a road allowance and my dad worked for farmers, too, like one farmer. And then, after that we moved to a beach, like an old beach. So we looked after that, my parents looked after that place till I was about eleven years old, but we had nothing.

Maria Campbell: You mean by the lake?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, right by the lake, used to swim and used to cut ice in the winter and store it. And in the summer time we sold ice and fish and minnows, hunt minnows, catch minnows.

2.11.43 Maria Campbell: Who would you sell them to?

Jeanne Pelletier: It was sold, like it was probably from people that lived in the States, so they sold out to people who, who lived in Melville. So when those people bought it, we were there for about a year after like, after the new owners come. When we left, we moved to the, to the village where all the Michifs lived, Métis people. We moved there in, like, I was seven years old when I started school, so...

Maria Campbell: Was the school in the, in the Métis community or did you go to school...

Jeanne Pelletier: No, we had to go across the river to a little school we used to call Bannock School. It was an old [?] cement building.

Maria Campbell: Why did they call it Bannock School?

Jeanne Pelletier: Because that's, that's what they, they said we ate, we were bannock eaters. We called it Bannock School, but I don't know its real name. That's all I know it by, was Bannock School.

Maria Campbell: Was it a big school?

Jeanne Pelletier: No, it was just a little one room house, little one room house that was by the, there's a little creek, it was by there, by itself. I guess, well, after we got our school, some people used to live in it. But that, that school, for us it was haunted. Sometimes when we were sitting quiet, we used to hear somebody walking upstairs, and the Sister would make us kneel down and we had to pray. So that Sister that time, was that, do you remember, you heard her, knew that, Mother Theresa? She was the nun then, that was my first nun.

2.13.19 Maria Campbell: Mother Theresa?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: You mean the one that went to India?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that old lady that was in India.

Maria Campbell: She was in Crooked Lake?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, she was one of our school teachers.

Maria Campbell: Really?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. I don't know how long she was in Crooked Lake, but when I started school she was [?]. I didn't have her too long. She left.

Maria Campbell: Oh for goodness sakes.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, she left for Africa. When she came back about a year, and she, like, she was talking to the older boys that knew her, well, because I didn't know her that well, I was just...

Maria Campbell: But she was your teacher?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: Was she a good teacher?

Jeanne Pelletier: I guess she was a bit, I don't know, I wasn't...

Maria Campbell: It would be hard to say she wasn't.

Jeanne Pelletier: I didn't have her long enough. Yeah, she must have been a good teacher because she got along well with the boys. Like, you know, she, anybody, she got along well with in school. But the other teacher we had, well, she was good, but she was mean because my mom made me wear those old, some old short dresses. I was fat and they were above my knees, and she gave me a strapping and told me I had to tell my mom to put longer dresses on me. I'm not supposed to show my legs. So I went home and I told my mom, "I'm not going to school," and I told her why she slapped me with the little strap across my legs because my dress was too short. So I didn't like that nun and about ...

Maria Campbell: Is this Mother Theresa?

Jeanne Pelletier: No.

Maria Campbell: Oh no, the other one.

Jeanne Pelletier: Miss Sister St. Javee [?], that was her name. And this, this nun, me and my friend were playing on a teeter totter, like it was three of us that used to hang out together—me and Margaret [?] and Germaine Gregoire. We used to go on the teeter totter and she came and she told us to that she'd sit on one side and three of us would sit on one side, and then we can go on the teeter totter. And I looked at her and, I don't know, I just, I just didn't want to. After I went up and come back down, I just didn't want to sit on the teeter totter with her so I got off. When I got off she come down here, just like, today I just laugh about it, because it was like, Grey Nuns. She went tumbling off the teeter totter. I, I never got hell for that.

2.15.55 Maria Campbell: When did they build that school did they build it...

Jeanne Pelletier: They built a new school for the Métis kids in the early fifties.

Maria Campbell: That's the one, that's the one that's Bannock School?

Jeanne Pelletier: No.

Maria Campbell: Bannock School—what year did they build that?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, heck, it was, it was, it was there when you were there, eh?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah. Long time ago.

Maria Campbell: So, it was there when you were there?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: How come you didn't go to it? They didn't...

Jeanne Pelletier: It wasn't the school then. People were living in that...

Maria Campbell: Oh, it was a house.

Jeanne Pelletier: It was...

Clementine Longworth: ...people that were living there.

Jeanne Pelletier: It was a house from the mission, like the priests, it was on that land.

Maria Campbell: So there was a big mission there?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, there was a...

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, it was a big mission there.

Jeanne Pelletier: There was a priest house and barns and places for people to, to live like your staff and a great big boarding school. We didn't go to the boarding school.

Maria Campbell: It was like an Indian boarding school?

Jeanne Pelletier: and...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Oh, I see.

Jeanne Pelletier: I think my mom used to go to school there when she was young.

2.16.58 Maria Campbell: Did the Métis people work at the boarding school?

Jeanne Pelletier: No.

Maria Campbell: So it was across the creek then, or across the river then?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, it was.

Maria Campbell: And when you started school there, when did they open the house up for, for the Métis people to go to school there?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, I was in...

Maria Campbell: How old were you when they...

Jeanne Pelletier: Grade Three, Grade Three.

Maria Campbell: Where did you go to school before?

Jeanne Pelletier: We used to go to school at that old Bannock School, that old building, and then after that when I went to Grade Two or Three, we went, we went across the river. They built a school for us and they were giving all the Métis people houses to live in.

Maria Campbell: Who was they?

Jeanne Pelletier: The government.

Maria Campbell: The government?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. They said they had signed a deal, a hundred year deal, and now today, it's not even a hundred years.

Maria Campbell: So was that like...

Jeanne Pelletier: It's all gone.

Maria Campbell: Was that like a Métis farm?

2.17.56 Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. When they were putting up those Métis farms, they started putting buildings, but the first thing that was put up was the school.

Maria Campbell: Okay.

Jeanne Pelletier: 'Cause we still lived in a log, log house when I was going to school there for two years.

Maria Campbell: So, in all the years that the Métis community lived there, did anybody ever go to that boarding school, the Indian boarding school? Did any Métis people go that you know of?

Jeanne Pelletier: The only time that we, was for catechism, just before...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's right.

Jeanne Pelletier: Just before we had our first communion and our confirmation.

Maria Campbell: And you used the church?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: You went to the church?

Jeanne Pelletier: We used the church, yeah.

Maria Campbell: But nobody ever went to school there?

Jeanne Pelletier: No, no.

Maria Campbell: 'Cause some places they let them go to school. [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: No, not us. We weren't allowed to go to school there.

Maria Campbell: So, when you left to go to school across the river, did you go to high school? Did you finish high school in there? It was just Grade, up to Grade Nine.

Jeanne Pelletier: Grade Eight, or correspondence Grade Nine.

Maria Campbell: What was that little school like, the first one you went to? Did they have, like, libraries? What did they have?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh no, they didn't, they didn't have no libraries. All we had was a little flat desk and an ink well, and your pencil and your book. And they gave you sort of a, a little book with the Bible stories, that kind. That's all I can remember in that school. And a reading book—what was it called, Jerry and Jay—it was like a Grade Four book and, and I was in Grade Two. It was a very hard book to read, but that's, like, it wasn't easy ones, you know?

2.19.48 Maria Campbell: Yeah, and how did your parents make a living? Your dad, did the, did he do the same kind of work?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, all farm, working for farmers and in wintertime.

Clementine Longworth: Men did fishing.

Jeanne Pelletier: Men fished and hunted. Hunting and fishing was survival. Could have done...

Maria Campbell: Did they sell the fish or was it just for yourselves to eat?

Clementine Longworth: Most of the time sell the stuff.

Jeanne Pelletier: The only time they'd sell fish without anybody knowing was close to Christmas or New, New Year's, so they...

Maria Campbell: Oh, so give them extra money.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, no, they change it for other kind of food, like for pork or, yeah, potatoes and corn. That's what my people did like my mom and dad.

2.20.34 Maria Campbell: So, what was it like growing up there? You were talking about at Christmas time they would trade that for, for different things. What do you remember about Christmas, Clementine...?

Clementine Longworth: Mind you, Christmas we used to have good time, I'll tell you. We were very poor, but we had a good time.

Maria Campbell: What did they do? Did you have to get ready a long time for Christmas?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, get ready for [?] Christmas is coming, you know?

Maria Campbell: What did you do, what kinds of things did you do?

Clementine Longworth: Well, we do a lot of cooking and make bread, you know, things like that. All kinds, we'd clean up, that's what we used to do.

Maria Campbell: Did you make any, like, pies or special things?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, yeah. Raisin pie that's what we used to [?].

Maria Campbell: Did you make any other kind of pies?

Clementine Longworth: Well, we had apple pies, you know [?] cake like, you know, Christmas cake. All kind of stuff like that. Yeah, we used to do a lot of that stuff. Well, you had to if you got a big family.

Maria Campbell: If you think back, what, what kinds of things did you eat? Did you have turkey, like, for Christmas dinner? What kind of food did you have?

Clementine Longworth: We certainly had meat, you know. There tuna, beef, and fowl. Then you have that for the winter, like, you know [?]. I know you also had the, a garden, you know, tomatoes and onions, things like that, so. Well, we had to, there's no way about it, just know how to do it.

Maria Campbell: What about your Christmas, your Christmas dinner? Did you have turkeys? Did you go, you raised turkeys and...

Clementine Longworth: Oh, yeah, you'd try whatever they could, you know.

Maria Campbell: What do you remember about getting ready for Christmas?

2.22.21 Jeanne Pelletier: Like she said, baking, whatever. We had whatever my parents could afford, is baking. My mom would bake some pies and cake, and, she's very good at making fruitcake, and that was a special cake. This was the food that I remembered being, and we had fish or, or pork. We didn't have turkey. We had chicken, well, that was, that was, it would have to be traded. Like, you know, we'd have to get from a farmer and trade for fish, and it was mostly traded, where I learned it when I was growing up.

Maria Campbell: When we were interviewing, some of the, of the men, the same kind of interview, they were talking about Christmas dinners, and what they remember, like, it's a year. So, what, what do you remember about all of that? That she would have cooked all that stuff yourselves?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that came on at New Year's.

Maria Campbell: On New Year's?

Jeanne Pelletier: Like, everybody used to go and visit one another from house to house. That's where you'd see the tables full of goodies. The cakes, I could remember Mrs. Flamont's cake, there, what was her name? I can't remember her name, but her, her, George Flamont's sister. George Flamont's sister, you don't remember her name? Lafiche[?].

Clementine Longworth: Lafiche[?] yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: She used to make these beautiful pinks and, you know, they had that coconut that came out just like frosting. I remember seeing that with lots of little gold, gold candy trimmings around. I don't know how she's able to do it like...

Clementine Longworth: They, [?] lot of cooking things at New Year's and Christmas [?], Christmas. But New Year's, oh god, we used to do all the cooking.

Jeanne Pelletier: Christmas was church.

Clementine Longworth: 'Cause people, they'd go around and eat from [?] until the next day, so [?].

Maria Campbell: What kind of food did they have for you?

Clementine Longworth: Mostly they had, they make some soup and, what you call those things there?

Jeanne Pelletier: Boulettes soup, les boulettes?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah. That's the kind, yeah. Used to feed the people, you know. They'd eat then go, and eat and go. Yeah.

2.24.34 Maria Campbell: What do you remember about, do you have any memories of any special New Year's, New Year's Eve, special things that happened on New Year's Eve?

Jeanne Pelletier: Not, not really. On New Year's Day. On New Year's Eve we used to go to bed early, because we had to get up early. We had to go to my grandfather's place at three o'clock in the morning, like after midnight, then my dad would go get his blessing from his dad. We had, long time ago

the dads used to bless there with their children at New Year's. That's what we had to do. We had to get the blessing from our father.

Clementine Longworth: I get twelve o'clock, and then go kneel down in front of your dad, and he'll give you blessed, that was [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: That was how our New Year's Day started.

Maria Campbell: Then what did you do after that?

Clementine Longworth: Well, we made a meal and eat, you know. Then after, they'd just play the violin. My dad used to play the violin, you know, just after.

Jeanne Pelletier: And dance.

Maria Campbell: Did they shoot the guns in the air?

Clementine Longworth: No, not that, don't remember that.

Jeanne Pelletier: Go ahead.

Clementine Longworth: I don't remember that.

Jeanne Pelletier: The only time I can remember them shooting the guns in the air was after a wedding. Like, when, when people got married, they shot the guns in the air, but I don't know what it was for. Whether it was a shotgun wedding or what it was, but I can remember them shooting that, and I always thought that's what it was after I seen the *Beverly Hillbillies*, like Granny chasing those people with a shotgun. That's what I thought it was, but I never to this day asked anybody. I thought maybe it was just a symbol of congratulations or something like that.

Maria Campbell: Did they make la pouchine [?] for Christmas or for New Year's? Did they do, you remember that?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, pudding. Yeah that was main dessert.

Maria Campbell: How did they make it, do you remember?

Clementine Longworth: Forget how they made it[?].

Jeanne Pelletier: Bread, they used bread and raisins. That's how I remember eating it. Bread, raisins, and eggs and little bit sugar, and then they cook it.

Maria Campbell: How did they cook it?

Jeanne Pelletier: They threw it in the oven, and it'd come out brown, like the topping comes out brown like a [?]. Then you cut it off, and you can eat it with cream, cold cream. With thick, thick, cold cream. That's, that's how I remember eating it.

2.27. 09 Maria Campbell: And they had big dances?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh yeah, yeah.

Clementine Longworth: [?] dances.

Jeanne Pelletier: Even if the house was small, they, they went from dance to dance to dance to dance, all the way through New Year's.

Maria Campbell: Who had the best dances?

Jeanne Pelletier: They were all good, all good dances.

Maria Campbell: So there wasn't one that was more famous than another one?

Jeanne Pelletier: Not, not that I, no, they were all good. We used to go to some dances on the reserve. They were good, like half of my relatives, well, most of my relatives are all from the reserve, but there were good dances there. But you only could go if you were invited. If you're not invited, stay home.

Clementine Longworth: You're not supposed to go. You gotta be invited.

Maria Campbell: So you couldn't go, go to a dance unless you were invited.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, yeah, that's true, yeah. That was true.

Maria Campbell: Did you have to have somebody go with you? Like, when I was young and I went to my first dances, my grandmother had to take me.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, same thing.

Jeanne Pelletier: And we had to dance with whoever came to pick us up, even if we didn't want to dance with him. Even if we found him ugly, you know. We had to get up and dance. And if we didn't get up, we wouldn't be allowed to go to dance again. So we couldn't be picky or fussy with who, like, we have to, they were just same as you and me. Yeah, that's how we were taught to treat people.

2.28.47 Maria Campbell: So, what kind of music they play? They had fiddle and what else?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, the guitar [?] and the violin, they were good.

Maria Campbell: Who were the famous fiddle players when you were young?

Clementine Longworth: My dad played the violin lot, lots. And my brother John, too. Remember my brother, John, eh?

Jeanne Pelletier: Hmmm. Yeah. There was lots of good old Michif fiddle players. Oh, the other old Pelletier bunch, too, played the fiddle. Old Alfred Pelletier played the fiddle, and, oh, Charlie Pelletier played the fiddle, and there's an old guy that used stay at my uncle's place—Bill Gaddy, he used to play the fiddle.

Clementine Longworth: Oh boy, that [?] used to play the violin [?]. Oh boy, they could play.

Jeanne Pelletier: When we were, when we were living at the lake, his, his dad, [?]?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Used to come and live there in a tent, and us, we lived in the house like from here. Just, just a little wee ways away. And used to go and visit that old man, and he used to give us this mint candy, and he used to tell us all kinds of stories and always played cards. And his son Bill, he used to tell us stories, too. He said he became a good fiddle player from, he was a hobo, he said, used to ride the freight, and that's where he learned to play the fiddle, he said. So I don't know where he really learned, but that's what he told us, so we accepted it. Like, I was only about, hmmm, eight years old, but he was a good fiddle player. He was still around when we grew

up to be teenagers, and he used to live at my uncle's. And my sister and her cousin, they wanted to dance, he was playing fiddle. And they were dancing together, they were home alone [?], so he, he made himself a key, and he was gonna have a smoke. And then he told, "Come on, Mooshum, come and play some more." "I'd sooner smoke." We always used to laugh about that. They never heard him talk much English, eh, but he told these two young girls, "I'd sooner smoke." That's the last I, I ever heard of old Bill. The next thing I knew, he was dead.

2.31.22 Maria Campbell: Were there any women who played the fiddle or guitars when you were young, Clementine?

Clementine Longworth: No, I don't remember seeing a woman play a violin or the guitar, no. Women were not allowed to, to play the violin.

Maria Campbell: How come?

Clementine Longworth: Well, in them days, you know, after it changed, but before that when my dad [?] play the violin.

Maria Campbell: Why do you think that is?

Clementine Longworth: I don't know. That was the rule. Whatever they say, you had to do it so...

Maria Campbell: Pretty strict, eh?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, they were strict.

Maria Campbell: Did they ever, nobody ever said, why they didn't tell any stories about ...

Clementine Longworth: No, they never questioned nothing, no.

Jeanne Pelletier: They only told us we'd get big boobs.

Maria Campbell: If you played the fiddle?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. So we didn't play the fiddle[?].

Clementine Longworth: That's true.

Maria Campbell: Nobody wanted big boobs?

Clementine Longworth: No, nobody wanted big boobs. They said just like a cow. Well, you don't want to look like a big cow. So nobody played the fiddle. And I had all the opportunity to learn how to play the fiddle. My brother played the fiddle, and like it was...

Clementine Longworth: The same thing, like, even my sixth brother played the violin a lot [?] guitar. But if I ever touch that guitar or violin, never. We're not supposed to touch that thing.

Maria Campbell: So, what did, what did, what did the girls do then?

Clementine Longworth: Just working up and washing, ironing the clothes. So the girls done their work.

Maria Campbell: So you never did any kind of, anything for, that was fun for you other than dancing?

Clementine Longworth: That's all that you [?], that you had fun, just dancing, nothing else. Work and dancing. That's a lot of [?]. And we didn't know any different because that's [?].

Maria Campbell: You never tried to...

Clementine Longworth: We didn't know any better. Yeah, [?] different.

2.33.20 Maria Campbell: Did you do any needle work, like embroidery or...

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, we done that lots. We had to do it. We had to make the clothes for the kids and ourself, you know. Oh yeah, we did a lot of that stuff.

Maria Campbell: So, what did you do to have fun, then, besides dancing?

Clementine Longworth: I don't, nothing. Play outside with the kids, it was all. That was a good time I had.

Maria Campbell: And when you got older?

Clementine Longworth: Nothing. No, they were all good time as far as...

Maria Campbell: It must have been hard for women.

Clementine Longworth: We didn't know any different, though, because we never had anything like that, you know. So it was...

Maria Campbell: You didn't miss it?

Clementine Longworth: We didn't miss nothing, yeah.

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 the game, 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: Where did they whip them like?

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

Clementine Longworth: Yeah [?] hands [?] whip them and whip them, [?], 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 who's 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 usually the guys would have...

Maria Campbell: Would they bet money on that?

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

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: [?].

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: [?] that thing, that thing go round and round [?].

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**]. Wrestling. That's what I thought it was. That's just the old, 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 [**?**], and they used to, used to play these games.

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? [**?**].

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 that, but I never saw the big ones...

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

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah [?] ice outdoor game. That was the adult sport I used to go and watch. And after that they had sailing in 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, made like a sailboat.

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

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that's right [?], 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'd 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 [?]. 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 too 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.

Maria Campbell: Were there horse races or stuff like that that you remember, too, that they would do? On Sundays or...

Jeanne Pelletier: In my time? Yeah. And before, yeah, in my time, they would, they used to have sport days. We used to go to these sport days. They used to hold one once a year on the reserve. So everybody used to go, and this old man, he always used to make us race. And after we were finished, nobody took first, regardless, everybody got an ice cream cone. That was our race.

Maria Campbell: What about you, Clementine, do you remember any, any days like that in summer?

Clementine Longworth: Oh, yeah, I remember that, too, like that's everything.

Maria Campbell: Did they have them right in the Michif community too?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah.

2.40.59 Maria Campbell: Did anybody have, like, were there any people who had really special horses that...

Clementine Longworth: Some of them had good horses [?] used to race in Yorkton and Saltcoats, you know. We used to go over there and race.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, you travelled.

Maria Campbell: Did you do any riding at all? Did you [?] riding...

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, I used to ride at home when I was little, yeah, oh yeah, always had some horses. We didn't go to school, so we had to do something.

2.41.37 Jeanne Pelletier: We used to drive to school. Drive to school because we were about six miles away from the school, and we used to go with this one little horse we had. I don't know what kind of a horse it was, but it was small and it was very stubborn. It was just like a, a jackass or donkey because sometimes it would stop and you couldn't get it to go. Because I remember one time I went to, they sent me to the store, I guess. And I had to go, and I was coming through, through to the house. That was the last house and we're leaving it at the lake before we moved. I was coming through the road this way, and then there was these little, little branches that high, [?], you know. We used to use them for broom [?], and we, just as we were coming close there, the stupid little horse just stopped dead, and there goes the cowboy, right into these branches. Oh, he was mad.

Maria Campbell: That was a, what do you call that? That was a wolf-willow wasn't it? That they used to make brooms with. Do you remember how they made them?

Jeanne Pelletier: No, they just used to gather a whole bunch and then tied them together.

Maria Campbell: And then put them on a handle?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: I remember my mom...

Clementine Longworth: [?] good broom, good broom.

Jeanne Pelletier: We used to use those for the old houses we had along the, like, there was three, three old families in one cement house. It was nice. And I was just asking my mom not too long ago, "How come we never lived in that nice house, and we had these other cabins, excepting for the big house?" We lived in a big house during the summertime, but people came in the wintertime to dance in the big house. Like if there was Christmas dance or weddings they used the big house, like they [?]. And other people would stay in these other little houses, and we had, we had one for our own like, you know, it was, it was nice, I remember...

Maria Campbell: What did she say, how come you didn't...

Jeanne Pelletier: She just looked at me and said, "I guess we were too dumb." Or my dad said that stone would be cold.

Maria Campbell: Oh, it'd be cold house.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. But it was a nice house. It had these opening windows like that, and then it had two bedrooms and then a big room. We never, and it had linoleum, and we never, we never lived in that house. We rented it out in the summertime, and our house we lived in had just wood floor and, and a couple windows.

Maria Campbell: A log house?

Jeanne Pelletier: A little log house, and that's where we stayed in the winter.

Maria Campbell: I guess that's true. It was warmer.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, I remember one winter, oh, it must have been in, in the '40s, '45 maybe, the snow was taller than me. I have pictures of that, that, that snow, that snow was just as high as the houses. I think it went like that all over. We had such a big snowfall.

Maria Campbell: I think I remember that snow, too.

Jeanne Pelletier: We used to, we used to make snow tunnels to the, to the outhouse.

Maria Campbell: You were about eight years old?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, I remember that. It was right up to our roof.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, from the, from the roof of the house to the roof of the, the toilet. Just used to walk on top there. Yeah, that was, that was a fun time for us. We made houses, and in the spring it was nice. You know when the ice goes with the big chunks and starts to, to flow. We used to jump on those. You see, they were icebergs. Yeah, we were being eskimos, jumping on these icebergs, and, boy, we went way far out, and we had to come hitchhiking back again, on, jumping on river lots, eh? When we came to the shore, my dad was standing there. Oh my god, we didn't know what we did, eh? "Boy, come here," we went. Oh, he just switched us, eh? "Don't ever do that again," he said. "Look at that, look at the ice," he said. "They just go like crystals, like ..."

Maria Campbell: Like knives.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. And, and they just fall apart. He said, "What if one piece was like that? You'd be, you'd be drowning out there." We got a licking

for it, but it didn't bother us. We know we did bad, and that's the punishment. We didn't, we didn't do that again. No.

2.46.33 Maria Campbell: What is your best memory from when you were a young girl, when you were, when you were young, what do you remember the most?

Clementine Longworth: There was so many things I remember when I was young, you know, [?] all kinds.

Maria Campbell: But was there a special thing, anything special that you remember? Stories or anything that your family told you?

Clementine Longworth: See, I don't remember my, both sides of my, my grandma and my grandpa, and so nobody ever told us stories like that, you know, so...

2.47.03 Maria Campbell: Did you ever hear about Rou Garous?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh yeah.

Maria Campbell: What about you Clementine?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, you see that, too. Yeah, there was that, too.

Maria Campbell: What did they tell you about them?

Clementine Longworth: Well, that's how they used to, when you go someplace they follow you. That's how they [?]. There was a, it's a long time I tell you, [?], remember.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, because we hear stuff like that today.

Jeanne Pelletier: Shape-shifters.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, you hear about them today. People will tell about Rou Garous.

Clementine Longworth: Them days, they used to always talk about [?] and everybody was afraid of wolves, eh, but today there's nothing.

Jeanne Pelletier: Rou Garous. We used to, at Lent, especially during Lent, that's when the Rou Garous were active during Lent. Because I remember, we used to go and dance at my aunt's house from seven to eleven, and everybody had to be home by twelve o'clock. Like, we were all teenagers. Everybody had to be home by twelve o'clock because the Rou Garous come out after, after twelve. And we dance Sunday. It was not Lent on Sunday.

Maria Campbell: So you could dance on Sunday?

Jeanne Pelletier: From seven o'clock in the evening to eleven at night.

Maria Campbell: On Sunday night?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, but we couldn't dance during the week.

Clementine Longworth: No, we couldn't do it.

Jeanne Pelletier: We couldn't dance during the week. We couldn't, we had to, we couldn't eat sugar or something that we liked. We had to put it away for, for Lent, was a [?] thing to do for us. But Sunday nights, we, we danced a little bit.

Maria Campbell: Well, how come there was no light Lent on Sunday nights?

Jeanne Pelletier: I don't know, that's just how they...

Clementine Longworth: That's how they, it was twelve o'clock Saturday. It was over till Sunday night. Yeah, that's how it was.

Jeanne Pelletier: That's how, that's what we were told. So that's a time we had to do our, our dancing.

Maria Campbell: Did you ever hear of anybody who saw a Rou Garou?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh yeah. The last time my uncle came to visit, to visit us in Regina, he was living in Calgary, and he was about eighty-something when he come. That's the last time I seen him, anyway, till he passed. He was telling us, and we were asking him about this Rou Garou he used to talk about. "Oh yeah," he said, "We were going to the dance and, and the dance was held in a reserve someplace." And he said, "I was going, going with this guy," but he never said the name. He just said he was gonna go walking with him, and they had about a mile to go yet. And then he said, this guy said, "Well," he said, "Do you want me to give you a ride?" And then, and my uncle said, "Nah, you can't give me a ride," he said, "I don't want to ride. I'll walk," he said. So he walked and this guy told him okay, he said, "But if you hear anything, don't look back." So fine, my uncle just kept on going, and then he heard the, he heard a noise, just like somebody getting choked, and he didn't look back, and then he kept on. Said he was pretty close, he could see the light of the house where they were dancing. All of a sudden, this big dog passed him, and that was okay. He looked behind, he didn't see this man coming that he, had his partner he had gone to the dance with. When he got to the dance, there he was sitting.

Maria Campbell: So the Rou Garou was...

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, yeah, he had changed into a dog.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that little fellow [?].

2.50.47 Jeanne Pelletier: And there was another one that was, I asked my mom about this not too long ago. My grandma used to tell us this, and it'd kind of scare us, I guess. It's just one way of teaching us, when I come to think about all these things. That was the way of their teachings. This one man, they were going to, I don't know if it was Lent or not, but anyway they were going to the dance again. And they had to go through a cemetery. They didn't have to go, but this one man wanted to take a shortcut. So one went on the other side and one went in between, riding horseback, eh? And just as he was getting close to the end of the graveyard, he went to this grave and said, "You, too, I'm inviting you to come dance," he said. Just as he was, he was just kind of crazy, crazy young man, so they went into the, they went into the dance. They were dancing there, having a good time, and all of a sudden this, this guy comes in. Everybody knew he had died. He comes in and he sat down. He just sat down and it was almost, it was almost midnight when he come in. And when they stopped to have, like, they used to serve a lunch at midnight, eh? So they, when they stopped to, to serve lunch, he walked up to that guy that had whipped the grave, and he told him, "Oh, I came and had a good time tonight. Now I want you to come to my place. You know where you invited me from," he told him. So this guy, he was, he was scared. He didn't turn around, he, this, this dead man left, like he walked out the door and they didn't see him. And this guy here, he was so scared he was shaking. He didn't know what to think. And then, all the people were saying, "Wasn't that that guy that died? You know, we just buried him not too long ago." They named the guy, but I don't, I don't remember the name, and even if I did, maybe some of his people are still living, you know. But anyway, this man, this young man that, that had invited this dead man, he want to the priest the next day. He was so scared, he went to the priest to

see if the priest would help him, or if there was any way, he said, "I have to go to that grave on Saturday." He said, "I don't, I don't know what's gonna happen, but he invited me to go because I invited him." He told the priest all what he did. So the priest told him, "You have to go, and the only way you, you can go is you take a baby, a new baby, born baby. You go with that baby to that grave." So, 'cause he was just lucky, he was just lucky because his sister had just had a, a baby that was actually a few weeks old. So he took this baby with him to the, to the graveyard, and then he said when he got there, that man was there, the one he had invited. And he told him, you're lucky, you brought this child, because if you didn't have this child, I'd do the same thing that you did to me.

Maria Campbell: So he whipped his grave?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. He would have whipped him good. And that, that was all this guy, this guy came out, and he was holding this baby, so he just, he just, they just took the baby from him and he fell over. And he didn't die, but he passed out. That's how frightened he was. Yeah, that's the kind, that's the kind of stories they used to tell us. Like, I guess that meant, like, respect that graveyard, you know, when you go, and 'cause we used to get silly, too. My, my friend, we were out picking cranberries, and, oh, we must have been about, I think, twelve years old. We were out picking cranberries across in the ravine in the reserve, and then there was nice cranberries. So we went, and it's crazy. Like he was [?] little daredevil, he did anything. He used to climb the big trees and swing the branches, eh? And we'd catch them down at the bottom. So this one time, he, we had all our, our trees and we were picking. It was him, he had to catch this branch, but he couldn't catch it, and he slipped. He fell on one of these graves that were hanging, a hanging grave. Oh my god, you should have seen him. He was kind of a klutz, but did he run. "Come on," he said to us. So we, we thought he'd seen a bear, so we took off to, to where the fence was. And he told us, "I just, I just stepped

into a grave," he said. You could see it. It was one of those hanging, hanging graves.

Maria Campbell: What's a hanging grave?

Jeanne Pelletier: They used to bury people on trees. And, and you could still see the wrapping. Yeah. He said he had wicked nightmares after that. That was...

Maria Campbell: Did he ever bother trees again?

Jeanne Pelletier: We never went there to get those cranberries again. We just left our cranberries and went home.

2.56.20 Maria Campbell: I remember my, my dad told us a story. He was coming across the Prince Albert National Park, and there used to be a place like that where they had, they had graves like that in the trees, and nobody ever camped around them, I guess, for obvious reasons. Anyway, he was coming and it was a really bad snowstorm in the spring, and he couldn't see where he was, so he found these trees, and he thought he'd stay there for the night, eh, and leave in the morning. And he said about two o'clock in the morning, after midnight, anyway, it was really cold out and storming, and he had a little tiny fire going, and he was sitting there, and he could hear somebody moaning and kind of like they were crying. And he thought it was the wind and the branches rubbing. And he said it went on all night, and then he fell asleep and he thought he heard an old lady talking to him. And this old lady told him he had to leave something for her. And when he got up in the morning, he was sleeping underneath this grave, these hanging graves, I guess, and it was in the place that he was sleeping, is where this old lady had been put in, and his grandmother ghost told him that they were related to this old lady, and I guess she had died years ago. So he said he left a beaver skin, he took a beaver pelt out and he wrapped up, and, and, and put

it up on top there, and left that for her. I guess he had to pay for his sleeping accommodation.

Jeanne Pelletier: I guess that's, that's what happened to that, that young boy because he used to get nightmares, that he couldn't sleep and he'd drift off in school.

Maria Campbell: So maybe if he'd have left something?

Jeanne Pelletier: He did go back.

Maria Campbell: Oh he did?

Jeanne Pelletier: He did go back. Yeah, he didn't, he didn't tell us what they told him to do, or what he took back, but he did go. And showed an older person where, where that grave was.

Maria Campbell: So, he would treat it with respect then.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, he must have. Oh, it was just an accident.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, well, same with my dad. He didn't pick that place to sleep, he said. He sure wouldn't have slept there if he would have known, you know, where he was. And there used to be lots of stories like that, I know, when I was growing up.

Clementine Longworth: Oh, yeah, I know lot of stories, too.

2.58.39 Maria Campbell: My grandmother used to, before we go to bed, she'd tell us about Whitikos. Did you ever hear about Whitikos?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember what, any stories that you were told about it?

Clementine Longworth: No, I don't remember that.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, I could remember one...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, stories are gone.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, do you remember any?

Jeanne Pelletier: The Whitiko?

Maria Campbell: Hmm.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, a Whitiko, he, after he eats in the daytime, after he eats these people that, they turn into [?] and they fly around. Flying skeletons. Yeah, my grandmother used to tell us this story. One winter, she stayed at that place, eh? The one had the little cabins, and we used to go there with, we used to bring my grandma some smokes, each have a cigarette. We used to go and give her, and she used to sit there and tell us this story. And that's what she used to tell us, and we used to hear the train right at midnight. A sharp whistle, like, you know, in a, in a nice calm night, in a moonlight night, and she used to send us home just before that whistle. Then she'd tell us this story, eh, and then we'd be halfway to their house and halfway to our house. We'd be halfway home when this whistle would go off. Oh, we'd run because she used to, she said that they still hear the Whitiko every so often, he make such a loud screechy whistle when he's hungry. And

that's, and then he's a, in a windy night you can hear the skeletons, [?], flying around, and if they touch you ...

Maria Campbell: Bones are rattling.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. And if they touch you, they'll eat you. And then you become one of them. Yeah, they used to, she used to tell us this story like that. She told us lots of stories. She told us about Chi-Jean ...

3.00.36 Maria Campbell: Do you remember any of the Chi-Jean stories?

Jeanne Pelletier: ...Nanabush and Wesakejack. Yeah, she, yeah, I remember. My, my grandpa, like her brother, too, stayed with us, eh, after they move. He used to tell stories, told us about [?] and [?] a story like [?]. Yeah. And I can't remember [?]. I can't, I can't remember ...

Maria Campbell: [?] I gotta write that down. [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. [?] Did you hear about that one?

Maria Campbell: Which one?

Jeanne Pelletier: [?].

Maria Campbell: No.

Jeanne Pelletier: A little man with long beard. Little elf.

Maria Campbell: Oh, kind of like in Cree, they call him [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: That's, that's story of them, and because we used to have this cellar in our house, eh, and we were scared to go down there because that's where that little man would be. If my mom didn't want us to touch anything, or my dad, you have to, like, that's where they used to put the, the fishing net somehow to hide it, fishing net in between the cellar and the flooring, and then they used to tell us not to go there or **[?]** tongue would grab our boot latches. Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Why did you have to hide the fishing net?

Jeanne Pelletier: We, they weren't allowed to put nets...

Maria Campbell: Oh, okay.

Jeanne Pelletier: They just had to more or less put them when, or, or sometimes they told on one another, like, they just had. The people that came from, like, some of our relatives on the reserve, they used to come on to visit my dad, and they used to come and set **[?]**, so that was fine. Even if they, they set it, or my dad, they can always say it was theirs. It was there.

Maria Campbell: Oh, because they were Michif, they couldn't...

Jeanne Pelletier: They were like, they were treaty.

Maria Campbell: In the treaty, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: They could get the fish, but us we used to just have to fish on ice, yeah.

Maria Campbell: So these little, these, this Tom...

Jeanne Pelletier: Tom [?].

Maria Campbell: [?] what, what was he?

3.02.39 Clementine Longworth: He was sort of like a giant, a giant, like the, the sleeping giant. Did you ever hear that story, the sleeping giant? You know it was so, so funny. We were talking about these things before I left with my mom, and I told her the sleeping giant, I told her, they had one story of the sleeping giant in, I read about this in a Ontario, and just about two weeks ago they had another story of a sleeping giant in, in Australia. I was listening to the TV, on news, on [?], and this...

Maria Campbell: So what was ours like, [?] Michif, this Tom [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: I can't remember it quite well, that one.

Maria Campbell: But he was the sleeping giant?

Jeanne Pelletier: Well, he was a big man, anyway, so he must have been a giant.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember hearing stories about any...

Clementine Longworth: No, I didn't hear that at all.

Jeanne Pelletier: I'll have to, I'll have to go home and, some more up on it, and see if I can...

Maria Campbell: See if anybody knows...

Jeanne Pelletier: Well, one, the ones I know, like, my older brothers or my older cousins, they, they would remember because they, too, used to come and sit with my grandma. Like, I was only eight years old. And, and she told them all in Michif, and I never spoke it. Every time I try to speak Michif to them, they used to laugh, so I just gave it up. But I, I could speak it. It just comes, like I heard it now, but understand it good, and Saulteaux and, and French.

3.04.22 Maria Campbell: So you had stories about Nanabush, too?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: Yeah. Do you remember any of those?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh yeah, I have a story for you. I'll tell you a story of Chi-Jean, Nanabush, Wesakejack all together, you know, they're cousins. Did, you know, they were cousins?

Maria Campbell: No, I didn't.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, they were cousins, and this, this, there was another lady. To this day, I always think she must have been Mother Nature or something.

Maria Campbell: [speaks Michif].

3.04.59 Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. But the story runs around the whole three of them and, and a woman. This woman, she invited them to come. This Chi-Jean, he was a good dancer. Every time he walked, he never walked, he danced. He got these, he got his shoes long time ago from a little, little [?], you know. And then in order to let him go, this, this little guy had to give him some shoes, dancing shoes. So from this day on, he danced and he could

never take those shoes off. And every time he'd walk he'd go *tick tick shhh* or *shhh shhh tick, shhh shhh tick*. He'd go all the way, all the time. He never walked, he danced. And Wesakejack, he always ran. *Shhh shhh shhh shhh shhh shhh*. Like that, and Nanabush, he ran fast when he wanted, just like a bird. And then he, he just dragged himself, *chhh chhh*, like that, just dragged himself. So this lady, she invited them to come to have supper, to come and dance and sing and play music for her. And, you know, one could play the violin, one could, could dance, and the other one could sing.

Maria Campbell: Who could, do you remember who played the violin?

Jeanne Pelletier: Wesakejack played the violin, Chi-Jean danced, and Nanabush sang.

Maria Campbell: Okay.

Jeanne Pelletier: He was a real good singer, the best you could hear. So I'll start with ...

Maria Campbell: Wesakejack?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, Wesakejack, he was, he come running. They had to meet at the crossroad, a crossroad, and he got there first. And then he said, "Oh, I wonder where my little brothers are?" he said [?]. "Oh, they'll be coming." [?]. Just like a [?]. He said, *shwi shwo* [?]. [?]. He said, [?] no way *shwi shwho*. He said [?], and he wasn't. All of a sudden he heard, *shhh shhh tick shhh shhh tick*, you know, [?], *shhh shoo*, [?], *shhh shoo*, [?]. And then he'd go *shhh shhh tick shwi shwo* [?]. He said that was Chi-Jean. Oh, he looked up, he seen it come. He was waiting, and then they sat there. All of a sudden, they heard this. They didn't hear nothing for awhile because this Nanabush, he was coming, but he was, he wasn't using his, his arms to fly. He was using his feet. *Shhh shhh shhh*. He didn't want to come to this

woman's house because this woman always used to tell stories about them. And he said the stories she told about them [**speaks Michif**], and so he didn't, he didn't want to go, and he used to call her [**Michif word**], but they were gonna go because, boy, she could cook and, and Nanabush like eating, he just liked eating. So, these two got together and they were waiting for him. They sat here alone and everything to one another. They were greeting one another and they were waiting for him, and this Nanabush, now he was coming. He looked up, oh, he seen this big hill. He said, "Oh, if I climb this hill and go down, I'll be at the crossroad," he said, "I'll beat them." He didn't know they were already there. So he went up climbing this hill. He got halfway [**?**]**—**he got played out. So he said, "Oh, I'll sit here and I'll sing, I'll sing, and I bet, yeah, these, I'll make the stones dance." He thought he was climbing a hill; all this time he was climbing a mountain. He was coming from the west, so it must have to be the Rocky Mountains he was climbing. And he came, he came, and he sat there and starting singing. "Oh, what song will I sing? Oh, I'll sing, I'll sing the song my White brothers just taught me when I got off that big boat." I guess he was to Europe, I don't know, but he got off a big boat, so he was gonna sing. "*Yo do lady hoo*," he sang. "Oh, that's not good enough." He just [**?**]. "*Yo do lady hoo*," he sang. He, a little bit more he sang, "*Odalady, odalady, odalady*," he sang, just big. He looked behind. He heard a big noise. Hey, he looked behind and there was this big rock coming. Boy, Wesakejack [**?**], and all these rocks were falling, so he took off as fast he could go, and he was just, he used his arms this time like wings. He went flying. And in the meantime these other ones were whistling, and you could hear them, and when he got to the bottom he just moved like that, and this big rock just moved past him. [**?**]**—**sing again. Wesakejack was just sitting there. He's just puffing and shaking because that big rock almost hit him, and all of a sudden he, he heard the other two whistling for him. And all of a sudden, "*shwi shwoo, shiw shwoo*," he said. He was answering them, so they heard him. They had a hard time hearing him. "Oh," they said, "I wonder what happened to Nanabush," he said. All of a sudden he sees this big stick, eh? He grabbed this big stick. "I'm too tired to walk. Maybe I'll get a ride

from one, one of them." And then he was walking. He had to make about, oh, he didn't have to go very far, just around the, the turn. That's where they were. So he went around the turn, and then there, there was his two cousins waiting for him, Wesakejack and Chi-Jean. They were waiting for him. Nanubush got there. He was dragging himself, dragging himself, finally, he got there, and he was hugging his cousins. He was happy to see them and they ask him, "What you carrying that big stick for?" He was walking, right, big stick, eh? Oh **[speaks Michif]**. "Oh, I hurt my back," he said, "A big stone fell on me. That's why I'm, I'm just sore," he said. And then he turned around and he looked at Wesakejack. "And when you see this, this bag, eh, **[?]**," he said, "Give me **[?]**," he said. "I'm walking," he said. **[Speaks Michif]**, he said, **[Speaks Michif]**. And then, **[?]** he said **[?]**. He was pointing at this bag where Wesakejack had his fiddle, eh? He looked at him. He said, "Okay, jump in." So he jumped in because they felt sorry for him that he was all, he hurt his back and everything. So he was carrying him when they were walking. All of a sudden *chhh chhh chhh chhhh chhh chhh*. You heard Wesakejack and the other one, you hear him. *Chhh chhh tick chhh chhh tick*. He was going and this one that was in the bag, *errrr errrrr*, he was going. So they got to this old lady's house, and then she said, "Oh, come in, my cousins," she said. She called them her cousins, too. So they all got to her house. "Did you bring your fiddle?" "Oh yeah," Wesakejack told her. And, and then she asked, she said "**[?]**." "Oh yeah, I got the new jigging steps," he said, "I'll dance." And then Nanabush crawled out of the bag. **[?]** whatcha gonna do? **[?]**. **[?]**. He said, "I'm gonna sing." Okay. So she said, "You better rest for awhile, then come and eat. I've been cooking. I cooked les boulettes, les, les banges après les, la galette **[?]**," she said. "**[?]** potato," she said, and she fried chokecherries. So she said, "They're all ready." "Okay," they said, so they went and got each a dish, eh, each a dish, ready and...

Maria Campbell: We have to stop for a minute. I'm sorry.

Jeanne Pelletier: Okay, I'll finish it later.

3.14.10 [No audio]

3.21.55 Jeanne Pelletier: They all got to that old lady's house. Oh she was, "Oh mon cousins, mon cousins, oh mon cousins, mon cousins, mon cousins." Saying they were all hugging each other, and she told them she had boulette soup, la [?] potato, les banges, la galette, and fried, fried chokecherries. Oh, they were gonna have a big meal. So they went and they sat down for awhile, and they drank some tea and, and they came and they were filling up their dishes. There was other people that were invited, too, but I don't remember their names. But her neighbours and these three, they fill up their plates. And Wesakejack, he said, oh, he said, "My, my meal is too hot, my plate is too hot. I'll let it cool off, like, and I'll play music," he said. So he went he went and checked his fiddle out and it was good. He started playing, and Chi-Jean, he said, "Oh, my soup is too hot. I'll just wait and I'll go dance a little bit," he said, because the tea was good. So this was good. So he was dancing and old Chi-Jean was playing. Wesakejack was playing the violin and he played really good and Nanabush, he was, you know, he had that sore back, so he came and he was sitting at the table and he took a bit of, of Wesakejack's dish. "Oh," he said, "It's too salty," and then he put it back and then he took Chi-Jean's. "Oh, too much pepper," he said. So he took the plates and he dumped it in, he dumped everything in his dish excepting the, the chokecherries. The fried chokecherries, he didn't touch that at all. He didn't even have any in his dish. He left everything but that. So he ate it, and boy he's sitting there, he's just full into his stomach. "Ha," he said, "Well, now I'll go and sing now." So he went up there and he was singing **[sings song]** and he was singing, and Chi-Jean was dancing **[makes sound effects]**. He was singing and, and there was Wesakejack playing **[sound effects]**, you know. They were going so hard and so fast for so long. All of a sudden *chkkk*, you know, heard Wesakejack was playing so hard that he broke the, the neck off of his fiddle, and he looked at his bow

and all the hair was gone. So he said, "Well," and Chi-Jean when the music stopped, he stopped dancing and he looked, looked at his feet. Boy, you could just see the smoke come out, that's how hard he was dancing. So they said, "Well, we better eat now. We're hungry now," because they danced hard and they played hard. And, and Wesakejack, "I'll fix my fiddle after, with, if ma cousine has flour," he said, "I'll, I'll fix my, my fiddle." He put it back in the bag and he went to eat. And there was Wesakejack, Nanabush, he was singing **[sings song]**. "Oh and I want to sing you a song I learned from my, my White brothers," he said. "Way over there, they, they came by boat," he said, "in a big, big, big lake," he said. "They showed me how to sing this. *Yo do lady hoo yo do lady hoo,*" he was singing. He was going real good. He was a good yodeler. He was just yodeling terrific and then these two, they looked at their dish **[?]**, and they asked this lady, "Is there any more to eat?" "What happened?" he said. **[?]** He looked at Nanabush. He said, "You ate it. "You ate our, you ate our food." And he said, "No, I didn't eat your food. You were playing so hard at your violin that you didn't know you were doing. You were eating at the same time you were playing, and you, too, you were jigging so hard you were eating it at the same time. I didn't take nothing," he said. And this old lady knew he did it, but she didn't say nothing. "So **[?]**, well, I'm getting pretty tired of singing, but I'll sing one more song," he said. "I'll sing the same song again. *Odalady odalady odalady hoo.*" He was going louder and louder, eh? Boy, this old lady got mad. She thought he was calling her an old lady. She went, she grabbed him by the neck. "You're a bad cousin," she told him. "You're not supposed to say that. I did everything nice for you. I like your singing, but not this song," she said. "You take it back where you got it from." That was okay, so it was time for them to leave. So they were saying goodbye, and this Nanabush he was the last one. So Chi, Chi-Jean went out the door. *Chhh chhh tick chhh chhh tick.* "Oh, bye cousin," he says. And Nanabush *shhh shhh shhh shhh*. He went out the door. "Bye cousin," he said. Nanabush was the last one to go out the door. He was hugging his cousin. He hugged her so hard that he, he tied his arms around her, eh? And he kind of choked her and **[sound effects]**, she

was going. So he let her go and he turned around and looked at her. "That's for saying I, I knew you said to those guys [?] told them that I ate all their stuff, their food. That's for you telling on me for eating all their food. I didn't even touch the, the fried chokecherries," he said. "How could I eat all the food? You told a lie," he said. Now he choked her so hard she couldn't talk. She, all she did was spoke to them in Michif. Now she couldn't talk. So he said, "For over the years, you'll never talk your language again, but someday you'll remember it." So he took off. Like, he used his arms, he could fly, he flew right out of there. You know, to this day that woman never spoke Michif. She talks English. She's, it's barely coming back to her, and we were told that's how some of us lost, lost our language. That's it.

3.28.40 Maria Campbell: That's a good story. And that's your story?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, it's my story. That's my, that's the way I seen Wesakejack and Nanabush and, and Chi-Jean, Little John.

Maria Campbell: So you tell your grandchildren that story?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Oh, that's a beautiful story.

Jeanne Pelletier: There's other ones, too, it all depends on what mood I'm in. I tell these scary stories, too. There's some, did you ever hear that with the golden leg? The man with the golden leg? That one, too. And there's another, there's another [?] story I'll have to tell you. I call that one, so I'd remember it, the Devil's Dance, the Devil's Waltz.

Maria Campbell: So maybe we'll do that one after we come back from lunch, yeah. Did you hear any stories anything like that?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, it was lots of [?].

Maria Campbell: Do you remember any of them?

Clementine Longworth: Not very much. I don't remember that one.

Maria Campbell: Which one do you remember the most? Which one of those? Nanabush or Chi-Jean or...?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, Nanabush, I remember that old people like us. [?] tell the story about that, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Do you remember, do, you know, why Nanabush never ate that chokecherry?

Maria Campbell: No.

Jeanne Pelletier: 'Cause he stole his grandmother's chokecherries [?]. He stole his grandmother's chokecherries, yeah, that's why he didn't eat those fried chokecherries.

Maria Campbell: Well, I think we'll stop there and, and we'll come back after lunch and...

3.30.26 [No audio]

5.10. 06 Maria Campbell: So, when we were having lunch we were talking about nicknames. You know, our people were really notorious for giving people nicknames. Do you remember any, any nicknames? What would, did you have nicknames when you were, when you were young?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, my sister and brother had nicknames. One was called [?]. **[Maria Campbell repeats nickname]** And the other one was called [?]. **[Maria Campbell repeats nickname]**. And I can't remember the other, I don't have a nickname. Well, I do, but it's just Anna. Like, you know, they call me Anna, which is what I grew up with, but that nicknames, no.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember any other names? Like, I remember in our community, we had [?], all kinds of, little everything.

Clementine Longworth: Like my brother, one of my brothers, he was Burt. It was Burt's his name [?], his nickname [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: There's lots of them, eh? I can't think of all their names.

Maria Campbell: Some of them are really funny.

Clementine Longworth: Just like my sister, [?]. Goofy. Yeah, Goofy, yeah. [?] all kinds of names.

Maria Campbell: I remember...

Clementine Longworth: [?] nothing new...

Jeanne Pelletier: That's their names. There's that old man I was telling you about, you know Norbert, Little Norbert. He was a little guy, and I guess that's why he called little...

Maria Campbell: Norbert.

Jeanne Pelletier: Little Norbert.

Maria Campbell: Sometimes it was because they, there was two Norberts in a family, too. The father and then the, it'd be, like, Junior for some of them.

Jeanne Pelletier: It was my grandparents Down Kokum, because she lived down the hill. Down Kokum and my, my grandpa because he was Big Fat Moshum. That's the way we grew up.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that time they did that they would have like that.

5.12.21 Maria Campbell: Did do you remember, like, the a community where you lived in, did they have Michif names for the rivers or the, the lake? Did they have, you know, like, at home there was a hill where we used to go and pick berries, and we called it **[Michif word]**. Did you guys have names like that for the...

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember any of them? Like the creek, did it have a name?

Clementine Longworth: Well, they used to call that, oh boy, I forget.

Jeanne Pelletier: There was one hill we used to call Lovers' Hill.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, but did it have a Michif, did they have Michif names, the old names?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, but I don't **[?]**.

Maria Campbell: Don't remember the old names then?

Jeanne Pelletier: No. [?]

Maria Campbell: [?]. Lovers' Hill. Was there any other names of, of places? Did the creek have a Michif name? 'Cause right now they're trying to collect Michif names of the land, different places on the land. Can't think of any?

Jeanne Pelletier: Not right off hand. There was that house up the hill—you remember where the old Flamonts used to live?

Clementine Longworth: Which one was that?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, George Flamont's parent's? [?], do you remember where they lived?

Clementine Longworth: Yes, I remember that, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: And what the heck do you call them ...? [**Clementine Longworth says Michif word**]. Yeah. [**Michif word**]. Yeah, that was up the hill at his place.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that was my uncle.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, those old people. And you remember old [?].

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: He used to have a hill up there, and we used to call that [?]'s Place.

Maria Campbell: [?]'s Place.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. And straight down that hill, that's where...

Clementine Longworth: My Uncle Robert stays right down.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, Robert.

Clementine Longworth: And Michael Flamont, down the hill. Do you remember, where [?]?

Jeanne Pelletier: Do you remember that old lady that used to live right around, right across from Bannock School? [?] ...

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Laframboise.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: She had a nickname. [?]

Clementine Longworth: [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: Everybody [?], everybody [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: She used to, she was an old lady, she used to smoke a pipe.

Maria Campbell: Oh, what, did she smoke tobacco in it, or did she make her own?

Jeanne Pelletier: I think she made her own.

Maria Campbell: She must have been really old, eh?

Jeanne Pelletier: She was pretty old when I knew her. Like, she died a few years after. That was my husband's grandmother.

5.15.13 Maria Campbell: Did you have any, any people that worked with medicine, like picked plants and things?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, there was lots. Everybody was, that's the way there, we didn't have no doctor close there. We had to get some medicine in the bush. In fall, we pick, like, if we get fever, we used to pick some. I don't know what they used to call it. What they used to call that? I know my own language but...

Maria Campbell: Say it.

Clementine Longworth: [Michif word]

Maria Campbell: [Speaks Michif]. Yeah, wild mint. [Speaks Michif].

Jeanne Pelletier: There was some food, too, we used to pick. They, they were called [Michif word]. They're wild turnips.

Maria Campbell: [Says Michif word]. Wild turnips.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, we used to...

Clementine Longworth: ...good, well, some liked turnips, eh?

Maria Campbell: How did you cook them?

Clementine Longworth: We would eat them raw.

Jeanne Pelletier: I think they used to make flour out of them, too, because my grandma used to make us pick a whole bunch, and she used to crush it. Let it dry and then crush it, eh?

Clementine Longworth: Boy, they were nice, eh? Oh boy, they were nice.

Jeanne Pelletier: My grandma was a medicine woman. She was a, what do you call those people that...

Clementine Longworth: [?] was good for medicine.

Jeanne Pelletier: Must have learned it from my grandma, or, I don't know, what do you call those women that deliver babies?

Maria Campbell: A midwife.

Jeanne Pelletier: A midwife.

Clementine Longworth: ...Good eh?

Jeanne Pelletier: She was [?] ...

Clementine Longworth: Used to call, get called all over. Oh, you had to go over there. You would have to deliver a baby, baby boy.

Maria Campbell: Did she deliver lots of babies? Did she ever know how many she delivered?

Jeanne Pelletier: I don't know how many she delivered, but she delivered lots. She said over a hundred.

Clementine Longworth: She was just like a doctor.

Jeanne Pelletier: Just like, mostly all the people, like, all the Michif people that lived around there. All of them were, all the kids, my age were or and older she delivered. Yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: So she knew all kinds of medicines, too?

5.17.38 Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, she did, yeah, she picked up roots. She used to make us pick up some of these. They're just like from the, the thistles, you know, they have some kind of like nice furry inside. She used to make us pick up those kind for her, too, and we used to make whistles out of the [?]. But she took the inside—I don't know what she used it for. I never did ask her if she [?] none of our business. And what else did she make us do? She made us pick up something from the river. I don't remember. And she feed us the ducks' insides—the, the guts—she roasted them, she showed us how to do that. And she showed us how to make soap, lye soap.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember how to make it?

Jeanne Pelletier: No.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember how to make it, Clementine?

Clementine Longworth: What's that?

Maria Campbell: Lye soap?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: La potasse.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, we used to make that stuff so, boy we'd get some tubs about half, and then they have to, you cut 'em, like how big you want was good for washing.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, do you remember how they made...

Jeanne Pelletier: With ashes. With ashes and grease.

Maria Campbell: Grease and ashes.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: All that stuff, yeah. And grease, eh?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, hard grease.

Clementine Longworth: Had to be, had to be hard grease ...

Jeanne Pelletier: ...and you boiled them and poured ashes in. It was just like a javex soap.

Maria Campbell: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: We were smart, eh? How to do things, eh?

5.19.12 Jeanne Pelletier: Everybody washed by hand. I remember washing by hand.

Clementine Longworth: Boy, I used to have scabs here, washing.

Maria Campbell: Scrubbing clothes?

Clementine Longworth: Yes, scrub, and scrub, oh boy.

Jeanne Pelletier: We used to wash right by the river, too.

Maria Campbell: Just put your tubs outside.

Clementine Longworth: But now, today, nothing.

Jeanne Pelletier: Push a button.

Clementine Longworth: Push a button.

Maria Campbell: Nobody gets scabs on their hands anymore.

Clementine Longworth: No.

Jeanne Pelletier: Just like crawling on a floor, the way the floor is, eh?

5.19.45 Maria Campbell: Did you ever go picking Seneca Root ...

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh yeah.

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah. That's how we made...

Jeanne Pelletier: That part of [?].

Maria Campbell: Yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Selling Seneca Root.

Clementine Longworth: Oh, that was a lot of work, hoo boy. Wash them and put them in, dry them, and put 'em in the bag, oh my god.

Maria Campbell: Where did you go picking.

Clementine Longworth: [?] where there, where there's some places, you could find that, where to dig them. They're not all over, but some places you find them and dig them, some big ones, small ones, you know, all kinds of sizes.

Jeanne Pelletier: They must be big now, you know, if there's patches left because hardly anybody does that anymore that I know of.

Maria Campbell: Couple of years ago I was in Winnipeg, and there was an old lady came in. She had five bags of them, big bags like that. She'd been out all picking all summer days.

Clementine Longworth: [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: [?] had quite a winter Manitoba and dug.

Maria Campbell: Yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: They're little. I know they're little white flowers. Probably try to pick up all kinds of flowers.

Clementine Longworth: All day used to dig a lot of [?], oh my god.

Jeanne Pelletier: And they're not very big.

Maria Campbell: No, no, they're not. Did you did you go out in the morning and come back at night, or you went out...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, well, you go out to dinner time, then after dinner you have your lunch and go back again. Yeah. Till you fill your bag, you didn't come back and wash.

Maria Campbell: How much did you used to get paid for that?

Clementine Longworth: Boy [?], how much [?]. We didn't get very much. [?], but it was a lot of work.

Maria Campbell: And once it was dry, it was lighter, too, eh?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, that was light.

Maria Campbell: Then you could pick some more.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, it's a lot different today.

5.21.35 Maria Campbell: You were also talking about, about fish...

Jeanne Pelletier: [says Michif word, Maria Campbell repeats it]. Yeah, oh, we call them the English Dogfish. That's what they used to call them anyway. They were black and brown and ugly, ugly looking things. And they always used to catch our hooks. They were easy to, I guess we snagged them or they're greedy, I don't know, but they used to, we used to eat them. The insides, cut them up, and take the liver out. It was big and we used to eat that.

Clementine Longworth: They had lot of eggs inside, too, lot of eggs.

Jeanne Pelletier: We eat the fish eggs. Didn't take them out of the bag. Just washed and cooked them like that.

Maria Campbell: And how did you, how did you cook them up? Just...

Jeanne Pelletier: Threw them in the oven.

Maria Campbell: The fish?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. But the [?], I don't know how it was cooked, but I did eat it. And it looked like a fish patty. I was...

Maria Campbell: I wonder if that was in the [?] [?]. We called them [?] in the north.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, could be the same 'cause they're fresh water fish.

Maria Campbell: What did they put in the eggs and the liver when they cooked them? Did they put anything in them?

Clementine Longworth: They used to put salt.

Jeanne Pelletier: Just salt.

Clementine Longworth: And then pepper, if you have pepper, always give slice of onions, too with that, you know [?], like that.

Jeanne Pelletier: And we just had ours plain. Well, we used to do it for ourselves, you know, easy enough for us to do.

5.23.08 Maria Campbell: Did you have big gardens?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, we had gardens there. Well, you had to have something like that, you know, with a big family. We had some potatoes.

Maria Campbell: What else did you grow?

Clementine Longworth: Turnips, like, you know, that, yeah. Carrots, those too. All kind of stuff in the garden. All the onions, lot of onions, so...

Maria Campbell: And you put those away for the winter.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, put 'em away for the winter, yeah. Clean them all, put 'em away, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: My...

Clementine Longworth: We deep freeze to [?] something.

Maria Campbell: Did you have ice houses?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, we had an ice house, but my...

Clementine Longworth: [?].

5.23.59 Jeanne Pelletier: You know those little first things that used to come out, those little ice? What the heck do they call them? They look like a little fridge.

Maria Campbell: Icebox.

Jeanne Pelletier: Icebox. We used to have that kind in the house, and my mom used to keep her bread in there. Never thought about putting ice in it.

Like, and we had ice in the ice house, and when the water turned green she used to strain that water and boil it and strain it, and that's what we drank. When there was ice in the icehouse. We were talking about that not too long ago, and I said, "Boy, we were dumb."

Maria Campbell: You used it like a cupboard?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's right.

5.24.41 Jeanne Pelletier: There was lots of house rats. Big ones.

Maria Campbell: House rats?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: Boy, they were bad.

Jeanne Pelletier: One year especially that I can remember, they were bad. They, they [?] and they're mean, and they look ugly, and they're hard to kill.

Maria Campbell: Did they get into the houses?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, and then they, they chew, they could chew right through this table easy.

Clementine Longworth: They could make a hole in this table in no time. Boy, they had some...

Jeanne Pelletier: They used to catch them in big traps, like, you know, pretty big-sized traps.

Maria Campbell: Did they bite people?

Jeanne Pelletier: I guess they would bite people and they'd bite pretty darn hard, but I, I don't hear of anybody getting bit. We used to hear them at night and make a noise and then they'd stop for awhile. I don't know if they'd be gnawing at the, the flooring.

5.25.48 Maria Campbell: Did you ever, ever have, you were talking earlier about Lent and, and stories about Rou Garous. Did you have any stories about [?]?

Jeanne Pelletier: The devil.

Maria Campbell: Yeah. I remember one, one uncle of mine used to tell us stories at home about them. And he said he was coming home one day and, and he heard a horse. He was playing poker all, just about all night, and the second night he was coming home and he heard this horse galloping behind him. And he turned around and this black horse was coming and it had sparks coming off of its feet and chased him all the way home. He said he didn't gamble any more after that.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's what they used to say.

Maria Campbell: You hear those, usually people have stories like that in all the communities. Were there any stories like that at home? Do you remember any stories?

Clementine Longworth: [?]. Still, that kind of stories like that, but it was still [?]. Oh yeah, I remember that, too, yeah.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember any stories like that?

Jeanne Pelletier: I was trying to think of one that, I can't remember the place. It was a little, it was a little Michif colony, a little Michif town, and it's between, Elsboro [?].

Maria Campbell: Elsboro [?], place.

Jeanne Pelletier: Elsboro. Well, there was this man, he used to come to Regina every year—and this is not exactly like the devil, but it's similar—he used to come to Regina and make his rounds, visiting his relatives. And he stopped to home and he asked my dad if he wanted anything from town—he's coming from Regina. So my dad told me I have to bring some meat and, bring some meat, and that fat, you know, that fat they render, that kind. So I guess he give him some money and this guy comes. He was gone for about a week and [?]. So finally one Saturday he come in, and he brought my dad this box, and there was some, there was some of that fat in there. So they took it out, but I guess the meat was the bottles wine that he took. They, they started drinking and talking and this guy he started saying, "I stopped at my cousins' place in Elsboro," he said, "And we were drinking"—like they weren't Catholics, but he was, and said,—"We were drinking. I asked my cousin to play a fiddle. It was just hanging up there," he said. So they started playing the fiddle, and so he's a good fiddler. So, and after a few more drinks, he said, "We started dancing and that was fine." And then we stopped and we ate. And again, after supper, they really were partying having drinks and, and dancing. And this old priest that lived there heard the music, nice music, 'cause that man could play nice. And he was wondering if that was a radio or what because he could hear these people laughing and talking. So we took a walk and heard, he heard him, he was looking, he watched them for awhile. So that was fine. He went back, [?] back. Next morning these people got all ready for church. They went, and then this priest, he said his prayers and he was looking at these people very [?], you know what I'm saying. Then when he started his sermon, he said, "Last night

[?]," he said, "Last night I went to, to take my walk," he said. "I see these people, they were, you wouldn't believe what they were doing." He said, "They were dancing the dance [?]," he said. *Ohm she she ohm she she*. And this guy that was telling us the story looked hilarious because he's just mocking this priest, eh? How this priest was dancing the waltz. And after that he looked at his cousin. They didn't know what to do because it was at their house that they were dancing and playing the fiddle. "And, and that's not all," the priest said. "They took Lucifer's fiddle and they were playing with it. So," he said, "those people that don't, that don't know any better should come to church more often or for sure they'll burn in hell," he'd say. "Then we did go after to listen to anymore," he said, so slowly we got up and left the church and we went to the cousin's. But they didn't know why this guy was talking like that because they weren't Catholic. But just him, and just to come with him, they came, they came to Church, and they came and got bawled out for dancing and playing with the, with Lucifer's fiddle. That's, that's, that's where I first heard him humming the Devil's Waltz. Such a nice tune. You ever hear it?

5.31.09 Maria Campbell: No, I haven't.

Jeanne Pelletier: It goes [hums]. They felt the strings.

Maria Campbell: Oh yes, I know what it is, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, it's just beautiful, and he was mocking this priest, going like that, eh, and then when this priest was listening to them, that's why he said it sounded like music from heaven. But when he went there, it was totally different 'cause people were dancing and drinking. Oh, he was so upset that priest, saying his sermon, and you should have seen him. The more he'd say, his face would just get redder and redder, and his gown was moving all kind of ways.

Maria Campbell: Priests used to be really strict eh?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that was during Lent.

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah. There was three [?].

Maria Campbell: ... laughing when you come back.

Clementine Longworth: About the devil. And that same place, too, they were travelling one time with my, with my grandma, and when we came by Elsboro they told us to be quiet. And we asked them how come. We were in a wagon, eh, and coming home from Melville, and they told us to be quiet. And she said, "This is the place where the devil lives." I don't know to this day what...

Maria Campbell: Do you remember what place it was?

Clementine Longworth: Elsboro.

Maria Campbell: Elsboro, oh.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that was the shortcut, like, to go, to go anywhere, we had to pass through there. And she told us to be quiet because this is where the devil sleeps. I don't know. I, I never did have a, get to ask my mom what, what she meant by that because my mom was [?], and I never did ask her. But I, I remember that.

Maria Campbell: You were telling me you had a story about the Devil's Waltz.

Jeanne Pelletier: That's the story.

Maria Campbell: Oh, that's the story. Oh, okay...

Jeanne Pelletier: With the, with the priest, that's when, that's when I first heard the Devil's Waltz. It is a beautiful song, I guess. Beautiful waltz. I guess that's why, that's why the priest thought it was music from heaven, because it was, it was a beautiful song.

Maria Campbell: It is, it is, it's beautiful. I, I remember we used to dance a lot to it. My uncle used to play it and my grandmother would get really mad.

Clementine Longworth: [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: Dancing the Devil's Waltz.

5.33.24 Maria Campbell: [Speaks Michif]. I wanted to ask you some things about your mothers and your, you know, like the women, because today, you know, we, like you say, you push a button and everything is done. And you were saying earlier that, you know, you never did things to have fun. You were working all the time.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's true.

Maria Campbell: There, you know, most young women and, and our people, we hear all kinds of stories that the old men tell all the time about men, but we have no stories about women. You know, nothing that tells us the kind, about women's work or anything. Can you think of any, any stories you can tell us about your mom or your aunties and the kind of work that they did? Like, do you have aunties that did really nice needlework or, you know, maybe somebody that tanned good hides, or they were, they were the best dancer, or just some stories? Can you remember anything like that?

Clementine Longworth: I remember my mom used to, she used to do hides, like, you know, but all the drying, the scratch, all of the [?]. We were so busy help them they don't tell us what to do, and we try out help, help [?]. That was a lot of work. You had to stretch it really hard, then they dried them, and scrape like that. All the, oh boy, that was a lot of work.

Maria Campbell: Did you have to do that?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, and then the next day, like, they had to soak that thing for about three days. And [?] boy, that was a lot of work. But they done it. Then they smoke it after when it's dried. And when it's soft they'd go light a fire outside, smoke it, to go brown like that, make shoes, make moccasins with those and, well, jackets.

Maria Campbell: And that's what you wore on your feet was moccasins?

Clementine Longworth: Well, yeah, [?] yeah. And they were warm 'cause nothing else, we had was moccasins and jackets. That's how they used to make jackets, those they were strong, too. They lasted a long time, lot of work.

Maria Campbell: So that was how you learn then, they just call you to help them.

Clementine Longworth: They call you, yeah.

5.35.44 Maria Campbell: Yeah. Did you ever help any of the, any, any of the women that were midwives or any of that kind of stuff, picking medicine? Did anybody ever show you how to do that, did you help them with that?

Clementine Longworth: What's that?

Maria Campbell: To pick medicine or to help deliver babies or...

Clementine Longworth: No, no, I never did that, never did that, no.

Maria Campbell: Were there any women that were famous in your, when you were young?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, there were lots there [?] my sister, that's what, who used to be the nurse, took the, when the baby there wanted to come again [?], you know. Mary, my sister, yeah. She used to be good with that. You had twins [?].

Maria Campbell: Did you have to wear long skirts? Did they make you wear long skirts?

Clementine Longworth: Well, just dresses, you know, cotton dresses, long.

Maria Campbell: They were long, eh?

Clementine Longworth: There were no pants back then, you know.

Maria Campbell: You weren't allowed to wear pants?

Clementine Longworth: Oh no, you had to wear a dress.

Maria Campbell: How come?

Clementine Longworth: Well, that was the life because that was the style. I don't know.

Maria Campbell: So if you went riding horseback, you wore a dress?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, we had, you had to wear a dress.

Jeanne Pelletier: Side saddle, probably.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah. That's right.

Maria Campbell: Did you have to have your hair covered up, too?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, and this, no, you didn't [?].

Maria Campbell: You didn't have to wear a scarf or a hat?

Clementine Longworth: No, you didn't have to wear a scarf. You wanted to go out, you go out. You want to wear a scarf, you wear a scarf. Yeah. We used to knit [?] and [?] [?] and we used to make lots of that stuff. Yeah, you had to learn the hard way, everything, no matter what you learn how to do.

5.37.43 Maria Campbell: And, and what about you? Do you remember any women? Was there any women that were rebellious, that just said they weren't going to work that hard or who were gonna do men's work instead or...?

Jeanne Pelletier: Well, most of the women that had to stay home did men's work. Like, my, my dad died at an early age, so my mom had to fend for us and we all, all helped. It was a work of cooperation that kept the family going. Everybody had certain chores to do and..

Clementine Longworth: You'd do your share.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. You all, you all pulled in. And we did lots of card playing, too. I remember after my dad died, I used to go up to my auntie's. She's Auntie Jen[?]. She's married to George Flamont.

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: I used to go up there and go gamble, just [?] cards, and we used to play [?]. That's Indian poker. We used to play that game. And sometimes I'd come home with a dozen eggs or three dollars, and that was lots of money in those days. Yeah, and we'd play cards till past midnight. We have a lunch at midnight, and after midnight if we were not tired we played a game. The next morning, we were up early again to go to church.

Clementine Longworth: And you had to go to church no matter what, you have to go to church.

Maria Campbell: What happened if you didn't go to church?

Clementine Longworth: They get sent [?], your parents won't let you go to church. You had to go to church.

Jeanne Pelletier: Come home from a dance too late, we had to be ready and willing to go to church. Like, sometimes it took quite a, maybe an hour or two hours to come home from the dance, three o'clock in the morning. Get home five o'clock, then you have to be up by eight, get ready to go to church.

Clementine Longworth: And you had to get ready.

Jeanne Pelletier: If we didn't go to church, we wouldn't be allowed to go again to the dance.

Maria Campbell: Did you know of anybody, anybody who didn't go to church?

Jeanne Pelletier: There was some people back home that didn't go to church, and when they died they were buried on the outside of the cemetery.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, they buried them by the little church.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. And if you were bad and lived with somebody, you got barred from the church. You had to be married.

Maria Campbell: When did that start to change?

Jeanne Pelletier: Hmmm, oh, it must have started changing in the fifties.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, in the fifties. Boy, they were strict, huh?

Jeanne Pelletier: Hmmm.

Clementine Longworth: Everything you had to do a hundred percent. It doesn't matter what you do.

Maria Campbell: Didn't sound like a very good time to...

Clementine Longworth: Well, you know, you wouldn't notice, you know, if you thought, we thought that was the right way, so we didn't mind.

Jeanne Pelletier: Like, for me, I'm not, I'm not sorry we had to work like that, you know. We had fun while we were doing it. We, we always had fun whether we were working hard or not, and we, when we picked berries, we used to be laughing and singing and...

5.40.58 Maria Campbell: What kind of berries did you pick?

Jeanne Pelletier: Cranberries, chokecherries, saskatoons, black currants. I think those are the ones they call **[Michif word; Maria Campbell repeats it]**. Yeah, they used to be kind of soury. They were green.

Clementine Longworth: The sour ones, you know, red, red.

Jeanne Pelletier: And they go red. Those ones we used to pick some like that there. There used to be just one little bush close to where we lived, but we didn't like going there very much because my grandmother told us there was a little, those little people, a little man that lived there. So we were kind of scared to go by that place. It was spring, like, you know...

Maria Campbell: Little spring, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, so we didn't go there very much. We'd just go there for maybe half a day and pick up what we needed.

Maria Campbell: They used to believe that those little people lived around those springs. I remember when we were kids, we'd go by them and we'd always put some beads. My granny put some beads down there or some shoelaces or little piece of leather, or something they'd leave for them.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that's what they, they used to tell us, but they never told us to leave anything. Maybe we were told, but I didn't **[?]**. Like, you know, I was just a small kid. Yeah, we picked lots of Saskatoons. And we used to go, we used to go in the water and drag a minnow net for, for minnows, and that's what we used to sell in the summertime to the Americans when they'd come, or whoever came to the beach, we used to sell those and that's what.

5.42.39 Maria Campbell: What did you get paid for them?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, we got paid maybe thirty-five cents a dozen, fifty cents a dozen.

Maria Campbell: Oh, that was pretty good.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, in them days, and one time my dad wanted to keep all the money. And these were Americans and he liked it when the Americans come because they always paid lots, they'd pay more than, more than what we had asked for. But this time I got balky, I wasn't gonna go because I'm the one that goes in the deep water and I'm the smallest. And my sister was, was bigger than me, but she, she was a big chicken to go in the big water, so she didn't like it. So I'd go in the beach and just stand around, sitting there. No, I want a dollar. I want the money, so the guy gave me the money. I had a big handful of money dad gave me. We made thirty-five dollars.

Maria Campbell: Oh my goodness, selling minnows?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, if I didn't get balky, I guess I wouldn't have got that much. And frogs, I didn't care for catching frogs too much. We were scared to warts in our hands. But my brother used to catch frogs and put 'em in [?] with minnows. Not too much though. We were not too fond of the frogs, but minnows, we used to trap them and keep them in a, a big cage and keep them there. And on Sundays, and when we run out then we'd have to go in the water. Nothing for us to go five o'clock in the morning to go and drag for, for baits.

5.44.10 Maria Campbell: When you were talking about saskatoons, you pick lots of saskatoons, and I'm gonna ask Clementine this because we didn't have much sugar. There wouldn't have been much sugar when you were young. How did they sweeten them? Like, what did they do with the

saskatoons? Did they, did they can them without sugar or they, did they dry...?

Clementine Longworth: No, they dried them.

Maria Campbell: So when you picked them, what did you do? Did you just...?

Clementine Longworth: Well, you picked them, and the next day you put them outside and dry them. When they're dry, you put them in a bag.

Maria Campbell: What, what do you dry? How do you dry them? Do you put them on something on the...?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, you put, like, say, like, some blankets or something, you just pour it, saskatoons there. They dry in two, three days. They're really dry, then you take them and put them in the bag for the winter. Any time you want to cook them, you just go ...

Maria Campbell: Did you do that with other berries, too?

Clementine Longworth: Just little saskatoons, nothing else.

Jeanne Pelletier: Chokecherries they smashed.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, ground up.

Clementine Longworth: Chokecherries a little bit different, you know, because they get kinda [?]. You have to grind them still.

Maria Campbell: And raspberries and all that they canned those, eh?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: So before, did you, did you use sugar?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, we add some sugar, oh yeah.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, 'cause during the war when I was a little girl, they didn't use sugar. They never used sugar for canning, and so I wondered if they did that.

Clementine Longworth: What'd they use?

Maria Campbell: I can't remember. That's why I was asking you.

Jeanne Pelletier: ... that sugar substitute, it come in the water, water like from a boil. Oh, it tasted ugly if you put too much of it. It, it, was white, white, white liquid come to a boil. That's when they had those stamps to get sugar. That's what ...

Maria Campbell: Yeah, 'cause I, I never ...

Jeanne Pelletier: My aunt used to use it for, just for cooking because we tried it in our tea, ugh.

Maria Campbell: Horrible, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. Just...

Maria Campbell: Yeah, 'cause I couldn't remember what they used.

Jeanne Pelletier: And one of my grandmas used to keep the, you know when you make the bread a ball? **[?]** do when she was she was still...

Maria Campbell: Starter, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: ...a starter. I never knew that for the longest time.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, I remember we did that, too. And you could make pancakes and all kinds of things with that. Yeah. So what about dried meat? Did they dry meat and make [?] and [?] like that.

5.46.31 Jeanne Pelletier: Fish, smoked fish.

Maria Campbell: So they did that, too...

Clementine Longworth: You slice it and hang them to be dried, so...

Maria Campbell: And then just stack it up and put it away, eh?

Clementine Longworth: Yeah. Keep them for, for a long time.

Jeanne Pelletier: The first time I started doing that with my grandma and my grandpa was watching. And I did everything right, we had to learn like, you know, so I hung up the fish right, and I had the fire going good, and I hung. I forgot to put salt on, and, boy, by, by twelve o'clock, there was, you could see the flies got at my fish.

Maria Campbell: So the salt kept the flies away?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, but I didn't notice, and I didn't put salt on them, so the flies got at the fish. And grandpa saw me.

Maria Campbell: And what about the, the dried meat? What did they do with that when they...?

Clementine Longworth: Well, they just keep it like that. Whenever you want to eat, you take it and cook it. Oh, you could keep meat for a long time, dry meat [?] you know.

Jeanne Pelletier: They used to keep food, too, in, in the wells. Like, we had wells where we used to put them, keep the food there, and cellars in the house for the potatoes and carrots and stuff like that.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, I can remember my mother putting a pail of, a big pail of, I guess, all of our stuff that would go bad, and hanging it [?]. She used to make Jello in a big two quart sealer, and we had Jello maybe once every three or four months, and then she'd put it down there, and we had to wait three or four days before the thing was cold enough and, and before it would gel. It was so exciting. But all of our cream, everything went down in the well.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's true.

Jeanne Pelletier: In the cellar, you get butter. You put it in the cellar. You take so much off for Sunday meal and put it back. When they first came home with the margarine, like, you, you squeeze it like that, you know. Those plastic bags with, it had this yellow-orange thing, and then it turned into that butter colour, and we used to, we used to take some of that off, that orange stuff and put it on a pound of lard. And we'd do the lard up and it would look like butter. We always had butter.

Maria Campbell: Fool people with it, eh?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Did you buy your lard or did you render the pork yourselves?

Jeanne Pelletier: It, it was real good when we got the pork, like, to render. We used to make, what do you call those things now ... ?

Maria Campbell: [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. We used to, we used to make those, and I like that with, like, dried with dried saskatoons. It was real good.

Maria Campbell: What are they called in Michif? [?]. Do you remember?

Jeanne Pelletier: What do you call those piggy puffs? [**Says Michif word**].

Maria Campbell: [**Repeats word**]. Yeah, I couldn't remember what they were called.

Jeanne Pelletier: Piggy puffs.

Clementine Longworth: They were good one time. 'Cause I was only [?]

5.49.44 Maria Campbell: Yeah, my dad made some for us one time. We hadn't had any for a long time, and he had fresh bannock and he put a spread them on top of there with salt and pepper. They were really good.

Clementine Longworth: Boy, fresh bannock is good, eh? Can't be beat.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, we used to eat lots of that, too.

5.50.05 Maria Campbell: So, did you ever hear any stories about women, long, about women from long ago, like during Riel's time? Ever hear stories like that, history stories about, about women?

Jeanne Pelletier: My, my grandma was telling us. Like, we had this school project to do when I was in Grade Five, Grade Five, and we had to write a, this history. So I went and asked my grandma if she'd help me. "You know anything about Riel, Louis Riel?" "Yeah," she said, "I remember," she said. "I was a little girl, but I remember." And she told us they were coming home from, there was a war between the, the Crees and another tribe ...

Maria Campbell: Sioux? The Lakota?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah. And, and they were caught in the middle. So she said—her, her dad was a medicine man—so she said he, he let, he told them to go and hide, like, to keep out and stay at the back for, for a little while, he said. He didn't say why, but I guess he created a diversion with smoke.

Maria Campbell: Oh, I heard that story.

Jeanne Pelletier: And he all passed through and after, after that he came back to where his family were, and they were living there, were in the cave for three days. Three days and all the water they had was what the, what the, the pee water. 'Cause she said, "We were there for three days," and then finally they made it to, to the east. Like she was from the East, East Reserve, it's a Cree Reserve. She said, and she said, "Louis Riel was, was not a bad man," and she said, "If it wasn't for a priest, we'd be okay." She said it was a priest that betrayed him.

Maria Campbell: True, eh.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, and I had that book, you know, for the longest time. All what she told me, and it, and I had it for the longest time, until I was about fifteen, and then I lost it. I lost, tell my mom, "Gee, I'm sorry I lost that book." But she told, she said she was about eight years old.

Maria Campbell: Did she tell you who that, your grandfather was, like, [?] medicine man?

Jeanne Pelletier: I have his name at home, but I can't say it.

Maria Campbell: Because I heard that story, too. I was interviewing an old lady around Onion Lake, and she told me that, but she didn't know who it was. She just said this man made all of this smoke, and they were able to go through the smoke and, and he did it. He didn't make a fire; he did it with medicine.

Jeanne Pelletier: Magic.

Maria Campbell: Yeah. [?].

Jeanne Pelletier: So her dad was a good medicine man, I guess. I guess that's where she got the, the trade passed down. Medicine.

Maria Campbell: She learned it from him.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, I know he's got one name, but it's a whole big name, and I have it written down, and I never got anybody to translate it for me. Or, and my grandmother, too, has one big long name and then the other, the other one I know. But I, I didn't know the, like, she was married twice, eh, before it come to my grandma. But I, I go way back to, to him and his name was a one big long Cree word. Like a school sentence, just like if

they're saying [?] or something like that. Means flat nose. But they all had big, big long names.

Maria Campbell: Long names.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

5.54.00 Maria Campbell: Did you hear any stories about, about the battle, about Riel or any of those things when you were young?

Clementine Longworth: No.

Maria Campbell: No. You don't remember anything about that time at all?

Clementine Longworth: No.

Maria Campbell: I think we're gonna stop for a little while now, and then we'll...

5.54.21 [No audio]

6.03.14 Maria Campbell: When we were talking about women's stories and, and women's things a little earlier, were there any superstitions around, you know, pregnancies? You know, well, today we call them superstitions, but they weren't superstitions then. I know my mother used to always tell us, tell women that we're, my grandmother, somebody was pregnant, that they, to be careful where they went outside. You know, if a baby was born with a birth mark...

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: Was there stuff like that when you were...?

Clementine Longworth: Used to be like that, it was like that [?].

Maria Campbell: Yeah, do you remember any of those things?

Clementine Longworth: You're not supposed to look at nothing, like something you're not supposed to look at when you're pregnant. Yeah, that's exactly right.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember any like that, Jeanne?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, I heard 'em talking about my auntie, she went to the exhibition, and she was pregnant and she had this thing going with the monkeys. And when she was looking at these little monkeys, my other aunt turned around, told her don't be watching those monkeys or you're little baby will look like a monkey. So...

Maria Campbell: Did it?

Jeanne Pelletier: I don't know, I don't know. I never thought of it.

Maria Campbell: But sometimes they'd say, you know, if somebody was born with a birth mark...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's how it used to be, yeah.

Maria Campbell: But, but you don't remember any, anything that ...

Clementine Longworth: Well, I remember my niece that was born with just one arm, I know that. We remember that though.

Maria Campbell: Did they say what caused it? Did they think of...?

Clementine Longworth: [?] when he was born, you know, and he didn't miss it because he was born like that, you know. He used to do all kinds of work.

Maria Campbell: Just kept working anyway.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, working, yeah.

6.05.09 Maria Campbell: Yeah. Who taught you how to, to, to do sewing and, and all of that kind of work?

Clementine Longworth: Well, for me, my mother used to tell us how to do things, you know?

Maria Campbell: Yeah, so you didn't, that's right, you didn't have a grandmother at home.

Clementine Longworth: No, no grandma, no.

Maria Campbell: What about you, Jeanne, who was your teacher?

Jeanne Pelletier: Well, I, I seen her, seen my grandma cooking. And I seen her doing all those things I was telling you about. And I seen her making quilts old-fashioned way, and then I seen her scraping hides, I seen her making crushed chokecherries. And I used to laugh at her when she used to do that. She just had this big stone, eh, and then she'd have another big round one. And she'd be going, then she made little piles, right? She'd set them on a on a board, like a table, till they dried there.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, they dried them and, and packed them away, eh? And then they'd fry them up.

Jeanne Pelletier: Just like hamburgers.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah.

Maria Campbell: I remember when my grandmother passed away, my dad, I don't know what they were doing, they were gonna build a new house. And they dug up where her cellar used to be, and they found a whole bunch of those things. They must have been really old. They were just like rocks. They were in a little kind of a, some kind of a bag, and they, they looked like a whole bunch of little cakes, and they were real hard. She must have put them in there and forgot about them. So they kept for a long, long time.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: That's, I seen her doing that, and, like, I learned lots from my grandma because I used to go and clean up her house for her. She never, she, she couldn't see very good. Like, she just could see certain amount, and I used to go and help her. And then my mom taught us lots, too. Like, she taught us, she used to try and not too often, she's trying to show us how to crochet. "Oh mom, we'll learn that when we get old." And knitting, well, I know how to knit. My sister knows how to crochet. So we went back to our mom and told her, "Mom, I know how to knit." And the other one: "Mom, I know how to crochet." And so we, by hand, and I used to see them making little, all blankets were done by hand all the dresses and the aprons and stuff like that, all done by hand in small little wee stitches.

6.07.43 Maria Campbell: They didn't have any sewing machines?

Jeanne Pelletier: No, and I seen my mom just going like that, and she had this big thimble, eh, she just used to be going like that. They used to make blankets and all kinds of nice things sewing all by hand, but later on my mom

got a sewing machine and it was really good because all our clothes were sewn with machine. Our under panties were made out of the pockets, you know, the inside of the pockets from a man's overall, that white, like a white cotton. She used to bleach that and iron them out and cut little, little panties for us, sewed them by hand.

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, that's right.

Jeanne Pelletier: And sugar bags. We used to put curtains made out of sugar bags. They, they had coloured sugar bags, like some printed. Make sure you bring the same kinds. Yeah, and ...

6.08.45 Maria Campbell: What about wedding dresses? What did they make when you were young, Clementine? What did they use for wedding dresses? What did they...

Clementine Longworth: Well, most of the time, you buy, buy the yards, you know, and you cut them, you know [?]. I used to do lots of wedding dresses.

Maria Campbell: And they were the long white ones, like the [?].

Clementine Longworth: Yeah, the long sleeves, you know,

Maria Campbell: So then were traditional wedding dresses, like with, like ribbons, with the ribbons on them and stuff?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, you, you realize, you go, you know, when you see something, you do the same thing, you know. I used to do a lot of that. I was a seamstress long ago.

Maria Campbell: And your mother showed you how to do it?

Clementine Longworth: Oh yeah, yeah.

Maria Campbell: And did you sell wedding dresses?

Clementine Longworth: No, I never did, but I used the [?]. Just made them for them, you know. I used to make them, I used to do a lot of that stuff.

Maria Campbell: Do you remember any of those?

Jeanne Pelletier: No, I just, I just seen 'em dressed in the ordinary clothes. I have a picture of my, my father-in-law was waiting. It was really old fashioned picture. The four of those guys wore those things that roll up their sleeves and their hardened stiff collars, and there's that kind. And the women, it was a double wedding picture, too, and the women wore sort of dark colour dresses, long sleeves, little bit white lace. And they had just like ribbon around their, their waist. They were dressed the same as the bride, but, but I never seen 'em in actual light. But that was their wedding picture, so it was pretty. My mom had a—oh my goodness, we used to laugh at it—these dresses they used to wear in the thirties, like the sack dresses or something like that.

Maria Campbell: Oh, a flapper dress.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that kind. She, she had real funny hat.

Maria Campbell: Yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: Then my dad had one of those, I think they used to call them derby hats or something like that, and, and a suit.

6.11.05 Maria Campbell: Was there special names that women call each other, you know, like **[Michif word]** and stuff like that? **[Michif word]**.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah.

Clementine Longworth: **[Says Michif word]**.

Maria Campbell: That's what you call just about everybody, eh?

Clementine Longworth: **[Michif word]** is just like your sister-in-law. **[Michif word]**. Yeah.

Maria Campbell: Was there any other names that women called one another?

Clementine Longworth: **[Michif word and Maria Campbell repeats it]**. And that's one **[Michif word]**.

Maria Campbell: **[Says Michif word]**. That's...

Clementine Longworth: Yeah. **[Michif word]**. Yeah, we never hear those now.

Jeanne Pelletier: Very few people are, are talking. They even used to call square dances in that half Michif and half broken down English.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, broken down English. Yeah, I remember that, yeah.

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 you. 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 have to go dance and then dance with him.

And he'd be pushing me this way and that way as [?]. I used to think he was really bossy and I didn't like to dance with him because he push 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 remember him.

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.

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 instruments at all?

Jeanne Pelletier: I play guitar.

Maria Campbell: You play guitar?

Jeanne Pelletier: A little bit of each. I never played the fiddle. I [?], 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 [?].

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 picked 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 then I'll spend 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 [?]. 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 dances 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, 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.

6.17.55 Maria Campbell: So the other question I wanted to ask is in storytelling and, and even in music, or a, if somebody tells a story, is there protocols that were followed when, when you were young. I know when I was a little girl, if I wanted to, if I wanted to tell my grandmother, if my grandmother was telling a story and I wanted to tell that story, I had to follow protocol, eh? Did they do that where you came from, too? Like if you wanted something from your grandma or your grandpa or some of the old people, how would you go about doing that?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh, I'd, like, all these different people I took gifts to, and when you take them a gift, they know you're, you're not there for, you're there for something. Like your visit is not for nothing.

Maria Campbell: Yeah.

Jeanne Pelletier: And sometimes I'd just go and visit, visit them, and sometimes I'd bring them a gift and they'd ask me what I was there for, what I come to ask them for, you know? It was quite easy for me because the people, they seemed to be willing, they seemed to be willing with what they, what they had to share. And that's how I got all my information was...

Maria Campbell: And did you give them tobacco as well?

Jeanne Pelletier: Oh yeah, tobacco and material and, and if I didn't have the, the tobacco on me, I left them cash so they could...

Maria Campbell: Get it themselves.

Jeanne Pelletier: Like some of them need food, so I didn't exactly know what they needed. I didn't want to buy any for them.

Maria Campbell: Now, is there, when, when, like, say if somebody gave you a story and, and you followed that protocol, when you go to tell the story, what do you, do you explain how you got the story before you tell it?

Jeanne Pelletier: I just usually say I was told by my grandmother of the story. 'Cause that's where I heard it from.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, so whoever, whoever it told you that story or gave it to you, you said you acknowledge them.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, I would acknowledge them.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, 'cause that's, that's really important for us to know how, how that was done, because otherwise people are just stealing stories and, you know, and then...

Jeanne Pelletier: Like I said, we were, we were fortunate enough to have my grandma tell us stories like that. Some of my other, like, my other cousins maybe never had the opportunity they lived where, where we were, and every night we used to go to, tobacco.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, I know it's like that at home, too. My, my great grandmother was a really good storyteller, especially in the in the evenings in the wintertime.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, that was in the wintertime. She wouldn't tell us stories in the summertime or springtime.

Maria Campbell: Yeah, 'cause we were busy.

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, we had no time for stories and had a lot of work.

Maria Campbell: And she'd sit there and sew and tell stories, yeah. Then the little ones would fall asleep and then you'd get the older stories sewing all night.

6.21.00 Jeanne Pelletier: She used to tell us some stories like that the man with this golden leg. She used to tell us those kinds of stories when it was almost time to go, go home. And they're just short story, but it's scary story, so I guess that's what she scared us home with.

Maria Campbell: Do you want to tell it to us?

Jeanne Pelletier: The man with the golden leg. There was this rich man and he was married to this nice little, nice woman he had, and he was very, very mean to her. He, he was always dressed up and he lost his leg in the war, so he had a wooden leg. And he, he was rich, so he wanted a different leg. He went and got another kind of a leg made out of ivory. He didn't like that—said it was too heavy. So he went and got another one made out of copper. That was too heavy. So he turned around and he made out of one out of gold. So he kept all these legs. So this lady, she didn't know what to, to, she, she listened to him all the time. And she, she say, "Give me this," or he'd say, "Give me that," and she'd have to go and run. She was just a little slave to him. So finally one day he got sick and he, he died. And then she said, "Well, he died. I'll have to bury him with all his legs." So she buried him, and she kept one, she kept the gold one. So that was fine, she buried him. So every time she'd go to sleep at night, she'd hear somebody walking. "Give me my leg, give me my leg." And, "I don't have your leg," she'd tell him. "I gave them all to you." And that was fine. Every night. So, finally she got so tired of hearing that, she took this leg to the, to where he got melted down. She got it melted down and got herself necklace and bracelets and rings and

all kind of jewellery with this gold, and then she got a little gold box, and that's where she'd keep them. She never had anything so beautiful in her entire life. She got new dress and she was dressed up real pretty, so she went to bed again. Again he come back and tell her, "Give me my leg." "Oh, I don't have your leg. I melted it away," she said. "So I don't have your leg." Well, that wasn't fair enough. He kept after her and after her, and the more he got after her, the more she, she was getting worried about this, eh. It was getting to be too real, that she'd hear him coming closer and closer to her. So finally she went back to that, that goldsmith, and told him, "Put that leg back together again." So she gave him all the jewellery and all that she had. "Put that leg back together again," she said. So when she, when she went back home, she had it. Said, "Boy, next time I hear him, I'll just give him his leg." So she, he came back again, the same night. "Give me my leg, give me my leg" And she picked this, "Here's your leg," she said. She threw into the door, and that was fine. She just heard it fall in the air, and that was okay, that was fine. So, next morning, she didn't hear it anymore. Next morning she got up, there was this leg laying there. "Oh, I must be dreaming," she said, "must be a dream." So she put this leg back, back where he had used to keep it, and then the following night the same thing again: "Give me my leg." So one day she said, "Well, I'll give him his leg. Maybe he'll leave me alone," she said. So she got all dressed up and she went to the graveyard where he was buried and she started digging his grave. And then she just put the leg down like this, and the grave opened up and he grabbed her. And that's where she died, too. Scared to death, scared her to death.

Maria Campbell: So that was the story you'd get just before you'd leave, go on at night?

Jeanne Pelletier: Yeah, and then stories like that, she'd tell us. And then as we, as we'd get halfway home, we'd hear the, the whistle, the train whistle blowing, and then we'd think that was [?], and boy we'd run, run as fast as we could. Didn't want to get eaten up. But that was, it was like it growing up.

That old man, too, I was telling you about used to tell us some stories, too, but his were a little different. I can't quite remember them. Have to think about it.

6.25.45 Maria Campbell: Well, that's good then. We'll, we'll finish off there.