

**Amie Janvier - Long Time Resident of La Loche
(Interviewed by Therese Janvier)**

I remember when I was a kid the people have lived poorly but people were happy, and everybody have love each other. The people were happy all kinds of ways by their family, by their children. As I said the people were poor. I don't remember seeing flour especially in summer. I don't remember have bannock in summer, only in winter the people use to get flour. Not very much, and once in a while, not often.

But in the summer time, the people make lots of dry fish cause there use to be lots of fish in those days. Like berries too. When the berries are ripe in summer that was a lot of food for people with fish and dry fish, so it was okay. The kids, when we play beside somebody's place like in the evening, one of the adult would come out of the house, and would tell us this--don't you see the sun is asleep, and there you's still playing. Right away all of us kids would say nothing, and just leave for our home. I'm telling the truth, I'm not lying. After that nobody will see one kids on the road, that's the way we live in those days, that was in west La Loche.

That's how come the people were happy in those days, besides people had love each other, there was no liquor either. In the fall the people go down the La Loche river to kill fish for dogs, for winter, when they kill fish, the people would collect sticks and they would throw the stick just about at the tail of the fish and hang them up. They use to put 10 fish to a stick, and after when they finish fishing down there for dogs.

The people would come back to La Loche and then go to Blackpoint to fish again. This time it was for people to live on in winter. In the fall there use to be lots of fish not far from the shore, that was the way people support themselves. Besides all the people did have gardens, in the spring some have horses to plow their gardens, some that don't have horses, they dig their own gardens. That's how people plant their potatoes; I remember my dad use to have lots of potatoes every year, ever since I remember until he die.

Not only my dad but mostly everybody use to grow lots of potatoes, in winter the people use to have lots of stick fish and as I said the people use to grow lots of potatoes. With that sometimes the people get a little of flour too. They didn't have all kind of groceries like nowadays. Still people thought they were living well off, and were very happy.

The people kept on living that way until the people started getting help. I remember of the one old man what he have told me when people started get help. The devil was alone so it was okay, but now the government is started helping him, the people will be worst that's just how it is now he thought.

See how people are nowadays. When the people get money they should think of future and would save their money they would of been alright. Like we use to do in olden days, when we got trapping we use to get our fur from here and there cause there was not much fur, but still when we make a little bit of fur, we use to save our money for future, that's how we have live besides the things in the store were not expensive, as it is nowadays. The fur were not expensive either that time. But the people don't realize of how they suppose to use their money. The people need help to live on but the thing is that they don't know how to use, they just spend foolishly and it's getting worst.