

Teaching School in L'Anse au Diable (Part 2 of 2)

Contributor: Margaret Buckle

Collector: Ann O'Brien

Ann O'Brien:

Today is September 12th and Margaret Buckle is sitting here with me, she is going to continue on with her story of ah.....from her story from September 3rd. Okay, Margaret.

Margaret Buckle:

Yes, I was going to say to you a little bit earlier, ah Ann, before we got interrupted, that in the one room school on cold days, it was pretty miserable there, because you had to get all the children seated around the ...around the stove. And lots of times when they were suppose to be doing their English, most of them wanted to use the pen and of course, them times it was the ink and the fountain pen.

When they'd go to get their ink, most of the time it was frozen, so the first thing you had to do, was put the ink bottle on the stove and let it thaw out. And while you were waiting for the school to warm up in the mornings, everybody was wearing their mitts and most of the time throughout the day, before the school is heated up they had to keep their mitt or their glove on ..on one hand and probably have to write with the other one. I guess, lots of times somebody would sneak their glove on, for to write, whatever they were doing.

The schools were really cold. Ah... some of them were so high of the ground and not banked up or anything, especially that one that I was teaching in ... in L'Anse au Diable. It was high of the ground and the floor was so cold but the kindergarten children there.. you couldn't play any games with them or you couldn't sit on the floor to to ah do anything because it was.... it was so cold. But that was a part that was a part of the hardships of education and ah it showed if anybody completed their education, how dedicated they were to trying to do something better for themselves in life, because it wasn't easy to get an education under those conditions.

Ann O'Brien:

Now Margaret for ah...teachers wages, ah...who would pay for ah...this now, Department of Education or Chuch or....

Margaret Buckle:

It came through the Department of Education, but it was administered by Father Tessard,

he was the school board representative for Catholic schools and he use to write us our checks at the end of the month.

At the time that I taught, I use to get \$91.42. I use to pay \$20 a month for my board and ah....the rest of the money was mine. You didn't spend very much money in them times, there wasn't too much to spend money on without you placed an order to Sears or Dupey's or someplace like that. Out of the ten months, I say, I probably saved up \$500 or \$600 and ah..... I had plenty of money to spend in buying my clothes and I use to even buy things for my sister. I had money to...to ah spare besides. But, yeah, Father Tessard, was the representative and he paid all the teachers, but of course, I didn't have a ... I didn't have a teachers degree. I just had high school education and that was allowed at that time.

Ann O'Brien:

Thank you Margaret for ah....finishing of that story with me.