

Christmas Heritage

*Interview done by Grade 1 student
and grandparent in the 1960s*

1) What were some foods you used for Christmas dinner?

Roasted duck, potatoes, homemade cake, vegetables, homemade candy.

2) What kinds of drinks were served at Christmas time?

Tea.

3) What gifts were given on Christmas Day?

Homemade toys such as toboggans, airplanes and cars. Sometimes if there was enough money available toys from the catalogue (Eaton's or Army and Navy) were purchased.

4) Where did you visit during Christmas time?

We would visit Grandpa and grandma, uncles and aunts, the sick people at the hospital and all the old people. People from town would visit us when we lived across the lake.

5) What time did your family go to church?

11 o'clock PM December 24th each Christmas

6) What way did your family travel to church?

Horse and sled or if nice we walked to church

7) What kind of music was played at Christmas time?

Cree Christmas songs and mostly Latin

8) What kind of dancing took place?

Old time fiddle music – square dancing

9) What decorations were used in your home?

Homemade decorations made from foil paper and if we had enough money we purchased decorations from the store

10) How did the women prepare for Christmas?

Roasted duck, boiled potatoes, boiled carrots and other vegetables. Made homemade cake from flour nuts, raisins each December 24. Also made pie blueberries, saskatoons and raspberries

11) How did the men prepare for Christmas?

Haul wood, water-build Christmas toys, get horses and sled ready. Do their daily chores so they didn't have to work on

Christmas Day

12) How did the children prepare for Christmas?

Help with the cooking or hauling wood or water

13) What special preparations were made on Christmas Eve?

Get dressed, wear suit and tie, can hardly wait to get a hold of your Christmas present

Christmas in the olden days means more than today, because everyone was happy to see their neighbors, get to eat together and visit with each other, help each other, socialize together without alcohol.