

Harry Morin

Wayne Morin: Oh, when you speak Cree, this language we speak, is that, is that all you spoke?

Harry Morin: Cree.

Wayne Morin: Cree or French?

Harry Morin: Me, well, I used to speak French little bit, but I never use it now. I can understand, but pretty hard to speak eh. That's a hard language.

Wayne Morin: But this language we speak right, we use some French words?

Harry Morin: Yeah, we use half. See like, Ile-a-la-Crosse here, half French, half Cree. See la table, that's not Cree, that's French, chair, French for chair. Everything – la porte – door. Same as the dishes, knife, cup...

Wayne Morin: So where did, did your dad speak that too?

Harry Morin: Yeah, the same. That's the way they speak eh. Same as, not like Canoe Narrows, they speak straight Cree eh, they don't...

Wayne Morin: Straight Cree, yeah?

Harry Morin: Yeah, in here, Ile-a-la-Crosse, we don't, we don't that, we half French, that's really, we had a bunch of sisters, we had a bunch of sisters up to twenty, half of them were school teachers eh.

Wayne Morin: There were those Grey Nuns, mission sisters, and they all spoke French?

Harry Morin: Yeah, mostly French. They teach French half a day and half a day of English. Sister Therese, you remember her?

Wayne Morin: Yeah, Arcand, Sister Arcand?

Harry Morin: Yeah, Arcand. You see his picture in the books. I look at it this morning. It says that that's what, it's written there, he says half French in the morning, English after dinner. When it's time, when it was time to play it says no time, gotta work. It can't, it can't be very bad because she was raised in Ile-a-la-Crosse, she become to be a sister. She died a few years ago.

Wayne Morin: Did they ever tell ah, like, stories in...Do you remember your dad or your mom telling like...?

Harry Morin: I remember my dad, especially my dad, lived till '54 eh. I had kids already, but my mom, I was young but I remember my mom real good eh.

Wayne Morin: Cause she raised you? Did they ever tell you stories like about a, they call them like folklore, like there was Wesackedjack?

Harry Morin: No.

Wayne Morin: You never heard any stories like that in your life?

Harry Morin: I used to heard, but I don't...There was an old lady. She did. I was just a kid, I don't remember too...It was hard. She used so many big words in Cree you know. You don't understand half of it eh.

Wayne Morin: A lot of nicknames too when you guys were growing up?

Harry Morin: Yeah, lots of nicknames.

Wayne Morin: Why was that?

Harry Morin: I don't know, I don't know.

Wayne Morin: Did you have a nickname when you were growing up?

Harry Morin: No, no, I only got one name: Harry. No middle name at all.

Wayne Morin: Oh. Your dad, did he have a nickname?

Harry Morin: Felix Paul, Felix Paul was my dad's name, Morin.

Wayne Morin: That's his middle name?

Brenda Macdougall: Were there people around here who knew medicines?

Harry Morin: What?

Brenda Macdougall: Were there people around here who knew medicines?
Plants?

Wayne Morin: Was there any medicine men?

Harry Morin: Oh yeah. Used to use it quite a bit. On our young days there was nothing else, no doctors. It was good, but I move to Canoe in 1946. I remember that too. I had trouble with my throat all the time, swelling up eh. And just when the lake was getting freeze, had to come by water to seen the doctor. I couldn't go no place. There was an old man there. My old lady said, I'll go and get that old man, see what he can do. Good medicine man, and he said, I'll just put something in here, hot stuff, so you can sleep good, he says, but I'll fix you up early tomorrow morning. You won't believe what he did, but it's true. He cut it in here a little bit, he put the blood out, he had a little horn, like about this big. He put in hot water and every time he put it there and he suck that milk and he dump in a dish like. Was quite a bit of blood, just black, and after he finish that I fell asleep. He lay me right on the floor, inside a house too, and he gave me some medicine to boil it and drink it for nine pails. Five gallon lard pails used to be, and he said, if you follow this, what I'm gonna tell you, he says, you'll be an old man before you get that sickness back again. Used to bother me all the time, soon as I get cold or get wet a little bit, I get a throat trouble, you know. You won't believe it, I never had any trouble yet, since that time.

Don't matter if I get wet or lots of time I used to hunt eh, get wet eh, or skin a moose in the water, but he must be right eh, cause I had to drink all. He said, don't drink, don't drink anything, no tea, no salt, he said, no sugar. When you eat your food, don't use salt till you drink all this medicine, and don't drink that steady, he said. Boy, I don't know what kinda medicine that was, and after I boil one, he tied, he tied and made about this big, eh, these roots, and he put it. You boil it three times, and three, six, nine pails of out and when three times, the last time when you boil it, leave it there till you drink all from that pail and don't throw it in the ground; put it in the stove, let it burn it, burn it down, and I did that and he said you won'ts...

Wayne Morin: Since then you never had a...?

Harry Morin: You won't be sorry, never had throat trouble, my tonsils are still in there. This is true story.

Wayne Morin: What was his name, that medicine man?

Harry Morin: I don't know, an old man, I don't even know. I used to know his name but I forget about it. That's quite a few years ago eh, 1946, that, yeah, that's ah...