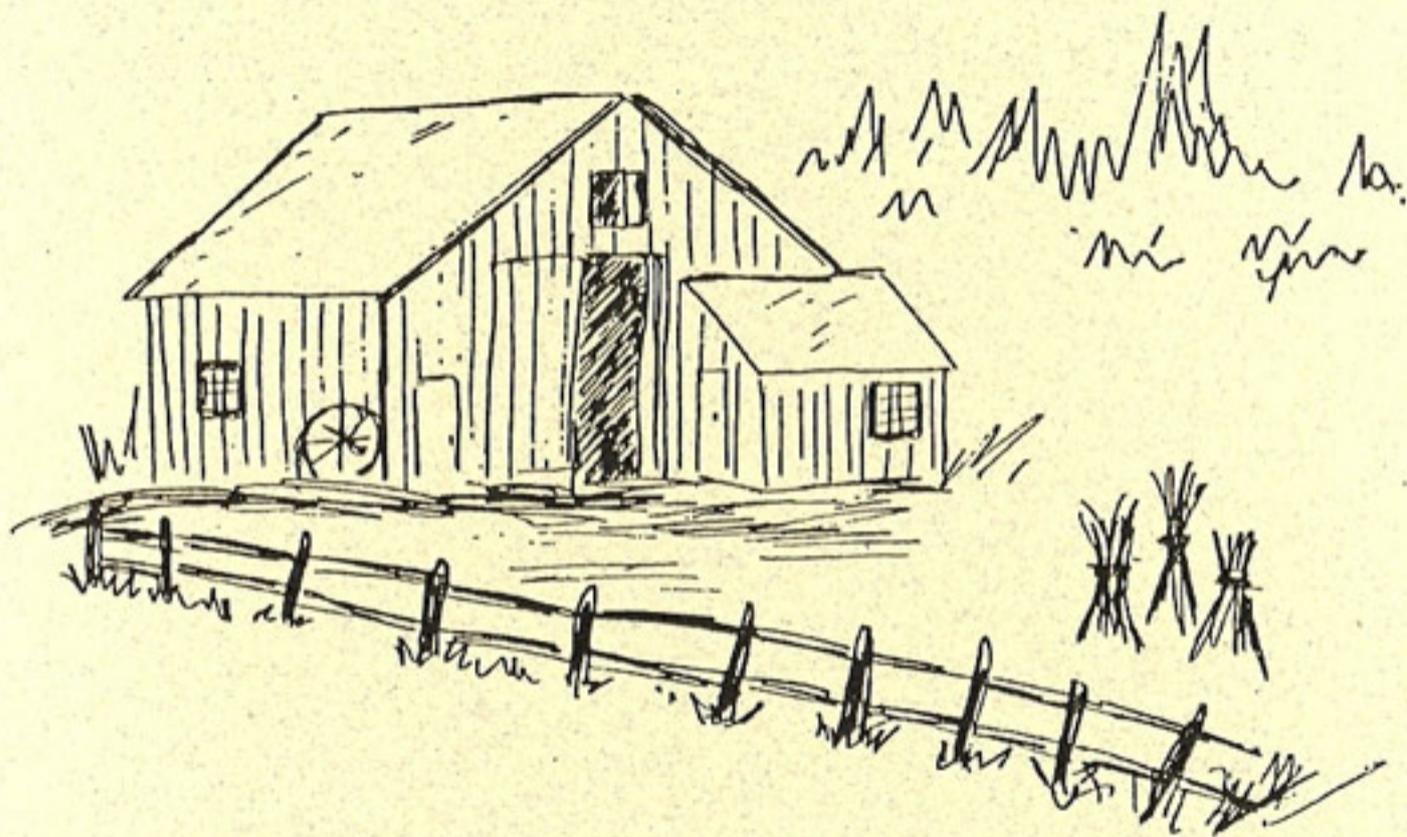


The Good Old Days



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The One-Room School House



THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE

Not so long ago, children went to school in one room school houses. There were more of these one room school houses in the country. The city had larger schools. The schools in the city had more than one room.

Each one room school house had one teacher. There were eight grades in each school. The teacher sometimes had up to forty-five children in her class at one time.

The school day started at nine o'clock in the morning. The school day ended at four o'clock. They had time to eat lunch. It was a long day for both the children and the teacher.

The teacher started each school day with a reading of God's word. After, she gave homework to each grade. While seven of the eight grades were working, she taught one grade at a time. This way everyone had something to do.



The children loved to go to school. They wanted to learn. They learned many things. They wanted to read and write. The teacher also taught them math. The teacher gave a lesson every day. At the end of a lesson the children were tested.

When the older children finished their homework, they sometimes helped the teacher. They helped the younger children with their homework. They helped them learn to read and write and do their math. If they did not help with the younger children, they sat and did not speak.



The children were good in school. The teacher didn't have to tell them to be good. When a child was bad, the teacher yelled. The teacher made the child write lines. They had to write lines for a long time. They sometimes had to stay after school. The teacher sometimes made them stand in the corner.

The baddest thing the teacher did was give the strap. The children did not like the strap. If the child was bad a lot, they got the strap. The teacher hit the child's hand with the strap. The class watched as the teacher strapped the child. Bad children mostly became good after they got the strap. They did not want it again.

Some of the children had to come far to go to school. When it snowed hard, there was no school. The children stayed home. They had to go another day. They went to school on Saturday. They started at nine o'clock in the morning and went to one o'clock. They did not take time for lunch.

The children not only learned to read, write and do math but they had fun. At Christmas they had a Christmas concert. Everyone in the school had a part in this concert. They put on a play of the Christmas story. Everyone came to this Christmas concert. It was lots of fun for the children and the teacher.

The children had a concert at the end of the school year. They read and put on a play. Everyone came to see the children in the concert. This made the teacher very happy.

The children looked up to their teacher. She was their friend. They did not fight.

When the children finished grade eight they sometimes went to the city. They went to high school in the city. Some children did this. They had to write tests to get into high school. The children had to work very hard to pass these tests. When they passed these tests, they then went to teacher's college. They had to write tests to get into teacher's college as well. These tests were hard. After they finished teacher's college, they were teachers. These teachers taught in one room school houses.

Today many one room school houses still stand. Children do not go to school there. These one room school houses are closed. The children from the country go to school in the city. They get on a bus in the morning. The bus takes them to a big school. These schools have hundreds of children in them.

The old one room school houses have been made into homes. Many people still remember going to school in a one room school house. It was part of the good old days.



NEW WORDS

room

school

house

long

grade

strap

math

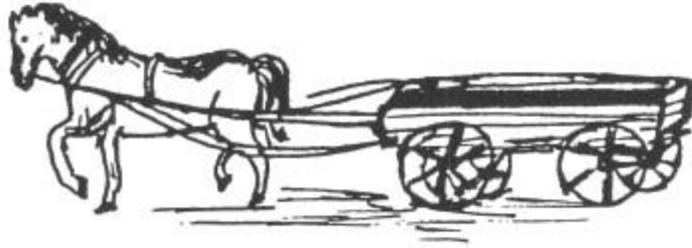
good

taught

Christmas

concert

Days Gone By



DAYS GONE BY

This story is about what life was like in the early 1900's on the Miramichi. It is told from the eyes of Mr. Thomas (Tom) Whelan. He tells us about life on a farm. He tells of the people he has met and stories he has heard over the years. So, come back in time to learn of days gone by.

Tom was born in November, 1903. He is 84 years old. He was born in the country about 10 miles from Richibucto on the Richibucto River. He came from a large family. He had three sisters and six brothers. There were not many families nearby. There may have been two other families within a half-mile.

Life on a farm was not carefree. They had to work hard. All the children did their share of the chores. Their chores were looking after the animals. They raised fifty to sixty turkeys to sell. They would also keep some turkeys for their own family. The turkeys made a good dinner. When times were good the turkeys would sell for fifty cents per pound. When times were bad the turkeys would sell for twenty-five cents per pound.

Another chore was to milk the cows. This chore was needed in order to make butter. The butter was made from the milk of the cows. They would then sell the butter to the stores.

There were still more chores to do. They had to get the eggs from the hens in order to sell them. When it got cold a cow was killed for its meat. The cow's meat was then put outside in a building where it was very, very cold. It would stay fresh. They had to cut wood and bring it in for the night.



The children went to a country school. Like any other children they sometimes didn't want to go to school. The teachers wanted the children to learn. They were to be good and to listen closely. If they were bad the teacher would hit their hands. The children went here for the school years one to eight. All the classes shared the same place There were about thirty children in the school.

The Whelan children had to go two miles to school each day. This was even harder when it got cold. When they finished year eight they would go to high school in Rexton.

Even with work to do people would find time to have fun. When it got cold there was skating. The children were able to skate on the river as the water had turned to ice. Before the children went skating they had to check to see if the ice was good and would not break. Skating was lots of fun. When the children finished skating their mother would have something hot to drink.

Sometimes the children would go for a sleigh ride. The horse and sleigh went fast over the snow. When it snowed, the horse and sleigh would take people where they had to be. When they went on the sleigh they had to wear many clothes so they would not be cold. The sleigh was a fun way to go places.

When it got hot people would go for a swim in the river. After working hard on a hot day, going for a swim was a great way to finish the day. The older children would teach the younger children the right way to swim. The children's pets would even jump into the river and swim. To be able to swim was nice on a hot day.

They liked to play ball as well. They had a bat to hit the ball with. It was played much the way it is played today. They played ball at school when they would take their morning break. The children would play ball at lunch-time when they had more time.

Fishing was a good way to pass the time. They would go fishing on the Richibucto River. They would sometimes get a Brook Trout. There was no Miramichi Salmon in this part of the river.

A church picnic was a great way for friends to visit with each other. As people didn't live close by they didn't get to see much of each other. So, a picnic was a good idea. There were lots of good home-made things to eat. The children played ball at the picnics. The older people looked at the goods. Everyone talked with friends. A picnic made everyone feel good.

There was not much music at Tom's home as there were no radios yet. Then his mother got a Victrola. Their friends would come over and sing with the music. This helped to pass the time. Gene Autry was a singer that many people liked.

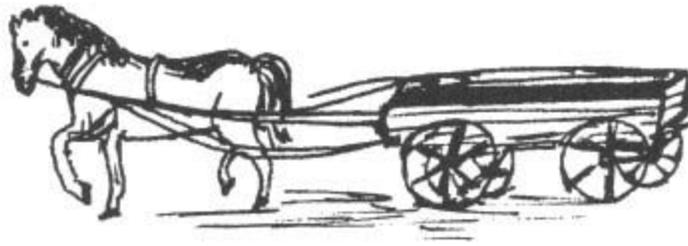
Tom left the farm when he was about eighteen years old. He went to St. Thomas college in Chatham to study in 1921-22. He studied so he would be able to get a job in an office. His brother was working and helped to pay his way in college. When his sister went to study Tom did the same for her. In a big family they helped each other.

In 1922 Tom went to work for the Great Northern Paper Company in Maine. When he didn't work in the office he worked in the forest look-out tower. He worked from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. They didn't work after 6 p.m. as there was no telephone service. The place he worked in had many windows so he was able to see if there was a fire burning. If it was very hot he was up watching for fires most of the day. This was just one of the many jobs Tom was to have.

For his next job he went to Alberta. He worked on a farm to help them bring in their crops. He went to Alberta by train. The government of Canada was paying the way of the people who were going to the Canadian West to do the same work as Tom.

In 1927 Tom went to Boston. He started to work for a bakery. His job was to sell bakery goods from home to home with a horse and wagon. Some of the things he would have on the wagon are bread, pies and brown bread. People liked freshly baked pies. He made \$40.00-\$50.00 a week. Most of the people he met were very nice. One day a lady picked up a pie to throw at him. She was upset as it wasn't fresh. She hit him in the center of his shirt. The pie went on his clothes. Tom was not very happy. He didn't go back to that woman's home again.

On October 2, 1930 he came back to New Brunswick. He was again working for a bakery. He was working for Lane's Bakery which had its head office in Moncton. At this time many people raised foxes. Many people raised red and black foxes. They raised foxes so they were able to make money by selling their coats. Any bread that had gone bad, the bad part was cut from the loaf. Tom was able to sell the good part of the loaf to the fox owners for the foxes to eat. He still would sell pies and bread from his horse and wagon.



The 1930's was the time of the Great Depression. Times were very hard for most people. Good jobs were hard to find. Some men worked for seventy-five cents a day. While it was hard to find a job in the Great Depression it was even harder to keep a job. In the places where Tom worked more bakeries were opening up. People didn't have as much money as before so they were not able to buy as much. Some of the bakeries had to close. Tom had to find another job.

Tom was able to find other jobs. One of these jobs was in 1939. When he was selling home to home in the hot months he would take ice-cream with him. He would take a big oak box and pack it with ice. Inside he would put the ice-cream. He got the ice-cream from the Sussex Creamery. The ice-cream was carried by horse and wagon. Everyone was able to hear Tom's wagon coming as the horse had a bell on its neck. The price was five cents for each ice-cream. Not everyone was happy to hear the bell ringing. One lady wanted to know why Tom had the bell on the horse in the hot months as there was no snow. Tom said "Why not?" She said "When the children are playing they hear the bell and come looking for five cents." Tom said "Well, that's why I have the bell on. It helps me to sell the ice-cream." In the colder months they had bells on horses. The driver would then be able to watch for another horse coming. He would then have to look for a place to get over on the road. One horse would have to get over to let another horse go by.

By working in the day and at night Tom saved enough money to buy a car. At the start of the 1940's he got a second hand car. He paid \$90.00 for it.

Tom heard a story that happened in 1954 to one of his family. A man up the river wasn't able to find his way in the woods. He came upon a den. He didn't know if it was a bear's den. He didn't want to look to see if it was a bear's den. There was a big pile of brush nearby. He had nearly died as he had been out for the day in the high snow. He was very tired when he came to the pile of brush. He wondered if he would be able to get in under this pile of brush. He was very cold. He came to a place where it looked like there might be an opening in the pile of brush. He got the snow and brush away from the opening. He went into the den. The den was big. It went on and on. He came onto a bear fast asleep. He didn't know what to do. He was very tired and so cold. It was so nice and hot in the bear's den. He was just going to close his eyes for a little while. He went right to sleep.

When he was not home in the morning his friends were upset. He had told one of his friends that he was going into the woods. They waited for a while and he still hadn't come out of the woods. They started out to look for him.

While Pat had been walking in the woods he broke parts from the trees. He did this so people would be able to find him if something happened to him. His friends were able to see where he had broken the parts off the trees. They followed the broken pieces still left on the trees. Snow had covered this place over night. They came to a pile of brush. They saw an opening in the brush. They wondered if he had gone into the den. They circled the bear's den to see if they would be able to find any other signs of Pat. They didn't find anything. They came to the pile of brush again. The oldest man there said there was just one way to find out if he had gone into the bear's den. Someone had to go in and look for him. He said "Pat Whalen and I were friends all my life. I know he would do it for me."

He went into the bear's den. Pat Whelan was fast asleep next to the bear. He woke Pat up and helped Pat out of the den and out of the woods.



One week later three men came to Pat Whelan's home. They wanted Pat to tell them where they would be able to find the bear's den. Pat asked them why they wanted to know about the bear's den. The men said they were paid money for every bear they killed. They wanted to find the bear. They wanted to kill it. They wanted to get the money. Pat ordered the men to get out of his home. That bear had saved his life. He wouldn't tell them where the bear was.

This story tells about how people lived in other times. It tells about the good times as well as the hard times. You get to know the kind of people that lived 60 years ago on the Miramichi. For a little while we can live as they did in days gone by.

NEW WORDS

turkey

skate

sleigh

chores

wagon

ice-cream

bear

den

pile

brush

Strawberry Picking Time

by

Dorothy Creighton



STRAWBERRY PICKING TIME

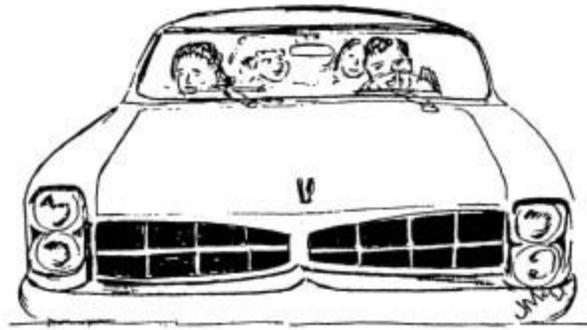
For many berry lovers strawberry picking time is a time for a family outing. Berry lovers know that when June comes strawberry picking time is not far away. At that time a family outing will likely take place. The children wait for the outing. It is a fun time for everyone.

The wild strawberries have a sweet smell. When the grass gets green in the fields you can smell the sweet smell of the wild strawberries. Berry pickers love to eat the sweet wild strawberries. They find them in the fields in June.

Families love to go picking the sweet wild strawberries while on an outing. They will likely eat some berries as they pick. It will be an outing everyone will remember.

Before the strawberries are ready the children may find some pretty white blossoms in the fields. They may find the blossoms while they run in the fields on their outings. They may hunt for the blossoms with their friends. The little white blossoms make some fields look like a pretty bed. When the children see the blossoms they know that the sweet wild strawberries will be ready in a short while.





In three or four weeks' time the strawberries in the fields may be ready to pick. Then the family will have a great outing. They will not find white blossoms. They will find sweet red strawberries.

Everyone will have fun picking and eating the berries. The children love family fun times like this. When they are older they will remember the strawberry picking times.

Sometimes the children will sell the wild strawberries they pick. They may sell them for a quarter or more. The women may give the children a quarter for a small cup of berries. If there are lots of the berries the children may come running with more for more quarters.

Next time they may bring a basket of the sweet wild strawberries. The women may give fifty cents for them. They may even give the children a dollar for the basket of berries. The children like to get money for the berries they pick.

Mothers, fathers and children like to eat the strawberries for dinner. Sometimes the mothers make jelly with the berries. They put the jelly in little jars. Most people like to have strawberry jelly to eat. They like it with their morning meal. Some people like jelly on toast. They like homemade jelly the best.

As they eat the home-made jelly, many parents and children will remember the great times they had picking the wild strawberries. They will remember the outings in June. They will want to look again for the white blossoms in the fields. They will want to smell again the sweet smell of the wild strawberry fields. They will want to pick the red wild strawberries when June comes another year.



NEW WORDS

berry

strawberry(ies)

blossom

fields