

My Days Living in the Valley, Nov. 5, 2013

I am Cecile Flamant (Fayant). We didn't have much. We never went hungry. We lived on rabbits, muskrats, gophers, ducks, partridge, deer, and sometimes porcupine. My dad worked for Jack and Bill Banks, who were farmers. If they didn't have enough money to pay dad, they would give him sheep. Also, in the summertime, my dad and my uncles would use a stone boat and horses. They would dig to build the road using axes, picks, and shovels. They would dig to build the roads on the hills leading to Abernathy and Sintaluta. My mom would pack lunch so my sister, Delphine and me, so we could walk three miles to take the lunch to the men. They had tents on the flats where they stayed while building the roads. They had lanterns for lights. They had wood for fires. In later years, as we were growing up, we started going to work at a very young age. But my dad continued for some farmers, such as Sherecks while stocking for Muffets, Greenfield, Exners, Bob Emmerson, Jack Ruzzel, Alex Bittner, Irvin Bates, Bill Goodwin, Jack Partridge, Henry Blinken, and Alf Goodwin. In the wintertime, he would hunt for weasels, muskrats, coyotes, minks, rabbits, squirrels, and others that I can't remember. Mom would put the pelts inside out to dry them on the stretchers. When he had lots of pelts, like a big suitcase full, mom would bring the pelts to Regina to sell to some fur marketing service on Winnipeg Street.

We had horses, cows, pigs, from the odd farmers, chickens, turkeys. This is what I remember since I was a child until I got a little older. At 13-years-old I was house keeping for farmers.

I am now 80 years old. Sorry I could not attend this meeting due to car troubles.

Cecile Flamant, née Fayant