Violet Jerome

Violet Therese (Cardinal) Jerome

BORN:
February 5th, 1914

BIRTHPLACE:
Kittigazuit

PARENTS:
Catherine Firth and Louis Cardinal

GRANDPARENTS:
(Maternal) John Firth and Margaret Stewart

GWICH'IN:
Teetl'it Gwich'in

MARRIED:
Andre Jerome, January 1, 1934, in Arctic Red River

CHILDREN:
Clements (d), Frank, Joe, Clements, Betty, Agnes (Dodie), Jimsey, Tootsie, Bella, Freddie, Louis, Morey, Joanne, Alma, Dorothy, Mavis

they were building the house. In those days they made their living trapping beaver and muskrats. "Those days furs were a good price," Violet remembers. Travel was made with their two dog teams.

"We had so many kids that one sleigh was full of them. Kids all over! I took that sled and my husband took one sled with grub inside of it. Boy, when we got to our camp we were just played out. We didn't know about trucks or taxis. We didn't know about ski-doos. Our dogs were our ski-doo for us," Violet laughs.

Today Violet lives in Inuvik with her daughter and occasionally travels to Arctic Red River (Tsiigehtchic) to visit her son and his family.

"I brought up all my kids, now I'm just tired. I just lay down and sleep now. If I want to go for a ride I have to ask somebody to take me out, just for a little ride around town and then they bring me back."

"I don't want to be eighty, I want to be sixteen!" laughs Violet.

When Violet was young, she recalls how her parents travelled all over the country. She remembers going to Snake River. Later, her grandmother, Maggie Firth, took care of her and her brothers and sisters after their mother had passed away. Violet remembers that Sarah Simon also helped look after them from time to time.

Violet and Andre had 17 children. "Odella delivered all my kids for me. I never was in the hospital I just stayed home all the time and looked after the kids. I packed water, washed clothes, everything. No washing machine then! Lots of work."

Violet and Andre had a log house in the bush up the Mackenzie River. She remembers how they stayed in a tent for a month while