

Ruth BERGMAN

NOMINEE: Ruth BERGMAN

MEMBER SPOUSE: Ralph BERGMAN, # 3332

DETACHMENT(S): Sioux Narrows 1962 – 1964

NOMINATOR: Self

SILENT PARTNER STORY:

In 1962, Ralph and I reported to Sioux Narrows Detachment, a brand-new building with detachment, cells, garage and residence. The detachment was located on Highway 71 just south of Sioux Narrows and just north of Whitefish Bay First Nation.

The previous police officer at the detachment had left a very large German Sheppard-style dog when he moved. This dog was the detachment mascot and guard for our family when Ralph was out on patrol.

Because the building was located on the main highway, it was not uncommon for people to come to the residence door looking for the police when Ralph was on patrol or away in Kenora. I would have to record the information and then call the OPP dispatcher in Kenora who would contact Ralph in the police cruiser and have him attend to the matter or return to the detachment and speak to the people.

Several times, people would come to the door and I would have to provide first aid for cuts or bleeding until an ambulance would arrive from Kenora, 120 kilometres away. In the meantime, I would have to look after this person and make them comfortable, usually in our house.

The detachment was brand new and had a large lawn which I helped mow and maintain the grounds. I was also expected to clean the office and cells regularly.

One of the other regular 'duties' was to guard and search female prisoners until they could be released. One Christmas, I guarded an intoxicated female in the cells while I was preparing our Christmas dinner for the family. The female prisoner was banging the metal mug used for water on the cell door bars, greatly disturbing our Christmas dinner in the residence. She just would not stop. I asked Ralph if I could bring her into the house so she would stop but Ralph didn't think that was a good idea and again I went out to speak to her.

I remember one particular incident when someone passed away and they had to put the body in the OPP garage until the coroner and undertaker arrived from Kenora. I had to guard the corpse until they arrived as Ralph was at the scene of the death.

I enjoyed working with the women from Whitefish Bay and the Catholic Ladies church group.

The District Inspector from Kenora was a regular visitor to the detachment. I would feed him and Ralph lunch when he came to visit.

One incident that really upset me was when our oldest daughter was starting school. We had enrolled her in the catholic school kindergarten. The District Inspector told Ralph that she could not go the catholic school; she must go the public school. I vehemently disagreed and I won. The Inspector and his wife still came to our house for tea every Sunday even after this disagreement.

There are so many other stories that I could tell but that was so long ago. I really enjoyed our stay in Sioux Narrows raising a family of one girl and two boys before we transferred to Red Lake.

About Sioux Narrows

Situated on the eastern shore of Lake of the Woods on Sabaskong Bay, the resort community of Sioux Narrows has about 300 permanent residents, but sees this number increase substantially during the summer months.