

WOLVES HOWLED AROUND COVERED WAGON

Cassidy Anderson Mother - More info.

Bertha Hady Davis was only four years old when she made the trip by covered wagon from Oaks, North Dakota to her new home on a farm near Pine City in 1895. The trip took 14 days.

"I'm ninety two years old but I can remember the day we left as plain as if it was yesterday," Bertha said.

Continuous crop failures, drought, and grasshoppers devouring everything in sight were responsible for John Hady's decision to trade a full section of land for a good team of horses and a covered wagon.

His brother, Mike Hady, had settled near Pine City, Minnesota and encouraged him to come to the area assuring John that there was plenty of good land with water on it available.

"Dad woke us up in the middle of the night and we were ready to begin our journey at 3:00 A.M.," Bertha said. "I had a little rocking chair and I remember he told me to sit in it and be a good girl while he harnessed up the horses,".

"It was a fun trip for we kids as I recall. My sister and I rode in one wagon with mother and the boys and dad drove another wagon. We camped along the trail at night.

Dad would drive forked sticks on either side of a bonfire and hang a kettle from the spit to cook our supper. During the night we could hear wolves howling around the wagon but we weren't afraid," Bertha said.

The Hady's shipped their furniture by train and when they got here John bought an 80 acre farm on Mission Creek for \$300.

"When I was a child Mission Creek flowed like a river," she said.

COPY

"We would sit on our porch at night and listen to the Indians playing their drums on the west side of Pokegama Lake.

Bertha attended the Pokegama Mission school.

"We had 43 kids in the classroom and sat three in a seat. There were only a couple of windows in the building, ".

The family attended 10:00 services at the Catholic church and had to leave by 8:00 A.M. in order for the horses to make it on time.

"I can still remember the day I got confirmed. At that time we had to fast from midnight on for communion. I walked to town without breakfast and didn't get home until 4:00 P.M. I went to bed with a headache when I finally made it," she laughed.

Recalling the 30's and the Depression she said,

"It was mighty tough but the people who could raise their own food didn't suffer as much. We would take our wheat to Isanti to have it ground into flour. We ate a lot of vegetables and could live on about \$1. a week," she said.

The telephone came to the country in 1914 but it was 1940 before they got electricity.

FOURTH OF JULY celebrations were really big in the early 1900's. According to Bertha they went on long past 3:00 A.M.

"They always had a sham battle on Lake Pokegama between a tugboat and a steamboat. They shot fireworks back and forth at each other and it was a glorious spectacle," Bertha recalled.

She also remembered a man named "Cape" Cranton who was the local candyman and put up a stand out at the lake on the Fourth.

COPY

"He was a farmer on the Brunswick Road and he was nearly blind. There were so many people came to the celebration that he would clear about \$500. in one day.

Remembering her first Christmas in Minnesota she said,

"Dad went out and cut a tree and they put it on the audioharp. On Christmas morning right near the top of the tree hung three little china cups, gifts for three little girls in the Hady family."

Bertha's father met with a tragic accident on the 29th of July, 1912.

"He was putting up hay for a neighbor when the rope swing snapped and knocked him on to the ~~tounge-of~~ tongue of the wagon. He was killed," she said.

END

COPY