

## **Tape # 11**

### **Gilbert's Farm Video Shoot**

I think I was about five years old. I remember them plastering, I mean Dad and Mom. You don't use just any old kind of dirt. The dirt is gonna look good. It's got to be yellowish dirt. That's what you use to do your plastering, and old straw. We used to get from along the water's edge. That's what we used, and dirt and water, that's it, that's all we used. And after it was dry, my Dad would go and find, I don't know how he found it. He's the only one that knew where to find it. Ah. White dirt; that's what he'd bring. It looked like flour. He'd mix water with it and it was white. He'd use a brush and brush it on all the walls with the lamp on. It was a little brighter. That was a long time ago. Just my Dad. Mom used to be good at plastering. My Mom was the one who did most of the plastering. My Dad, not so much. Mom did a nice job. Mom used to do it in the fall into the winter. That's why her hands look like that. Cause she had her hands in too much cold. Now she can't use her hands. The weather was cold by then. Sometimes snow on the ground when she starts plastering. By the time she'd get to the outside, it's cold. It's very cold to try and do plastering outside. She must have frozen the hands. That's why, now she can't do much with her hands like that. Sometime, two years before, Dad would get that white dirt. Not right away. We didn't use it all the time. We didn't put it on all the houses. I can remember that we just used to plaster, nothing else. You use trees when you make a log house. Sometimes a little flower will grow out the log. You know it takes a while before the trees are completely dead. They'd be leaves in the house. They were warm, when you plaster a log house good. Those were warmer than these kind. Yeah. Sometimes us kids were in bed and we'd pick the mud off the wall and eat it. My Grandma used to say don't say anything to them. That's good, that. It will do them well. As long as it's not too much, but we used to steal a lot. Sometimes leaving holes on the wall. How much we used to steal mud, which we ate. Grandma used to eat some too. She used to say, it's good for kids, but I don't know, but that's what she used to tell us. When we were in trouble with Dad. Well she told us it was good for us and of course we used to steal a lot. What about dance calling? My godfather was a good caller. When they used to have square dances and jig dances. My Dad was able to dance jig. He used to try and teach us to jig and my godfather was a good caller. So was his sons. One of his sons was a good caller. That's the one that taught me, but as he was getting older, he was lazy. He didn't want to call so he call me and teach me. So no one would ask him to do it. I used to call, and his son. We took turns calling. It was my godfather who taught me. And rock and roll, we didn't know anything about that. Nothing. Only jig and square dances. Just that and rabbit dance. That's the only ones we knew. No. This was before Elvis was ever heard of. But after, us too, we used to try Elvis, but we were not good at it, so we gave up, cause we were not good. We just couldn't dance it. Oh box socials? Use to be at dances. Only the old. No. Us. When we made dances, we used to use the houses. If there was four of us, two boys and two girls. Let's go pick up those ones

there. Let's go dance of there. We go and pick them up and just anybody's house and just anybody's house. We would ask, then we carry out the stove and table and everything and we'd start dancing. But the old, they used to have basket social. They would sell whoever bought this basket; he'd have to eat with the woman who made the basket. The woman who made the box has to eat with whoever bought her basket. That's how it went. If your husband didn't buy it, you don't eat with your husband. You'd have to eat with someone else. You'd have to go sit with him to eat. The old men used to try and buy their old lady's baskets. And us we were too broke to try and buy baskets. We didn't have any money to buy and eat with someone. They used to make quite a bit of money. You know, twenty, twenty-five for a little basket. Sometimes they would bid pretty high when they had money. Course they used to drink and when they were half corked, they didn't care how much money it cost. No. Never. Not that. Just basket socials. No. Never. Not that. Just basket socials they used to make these old people. When they were gonna help someone like whenever someone was gonna build a house and they're alone, that's when they'd make a basket social. Then they'd use that money to buy food to go and feed all the builders. They all helped each other? Yeah. They used to help out one another. Yes. Sure not like today. Long ago all Métis got along good. Not like today. That's because nobody had anything. They had nothing. You know you borrow things. Someone who lives close by. They borrow flour, tea, and sugar. They used to lend to one another. Nobody was stingy with anyone. That's cause nobody had any money. No one was rich. They were all poor. For building everyone helped? Yes. Everybody would come and help. Everyone living around here would come and help to build. People sure used to help each other a lot.