

Doris MOODY

NOMINEE: Doris MOODY

MEMBER SPOUSE: Glyn MOODY #1383

DETACHMENT: Still River 1953 – 1956, 1964 – 1966

NOMINATOR: Peter MOODY (son)

SILENT PARTNER STORY

In July 1953, my father was transferred to the outpost detachment of Still River, approximately 50 miles north of Parry Sound. It was on a gravel road, to be known later as Highway 69. The road stopped at the French River for there was no bridge at that time. Dad's territory ran from the French River in the north to Point Au Baril in the south. It went from Georgian Bay in the west to as far as he could venture in the east, as there were no roads to speak of. This territory encompassed two Indian Reserves, the town of Britt, and Bing Inlet. These were leftover settlements from the logging days and at the time held a thriving commercial fishing industry.

The Still River Detachment buildings were brand new. The first had living quarters, the police office and jail cells complete with outdoor airing courts. The basement held the usual mechanicals, plus a fully-furnished courtroom and bomb shelter.

The second structure had married-man quarters. The third building, located between the first two, had a three-bay heated garage with single-man quarters above. My father was the second officer to be assigned there, Charlie Beman being the first. We lived in the first building.

Mom's duties were largely due to the fact she was there when the officers were not. She answered the phone and the door knocks. When necessary, she would use the police radio to relay information or request assistance at the office.

Many people showed up at the door needing medical attention. Embedded fish hooks, she recounts, being common. Many injured parties from car collisions were brought to the office before being transported to Parry Sound. She aided in their comfort.

On many occasions, residents of the Indian Reserves would appear afterhours at the door. Battered women and men, some drunk, would be seeking medical aid and safety. Mom would shepherd them to the heated garage or to a jail cell.

On the occasions when there were prisoners in the cells, she would cook meals for them. She also recalls cooking for visiting officers during regular meal time or even if they just needed a good meal. She also recounts that when we first arrived at Still River (on our first tour of duty) there was no caretaker.

Mom and the other married officer's wife did the grounds keeping. They dutifully used a push mower on the large property, and planted and maintained flowers. The official opening of the detachment did not take place for some time as the local officers wanted the grounds looking good for superior officers.

The officers would help with caretaking and maintenance chores if they could, but often they were too busy. About a year after we arrived a caretaker was hired.

Mom recalls rattlesnakes lingering around the gardens and basement window wells. They were not to be taken lightly, as on many occasions dad had to rush snake-bite victims to the hospital in Parry Sound.

Mom recounts the loneliness and isolation of living at Still River, especially on the first tour of duty. She remembers, as well, the fear and apprehension of going to the door after dark, not knowing what she was going to find.

About Still River

Located 101 kilometers south of Sudbury on the Trans Canada Highway (Highway 69) Still River is now part of Henvey Township, which includes Britt Station as well.