



Heritage Project

Hello!

I am Kaye (Hoppins) Rechner

(Kaye was photographed in the 1950s in front of her childhood home on the farm near Huxley. Her grandmother, whose father homesteaded on the edge of Antler Hill, had come from Ontario as a child. Her grandma would follow a route near The Jungle Farm in order to follow the railroad tracks to school in Innisfail!



Kaye grew up on a farm between Pine Lake and Wimborne. There are still eight Hoppins families farming together in the area.

She attended a one-room school called Arthurville School from grades 1-8, before heading to Grade 9 in Huxley and high school in Trochu. The year after she began high school, Arthurville closed. Her parents had both attended a nearby one-room school three miles away called Loyalty School, which also closed, and just a plaque remains of both of those structures. Kaye once saw a profile of a teacher from that school house, who happened to have been her favourite teacher, and it prompted her to get in touch with other people from the area. Many residents from that community were elderly by then and it became clear that their stories, memories and rich resources of information would not be available indefinitely. She took action and began to help them write. Kaye now visits elderly people to document their stories, and has done so for years. It's an important exchange and most people are happy and relieved that their stories will not be lost.

"My parents came to be the keepers of the heritage from Loyalty School, so my house is like a museum of sorts," said Kaye. "They had both attended the school and had spent most of their lives in that area, so they took on the task of tending the artifacts, including the school registers which contain names of her parents, their siblings, and community people through the years. There were records of school attendance and school board meetings, even UFA minutes."

Her mom's school bell, which she actually used when she herself taught at Loyalty School, is also in Kaye's care. Kaye taught kindergarten in Red Deer for over 20 years, and spent six years working at a playschool before that. She retired 10 years ago and is now part of Red Deer's Inkblots writing group, which has added an opportunity to connect with seniors in various facilities to encourage the telling and writing of their important stories. She spends her time writing her stories and other people's stories, and taking part in the oral art of storytelling.

"I just really honour the importance of story, and I spend a lot of my time listening to other people tell their stories. I feel like a witness to these important times in their lives they share with me – sometimes I write their stories for them and other times I simply listen.

"History and stories are my whole life. I've been a longtime subscriber of The Jungle Farm newsletter and I've noticed how much of their own history, and that of the community around them, they are beginning to include in their pieces. It's wonderful and it's always interesting to read. I've taken my grandchildren to the farm to pick strawberries and those are always memorable days."

Kaye's Recipe - Bolts & Bolts

All the years Kaye was growing up, and then while her own three sons were growing up, they enjoyed a traditional Christmas treat of Nuts & Bolts. But there was a nut allergy in the house, so it became Bolts & Bolts! This recipe is adapted from the 25th Anniversary Cookbook of the Loyalty Sewing Circle, printed in 1962. Because of its popularity, the ingredients have grown to four times the original size and now includes whatever snack items are available.

- 1/2 lb. melted margarine
- 2 tsp. worcester sauce
- 1 tsp. celery salt
- 1 tsp. onion salt
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt

Pour it over:

- 1 quart cheerios
- 3 cups rice cereal
- 1 five oz pkg pretzel sticks
- (this is where you would add 3/4 lb unsalted nuts, if desired)

Bake at 250 for two hours, stirring three or four times during baking.