

Tape #6
Crescent Lake Video Shoot
Gilbert and Maria Campbell cont'd

Over there was the barn. We made the barn over there and this here was where the woodpile was. That's where we used to saw our firewood and over there, one of my cousins lived there. My old lady's sister's husband made that house.

What was their name?

Lafontaine. Steve Lafontaine was his name. That's the one that built there. It was him that made that house and after, he built another house over there. He went away for a while working. When he came back, someone else was living there. That's why he built this other house out over there. We'll walk there now and see where they all used to live. Where they used to make the gardens. Should we go see?

Yes.

These maple trees were planted here a long time ago. We used to park our wagon here. We unhitched and left all the harnesses here too. They were not in the barn. We kept them all outside. We sure didn't take good care of them. There used to be a lot of Saskatoon berries here and chokecherries; they were plentiful. My Mom always used to cook plenty of saskatoon and choke cherries.

This is where Steve Lafontaine built his house. They were one of the first to build here and when he went away, someone else moved in, but he came back. This is the old road we're walking on. By wagon. This is our road. Now, it's all overgrown. Here, this is where he built, Steve Lafontaine, after someone else lived there. He was out working two years; I think he left it. When he came home, someone else was there. So he had to build another house. This is a garden. This is a garden here. Over there, they used to keep chickens. Kept their chickens.

Old Louis Pelletier came to live here after Steve was here?

Yes. They're the ones that had the chickens. Steve didn't have any chickens, but old Louis had chickens there. This here is where my aunt made her garden. Here? Yeah. That was my aunt that lived here. See, all here. That was a garden. We should still find some rhubarb here. That old lady use to seed all kinds of things. See, here is some rhubarb. You see all the rhubarb here that she planted? There used to be a lot of rhubarb here. Eh ha. It tastes nice and sweet this rhubarb. Eh ha. Here is where Ernest Henry lived. Just him and his old lady. They didn't have any children. That's where they lived, them. Fred Flammond built here. Them they had children so that's where Fred Flammond lived. He had to brush cut before he

could build there. This here is the old road. Not many cars drove here. Old Da Dum built here. Da Dum is what they called him. Pat Langan was his real name, but they called him Da Dum, with his old lady. They had kids when they lived here. Two boys, but the girls were already big. This is where Da Dum built. This is where the house was. You could still see parts of cement. Here's where the house was. See here, the cellar. They shoved everything into the cellar. You could still see a bit of cement here. Still you could see cement. The cellar was here, then they filled it with the cement. Over there you could still see rhubarb where the garden was. There too was a well. That's the only well we had here. We all hauled our water from there.

All of you?

Yeah, everyone, all and just by the pail. They'd be walking, hauling water. The only water well we had. If ever I won a lot of money, I'd come and buy this place so that they can come back home. Those ones that want to move back here, I would let them build here again and for nothing, too. They wouldn't have to give me anything. I give them for free. I would also buy that school. If I had money, if I could buy it, just for a keepsake. A lot of them still want to come back. If I had money, that's how I would use it. I certainly wouldn't keep it for myself. Some got their houses used over here. My godfather was one. We used four teams of horses. One I tended to. I ran one team of horses to help my godfather. Its not that we were paid either. We helped him for free. We hauled all his house over here and this is where he built, my deceased godfather. It's been a long time since he died and some got their logs all over that way. Yeah. Eh he, just with the axe, nothing else. Yeh. Eh he, just with the ax, nothing else. Yeh. Eh he, just with the axe, nothing else. Even when they were building and have to make grooves on the logs. Just an axe, they used, but they used to help each other. It's not that they did it themselves, alone. When someone built, everybody helped. They used to help out each other. Not like today. You have to pay whoever helps you out, but at that time, no one ever paid. There used to be a lot of peanuts. All over there was lots of peanuts. This is where I met my old lady. Ha ha. Us too, we did a lot of sneaking around here. Hiding, so no one will see us. Eh ha. We used to have a lot of dances out here in that house. Oh yeah. We used to have wedding dances there. A lot of saskatoon berries. All around here and chokecherries too. You can see that. Sure was lots around here, but not much rabbits. They ate them all up. No. I don't see any here. Long ago there might have been. In 1984, we were all back here. Here is where we put the boards so we can dance. There was a lot of us. All camped over there in tents. In trucks. All over there. There was a lot of us, too. That was in 1984. That was the only time we all seen each other. After that, we've never been all together. Just some. Yeah. That was Steve's place. Over there was our garden. They came and rototilled for every family here, so we could all have gardens. Here is where he built, Steve Lafontaine. Right here was his house. He had a large cellar, then they pushed everything in there. You could still see

cement after they moved. They built over here. Surelou is what they called him. His real name was Stanley Brazo, but they called him Surelou. There is where he built his house. He lived here for quite a long time, him too, Surelou. Watch you don't fall. You could still see cement here a little. How are used? You then, where are you going? I think he's hungry, that horse. Eat, horse, eat. He's hungry. Maria wants to ride a horse to race with (joke). Well I guess we'll go back. I'll see you later.

Mrs. Pelletier

Oh no. I don't know. I don't know. There's so many of them. I don't know, or Gilbert. I don't know if they know how many.

What's your name?

Zabel. Zabel is my name.

And your Mom and Dad's name?

My Mom was Rosine and my deceased Dad was Louis.

Their last name?

My Dad was a Flammond and my Mom was a little Henry. Eh ha.

A little Henry?

A little Henry was who my Dad married. Him. He's a Flamed.

Where are they from? From here too?

No. They too are from the valley. I am not sure, but I think they are both from there. As far back as I can remember, they were all living, my Mom, my aunt, my Dad, here in Crescent Lake.

How many siblings do you have?

There is only three of us. We only have one brother and that's him. Fred and my sister live over there, they call Berstock. This little town, that's where they lived. That's the baby. Me. I am the oldest. Me, then my brother, then my sister. That one's the youngest.

You too, you're from Crescent Lake?

Eh he, Crescent Lake. I remember we first lived in Crooked Lake, then we moved to Crescent Lake and that's where we stayed. We used to move all over the place. As to wherever my Dad was working, that's where we moved to. Eh ha and when we were young, he used to leave us all over the place

and he had to pay for our care. If he didn't, he'd have to take us to a different place. Eh ha my Dad sure had a lot of trouble. Finally, he married my aunt. After that, we were fine. My Dad married a good woman. She too, had some kids and three of us. She looked after us good.

Where was she from?

Ah she was from the States. I think that's where my deceased aunt came from.

What was her name?

Sarah was her name. Sarah Decouteau, that was her name, but she had married a Lafontaine. He got killed here in Yorkton on the railroad tracks. She was alone for a long time and my Dad too was a widower. After they met, they got married. My deceased auth had a lot of kids. We all used to call her Mom. Eh she sure was a goodhearted person. She sure took good care of us.

Did you ever go to school?

We went. You seen the old school house. Well that's where we went to school. We first started at that old, old house. That is where we went. When we were finished school in that old house, that's when they built this school. That's where we got our present education. (joke) We didn't go very long. We used to go just in the winter to school. The rest of the year was working, like digging roots. We never went to school in the summer. I only went to grade five. He said grade two, him.

How did you make a living?

We were poor, but we made out okay. My Dad worked a lot and so did my deceased aunt too. My brother started to help thrashing at a young age. He wasn't very old when he started to help thrashing. Long ago, kids used to work at lot, eh? Not like today. They don't work. They don't know what work is, eh? They don't work. They just want an easy life. What kind of work did they do? Ah, they use to brush cut and go digging. It used to be hard work. Sometimes it was hard times. Us too, we used to work there. Us too we worked. My deceased aunt's kids, she gave them up to the school. That's where they grew up, at the school, but when they finished, they would come home a lot. But they've just about all passed on. I think there's only two alive here. He's called Butcher. John Lafontaine is his name. That's one of my step-brothers. And Norman, I don't know where Norman is. And that's two of Mom's kids left and she had a lot of kids and us, well there was only three of us, but all three are still living.

When did you get married?

In thirty-eight, I think. Yeah in thirty-eight.

What was your husband's name?

Joe Pelletier. Joseph Pelletier was his name. That's his Dad here. Mervin here.

Where did you meet him?

Here in Crescent Lake. They had a house here too. They came from Manitoba. Elphinstone, somewhere around there. That's where they're from.

Were you allowed to go out with him?

No. My Dad was pretty strict. He wouldn't allow that. He wouldn't let us go. They were strict. They were trying to hang on to us for always. We certainly didn't have much fun growing up. Marie was her name. One of my aunt's daughters and kids too. We were forever babysitting or going digging roots taking the kids with us.

Did you ever go dancing?

What?

Did you ever go dancing?

Yeah. Sometime. Yeah. We were taken to dances. Not very often. Just sometimes they'd take us.

You didn't go alone?

Oh no, not by ourselves, no. They both had to be there, watching us, even to see who we danced with. They sure watched over us closely.

When you got married, did you have a big wedding?

Oh no. Eh. No, we didn't have no wedding at all. They just took us to the church to marry us. That was it.

How many kids did you have and were they born at home?

Most of them were born at home. The one that lives across there, you must have seen him. Anyway, he was the last I had at home. The rest were born in the hospital.

Which hospital?

Here in Yorkton. My baby and Bertha and Velma. That one you didn't see, Velma.

Richard first?

No, Richard was born at home.

And the other?

Gary and Velma and Sylvia. That's the ones that were born in the hospital. I only had three in the hospital.

So she was last to be born?

Yeah. I also had twins. One lives here in town and the other one got into an accident and two of my daughters got killed. My, my that was hard. It sure was hard.

Who was your midwife when you had your children at home?

My deceased Grandma, my deceased Grandma, that was her job. My Dad's mom. Yes. She delivered a lot. Yes. A lot of kids and she used to doctor the kids whenever they were sick. Yeah. My Grandma used to help out a lot. That's my godmother. You know what godmother means, eh? That's her, my deceased Grandma.

What was her name?

Sholee, she was called. My deceased Grandpa was Maxime. He is a Flammond and my deceased Grandma was a little Pelletier. Yes. Yes. They lived for a very long time. They had a long life and were old when they died.

Did you ever go picking berries?

Oh yes, we sure did a lot of berry picking. We sure did. My deceased aunt used to gather everything. She'd dry them. She'd crush chokecherries and dry them and same as saskatoon berries. She'd dry them. She used to store them in sacks. She saved everything up for the winter. She would prepare ahead of time. She sewed, but not all that much. She would sew for us kids if need be. We didn't have very much clothing. Not like today. When we were going to school (was not much) she used to make us moccasins to wear to school. Yeah. We used to have to walk a long way to school for it must have been about three miles to school. Sometimes when the weather was bad, my Dad would drive us. In good weather, we walked. Yeah. We sure had it hard. Not like today. You don't have to work. Who are these? Who is that woman?

Adele, your cousin from the States. Remember she's from the states?

That's a pretty old car, eh? Yeah. That's a picture of long ago. That's a model A for model T. Yes. Long ago, these ones.

Then who are these?

I don't know who they are. I don't know. Me too, I don't know who they are. Someone must have given me cause of the kids, but I don't know them. I forget lots. This here is Vina. Oh yeah Vina. And this one's Paul. You know Paul? Chi boy, that's him, Paul. Oh ah ha. Oh yeah that was long ago and those are...is that my uncle?

Yeah, with James.

This is one of my brothers and my uncle. Eh ha with James.

This one then?

That's Harley's girlfriend. He had a little boy with her. Oh. I don't know her name, but they had a little boy. That, the boy they called Raymond. Yeah, that's the one. Yeah. You know Dolly? You know Chew Chew's sister? Eh Ha. Yes. That's the one. No. No. That David. David Peepeech. Roy's brother. Yeah. That's David and Dolly. These ones I don't remember.

Whose kids are they?

They are my grandchildren, but I forget where Rosie is. That's where it was taken. That's Mary and Rosie. Their communion. Their confirmation. That's when they made that... Oh. Mary and Rosie are there. No. No. A lot of them we don't know. That one again is Vina. Vina and Edwin. They were babies.

Where was this taken?

Where were we living? Crescent Lake. I don't know. I wonder whose house this is? That's the big girl and this one is Adeline and this one is Margaret. Alex Perreault's wife and their little girl. This one here is Adeline. That's Adeline's mom. That's about fifty years ago. Oh for sure. Look how old Adeline is. Oh yeah. This picture they want to fix. They said they can do a make over of it. Here's James. Oh that's my brother. My godson was here. Oh. This one. This one. This one. Ooh and this one is James.

You still in wagons.

Yeah. An express I think this one. These here are just fiddlers. Yeah. Long ago. Eh. Here is a tent.

Isn't that the kind we used to have?

Yeah. We used to live in this. Yeah.

You know where George's house used to be.

George?

George Henry.

Oh yeah. That's where this tent was pitched. Before the house was there. That was a long time ago. I guess so. That was before I was born, eh. And here they bought a cake over. That was my birthday. Oh I wonder who this is. Eh he. I wonder who that could be? We were born already? Oh yeah. Maybe that's one of us? Yeah. Looks like Neal. Look. No Mom, Neal wasn't born yet. No, who's that here, then? You don't know who that is? No. That's my little brother, Gary. Eh ha. That's what I thought. That's not that long ago. That's the kind we always had. That kind of tents.

Is this your Dad?

Yeah, he and one of his grandchildren. All his grandchildren. That's not all. Sure it's all of them. There was much more of us. Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Not all of you, but as many as there were at home when that picture was taken. This one is Vitaline and you? Yeah she... And this one, I don't recognize. I think that's Roy Brazo. No. Then I don't know. I don't remember this. Well they're cooking outside. I don't know who. Me too, I don't recognize him. No, that's not Roy. Well I don't know. It's been so long, eh? What was that? That scared you? My Dad used to tell us. I don't know what. So they never found out what it was. What have you been doing before the scare? We were skinning skunks. They used to kill skunks. There used?? A lot of them around. I wonder who that is standing there. I don't know what was it called? That's my deceased Uncle Lazare's house. Oh oh.

What did you used to call the stuff you used after the mud plastering? They used to go pick it somewhere.

Oh yeah. It was called white dirt. It was white and it was like white paint. Yeah eh ha. After it was used, it would be much brighter, cause we used it inside the house too.

You remember when you would do plastering?

Yeah. It was cold doing this. The mud plaster would tend to freeze. You would have to use hot water to make the mud so it don't freeze. Eh ha. Oh it use to be cold days. As long as we try to finish the outside. Eh ha. When

we were done, we'd move in. We can go inside anytime now and after the kids were asleep, then we'd do our inside plastering.

At night?

Eh ha, at night. That one is my Aunt Lastie and what you call that got killed in that accident? That girl? That's her husband here. The one that got killed in Esterhazy in the cellar? Chedee oh and this one is Lashtee. That's the one that used to hang snares for pheasants. Oh yeah.

Is that her?

That's the one who set snares for pheasants. That's the one. That's my Dad's sister. You probably don't remember, eh? Oh yeah. That's Graboi. That one, eh ha.

Chedee, is that the one that got killed by car?

Yeah, that's her, eh ha. You know those ones, eh? That's you and Mary. I didn't want them to use this because that's me in there taken a long time ago. That's Crescent Lake here. Yeah. That was before you got married? Yeh. Eh he. That there is our house. Yeah. That's the house that was torn down by the priest. He's gonna sneakily take it. Ha ha ha.

These ones then, who are they?

They used to do a lot of running away, but it was not a bear. No. Oh a lot of people were afraid. No one knew what it was. Dad though, was not. When he used to go hunting, he wasn't afraid of anything, unless someone startled him, but he didn't faint and when he felt scared, that meant he was gonna see something. He was never afraid. No. Not like me. They used to scare me with their stories. Me, I was real scaredy cat. I never went anywhere at night. I was always home, me. Not me. I am not a scaredy cat. Just like my Dad, I think. We inherited my Dad's ways. Certainly not my Mom's.

What kind of gardens did you used to make?

Well we used just the shovel. Yeah. Just with the shovel.

Out here in Crescent Lake, your deceased Dad made one behind the house, remember?

He dug out the trees, then he brush cut. That's where he made a garden. He had a good garden, but after he used the horses to rototill and seeded potatoes, but the first time he had to use the shovel and the axe which they had, but he always carried a shovel. Everyone had to have an axe. Yeah that's it. He made a good garden. He planted here. Yeah. It looks good.

The potatoes grow good, eh?

Oh yeah.

Same as your onions?

Oh we've used them a long time; all the radishes are gone. Yeah onions and radish. Also peas and beans. Cucumbers are slow.

Did you see carrots?

Yeah. She also seeded carrots. Oh and the house wasn't complete yet. We stayed at my Dad's. We have already plastered, but no door and no windows yet, but we used to hang a blanket on the door. I don't remember which baby we had then. Maybe Victor. Yeah. I think it was him. We had two children then. I left one at Dad's and this one was on the swing. They said when they went to water the horses at night that they seen some kind of animal just like a big coyote running across the road and it even scared the horses. The horses were real scared. They didn't know what it was. While we were skinning, it came and shook the blanket on the door. What we used for a door and he had his gun, but whatever that was never came around again. No. We never seen anything. No. It was too dark this, but Grandpa Alex used to talk about stuff like that. Remember Grandpa Alex used to live across the lake? There too, is where they seen it. Yeah, but they never knew what it was. Maybe nobody ever know what it was. No one tried to shoot it. Suddenly it was gone and there was none.

#7 Crescent Lake Video Shoot

You see this and this? This is the bat and that over there is going to try and knock your cans down and he can not knock them down from over there. When he throws the ball, you hit the ball back with this bat, you know? Yeah. Okay you try. Another person has to come and stand back here. Right here. They have one over there too. Wait. Wait. First when you hit the ball, you have to run over there and back. Wait. Wait. You be ready now. You hold the bat this way. When he throws the ball. Ha ha. You just about fooled him. Ah how. You have to hit it with your bat. Do not let your bat go. You have to take your bat along. He's trying to fool you now. Just about. Boy. She just about beat you, eh? Just about again. You guys come and stand here. Yeah if you hit it that's enough. Yeah. Only one. No. No. Two cans over there. Yeah. This too we were good at playing Canny Can we called it, but we had to make a ball and go in the bushes to cut for a bat. All over in the bush for a bat. You put three cans here, three cans over there. There has to be four of you to play. When you throw the ball, you have to try and knock the cans down and the other one over there hits your ball back, then they run back and forth. That's how we used to play. We used to play a lot of this. It is called Canny Can.