

**Tape 1, Camera 2  
Lebret Michif Conference**

**Edwin St. Pierre**

**How many people are here today that speak Michif? How many of us?**

There's only one half dozen.

11:36 **Come and sit here.**

**Tape 2, Camera 2  
Lebret Michif Conference**

**1943. Where?**

**Are you shy?**

No.

**No. You. Ask yourself.**

**Where were you born Mervin?**

1944, I was born. They call it Saltcoats, Saskatchewan and when I was little, I didn't know how to speak in Michif. Now I do. Mom use to say "You should speak in Michif." When we were going to school, our teacher was a white man and when we spoke in Michif, we got in trouble. We were told to shut up and go sit in the corner. So we were afraid to speak our language. I was sixteen years old when I quit. I ran away. I use to go working for farmers. Trying to make a living, my brother and I. That's where we were able to speak a bit. When I came home, that's when I started to speak a little of our tongue. Now, today, I would like to do something for the children, here. Maybe have a school. We have to do something. They have lost their tongue. We can't let them lose it. That our heritage. I sure like it when I hear them speak, but when they start school is when they lose it. Today they can not speak it. That'll be enough for me. I guess I am done.

**Ed?**

Yorkton. A place called Crescent Lake is where I was born. They had a little log house I was born in it. There was eight of us kids. We only spoke in Michif. We lived in a road allowance. The white (too much coughing). We use to live all over digging roots wherever we camped. Long time ago that was the way we made our living. I speak very ugly Michif. I don't even know how to say this.

I was born in Balcarres. I had three brothers and just one sister. My Mom is still alive. Lost two brothers. Only one is living, and I don't know what. Lebret is where I am living. One is working in Regina and one is in Calgary and another one at home. The just speak in English. I only have one sister. She lives in Fort Qu'Appelle with Mom. I stayed with my Grandma.

Alex Perrault is my Dad. My Mom is Margaret Flamond. I started losing my Michif language. But today, I would like to teach little children to speak it. I don't want to lose it. That's right.

My wife understands it too, but she would like to speak it or she can't. I don't know. When I'd come home from work.

I have seven sisters and one brother. My brother lives in Regina. Three of my sisters live in Regina. One, two live in Alberta. I lost one of my sisters. I lost my Dad. I lost my Mom. I am gonna try, "That's enough." Speak in French.

**Edwin St. Pierre.** (Can't hear. Too noisy. Too much buzzing noise. Audio is not clear)

**Tape 3, Camera 2**  
**Lebret Michif Conference**

Yeh. Me too. Everyday my Mom and Dad spoke in Michif. No. My grandfathers. I never met them. Only one Grandma I knew and it was my deceased father's mother. Grandma Rose was her name. Klyne my Grandma. Yeh.

Werewolf.

You tell that kid not to play with that thing. Well what's that? That. Here this thing.

**Tape 4, Camera 2**  
**Lebret Michif Conference**

DANCING.

**Tape 2 Camera 1**  
**Lebret Michif Conference**

HAVING DINNER AND DANCING

**Tape 1, Camera 1**  
**Lebret Michif Conference**

Starting in Michif.

I don't read in white man writing. He said, you can sit here. Who are you? What's your name? Where do you live? Who's your Dad? Who's your Mom? Where are they from? In 1944 I was born in Saltcoats, Saskatchewan, it's called. **(Same as Tape 2, Camera 2).**