

Hospitality Home

Collector: **Gertie Fowler**

Contributor: **Sophie Roberts**

Gertie Fowler:

My name is Gertie Fowler and today is February 3rd, 2010 and I'm here in Forteau with Sophie Roberts and Sophie is gonna share some memories with me now, when she owned and operated her hospitality home. Okay Sophie, you like to tell me a little bit about when you had your hospitality home?

Sophie Roberts:

Yes, maid. Well I started the hospitality home in 1969.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Sophie Roberts:

And it wasn't many places around then, hey. It was only me and

Gertie Fowler:

How come you had to start at it?

Sophie Roberts:

Well people was coming here, and wanted to stay here, so I was taking....some people reported me that I , you know, I had to have a license.

Gertie Fowler:

Sure.

Sophie Roberts:

You know, to operate it.

So then I decided that I would go for the license, you know and get it going. So I did apply and I got it, no problems. And we operated for sixteen years.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid.

Sophie Roberts:

So ah... but at them times, you know, things were much different then it is today. For the 'gard of feeding the people you know and like for lunches and meals. Well meals was a lot cheaper then what it is now.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Sophie Roberts:

So ah...

Gertie Fowler:

What was some things now that you use to cook for them and things?

Sophie Roberts:

Well...we didn't...like in the morning for breakfast, you'd have cereal and then you'd have your bacon and eggs and toast, juice and coffee and whatever goes with it like you know.

And then at dinner time you'd have soup and then you'd have your second serving probably like, fish...battered fish and potato and lots of time I use to fry up onions and put a can of tomatoes in with it and put the sauce over the potato and...

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Sophie Roberts:

...it would make a good meal.

And then supper time, you'd cook another meal for supper. Well even for dinner you'd serve your pie, or you know, your dessert and then suppertime then you'd cook another big meal and you'd serve dessert again.

Gertie Fowler:

So you were steady cooking.

Sophie Roberts:

Yes, stead cooking. And then that night before you retire or go to bed, I'd always give them a lunch.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, b'y.

Sophie Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

How many rooms and that did you have?

Sophie Roberts:

Well we had the three rooms.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Sophie Roberts:

But I use to have two beds in one room. So you could take...you know like that. We had ...one double room. That's for two people like, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Sure.

Sophie Roberts:

And like the other rooms were just single, you could put a ...it was a single room we'd call it. But two people like a man and a woman, like a couple.

Gertie Fowler:

hmmm.

Sophie Roberts:

So we use to have somewhere around six people.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Yeah. So how much did you charge a night now?

Sophie Roberts:

Well at them times, we were about to charge \$5.00 a night for a single and for a double it would be \$7.00.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Sophie Roberts:

So, I mean. I thought that was a good price at them times because....

Gertie Fowler:

Yes

Sophie Roberts:

You didn't really know what to charge like hey. So I mean I was satisfied.

Gertie Fowler:

So ah... do you remember how much it was now, when you gave up?

Sophie Roberts:

Oh, when I gave up, maid, people were charging I mean \$45.00 double and \$30.00 single.

Gertie Fowler:

Over the years now was there any one person or any one couple that you made friends with that stuck out in your mind.

Sophie Roberts:

Yes, we've met a lot of couple's maid. 'Cause I had a couple from ah...New York, Mr. and Mrs. Bonner, they were older people, and they came back for...well they came back here for years after. They come here year after year, I don't know it was six or seven years and his wife she got Alzheimer's and then they couldn't come.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Sophie Roberts:

So he was back here once after that.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Sophie Roberts:

And then there was lots of other people , I mean we had a fellow from ah....Dundas, Ontario would come every Summer in August. He'd spend a couple of weeks with us. That's Mr.ah...what was his name now...ah... I'm not much with his name.

Gertie Fowler:

So you was telling me about some people would come and they came so often that you felt that you

Sophie Roberts:

Oh, yes. We had some people from around Glovertown, they use to come here, it was Art Feltum and Max and Hubert Hobbs and they use to be down there working. And they'd stay here for months sometimes and then perhaps go away for a year. If they happen to come back again, if I had a crowd, they were coming in they said. You know, 'spose they had to sleep behind the stove.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Sophie Roberts:

Yeah, they always wanted to come in.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

So first when you started off now did you have hot water and things like that?

Sophie Roberts:

Yes we always had hot water. We always had running water. We had a well like hey at home.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Did you have anyone to help you, around the house?

Sophie Roberts:

No I didn't until the last few years that I was working at it, I had ah...yes I did have someone. In the summertime I had a girl working with me. Eileen worked with me and Bernadette worked with me.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Sophie Roberts:

And so did Stella ...Stella Normore.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Sophie Roberts:

And Lisette worked with me. On the last of itwhen I use to want holidays, you know, I use to get them to come in you know and stay when I was gone, like hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay. So anything else you'd like to...

Sophie Roberts:

No, I think that's enough.

Gertie Fowler:

....add to it.

Sophie Roberts:

No, I think that's very good.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. I'd like to thank you for your memories.