

Fond Memories of Point Amour

Contributor: **Christina Fowler**

Collector: **Gertie Fowler**

Gertie Fowler:

I'm here with Christine Fowler, our.... she was a Hancock before she was married and she spent some time at the lighthouse so she's gonna share a few memories with me. Today. How are you Christine?

Christine Fowler:

Oh I'm good, maid.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh that's good.

Christine Fowler:

Brings back a lot of memories, my coming back here today.

Gertie Fowler:

Like to share some with me?

Christine Fowler:

I use to come down here, even before my family moved here, I'd come here with my aunt.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Christine Fowler:

I use to come down here in the Summer time and sometimes down babysitting for John Earle when his children were small.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh did you?

Christine Fowler:

Yes, yup. I can remember one time, we come out here on a tractor. Tractor.... they had the tractor when Bobby had the tractor in past L'Anse Amour.

Gertie Fowler:

Hm....

Christine Fowler:

And into the brook there, and ah... before the road come through and we ah... come out ... got on the tractor, he had like a ramp on the tractor that you could sit on.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Christine Fowler:

'Cause they used it for bringing there groceries from L'Anse Amour when the freight boats were in.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh, Okay.

Christine Fowler:

Come out on the tractor from that.

Gertie Fowler:

So what was your memories from living in the lighthouse.

Christine Fowler:

Good ones. We moved here in '64 ...

Gertie Fowler:

Hm Hm..

Christine Fowler:

I was about 12 years old when we moved down here, in October. And we lived out in the house there from the tower. The one built onto the tower.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Christine Fowler:

We stayed summer and winter we use to stay here then.

Gertie Fowler:

That must have been....

Christine Fowler:

We never had no TV.

Gertie Fowler:

No

Christine Fowler:

But we always had something to occupy our time.

Gertie Fowler:

Did ya?

Christine Fowler:

When we come home from school, every evening, we'd make a trip up in that tower to wind up the light 'fer dad.

Gertie Fowler:

Did 'ye?

Christine Fowler:

Oh yes. There was no boys then.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. So the girls

Christine Fowler:

All girls, so that's where I use to go every evening when I come home. Wind up the light.

Gertie Fowler:

So did you find it lonely out here?

Christine Fowler:

Nope, never.

Gertie Fowler:

Nope, never found it lonely.

Christine Fowler:

In the wintertime watch for our bus to come and pick us up and.....

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah

Christine Fowler:

One year I went to school in L'Anse Amour and ah... after that then we started going on the bus. We use to have to go upstairs to watch for them, 'cause we could never see the bus for the big bank of snow out there.

Gertie Fowler:

Yup.

Christine Fowler:

We always had lots of things to do. Go out sliding, if the weather was bad, we'd go down in the basement out in the house and go up in the other part were Max Sheppard and them was at. We could go down one stairs and go up another out in there house.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh...

Christine Fowler:

We never had to go outdoors.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh, nice.

Christine Fowler:

Yeah. Mom and dad if they went to Forteau, well we stayed home. Remember one time, we was out there and ducks flied, use to fly into the tower and knock themselves out. I picked them up out there, picked up a couple of ducks and ah... put them in the cupboard.

Gertie Fowler:

Did ya?

Christine Fowler:

Put them in the cupboard and barred the door until.... It's a fireplace it is but it was a cupboard then because of the way they had it done.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Christine Fowler:

Put them there until dad come home form Forteau, for to get them. (laughs)

Gertie Fowler:

So were they dead or alive.

Christine Fowler:

They were just knocked out, then.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh Okay.

Christine Fowler:

Yup

Gertie Fowler:

Yup. So now what was Christmas like there at the lighthouse.

Christine Fowler:

Well, there was always somebody coming around from Forteau and that and we went to Forteau.

Gertie Fowler:

It must have been nice because the rooms and things that you had and your living room was much bigger than most of the people around the coast had.

Christine Fowler:

Oh, yes. It seemed like it looked bigger when we were living into it than it looks now.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Christine Fowler:

The way they got it done.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah

Christine Fowler:

Yeah, Ricky was born. Well one Christmas ah.... mom was in hospital. So it was only dad, Dorothy and myself, Alice, and Clarsie.

Gertie Fowler:

Taking care of....

Christine Fowler:

Yeah. Mom went over on the middle of December and she was gone until the middle of January.

Gertie Fowler:

Where was this to? Over to St. Anthony.

Christine Fowler:

Over to St. Anthony.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Christine Fowler:

And we stayed home and we made the best of it and we still had a good Christmas, we missed her

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah

Christine Fowler:

But we still had a good Christmas. Aunt Clarsie use to do things for us. Cook some meals for us, but most of the time we cooked for ourselves, yup.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Christine Fowler:

Dad use to be on watch. They use to have different hours to go on watch; 4-12 in the night, from 12 in the night 'til 6 in the morning and 6 in the morning 'til 4 in the evening.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid

Christine Fowler:

That's the way the done it then. One or the other.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Christine Fowler:

When they was off duty they'd go somewhere the four of them but the majority of time we'd stay there.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Christine Fowler:

And in the Summer time, we'd always spent the day out around and walking to Fox Cove, walk in L'Anse Amour and berry picking go pick up wood and put there for dad in the winter time.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah, so did ye go out to the beach now, where the Raleigh went ashore very much?

Christine Fowler:

We use to walk in around there.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Christine Fowler:

We never spent much time around the wreck or anything.

Gertie Fowler:

No. Okay.

Christine Fowler:

We use to go out on the beach, 'cause we use to go along down here from the old fog alarm was at and walk in around.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Christine Fowler:

Walk around, picking up wood.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah

Christine Fowler:

Yeah. Or we'd be at something down there.

Gertie Fowler:

And you'd bring.... What would you use that wood for?

Christine Fowler:

Firewood for in the winter time.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah

Christine Fowler:

What use to wash ashore, washed ashore from in the boats

Gertie Fowler:

Oh, Okay.

Christine Fowler:

The boats that use to go up through the straits, wood would wash off them and ah.. we use to go and pick it up and dad and Max Sheppard use to go and pick it up with the tractor.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah

Christine Fowler:

And the cart and bring it home for the winter.

Gertie Fowler:

Perfect. So anything else you'd like to add to your memories of the story.

Christine Fowler:

I got married in '72 and I left it.

Gertie Fowler:

I'm sure you have lots of good memories.

Christine Fowler:

Oh, yes. We have good memories of here.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Christine Fowler:

We never had.... there was never a dull moment we never had no TV or no (laughs) ... we made our own fun.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah, it was good. Well ...

Christine Fowler:

Yeah, that's ...

Gertie Fowler:

Well I'd like to thank you for your memories, they were beautiful.