

## *I remember when*

(1)

The whole family used to watch *Bonanza* on the old black and white TV every Sunday night and eat bannock dunked in tea, with sugar and milk, when we moved to Abernathy, Sask. in the early 1960s.

(2)

When I was small, we had cake and cookies at parties. Marshmallows were a real luxury. Weiner roasts were lots of fun. We often had picnics and lit a big fire in the front yard for corn and potato roasts.

(3)

When I was young, Mama made porridge for the whole family in the early morning, because the older men had jobs at the potato farm. We called it the "*spotneck*."

(4)

Jam cans, Rogers syrup and lard pails were used to carry our lunches and to collect berries. The lunch was mostly peanut butter and jam sandwiches. Sometimes, there was a whole orange or apple too.

(5)

Real maple syrup in 1958. Daddy collected from maple trees in the Valley. It took a long time to collect. It was not considered an extravagant ingredient and was not expensive. Today it's quite expensive and a real treat.

(6)

We didn't live in town. We lived in the Valley, but we still had pigs, chickens, turkeys, and four horses. We did our own butchering of deer, elk, moose, beavers, rabbits, ducks and even gophers.

(7)

We didn't have drains in the kitchen, so the slop pail collected all the food scraps and cooking water. We had to be careful when draining the potatoes or they would end up in the slop pail and the pigs would get the slop.

(8)

Before we had a refrigerator, we would put the Jell-o outside in the winter to set. In the summer it would have to sit on the cupboards for at least over night to set on its own.

(9)

Daddy often let the fire go out at night and lit it back up first thing in the morning. You could smell the wood burning and the crackling of the wood. And when it was toasty warm in the winter, in the house, that's when we all got up. He was always the first up and the last to go to bed.

(10)

It wasn't difficult for us to get fresh fish in the valley. We just either caught them by hand or used a pitch fork. Friday was designated as a "fish day" only. We didn't eat meat even if we had it. The fish were caught in the river.

(11)

Pasta was fairly common when I was growing up, but it was just things like macaroni and cheese or spaghetti and meatballs.

(12)

Ann used to iron our clothes and pillow cases with an iron that had to be heated on the woodstove. The iron had five bases, but only one handle that fit into each of them. While one base would be heating, she ironed with the other one. When that one cooled, she put it back on the stove and moved the handle to the hot one.

(13)

Most of Mama's recipes never had any amounts for any of the ingredients—there were always done by taste, feel, and smell-and yet everything always turned out good.

(14)

Mama made tea towels and pillowcases out of flour sacks, and she would embroider birds, flowers and beautiful letters, Dutch people on the pillow cases. Flour sacks were also used to make our aprons and dresses, with little zigzag lace.

(15)

Irene started making bannock when we only had the woodstove. The fire was hot enough to make the bannock if it felt really hot on your arm, but it would singe the hairs on your arm when it was too hot to cook.

(16)

We often skated on the river, but we had to be careful not to fall through the ice. When we got back to the house, we would have hot cocoa and crackers (that is if we were lucky enough to have them).

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I remember when!

And "I'd never change a thing."