

**Viola Blimkie, rural Postmistress of Buchanan**  
*Gerald Nadeau, Transcript*

“Viola Blimkie was an angel, that’s what she was. She helped the people in Deep River like you can’t believe. She brought them parcels and paid for them herself, and waited for the money so that when the people could pay for whatever they ordered. And they got so used to her helping them that they would order what they couldn’t pay for. And when it came, she would pay for it and drop it off to them and I’m sure there’s a lot of it she never got paid for. But that never stopped her. She kept doing this for people and she’d bring groceries, she’d bring grain and feed and bags of flour, and you name it. And then people would hitch rides with her to get out to the village. And some couldn’t read or write, and she’d have to read things for them and write letters for them. It never ended. I don’t know if there’s ever been a person in the country that ever gave so much to people as she did. But she was a very strong person, physically. She could harness her horse and do all the things that normally you wouldn’t think a woman could do. And then she’d come through sometimes in snow so deep that she’d have to tramp down the snow drifts and walk the horse through first, and then go back and hook the horse back on the sled she’d have and after the horse had passed walking two or three times the trail was broke through the drift and then she could bring the sled over. And she could do this without giving that a thought. And don’t forget that she was on the road for ten hours in winter. And she’d come with her horse in winter and she had a car in summer, when the road dried then she’d come with her car. But there was about two weeks in spring when we had no mail, because the mail couldn’t get through. The snowdrifts were getting soft and the road was bad and the mud came and a car couldn’t come. But Viola Blimkie should be—there should be a plaque put up someplace with her name on it.”