

A rabbits
 Q and winter..
 A and in the winter... I kill deer
 Q 4:21:13 Oh... right on... (both laugh)
 Q Are there fish in that lake?
 A Yes
 Q oh, say it
 A There are fish in the lake
 Q 4:21:23 What do they call fish, they call them a different name
 A Fish, I wonder what... I don't know
 Q 4:21:34 Le pusson
 A 4:21:34 pusson is Cree, I mean French
 Q Yes, but that's what we are talking about
 A 4:21:41 oh
 Q I would like to eat some of those fish
 A 4:21:44 I want to eat fish
 Q 4:21:47 I would like some apples
 A I would like to eat some apples
 Q right on... okay... my grandmother made bannock for the whole family
 A Grandmother cooked bannock for all of us
 Q 4:22:04 Right on... Thank you very much Georgina
 Both laugh
 Q Merci (Thank you) (they shake hands)

4:22:12:29

Miles Roy

21 & 22 AUG 1999

Tape #4 - Interview #2 - Ile a La Crosse/ Sandy Point

Michef Translations

Tape 53 minutes

Q 4:22:12:29 Okay... What is your name
 A Miles Roy
 Q How old are you
 A 4:22:25 I was born on January 4, 1918
 Q Okay
 A 4:22:32 I'm eighty one now... next year I'll be eighty two (very soft ???)
 Q 4:22:38 and ... (very soft vice)??? ... once more?
 A ...not really.....
 Q Yes
 Q Huh... How's your health
 A I have no sickness of any kind
 Q 4:22:54 I'm going to ask you these.... Did you ever here of the Michef language... this language that we talk
 A 4:23:04 Yes, I've heard
 Q 4:23:06 Where did you hear that it was called that
 A Over at the school here
 Q Yes, that's what we talk
 A Yes
 Q 4:23:16 That's where you heard it
 A Yes
 Q 4:23:26 What were your mother and fathers names
 A My father was Clima Roy... my mother Margaret Roy

Q Margaret Roy ...
A She used to be a Melbuf
Q Oh, Oh, Oh
Q 4:23:46 Did they talk Michef
A My Dad did, he used to be French, he talked mixed, my mother the same
(LOTS OF OHH's & AHhh's in this Tape)
Q 4:24:01 ... just tell me when ... okay (there is a change in the sound of the tape)
Q 4:24:08 Ahh... what is your name
A Miles Roy
Q When/re were you bom
A January 4th, 1918
Q Oh... did you ever hear about the language called Michef
A Yes, I heard it here and over there to
Q Yes... very long ago?
A Long ago... I can hardly remember anything from long ago
Q Yes
A Yes, yes
Q 4:24:42 What was your Mother and Fathers names
A My Dad was Clima Roy
Q Yes
A My mother was Margaret... she was a Melbuf before
Q 4:25:00 Where were you all born and where were you all raised?
A 4:25:08 My Dad was born in Ile a la Crosse, my Mom, she... I think it was Buffalo River she
was from
Q Ohh, ahh
A That's where my grandfather lived, Pierre Melbuf, he was called, that's where my Mother was
from.
Q 4:25:30 Oh, ahh... What did you think, your ... about your family ..what did they do and work
at
A 4:25:52 My Dad drank quite a lot, my Mother didn't... she was a religious woman, my Mom...
she raised us well .. and she raised the family well (Interviewer talking in Back ground)
Q 4:26:10 How many of you was there
A In the family... about fourteen or fifteen
Q Ohh, quite a few...
A Yes
Q How many are still alive (???)
A Still six girls, still
Q 4:26:33 Ohh, that are still alive
A Just me of the men
Q 4:26:43 What did you work at as you grew up
A Different jobs... hauling water
Q Yes
A wood
Q yes, wood
A like that water.... Different things
Q yes
Q 4:27:09 What about your other brothers and sisters
A They did the same
Q They did the same... what about the family (Le Femme)
A 4:27:23 My sister, she used to work in the hospital her
- They both talk now
A Yes
Q 4:27:31 When you got married, who did you marry
A She was called Mary, she was a Gardiner, Mary Gardiner
Q Where was she from
A 4:27:46 Canoe River... Canoe lake... my Father-in-law he was born some where in Alberta
Q What was he called
A Leon Gardiner... he moved to Canoe River my wife she was born here at canoe River her

Q Yes... that's why they used to call her a Chipewan
A Yes, that's why they called her a Chipewan
Q 4:28:17 How many children did you have... How many children did you have
A 4:28:25 around fourteen, but my wife had two miscarriages
Q Oh...
A Yes
Q 4:28:34 how many girls and how many boys alive
A about ... (thinks) ... I must still have about three or four brothers
Q 4:28:56 How many kids you got left
A Still six girls yet ... four sons yet
Q Four
A Four, yes
Q 4:29:17 When you were growing up who did you look up to for a role model
A 4:29:28 My mom
Q 4:29:34 you really...
A Yes
Q 4:29:36 she was a strong woman
A Yes really...
Q 4:29:43 You always lived here in town
A yes... I was born here
Q So what's this place called
A Ile a la Crosse
Q 4:29:51 and in Cree
A Suk-taw-wak
Q Yes... did you ever own land
A (Raises his eyebrows) ...what
Q Did you ever own land
A 4:30:07 This is my dad's, about four acres here
Q Oh
A He bought it
Q What did he do here
A We planted
Q 4:30:19 Oh you planted
A We had a big garden here, we had cows here and we had horses and pigs
Q 4:30:38 Now, religion, you prayed a lot
A Yes... my dad... my mom would pray
Q Now, was Clima related to Margaret Lerivierre
A That's ahhh, my Dad's sister that one... you know what I said... Clima way your grandfather that married Louise Lerivierre, that was my auntie... my Dad's sister
Q Maybe auntie
A yes that was my auntie
A 4:31:17 ... she was your auntie yes
Q 4:31:18 Do they ever talk... the young people... about Metis or what happened long ago
A There used to be a guy coming around here long ago... what was his name... he came and talked about the Metis society ... that's a long time ago that...
Q Yes
A I can't remember what year... what was he called...
Q Jim Brady?
A Jim Brady was one...
Q yes...
A ... but the other one
Q Noland
A No, I can't remember his name
Q Yes
A 4:32:08 He's the one that came and talked about Michif and things
Q Yes
A There wasn't many here... there was only seven or eight houses to start when I was ...
Q yes... there was a church

Q and the church
A yes and the church from there
Q and the school too
A the school
Q and the convent
A hospital
Q hospital
A yes
Q 4:32:36 Can you tell me, when you all used to get together for things like dances, weddings...how did you celebrate
A 4:32:57 The way they do it when they get married at the church...
Q yes and from there
A we never ate there, it was just the dance there... that's all
Q 4:33:11 They didn't Mu-tow-????
A they didn't dance yes, there was there was a dancing
Q 4:33:16 yes, yes ... now about religion... when people would come from all over
A yes
Q 4:33:31 ... (can't hear it voices over lap) ... what happened at that time

A 4:33:34 That was a special day like ahh, like Christmas
Q yes... and how do you say Christmas
A How do you say that?.... (thinks) le Noel
Q 4:33:47 Le Noel
A Le Noel yes
Q mmmm... what about New Years
A I wonder how you would say that
Q 4:33:55 New Years
A Yes, in Cree
Q in Cree... and Easter... how
Q Easter
A Up-shoow day
Q 4:34:08 Up-sho day
A Vro-di-pak
Q 4:34:10 Easter
A Vro-di-pak (nods yes)
Q 4:34:12 Did any one go to the war
A No, nobody went, my Dad didn't
Q 4:34:35 Now... when did you learn to talk Michef... do you remember
A School
Q Oh... so what did you talk before you went to school... did you just talk Cree
A 4:34:46 Cree... my Dad and them, that's what they used and that's what I learned and used
Q 4:34:56 They just talked Cree
A It was a French mix that they used (hand sign)
Q 4:35:00 (both talking) ... so since you were young that's what you used ("YES"...BKGRND)
Q 4:35:06 So you didn't learn it in school
A Yes in school it was mostly French
Q Yes, but were... (cut off)
A sister... Grey Nuns
Q yes
A It was mostly French school
Q yes
A We were taught in French
Q 4:35:24 Who else in the family talks Michef and in the town
A We pretty well all use it
Q 4:35:33 But I don't think the young people use it
A No not the young like us long ago
Q 4:35:39 I wonder how old they are when they talk the ones that are able to speak that language
A They must be around six or seven when they start (laughs and looks at her funny)

- Q how do you think I am (laughs)
Q Do you think I'm up in age
A No,
A about sixty
Q No not yet
Q 4:36:16 Do you know other families that talk Michef and if you know them... how do they speak
A I don't know (looks confused)
Q 4:36:28 Cree, French, maybe English and a little Cree
A They just use a mix
Q 4:36:40 yes
A Cree and French and everything else... old people, like Gardiner
Q Yes... oh yes he talks like that to
A yes, him to
Q Yes
A Some not really... his mind is not well ... He's older than me, he's about....
Q eighty..... Seven
A Around eighty seven.. about
Q 4:37:11 I think that's what she said yes
Q 4:37:11 Could you tell me, when they talk Michef here or
A some did, used to talk like that but I can't remember, like us, and like Beauvier, they talked French real good
Q 4:37:45 But he's not well.....??
A he's not well...???
Q and what about Gardiner
A 4:38:00 Le moray, I think, but he's like us Morin
Q Ahuh, ... ahuh
A He's like that still, he uses anything like us the language, fork, knife... like that, a mix
Q Ahuh.... Like door
A like door, everything
Q 4:38:25 (laughs) ... was this town ever called anything different, did they ever use a different name?
A No, just Ile a la Crosse
Q 4:38:35 Ile a la Crosse all the time
A Yes
Q Do you know if any of the lakes and rivers ever had Michef names
A 4:38:49 I can't ever remember
Q no?
A That I know
Q Oh le Clair (name of a lake)
A Le Clair, yes..... (very soft)
Q 4:38:08 When you were young and growing up did they ever give you a name
A Me?
Q Yes
A They called me Ma-ra-soo (Maria, the fish)
Q Ma-ra-soo, what's that
A 4:39:25 Maria, you know, the Maria fish (catfish type of fish in lakes)
Q 4:39:25 Yes
A You know why they called me after the Maria fish... I used to be sick up here...(points at the top of his head) like something grew here so my head looked like this (shows a shape with his hand) and so my mom and everybody called me Maria head (Mo-ray Stick-qwan) (he laughs)
Q 4:39:50 who healed you
A over here at the hospital
Q 4:39:56 Oh... are you embarrassed about talking Michef
A No
Q No.... no one ever said anything to you
A No
Q 4:40:12 When you were in school did you get a hard time for the way you talked
Q 4:40:18 ...when you were in school

- A In Cree?
Q Huh
A Mostly it was the Gray nuns, I only used French in school
Q Yes, but sometimes when you were talking and you used Cree did you get a heck
A No
Q No?
A No, never
Q 4:40:34 ... and your father and them, did they talk Michef... that you know of?
A Only French
Q Just French... what about your mother
A 4:40:45 ..she talked Cree just like us (Q is talking in the Background, can't understand)
A French mix
Q What about the sisters
A Sisters no, they only talked French
Q 4:40:57 Oh
Q 4:40:57 Do you know any other languages besides Cree, like Sauteaux, Chipewyan..
A No
Q Only Cree... and French
A 4:41:18 That's all from where I lived
Q Yes...
A For a little while I traveled around, for about two years, I learned a few words like eating and that
Q Let's hear you say some
A 4:41:39 Chipewyan?
Q How
A I forgot... I forgot everything... I forgot
Q 4:41:45 Uhuh... Now, as we talk, Did they always call it Cree that they were talking or did they call it something different for a name
A I don't know
Q 4:42:00 They just called it Cree
A Yes
Q We're just talking Cree they thought
A Yes... yes, mixed French
Q Ahuh There is still a lot of them using a French mix
Q 4:42:15 So, do you think of yourself a Michef
A Yes
Q yes... yes (laughs)
Q 4:42:23 Did you ever .. ahhh... I'm getting really tired... I'm going to ask you this in English.... Did any of the people in the community tell you where the language came from
A 4:42:49 Do I know where?
Q Yes, did any body ever tell you where Michef came from
A 4:42:57 I don't really know what to say, all of us people, Lerivierre, Gardiner they were from red River, wasn't that where they came from? ... It's from there... (Q cuts in)
Q 4:43:20 Dione..... (2 voices)
A ... that's where Michef language came from
Q ahuh... ahuh...
A 4:43:27 French we use and Cree mix
Q ahuh ... They married a native woman did they?
A Some, yes
Q 4:43:38 Now, on Sundays and holidays what did you all do to celebrate
A 4:43:53 We just prayed
Q you prayed only?
A yes
Q 4:43:58 You never got together for any....
A New Years
Q New Years, ohh
Q 4:44:07 Did you go around visiting
A Yes, lot's of that yes... I used to live all over
Q Oh, where all did you live

- A 4:44:21 My dad was really strict and my mother didn't like it, so I lived in a cabin over here...
Dione, my uncle my aunt, that's my mom's sister her,
- Q 4:45:07 ... can't make it out two voices) ... from there, on this side Prospare Roy, I stayed at
Prospare Roy's, and I stayed at Sandy Point and at Beaver River with Lerivierre and with Kirby, he was
married to a white woman
- Q 4:45:33 You lived all over... (two voices)...
- A ...and in Beaval with Philip Roy
- Q Yes, you stayed there
- A 4:45:44 I lived all over
- Q 4:45:49 yes... they talked a lot about how miserable he was
- Q Your grandfather
- A grandfather, yes
- Q 4:45:59 He was miserable
- A I remember he used to work at the store they used to say a store where the rehab center is
- Q Ahuh
- A I'd see my grandfather when I was a young boy... he wasn't very big
- Q 4:6:14 No
- A He wore a hat and always dressed up with a tie
- Q Oh
- A He wasn't very big, Robbie
- Q Oh, I wonder where he was from
- A Must be from over there, they said he came from Red River
- Q 4:46:31 A Frenchman
- A and from there ... yes, he was French.... They talked real good French
- Q oh
- A and they talked English
- Q Mmmhmmmm
- Q 4:46:43 ...and ... do you know any young people that want to talk Michef now
- Q You don't know anyone that wants to talk
- A (nods) NO ...some try, you know... they learn at school
- Q ahuh...ahuh
- A They learned to talk Cree real good
- Q Ahuh... ahuh..
- Q 4:47:17 But it we're starting to use the Cree now, we're not using French any more
- A Yes
- Q 4:47:24 do you hear? ... it seems we're trying to learn to talk Cree better and we're not using
French
- A 4:47:33 I use some French
- Q Yes, but not the young (2voices)
... they seem to be talking a lot more and ...
- A younger generation is different
- Q yes... it seems they only talk Cree
- A Yes
- Q 4:47:51 Now, did you hear, that our language is going to be lost
- A That's what I hear, yes.... Just like we're forgetting it
- Q 4:48:06 Yes, there are no others that talk it
- A Yes
- Q 4:48:12 That's true... now, I want to ask you... in Cree... you say the same thing to me as I talk
Cree in Michef... you use that language... like I'm going to ask you where your from
- A Ile a la Crosse (ENG)
- Q 4:48:42 No, you say the same thing too, where are you from
- A Oh
- Q Like that
- A 4:48:50 oh... where are you from
- Q 4:48:51 yes, that's what I asked you, that's what... I said to you
- A yes
- Q Where are you from

A Where are you from
Q 4:48:59 Where are you from... okay
Q another one now... who were your parents
A 4:49:08 my parents are Climar Roy and Margaret...
Q 4:49:12 No, your supposed to say.. who is your ...
A Oh... who are your parents
Q yes, that's what you say, but you say it in Michef
Q Who are your parents (Fr. & Cree)
A My parents are Climar Roy and my mother Margaret Roy (Fr & Eng)
Q okay, all right... how would you say this in Michef... How old are you
A 4:49:40 ...(pauses) ...I'm to talk French?
Q yes, Or else...
A What age are you
Q Oh... well, there you go... see now... are there fish in that lake
A That's what I'm to say?
Q Yes that's what you are to say
A Is there fish
Q that's what you are to say...
A fish)
Q yes, fish are there
A lake
Q 4:50:09 Yes... that's the way, that's the way
A okay
Q 4:50:13 I'll help you...
A fish... fish in that lake
Q are there
A yes
Q ahuhmmmm
Q 4:50:20 I would like to eat some of that fish
Q I ...want ...to
A 4:50:27 I want to eat some fish
Q yes
A From that lake
Q 4:50:35 I would like some apples
A I would like some apples
Q 4:50:44 My grandmother made bannock for the whole family
A How am I supposed to say that... (forgets)
Q Grandmother...
A my grandmother.... Yes...
Q grandmother made...
A bannock
Q yes, for all of you
A yes
Q yes, but I wanted you to say it in Michef
A How was that now... (thinks)... (trys a few words to himself quietly) ...baking... how was that
... I just can't remember
Q 4:51:25 Oh well, that's all right, that's all right
Q 4:51:30 How... baking ... (her pronunciation is off)
A 4:57:39 What if I say it in French
Q Yes
A Grandmother cooked bannock for us on the frying pan
Q 4:51:55 Well, thank you, you were going to go and pray now...
A at _?_ o'clock
Q yes

END OF INTERVIEW

4:52:01 PAN Living Room front window then back to Miles reading the Bible sitting in a chair

CU of Miles 4:52:32
CU BIBLE 4:52:45 turning a page
PAN back to head
CU back to Bible
PAN Kitchen Refrigerator (voices in Background)
PAN to table and cupboards
CU Outside of sign over the door "The Roys', Amable & Mary"
STILL SHOT of the house outside

4:54:11 END of TAPE #4