

A Valentine Story

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Collector: Gertie Fowler

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, today is June 10th 2009 and my name is Gertie Fowler and I'm here in the home of Irene Ryland and Irene is gonna share with me today a story about Valentine's Day when she was growing up. Irene would you like to share your story with me?

Irene Ryland:

Yes, my dear.

Gertie Fowler:

What was Valentine's Day like when you was growing up?

Irene Ryland:

Valentine's Day was a very important day to us.

Gertie Fowler:

Was it?

Irene Ryland:

When we was going to school.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Irene Ryland:

We'd have ah...always be looking forward to it. And we had ah... we'd write our Valentine's in the day, we'd write most generally at them times we had a exercise book, we'd all have a sheet of paper out of the exercise book.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Irene Ryland:

And we'd have a pencil and we'd go to..... I had a sister and she was really good fer that. Really good, she was a nice woman. And we'd always go to her and we'dthen after dinner we'd go to her and in the night she'd...

Gertie Fowler:

What was her name now?

Irene Ryland:

Ah?

Gertie Fowler:

What was her name?

Irene Ryland:

Her name was Jane Barney.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Irene Ryland:

My sister.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Irene Ryland:

She was married to Son Barney....

Gertie Fowler:

So that was....

Irene Ryland:

L'Anse au Loup.

Gertie Fowler:

So that was Jane Belbin.

Irene Ryland:

Yeah and we'd ask her was she gonna write our valentine's, all she'd do was look at us and laugh and "yes, come back bun by" she'd say and she'd have such a thing for us to do and we'd do a bit of work for her when she had to do a job and after supper we'd go over and she'd write out Valentine's make up Valentine's for us all.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Irene Ryland:

And we'd put them together, and each one.... two or three together and put 'em... and put 'em together... tie 'em together with wool and then when we'd get them all done, we'd all go out and....

Gertie Fowler:

Was they..... was they a special shape or anything?

Irene Ryland:

Ah... yeah, the shape of a heart.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Irene Ryland:

And we write our Valentine and we'd have a great time, and then we'd go and we'd put 'em to one we had wrote one for ah... made them up for, we'd put 'em, tie them on the door and when we'd tie them on the door we'd give a knock at the door and we'd run.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Irene Ryland:

So they didn't know who was there with the Valentine's.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Irene Ryland:

So this time, now that was.....what did you say.... 1936?

Gertie Fowler:

Hmm...hmmm..

Irene Ryland:

My brother Henry, he got married, they were gettin' married in December... December 4th and he married a girl from Forteau and English Point.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm.hmmm.

Irene Ryland:

So now, she had to make up one for Henry now, that was her brother, my brother it was her brother too.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Irene Ryland:

I said "make up one for Henry and Violet now". "Oh, yes" she said, "I'll have one for them". So she wrote this one for Henry and Violet:

Henry Belbin tall and slender he was married in December, to Violet Buckle from the point, I guess he must have cracked a

joint.

Now, they all started to laugh, she had him fer... she had...that's the one she had for Henry and Violet.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah...yeah.

Irene Ryland:

And then the people use to Next day...Violet had to ...she was tell them all about the Valentine's she had, wondering if we wrote 'em. "I bet a dollar" she said, "I knows who wrote that Valentine", she said "that was Jane". Sure enough 'twas Jane that wrote 'em.

Gertie Fowler:

(laughs)

Irene Ryland:

But I wouldn't say.

Gertie Fowler:

Nope.

Irene Ryland:

And then people use to say to them, all that day they'd be talking about it. At school. this was now and they use to say, "Henry my dear, you must be smart, to have Violet Buckle to be your Sweetheart".

Gertie Fowler:

Oh... nice. Yeah.

Irene Ryland:

Yeah and our teacher we had too, we use to write Valentine's and he had ... the next day Valentine's Day, he had his share of Valentine's.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Irene Ryland:

Because ah... he use to be funny sometimes, so when he went home in the night, the next morning when he came to school. He said "I had a lot of Valentine's too", he said, "But I wish I knew he said who wrote some of 'em. Cause" he said, "I wasn't very pleased with some of 'em."

Gertie Fowler:

(Laughs)

Irene Ryland:

But the ones we wrote 'twas nice.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah,

Irene Ryland:

Was alright.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. Well did you want to share anything else then about your story?

Irene Ryland:

Well... we had a wonderful time on Valentine's night, we use to look forward to it.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Irene Ryland:

All that evening when we get out of school, we'd be gone, everyone... most everyone of us would go to Jane's and she was a wonderful woman fer that.

She was all for fun.

Gertie Fowler:

Well I'd like to thank you very much for your memories, they were beautiful.