



Arthur St. Germain and family.

In those days there were many cattle buyers crossing the country. I especially remember Mr. Katz and John Sheppard. But I am sure there were many more whose names I have forgotten.

In the early years, there were plenty of moose, elk, deers, bears, and wolves. Also rabbits, partridges, prairie chicken and all kinds of birds, muskrat, weasels, skunks and foxes. Snakes did not show up until 1928. There were no buffalo left, but we used to find buffalo horns. My brother Moise killed nine moose in one day. Mother skinned and cut them up to store in a shed. It was as cold in there as in our deep freeze of today. Temperatures would go to -50°F . Fish, Beef and Pork were stored in there. Fish was plentiful. I remember dad and the boys would set a net in the winter in Lake Manitoba. There were some fish three feet long. We had lots of food, but not too much money! In the fall, dad would receive money when the cattle were sold. Then they would go to town and buy cases of raisins, prunes, dried apples. Jam, Syrup, flour, and sugar was also purchased. Groceries were bought to last all year. Flour and sugar were purchased in bags of white cotton and were used to make clothes for the children, sheets and pillow slips. Later, these bags came in colours and checks.

Sometimes the farmer would take his wheat to the mill and have flour made. We grew our own potatoes and vegetables. Dad was the potato king in Cayer. He grew potatoes galore and supplied a lot of people who were short. Women would come and pick potatoes in exchange for potatoes. It took us a week to pick, with about a dozen pickers. Mother was alone to cook meals and wash dishes and separate the cream while everyone was picking potatoes.

We would always help with the chores. We would feed pigs, get the cows from the field and then milk up to thirty cows by hand. Then we had chicken, turkeys and geese to feed.

Father and the boys would haul ice from Lake



St. Germain girls ready for a picnic, 1926.

Manitoba and store it in saw dust in a special building. This would give us fresh water in the summer as our well water was too salty and not good for drinking.

My parents would make their own soap with animal fat and lye.

In the spring, fish would be smoked in a smoke house and stored to be used in the summer. They would also slice beef in thin slices to dry in the sun, and I am told this was called "jerky" or "pemican".

The depression years were something else. In the



Alf and Blandine Weaver's Wedding, Chester McMillan bestman and Josephine Soine, bridesmaid.