

**George Klyne, Bob Desjarlais, Sherry Farrell-Racette**

**Video 1**

**Start: 10:14.01.14 (Video Time: 10:14.01.14) BOB DESJARLAIS -**

Yeah anyways, kinda going back to Sherry's first question she asked me who my Dad and mother were and I failed to tell you guys. My Dad was William Desjarlais and my mother was Florence Racette. And my Dad and mother married in 1929 and I was born in 1934 and I had two brothers older than me. Anyway, and then now I can go back to, to my digging Seneca roots, but it was, it was really a, a kind of way of life, years ago for the Métis people to go out digging Seneca root. That was a good way of making money. And it was good money, like, at that time, and even at that time they, they, they got good money for that dry Seneca root eh? And so a lot of them went out digging Seneca root and what we used to do in our family, I don't know about George's, but my family, my Dad, my Dad when they came out of the Red River settlement they, they settled just two miles south of Ituna in a Métis settlement there called Ste. Delphine and this is where they settled. A whole bunch of those Métis people. They had a church there they had a school there and that's where my Dad went to school. Anyway, but from there my Dad came south and got married in, in the valley there in '29 and what we used to do is, we used to get in the wagon, Grandma and mother, and my two brothers and Dad. We'd go up north and Dad used to go and work for the farmers all day, and we'd go digging Seneca roots.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE -** Oh so while he was working for the farmer, the rest of you were sorta ...

**BOB DESJARLAIS -** Ya the rest of us are all digging Seneca root.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE -** So the kids and the women?

**(Video Time: 10:16.26.24) BOB DESJARLAIS** - Ya, ya. Mom and Grandma, well we'd go and dig Seneca root all morning and then we'd take a lunch along with us and, and we'd have a lunch along a slough or someplace. And then, then at night, well Dad would come back to camp there and come stay with us overnight, and then next morning he'd go back and work for the farmer eh. And then when, when we finish digging in a certain area, there, when we got to the point where we had to walk a little too far, well Dad in the evening when he'd come back, we'd have supper, and then after supper well we'd, get the horses and hook them up on the wagon and move camp couple or three miles up there and went to set up camp there again and we got fresh digging. But my Dad made, made all these Seneca root diggers the way they used to do it is they used to take the, the spring on the old buggies years ago, they used to have springs on the old buggies. So they, Dad took those apart, and then he'd cut 'em and he put a, an ash picket on, on that, that piece of spring.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Oh, so it'd be metal, on the metal.

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - Ya, ya, so it was metal that we used, and, and my Dad, he was very, very, strict about us when you, when you'd push your, your Seneca root digger into the ground beside the, the plant you pull on your Seneca root digger and then you pull on the plant, and, and you keep moving your Seneca root digger...**(Inaudible)**...

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - So you're just loosening it and then, so you don't touch the root.

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - It loosens it up and then you pull out the plant, you'd pull out the plant...

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - Ya, you don't break it.

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - ...and then you pull your digger out and, and lotta times you, you hardly leave any marks where you were eh? And, and that's the way my Dad taught us.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - So you don't go make a big mess.

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - Ya, ya. So you don't go dig up somebody's pasture and a lot of times we, we, we used to go and dig and they'd catch 'em.

**GEORGE KLYNE** - What did you call that, that digger?

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - The digger? Well the **(Michif Word)** we used to call it a **(Michif Word)** digger but it was, ya.

**GEORGE KLYNE** - Ya.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - How would say that?

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - That's a wild turnip a **(Michif Word)** it's a...

**GEORGE KLYNE** - A **(Michif Word)** digger.

**(Video Time: 10:19.02.14) BOB DESJARLAIS** - It's a, it's a wild turnip actually, they grow in the valley there all over. Last year here we went down there and I went and dug a whole bunch of them for the grandchildren. And they couldn't get over that. And...

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - You can eat those right? They're good aren't they? Yeah, supposed to be good.

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - Oh ya.

**GEORGE KLYNE** - You just peel it.

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - Ya, there's a, there's skin on there, you peel it, and you can boil it and you can fry them too, they're good.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - They're good?

**BOB DESJARLAIS** - Ya. They're, they're, they're, they taste like a, a wild turnip, that's you know. They're actually kind of like a, they belong to the turnip family. But we used to eat lot of those at one time too.

**End: 10:19.45**