

Letendre's Abenaki heritage

Rita Letendre – Clip 8

It might be, it might be, you know. I don't know for sure because you see my mother was suffering very much from having, had been treated like a maudit sauvage, like it was in those days, you know and me too I was treated like a maudit sauvage, but maybe it made me fight a little bit more, brought out a little bit of aggressivité that was inside of me, brought it to the surface, maybe but there was another thing is... At one moment I was listening very much to radio. That's how I discovered opera, I love opera, you know Saturday at the opera.... at CBC...but there was at one moment, I don't know why, there was an interview from Jean-Paul Nollet, who at that time was the chief of the Odenak, across the river from Saint-François du Lac. My grandmother was living in Saint-François du Lac. My mother did live in Saint-François du Lac I think...I don't know because she never spoke about her childhood....very little but anyway I know that she was from this area and then I heard Jean-Paul Nollet saying that he was telling.....if you have the chance to have some education and knowledge, it should not be a choice, it's an obligation that you have to help your fellow....brothers or sisters, I don't know what the phrase but it was something like that. I heard that on the radio when I was living on Dorchester in a crummy, crummiest place in the world but

there was a radio so I was very impressed by that and I never forgot....

