

Hap Boyer, Rose Richardson, Sherry Farrell-Racette

Video 1

Start: 10.47.25.04 Sherry Farrell-Racette - What language did you speak when you were growing up?

32.1 - Rose Richardson - Actually I, I spoke a mixture of French, Cree, and English, so it was like Michif.

Sherry Farrell-Racette - When did you start speaking, well when did you start going to school? Did you, were you able to go to school?

Rose Richardson - Well I knew how to speak English when I started school. But it was like, like when you grew up it was a mixture, my Grandparents talked a lot of French. And because there was a lot of discrimination they taught me how to talk French. And when I got to Green Lake I mixed lot of my French and what I figured was Cree was actually French. Like when the teacher asked me, "Do you know how to talk French, Cree?" I said, "Yes," and she said, "Say table" and I said, "La table." Here it was all French and all the, all the other students would just laugh you know, when I was talking Cree and it was so mixed up with French. It was like they didn't think I could talk Cree but what happened was all my verbs were in Cree like **(Speaks Cree)** and that so, that's the way I grew up with quite a mixture.

33.6 - Sherry Farrell-Racette - What language did they speak in the home when you were growing up?

33.7 - Hap Boyer - They spoke French, Michif French, but when the, our Indian friends would come around Grandma would speak Cree to them. And she's always speak Cree, they spoke Cree quite a bit there. And I learned from my Grandma and listening around there and she was, this one Saulteaux old lady...**(Inaudible)**... like she was saying white wash in the

house. She'd white wash and she was a Saulteaux lady and she'd sit down there and Grandma would give her food and tobacco and she'd eat and then she'd take her pail and Grandma would fix it for her, she'd go out and white wash. And I could hear her coming in, she's telling Grandma **(Speaks Saulteaux)**, in Saulteaux. I said to Grandma, what is **(speaks Saulteaux)**, she said, "That's empty." Nothing left in the pail eh?

Sherry Farrell-Racette - She could get along in Saulteaux too?

Hap Boyer - Yeah she'd, then we'd have a lot of visitors come in there. Grandpa was in the First World War and he had a steel helmet hanging on the, over the door. And this old Métis guy come and he look. He said, "Your husband was in the war?" You know, in Michif my mother said, my grandmother said, "Yeah, he was in the First World War. He was in the frontlines." Which he was eh? He didn't want to be outdone, he said, "I was in the war too, I was right behind." Grandma says, "That's no good being right behind, you gotta be in the front."

End 10:50.57.01