



### KIPLING PIONEER LIFE CON'T.

Christmas day was celebrated quietly by going to church early in the morning for a six o'clock service, Driving home after, and coming back again for an eleven o'clock service, a lot of cold and snow to contend with, but many of the old timers were very dedicated to their church, and didn't mind the long cold drives,

The balance of the day was usually spent at home with the family, With the christmas dinner consisting of the swedish sweet soup, A roast chicken, goose, or pork, with dressing, potatoes, Turnips or carrots, and gravy, with sweet buns or cake and preserved blueberries or raspberries for dessert, and coffee or tea, A nice pitcher of thick sweet cream was saved to serve with these, And it is a scandinavian custom to always have seven kinds of cookies to treat their guests during the holidays, another custom always remembered was to put a sheaf of grain out for the birds, this was saved especially from the harvest.

Everyone had a christmas tree too, with home made decorations made by the family, including pop corn garlands, tissue paper roses, some had christmas candles too, that had to be watched very carefully while they were lit for fear of fire, fancy cookies and apples were also hung on the tree, when available.

The christmas concert at the church was eagerly awaited by the children, when each had a recitation or song to sing, and in the very early times the swedish "TUMPTA" arrived through the hole in the ceiling, later years SANTA CLAUS came with bells jingling through the door, each child was given a bag of candy and an orange, plus a small gift, off the tree.

The church was heated by a big box stove at the rear of the church, and a cook stove in the kitchen off the side, coal oil lamps were the only lights,

Everyone drove to church in big sleighs with a team, or in a cutter and one horse, And many skied, if they had no other way, or if the roads weren't open,

" A christmas dip "party was nearly always held between the holidays at G.T. Johansens place, This consisted of a big pot of seasoned soup stock, or a consomme which was set in the middle of the table and everyone dipped their bread in it, This ceremony was followed by coffee and sweet breads and cookies. This was an old country tradition.

Another tradition that was followed by all the folks in that area was "Names Day", Which was even more important than your birthday, Apparently in the old country an almanac was printed with each day of the year, and each day was named, from this your name was chosen when you were born, It was this day that was celebrated much as we celebrate birthdays, Friends called, bringing a gift and a cake or cookies, Up here the men would take the afternoon off and drive their wives and youngsters to the home of the lucky person of the day. Of course this usually was your nearest neighbors and closest friends, This is not done any more since most of the old folks are gone. Those that took part in these ceremonies were the Wicklanders-Elofsons Edens-Martin Olsens-Englands- Johansens- Hoglins- With a few others joining in at times.

As the young people got old enough they quit school and went away to work in the Sudbury area, or to North Bay to find work on the railroads, and many went to Cobalt or the porcupine area to work in the mines, many sent money home to make life a bit easier for their parents, a few married and settled down on their own farms, or took over the family farm, A few went to night school to learn trades in town, some went to the states to work, So Kipling people are now scattered all over canada and the United states, and holding very important positions,

And of course many of even the second generation have passed away. There is only one of the original pioneers left as of march 1967, that is Mr, Jack Johnson, who makes his home in Sturgeon Falls, he is 97 years old and quite well.

Time passes, and now the both schools are closed, buses pick up the children at their doors and take them to warren public school, and sturgeon falls high school. every one now has electricity in their homes, and telephones and water systems and bathrooms, there is summer cottages, and tourist resorts, and television in nearly every home, how our ancestors would have enjoyed all these things, their life was so hard.