

Jeanne Pelletier, Clementine Longworth, Maria Campbell
Video 1

Start 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 hides, like, you know, but all the drying, the scratch, all there. We were so busy help them they don't tell us what to do, and we try out help, help, to help her. 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 or 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. They were good **(inaudible)**. One of my sister, that's what who used to be the nurse, took the when the baby there wanted to come and get her, 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 though, you know.

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. I guess 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, you never have to.

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 make gloves or mittens. We used to make lots of that stuff. Yeah, you had to learn the hard way, everything, no matter what you to 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 was, 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 on 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'd 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: You get sent **(inaudible)**. You want to stay out all night, you go to church. You had to go to church.

Jeanne Pelletier: Come home from a dance late, we had to be ready in the morning 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: Hmm, oh, it must have started changing in the fifties.

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

Jeanne Pelletier: Hmm.

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 ...

End 5:40.57