

Convent Girls

Nolan Roy and his Kokum Annie Roy



This is a picture of girls holding fish at the mission. Some of the girls in the picture are Annie Roy nee Durocher, Jean Bekkattala (nickname Joan de Ark), Maggie Ratt, Florence Belanger, Delilah Jacobsen and Marina Couilloneur. The girls were from Ile a la Crosse, Canoe Lake, Buffalo Narrows and Dillon. Calboo Daigneault, who lived at Fort Black, worked for the mission and he brought food including these fish. The girls would clean the fish and

cook them whole in big pans in the oven. The girls didn't scale them rather they just gutted them and took off their heads and tails. The fish would be sticky on the outside when they were eaten.

Annie Roy lived in the convent from 1940 to 1951. She remembers having porridge most mornings and not having much sugar butter or milk; but they got by. Some of the nuns were strict and some were kind. The young girls would call the older girls mom because they looked after them: bathe us, sew our socks and comb our hair.

Annie and her sister lived at the mission even during holidays. Her mom was alone because her father had passed away and six children were too many for her to take care of. Annie remembers crying for her friends when they left for the holidays. The mission was her home.

When Annie was 16 she left the convent and got a job at the mission cooking in the old hospital and in the convent.