Inside The Life And Culture Of Kodiak

ELWANI

No. 8

DEDICATED

TO THE

MEMORY

OF

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STAN ALVINE

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AND

TOMMY CLAMPHER

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HOME BUILT AIRCRAFT

(DALE MOORE)

On October 12, 1978 Brian Fairchild and I went on an interview for the ELWANI class at the high school. We decided to interview Dale Moore because we had heard that he was building a plane in his basement.

Brian and I had trouble finding Dale's house since he lived on Hillcrest Road. Brian and I had never gone on an interview before so we were both a little scared and also had trouble asking Dale questions about his plane. The kind of plane Dale is building is a Pitts Special.

When we went on our preinterview we were scared and as we got to know Dale alot better and we became calm, when we got to talking, we started to pick up more and more questions about his plane.

When we went on our intervie we had covered almost the same materials as we did when we went on our preinterview, also we had some new questions to ask him about his plane that we didn't ask him before, the story that follows is about The Pitts Specia and how to build one.

Dale Moore and His Airplane

Dale is an active member of the E.A.A. (Experimental Aircraft Association) of which he became a member of in 1956. He is also th chief pilot for Kodiak Western Airlines and he has been flying since 1956.

The name of the plane Dale i building is a Pitts Special, whic was named after Curtis Pitts. It

has won for its respective owners many national and world wide acrobatic awards, and is still recognized as one of the best aerobatic airplanes available to today.

"Construction on the plane began in October, 1975. I decided on the Pitts Special because I like to do aerobatics, and most aircraft built today are not designed for aerobatic manuvers.

"I also want an aircraft that is strong. The Pitts Special is designed to withstand in excess of 9g forces both positive and negative, it would be difficult to impose that much force on an aircraft this small and light even in the most violent manuvers."

The F.A.A. has been to Dale's house three times for various component inspections and will make many more inspections before the completion of this project. So far nothing has been rejected, and they have been helpful with suggestions. The F.A.A. monitors all stages of construction and assembly, all glue joints, and welds are inspected by an F.A.A. official, and signed off before going on to the next stage of construction.

The Pitts Special is a small single seat byplane with a wing span of 17ft. 4in., the length will be 15ft. 6in., and the height will be 6ft. 3in..

The Pitts Special, Dale is building, is expected to weigh at least eight hundred pounds, when it is completed, engine and all. The wing spars and cap strips are made from Sitka Spruce, the wing tips are formed from ten 1/8in., thick strips of Sitka Spruce bent in a circle and laminated together. All parts for the Pitts Special are hand formed from approved aircraft materials. The wing ribs are a special ½in. 5 ply Douglas fir plywood. The turtle back is made from Sitka spruce bulkheads and covered with 3/32 aircraft Mahogany also. All wood parts are bonded together with a plastic resin type glue which is made by U.S. Plywood. All glue joints are clamped or nailed for a tight bond until the glue drys. All fittings such as wing fittings, landing gear fittings, fairing attach points etc., are made from flat sheet metal and welded. The fuselage is constructed of 4130 aircraft tubing cut to size and welded together in Dales basement.

The aircraft will be covered when completed with ceconite, which is a dacron fabric, then made strong and durable by applying aircraft dope.

The engine that is going to be in Dale's Pitts Special will be an approved aircraft engine that is built by Lycoming of 200H.P.

Brian and I both like the plane Dale is building and we would also like to thank Dale for his cooperation and not getting angry for our mistakes.

Story by: Brian Fairchild
Fred Bradshaw

AL BURCH

ON

FISHING TECHNIQUES IN NORTHERN EUROPE

Al Burch is a fisherman. He and his brother Oral Burch run both the Dusk and the Dawn. They mainly fish for bottom fish and shrimp and they deliver to New England Fish Company at Gibson Cove.

Al Burch went to Denmark to see how fishing and processing of fish was, compared to here in Kodiak. "They have quite a system in Denmark. They have fish auction halls. The boat s don't deliver direct to the canneries and factories. They come into halls and unload. They have to be unloaded by 7:00 in the morning. The fish are washed and separated according to species and they also grade them. Then they stack them in fiber glass boxes in this large hall. Each boat has his own area. The buyers from the different canneries and factories and salteries come to the halls and they inspect the fish. At seven in the morning the auction hall master start s the auction. The people bid on the fish. The bid is awarded to which ever factory owner bids the most. Then he has the right at that time to buy either the entire lot or if he doesn't buy it all the remainder is immediately sold at that time. At the auction hall, the next morning, they go through the entire content's again. Generally the product is on it's way to the plant by 11:00 in the morning. If your boat isn't unloaded by 7:00 AM then you have to try again the next morning to aucti off the rest of your catch.

"While I was in Denmark, I made a trip on a bottom gillnet ter. It was about an 80 foot boat. It was a nice steel boat They had a crew of three men on deck and one in the wheel house

We pulled four bottom gillnetts We pulled up a few flat fish, then we pulled four other large meshed gillnettes. We caught quite a few cod and flat fish. Then they showed us how they handle the fish on board the vessel. We gutted and bled the cod fish and we took care of th flat fish on deck, not down in the hold or anything. It was only a demonstration. They didn't want to open up the hold for what few fish they had.

"In Fredrick Haven we made trip on a Danish anchor seiner. It takes about two hours to mak one set. First they map the bu and anchor, then they make a large semi-circle with a line. Then they take the rest of that line, hook another line to that line and finish the circle by coming back to the anchor. The they haul in the two lines that are laid out on each side of th net. When they pulled it up th had a few bushels of flat fish. Again, it was only a demonstration right off the harbor, just to see how the gear worked and everything. The man that had t

boat grossed about two or three hundred thousand dollars a year, with a steel 65 foot boat. The system must work quite well.

"In Denmark we toured the Danish cod salting plant and pollack salting plant. It was one of the more modern plants that we went through. They had 15 people operating the machinery. Most of it was automatic. They had the butterfly machines that was quite impressive.

"First he would buy the fish at the auction hall, then he has it taken over to his plant. It wasn't near the water. They salt and cure it for 21 days. Then he had three men bagging and those three men could bag 40 thousand pounds of fish a day, which was really quite impressive. All the plant s we went through were fairly modern. Some of the most modern plant's in the world, they say, are in the Faeroes.

"The fish I observed in the Faeroes, were the cod, pollack, ocean perch, and rose fish. The catches are dropping now. The fellow we talked to had been out for fourteen days. Generally it's about twelve days per trip. I can't remember, I think he said for the fourteen days he had 80 thousand pounds of flat fish. It's similar to our flounder.

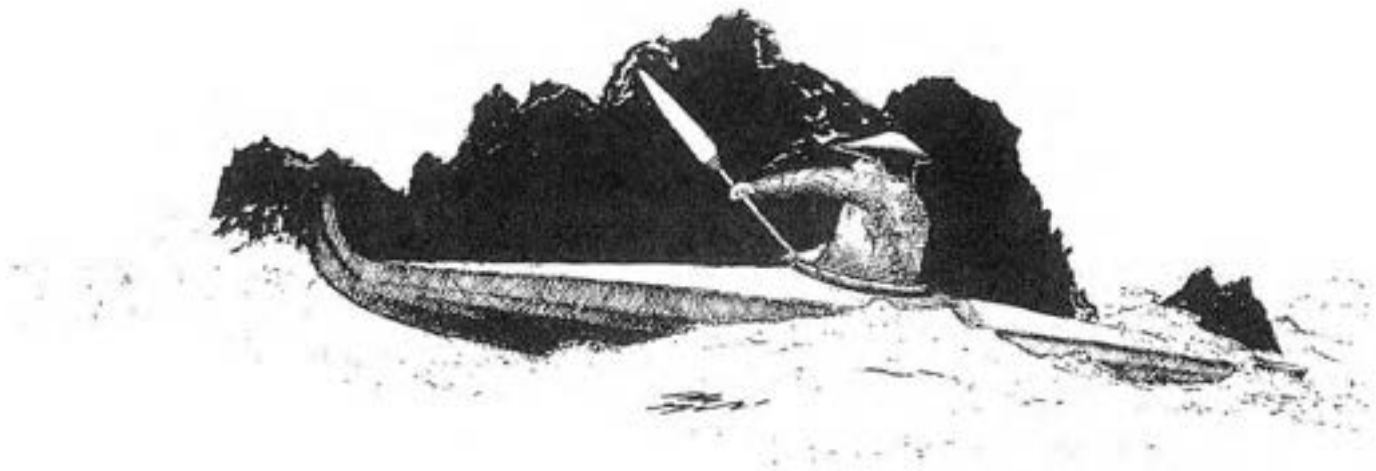
"I saw thing s in Denmark that are just as modern as we have here in Kodiak. Also, in the Faeroes and every town, they have main railways capable of hauling at least two vessels. In Shala, it's a small village in the Faeroes, they have about 1,000 to 2500 people. They have a ship yard that was producing 200 float refrigerater cargo ships. They use 200 people from that particular village to work in this ship yard. When we were there, they had two large stern trawlers being rebuilt, and a brand new small refrigerater cargo ship.

"They also fish for shrimp in Iceland. They have a shrimp fisheries in Iceland. It's (Pan Delas), the pink shrimp they fish for. It's the same shrimp that we fish for here in Kodiak, but they are quite a bit larger then the ones here. The vessels cook the shrimp at sea. They separate them to sizes right aboard the vessels so they don't have to come in so soon. The areas they fish in, up off Iceland, have a 27,000 square mile area they fish in. But their quotas are very small for that large of an area, I think around eight million pounds. I'm not sure, but it's a different type of fishing, it's a low yield, low volume type fishing. We didn't get around any of the shrimp vessels at all. But in the one movie we did see, the vessels were very large. They did all their cooking on the vessels. Most of the vessels they use are the schooners and the side trawler type vessels. There are a few larger vessels, the big stern trawlers. They range from 155 to 250 feet long.

"The boat harbors there are really nice. They're more of a land locked natural harbors. They're in an adequate area to tie up the boats. The boats aren't tied together like they are here in Kodiak. If the boat's double deck, it's by choice, not by security. I saw a place in the harbor where there were two boat s tied together, but it's was by choice."

Written by: Dennis Cox

KAYAK BUILDING



Kodiak kayak as drawn by Scott Clark

Kayaks are a very old and efficient way of water travel under manpower. The native peoples of Alaska have been building and modifying them for hundreds of years

When choosing your kayak design, first look at the area it's from. A kayak from the Aleutian Chain will be very good in rough water because the ocean is very rough in that area. A kayak from a calm water area will be designed for calm water, not rough.

The Kodiak kayak is fairly steep decked so that water can run off the side before it hits the kayaker. The rocker or cur of the keel is flat for better straight line cruising in open water. A boat with extreme rock er will be constantly fighting the wind to stay on course. The length of your boat is your decision, the longer the boat the faster and more cargo it can carry. The Kodiak kayak is narrow which increases speed but at the same time makes cargo capacity less. The weight of your boat can be important if you must carry it long distances

in portage.

Windage is how much the wind affects the performance of your boat. The width and heigth of your boat affect this, even if you're paddling in small winds.

The cost of building your own kayak is very minimal, $70.00 to $125.00, that is a fraction of the cost of a mass produced one. Nothing can match the satisfaction of building your own boat.

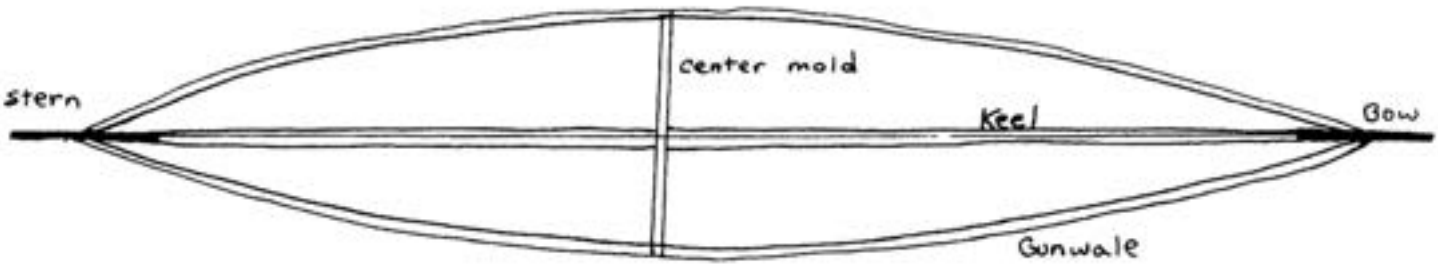
All of your designs such as bow, stern, and centermold, can be obtained through Howard Chapelle's "Bark Canoes and Skin-boats of North America." It gives a good general background on traditional kayaks. To get actual size of parts, just blow up to full scale.

...ving at the ridges in your centermold to produce chines for stability.

Check again for fairness and symmetry. Correct any flaws now before you continue.

Now find an alder patch and cut 20-40 alders, about the size of your thumb, 3-4 ft. long, growing relatively straight. The number of ribs is your choice. Less ribs make a lighter but weak-

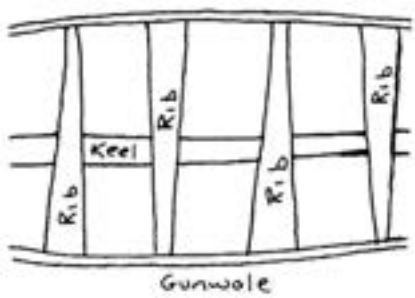
Birds eye view of basic frame



To begin construction, lash your centermold (to the center of where your cockpit rim will set) on your keel, with bow and stern on either end. To make your bow and stern, either cut them out of a spruce 1 x 12 plank, or carve out of a natural crook. Crooks can be taken from tree stumps.

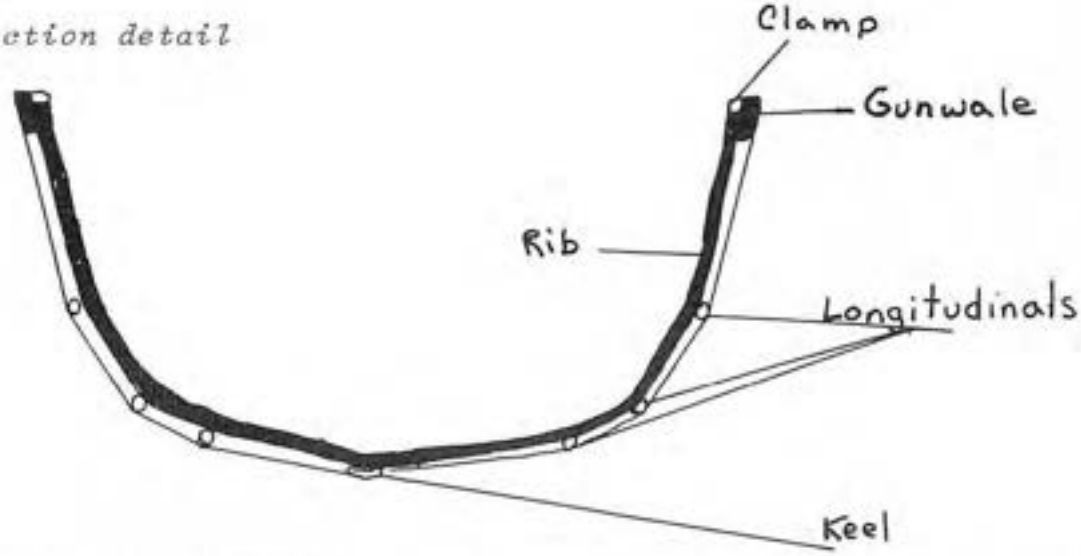
Lash on your gunwhales at the bow first. Then lash on to your centermold. Bend both gunwhales to the stern piece at the same time and lash securely.

To lash in stringers use the same method as on gunwhales, but first eyeball your boat and check for fairness and symmetry, and that your keel is straight. Now lash on your stringers in pairs starting with the lower pair. The stringers should be placed



Detail of rib placement (Out of scale)

Cross section detail



er boat. It is very important to keep your alders wet and green. Skin them as you use them.

Start at your centermold and alternate the thick ends of your alders and the side, fore and aft of center, put them on to prevent uneven stress. Space them a little better than a fist width apart for a strong boat.

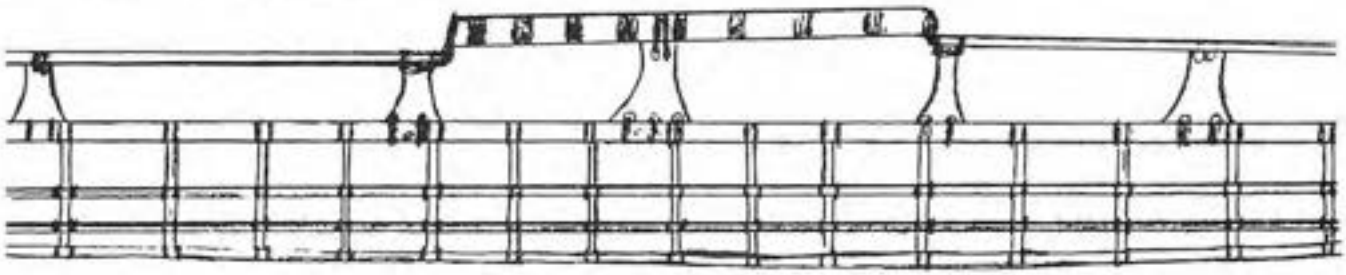
Just one inch below your gunwhale's top cut off your ribs. Insert a one piece clamp over them and lash it on at every rib.

Four to eight is a good number for deckbeams. Start with the deckbeams in front and back of your cockpit to support the rim. They should be crook'd according to plans. Very large alders, shaved square or split, work well. At either end, where the deckbeams touch the gunwhales, the deckbeams should be notched to fit the gunwhales, and lashed in firmly so they don't move. Your deckridge should be lashed on and pegged into position so it cannot move.

You should go back and replace all loose lashings and make sure the boat is flawless. Then make your cockpit rim. Bend your spruce strips around a barrel or 55 gal. drum, and lash them together giving you a sturdy hoop of four or five layers.

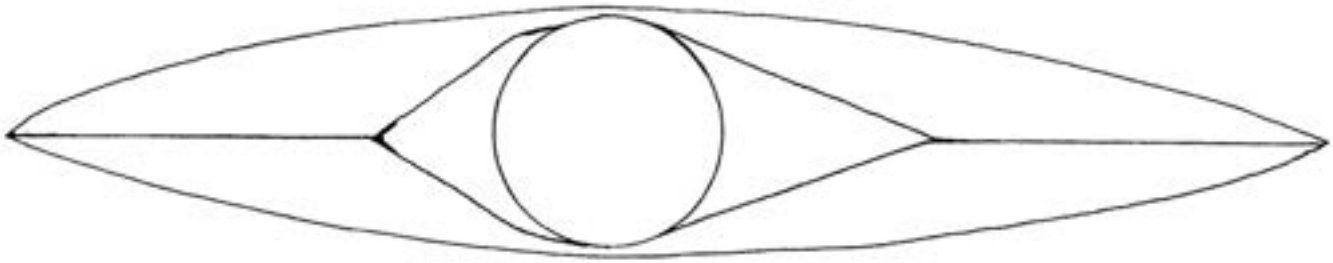
Remove your centermold and lash your cockpit rim to the deckbeams, and put stanchion supports up from the gunwhale on either side.

Varnish with floor hardner to protect your wood from the water and glue your lashings secure.



Detail of cockpit area

Sewing on your canvas is done in two pieces. One piece on the deck and one on the bottom. First sew your canvas on the bow then stretch your canvas to the stern and sew it on the stern. Your canvas centerpiece should be shaped like a catseye. Sew it around the edges then cut out the cockpit hole and sew around it. To tighten your canvas scald it with boiling water and as it drys it will shrink. Then put on 2-4 coats of "cellulose acetate butyrate" aircraft dope, one coat at a time. Now you're ready to go kayaking.



Canvas sewing pattern

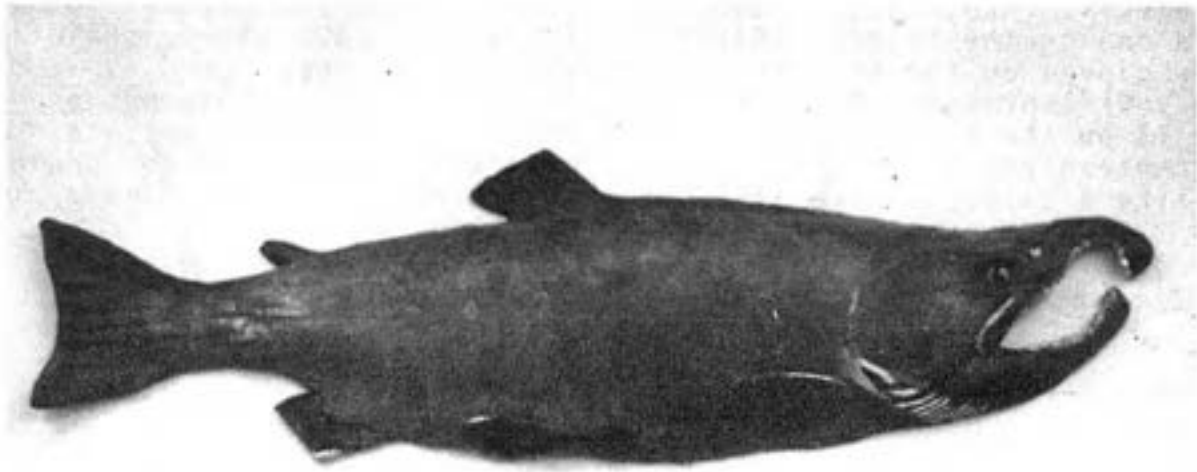
Description of Article	Size	Amount	Preparations
Spruce wood stringers	1" x 1"*	6	Plane round and pointed on one end
Deckridge, keel, gunwales	1" x 2"*	4	Plane edges smooth
Nylon seine twine	12 threads	1 lb.	For all lashing
Bow and Stern	1" x 12' x 80'	20-40	Cut out bow nas stern piece, Center mold
Alder ribs	1" round x 4ft.	4	Skin down and lash in green
Deckbeams (alder)	4" round	1	Plane square and lash into support deck
Cockpit rim	2"x 2" x 3'	1	Buy green and saw 1/4" green strips
Stryrofoam bouy	large	1	For floatation (optional)

* longer than the length of your boat

Canvas	10 yards(16 ft boat)	$50
Dope	3 gallons	$30
Dacron braid fish line	100 yards(30 lb test)	$ 4

Article credit: Paul Greenlee

Assistance: Phyllis Flick



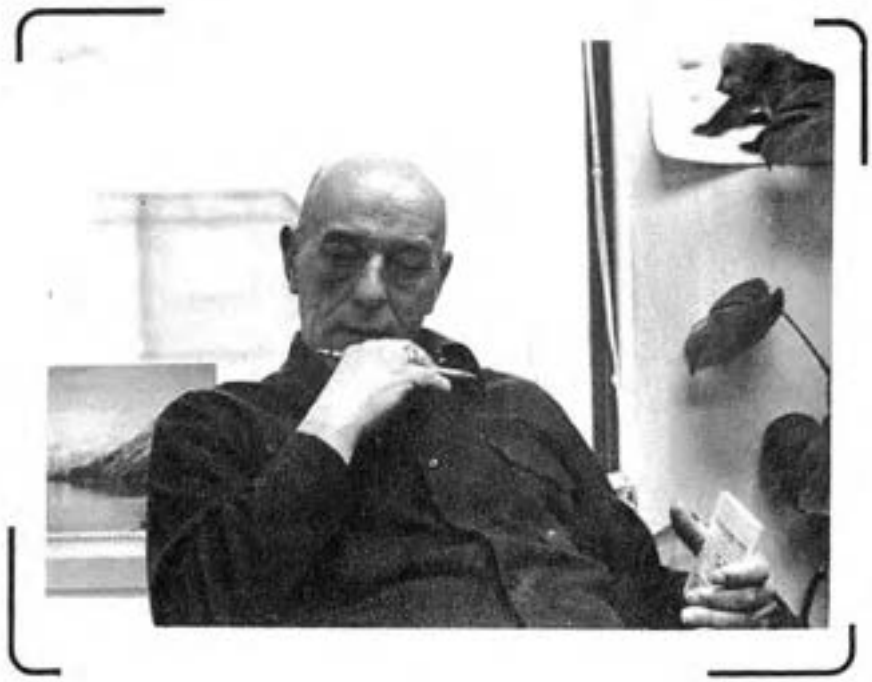
FISH

WITH

BEN BALLENGER

&

GAME



This is a story about Ben Ballenger, an Alaska Department of Fish and Game employee. Ben has lived in Kodiak many years. He has worked with Fish and Game for years which treasure many memories. Surveying Kodiak's wildlife is something which Ben has a talent in. Experiences with Fish and Game are ones Ben will never give away. Bears have spooked him up once in a-while. But he has never had to shoot any.

"We've been spooked a few times while surveying bears and other animals."

Here's a few thrillers to keep all of you glued to your seats.

"Al and I had just tranquilized a bear and he got away from us, so we had to go in search of him. Al found a bear, thinking it was the one he tranquilized, in the high grass. So he approached the bear thinking, just my luck, Ben's on the other side. But to Al's astonishment, as he was about to start working on the bear, he realized it was only cat napping. What a surprise for Al.

"Another time at Thumb River area near Karluk Lake, we heard a low wuff and knew immediately somewhere in all that vegetation was a bear. The wuff sounded like he was letting all the air out of his lungs, not a growl, or a bark. So we both pushed forward keeping our eyes, ears, and wits about us. As we parted the vegetation slowly and cautiously we caught sight of a young bear. He was only 15 to 20 feet away, but it felt like we were eyeball to eyeball. Nearby was a large cotton tree, which I swished up, approximately 30 feet from the ground. He ambled over to the tree, with serious intentions, his jaws were clicking and he started snapping. He was more curious than angry, I think, but I wasn't going to climb down and find out. Being strong he could have shook that cotton wood tree until I fell out. But he didn't. The bear wanted to get far away from me as I wanted to get from him. Could you see the newspaper headlines, 'Bear Surveyor Treed By Grizzly.' After a while he ambled away, whew, close call. But I was safe and sound.

"Other times, we have come

across bears and had to shout, scream, and make alot of noise to scare them away, a few times we've had to fire a few shots in the air. But I have never had to kill a bear.

"I was flying on an elk survey to determine where the elk are in late winter or early spring. While flying, I spotted an area covered with blood on the snow. So I asked the pilot to circle the area a few times to make sure what happened. The pilot started banking around that area in the alder. There before my wondering eyes should appear but a bear eating an elk carcass. I had the pilot drop me off and went to the spot where I had seen the feasting bear. The elk was a pregnant female, actually killed by the bear. The hooves, head and fetus was all that remained. So I documented it for the first time. It was the first time it could be proved that the bear had killed the elk.

"Most surveys have two people, because while one is looking through the spotting scope the other is recording it as he says it. He may be recording a crossing elk herd of 120 or 130, the person looking through the scope yells out, cow, calf, bull, cow, as he sees them. In the meantime his partner is jotting this down.

"We do deer surveys on the road system because that is where most of the hunting pressure is. We do surveys on the penninsula, Ugak Bay, Uganik Island, Old Harbor, etc..

"We don't do much deer surveying in or past Larsen Bay. The deer popualtion has recently been introduced there. Managing animals that the public are hunting is what we are trying to do. We've been fortunate the last three years that we got over the winter. The first time we get a real bad winter we'll lose alot of deer. They'll kick back on the breed, from a low to

One of Ben's many specimens.

You don't want a picture of a bald old man.

high level abundance. The number on penninsulas and capes are different. We also try to get the animals and plants balanced. Two plants deer feed on are willows and elderberry. Every year we do a range transect, to see what utilization has taken place. The current growth and if they will be resourcive. If you get too many animals on the range the current growth goes downhill.

"When looking at a bunch of dead animals, we just break out a note book and a measuring tape and take the basic measurements. We'd take the measurements as if the whole animal were there. We would get the total length, height of shoulder, length of hind foot. That kind of standard measurement from the elbow like of a deer to the end of the hind foot. There's a regular form we put this on, autopsy form. We take a long bone, break it to determine what condition the bone marrow is in. Then tag it right away so we wouldn't get it mixed up with the other specimens.

"There is no history of sport hunting. Sport hunters might have aided some of these animals. There had been bison ranges all the way from Canada clear down to Texas, in millions. They were just reduced to a few of them in National Parks. The wildlife of Kodiak was and still is important to me."

Lillian and I enjoyed talking with Ben. If we could do it again we would grab it. We liked being in his company and are glad he talked with us.

Story: Lillian Bradshaw
Tracey Reyes

Layout: Tracey Reyes
Lillian Bradshaw

Photos: Tracey Reyes
Lillian Bradshaw

MARY HERNDON AND THE New England Fish Company

Our first real knowledge of how the canneries operate was given to us when Sandy Lowry went to Mary Herndon's house and interviewed her. Mary is a short lady with curley hair. As I talked to her, I realized that she knew her business very well. She explained all the different steps and processes that the products have to go through at New England Fish Company. Later she was our guide on a tour of the cannery. When we decided to visit N.E.F.CO., we had to get special permission to take pictures. Everyone was very nice, and they set up a time for us to visit the plant. When we arrived, Mary gave us a very complete tour.

"I work at New England Fish Company, at Gibson Cove. I'm a foreperson there, I instruct, work, and teach beginners how to work with the products; shrimp, crab, and bottomfish. I also hire workers.

"I started in a pear cannery in Oregon, then after that I came to Kodiak. That was in 1966, and I started into crab at Pan Alaska. From there I worked in almost all the canneries. Then I went to Alaska Ice and Storage and I stayed there for three years, working steady in halibut, peeling cheeks. From there I went to Gibson Cove, where I work presently. I've been working six years, in April, for New England. I've worked at that same plant for about eight years. It was formerly owned by American Freezerships. Before it was a plant, it was used as a ferry boat between Seattle and Bremerton, Washington. It was brought here to be used as a cannery in 1960.

"I've seen alot of improvements over the years. The shrimp I first did or watched, shrimp workers had to hand peel all the shrimp. Now you know, we have

sophisticated machinery that peels 'em. There's been quite a lot of improvements in packaging, wrapping, stapeling, and banding for shipment. All that is the new equipment that the canneries have invested in. The boats have improved in the way they fish, they've got larger boats and they bring in more products. The canneries can do it (process) faster because they have better equipment.

"We have better freezing facilities for our shrimp and bottomfish. We have an individual quick freezer which freezes the products individually. They run a special amount of time (in the freezer), and they come out down a shoot into a box for packaging. We don't do any canning, we just freeze our products. Our brands are Ship Ahoy and Icy Point.

Pollock going into the I.Q.F. freezer.

"Our raw shrimp is frozen in blocks, put in boxes and shipped to Seattle in Sea Land vans. With cooked shrimp we put it in a tank and wash it, then we run it across a belt and that's where they pick all the fish out of it. Then it's run through the peelers and peeled. Then it goes through a separator and that gets out the rest of the shells, that are left over from the peelers. The shrimp is cooked right over the peelers. It's steam cooked. It goes across the shakers, where there's a blower that blows some more shells out, then on to a belt where workers pick out whatever is left on the shrimp. Next it's dipped in a brine and then drained. Then it goes into an IQF freezer and it takes about seven minutes to freeze. From there it goes to a holding freezer, packaged in fifty pound boxes. From there it goes in a van to Seattle.

"Our raw shrimp goes through the same process, but it's a little more difficult to get all the shells out of it. Then it's weighed in 16½ pound blocks and put in a plate freezer and frozen solid. The next day or even the same day they are broken out of there and put in cases, shipping cases, and put in a van to be shipped to Seattle.

"Very little of our products stay here, most of them go to Seattle. Sometimes we get special orders that are sent on planes, but not to often. We put them in styrofoam boxes and ship them down on the direct flight. If it has to go to Seward or something we use the ferryboat.

"People call and ask for orders. Our plant in Seattle will get special orders. Occasionally they'll have to ship something overseas and we might be doing alot more of that because when we get orders like that and if they think it'll pay they'll start shipping directly from here, straight to Germany or Japan or whatever country might want to order. It will probably be done by plane straight from Kodiak. They're talking about it. I remember that when I used to work at Ice and Storage we used to ship whole crabs to France by plane. All we did was cook them. But first we opened up their backs and cleaned all the bad insides out. They were then put in special made boxes and packed frozen. Then we shipped them straight out.

"They don't get rotten or anything because it doesn't take

very long to ship them. If they're packed in styrofoam, they won't thaw out. I know one lady in town who ships by mail to her relatives. She gets the ice that comes in packages and she puts it in the styrofoam boxes with the crab and it keeps.

"In the process of crab, in other plants, they roll the crab through rollers to get the meat out of the legs and claws. Then they run it through a blue light to get the shells out. The light makes them glow, so they can clean them out. But at our plant we section them and send them to Seattle.

"At our plant we are processing bottom fish. Bottom fish are considered the fish that feed along the bottom of the ocean floor. Cod, pollock, English sole, Alaska plaice, and flounder are a few. We were the first plant in Kodiak to do the bottom fishing. We now have three boats fishing bottomfish. It takes about 100 workers to do bottomfish and, our boats often bring in 200,000 pounds a load. The cannery started bottom fish in April of 1978. I went to Pier 65 in Seattle and learned how to work in bottom fish. Then I came back up and showed the people at the cannery here how to do them. People from Pier 65 traveled up here to help to get things started.

"We also have very sophisticated machinery that does much of the work. One of the machines heads and guts the fish. Then the fish travel down a chute and are filleted. Workers then look for parasites and trim the fish. Then it's frozen and packaged and sent to Seattle in vans, for use in restaurants and other places.

"Lab technicians take daily samples of the fish and look for contamination and disease. So we do put out a very clean and safe product.

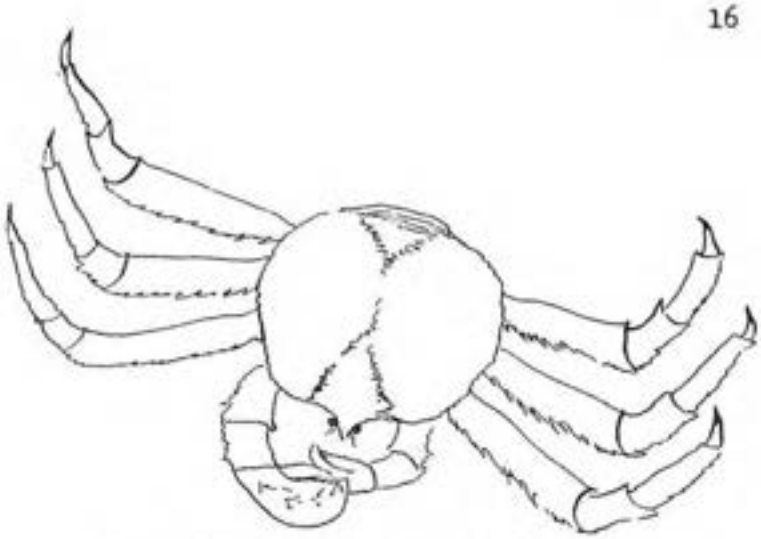
"Our cannery especially has good clean-up equipment so we can keep our plants cleaner. We have what we call pressure equipment. We just use a pressure hose that has a trigger gun on the end. It sprays soap all over everything and really cleans it up good. Then we don't have all that slime build-up and mess you get from seafood products. All the docks now are cemented instead of wooden. They are covered with cement so that none of the dirt stays in cracks or crevises. The same is true with the machinery. The spray gun can get in every crack. There is 900 pounds of pressure in some guns and 600-800 pounds in others. We are putting a new foam in ours, a cleaning compound of some sort. Our drains are better now and we don't drain anything into the ocean anymore. We put it all into a big hopper where it is washed many times and then is sent to Bio-Dry. The Bio-Dry does some more to it and then uses it for fertilizer. So all the waste is removed everyday from the plant and we don't have any refuse around. O.S.H.A. checks on us to make sure we don't have any accidents, so not many people get hurt. Also we have a program at our plant now, where we

Heading and gutting machine.

are educatiog neople on safety. We are tryinq to make our jobs more safe.

"We have many kinds of people that work for us. We get people from everywhere: Mexicans, Philipinos, Koreans, Japanese, and Vietnamese are just some of them. Some are from Canada, France, England, Iceland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Greece, Italy and Spain. I had a Swedish woman working for me at one time who never did know any English. We do not descriminate against anybody."

As we left New England Fish Company, we had a better view and knowledge of what process the crab, bottomfish, and shrimp go through to be acceptable as food products all over the world. Mary Herndon was very patient in showing everything to us. The cannery administration was also very helpful in letting us come for the tour and letting us take pictures. Over all we think it was a very educational experience.



First interview by Sandy Lowry

Cannery interview, story, and darkroom credit:
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Photo and layout credit:
Bonnie Greenlee
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From left to right: Kim Jewett, Sandy Lowry, Mary Herndon Gwen Sargent, and Bonnie Greenlee.

"AFOGNAK WAS A NICE PLACE TO BE BORN AND RAISED..."

JULIA NAUGHTON

I first met Julia through her nephew, Peter Olsen. We didn't talk very much at first. I don't think Julia talks very much to anyone she hasn't known for awhile.

Since I first met Julia we have seen alot of each other and have begun to talk quite a bit. Julia has a keen sense of humor and once she sees the humorous side of something it's hard for her not to share it with the people around her.

When I first asked her if I could interview her she didn't seem too overjoyed about talking into a tape recorder and having her picture taken. But, she consented and I think she even enjoyed talking about her childhood.

Here are some of the things Julia Naughton and I talked about during the interview...

"Well, I was born and raised in Afognak. I'm gonna give you my birthdate because there's a reason for it... I was Born on July 18. Of course I didn't know it at the time but that was a real good fishing year, that year I was born. So I really got the milk I needed as a baby. My brothers and sisters didn't get a good start like I did."

"My mom's name is Christina and my dad's is Afonie. Christina and Afonie Lukin, they live in Port Lions now.

"I have two brothers and two sisters. Nina, Junior, Jacob, and Christine. I was born right before Junior. We also had another brother, Lester, he was lost at sea when I was a teenager."

"Afognak was a nice place to be born and raised at. We used to play this game called Lapture. I remember this one time we were playing. One of our neighbors wore a black hat. He was going by and just then my brother, my older brother, batted and he hit that man right on the head. It knocked his hat right off but, it didn't hurt him.

"We used to go bicycle riding too. I never owned a bicycle but my friend did. She would let me ride it. Her name was Mary Anderson.

"We used to go skating all the time. On the lake, it wasn't too far from our house. I was a

pretty good skater, at least I thought I was. I used to go with my cousin, Dennis Knagin. Of course we didn't have the proper clothing either to keep us warm.

"In the summer time we did do some swimming. I never did really learn to swim good. But, I did play in the water. This one time I almost drowned. I was on this log and the tide was going out. Our teachers were on the beach watching us. I got off the log and I went clear under the water. I was so scared that I just started walking and as I came out Mr. Cameron was getting up off the beach because he saw what happened. After that I was kind of afraid of the water I think.

"I went to school in Afognak, our school was right next to, almost right next to my house. I stayed in bed until 8:30 in the morning. I'd have breakfast and run. I went through 8th grade over there.

"One year it was drawing close to Christmas and I was 13 years old. I was going to school on the morning of the 23rd. I was going to the outhouse and just as I got there I fell. I hit my wrist on the corner of the outhouse and I broke it. But, I didn't know I'd broken it at the time. I know it hurt though. I guess one of the other kids told our teacher. I went home and I cried all of the time of course. My parents didn't know what to do. One of our neighbors told my mother that one of the missionaries was a nurse. So, my father or somebody went and got her. It hurts now just to think about it. She put my arm in a splint. We had to wait for the mail boat and I came here to Kodiak to get taken care of. It took about a week until we could get here.

"We used to go fishing. In the summer time our mother would take us seining right in front of the village. I remember lots of times we'd come home late at night and I'd be wet up to my knees and carrying my shoes. She smoked fish and we helped her with that. She really made the best smoked salmon-of course I would think that anyway, her being my mother. My dad helped her too when he was home, when he wasn't out fishing or working in the cannery.

"My dad fished mostly and he worked in the herring plants. He doesn't fish anymore, I think he's too old.

"There was alot of things we went without as children. Not like my children now, they don't know what it's like to be in need like we were. We didn't have the clothes that they have; we didn't have the things that they have; we didn't even have room enough to play in the house.

"The one thing I remember about our father was he'd tell us 'Well, when I go fishing I'm gonna make lots' and I'll bring you back a dory load of candy.' But I never did see that until I went to work myself at Port Bailey, I saw a dory load of watermelons sitting on one of the tenders and that made me think of what my father used to tell me.

"Oh, I should have told you, on the lake in the summertime we used to play Cannery. My brothers would build canneries on the edge of the lake and they had boats. My father made boats for them. He really made some good ones. He made them from scratch and he put everything on them, the rigging and everything. I tell you they were beautiful. In these lakes there was what they called 'stickleback'. It's a little fish. We used to deliver them to the canneries.

"There's been times when I thought my childhood wasn't very nice, you know. But there are times when I can remember happy

times. It was nice, our mother made it as nice as she could for us.

"My father was also a trapper, he really got alot of furs. He would set out traps for us children to catch weasel. This is what we depended on for our Christmas money.

"The way he did it was he would tell us to be quiet, otherwise the traps wouldn't catch anything. That's not what it was, he just wanted us to be quiet.

"I really always took it too hard that that's what would happen and I would try so hard to be quiet. But it was hard on us, especially my brother, my younger brother and I.

"Well, coming back to these little furs that our father would catch for us. He used to send them out to Missouri and that's where the money for our Christmas presents came from. He sent his other furs there, too.

"His trapping would help keep us going. He's always been a good trapper. He wasn't as good of a commercial fisherman but, he did do some of that. He did do some work in the herring plants, too.

"We used to go fishing in a creek that ran by our house. We used fish hooks made out of common pins. A common pin is a straight pin. We just bent the end and that's what we used for fishing. We caught quite a bit. It was alot of fun.

"We planted gardens in the summer. I spent alot of time weeding gardens, potatoes especially. My mother did have some turnips. But the thing I really remember is weeding the potatoes, and they were big gardens too.

"I got Rhuematic Fever. My first attack was in the spring. I wasn't really well but I begged my mother to let me go to work at Port Bailey. I was 15 at the time but I had a birthday coming up in July. Well, she let me go and the Superintendent asked me how old I was and I said '15, but I have a birthday next month'. They said it was okay, so I went to work.

"That summer I worked for a new washing machine for my mother. That's about all I got, except for maybe a few clothes. It was a great feeling to get this washing machine for my mother.

"I turned 16 and my parents decided to send me to Bible School. I think my mother thought she was going to have a-lot of trouble with me. So my parents decided to send me to this Bible School clear back in Chicago. I worked again that summer at Port Bailey and I left that fall with Barbara Crozier. (One of the missionaries in Afognak at that time.)

"In Seattle we got on a troop train for Chicago, this was during the war. Some of those boys were making fun of this 'Indian girl', that's what they called me. Of course Barbara would say 'Oh, there's nothing wrong with Indian girls'. She was just trying to make me feel better. We went on to Chicago and she stayed on with me overnight.

"It was an awful experience but in other ways it was good because, I saw some things. I learned some things but I had a real hard time. They had visitation each week and they put me in that class so I could see the city of Chicago. It was very interesting but I really was homesick.

"Barbara was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. She had a brother

going to Moody Bible Institute and the other brother was going to Wheaton College. We were going to Barbara's home for Christmas. I took all of my belongings with me. My books, everything, because I didn't want to go back to that school. But, I didn't tell anyone. Barbara said in later years that if I had told her, they wouldn't have let me go back to that school. I spent my whole Christmas holiday there but then I had to back to school.

"I spent my 17th birthday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. That's when we were on our way back home. I heard my sister Nina was in Seattle for surgery on her lip, it looked like a varicose vein. She was down there for treatment on that.

"While we were down there we received a letter from home. But what happened was we didn't get the letter we were supposed to because on the outside of the letter it said 'Pray before opening' and the other went into detail about our brother being lost at sea.

"Nina was going to stay longer in Seattle for treatment on her lip but as it turned out, to us it sounds like her life was really spared because of our brother. Later we learned if she had stayed there for those treatments, they were radiation treatments, it would've caused more damage.

"Our brother was on his way to town on a boat that was loaded with fish. He was coming in to see a doctor because he had an infection on his eye. There was only one survivor of that boat.

"I went to work that summer at Port Bailey, and that's the summer I met George. (He was born and raised in Yakutat. That's near Cordova.) He was a salmon cook and I worked at the patching table. I was 18. We got married when I was 19. After we married I stayed here (in Kodiak) with my mother-in-law.

"We were married three years before Julie came along. She was born in March, we stayed in Port Bailey until she was six years old. I really enjoyed my life out there. I didn't have any lady friends. I just had a baby and I was cooking for these men. I really learned to cook there. My husband always tells me that he taught me how to cook which was probably true. My mother did teach me some things too.

"We had all kinds of things for Julie to do out there. We couldn't help but spend alot of time with her. So she really had a good childhood.

"Then we moved to town and George went to work at the Bakery. He worked there for along time. After the earthquake and tidal wave almost took everything we had. Then he went to work for B & B for awhile. Now he works at Columbia-Ward Fisheries.

"George likes his work down there. He's been a cannery man all his life, he's never wanted to be a fisherman. He likes what he's doing.

"Ronnie was born when we moved to town. During the month of August. That was three years before the earthquake.

"When the earthquake hit he was down at the Olsen's at a birthday party for Peter.

"I was up at my sister Christine's when the earthquake started. I was cooking dinner for the family. I heard this noise and I thought it was mice. But this noise kept getting louder, finally I went and stood in the doorway. Then I knew it was something else.

"So I started walking, all the time the earth was trembling till it was getting too hard to walk. I got close to a fence and I started hanging on to that until I got to the neighbor lady's. Her name was Louise McCormick. When I got to her house she was standing outside barefoot saying 'Isn't this something, isn't this something?' We just stood there until it was over.

"Then my husband came along and he was trying to get us all together. Julie and her friend Vivianne, who was Louise's daughter, were down at the Bakery. They were on their way to the Post Office. They were just little girls at the time.

"My husband rushed up to see if we were okay. He knew there was going to be a tidal wave. We went up to higher ground which they told us to do. My sister Christines boys, Jeff and Gregg, were playing in the harbor. But, somebody got them. We stayed up there till it was pretty much clear. I was listening to some guys talk and they said all communication was cut with the outside world.

"The wave just came below my mother-in-laws house. We went out to Mill Bay where her house is and stayed out there for awhile.

"We tried to get up Pillar but we couldn't get up very far because there were so many cars. Later on we came down, it was a pretty night, the moon was shining but it was cold.

"We went up to my sister Christine's and we ate fried potatoes and weiners by candlelight.

"We got a house in Aleutian homes while our house was being built. Then we moved into our house after it was built.

"And it's been S.O.S. ever since...Same old stuff."

Story: Phyllis Flick
Layout: Phyllis Flick
Paul Greenlee
Photography: Peter Olsen
Dave Kubiak

Mary Fearn

Mrs. Fearn and her daughter, at home.

Afognak Village is just one of the many communities which once were active around Kodiak Island. Although it was destroyed by the tidal wave, it's people still have the perspective of life unique unto themselves. One of these people, Mary Fearn, was born in Afognak. She carries with her the traditions passed on by her ancestors who lived their lives in Afognak also.

"My grandmother delivered me. I was born in my grandmothers house. I think there were alot of midwives when I was born, but by the time I grew up, I don't think there were a whole lot left. At that time you had to depend on the Coast Guard or Kodiak Airways and the Coast Guard used to have to go through so much red tape. Almost 24-32 hours before a boat would be sent out. I heard now they go a-head and send a boat and the red tape is done while they travel.

"My dad's father was a full-blooded Irishman and his mother was Russian. My mom's father is complete Aleut, and her mother's got a lot of Russian blood. So I'm a Heinz 57! But when people ask me what nationality I am I always say I'm an Aleut. I always tell them I'm full-blooded. They don't have to know the difference. I can speak some Russian, just choice words! I know some nice ones like sugar and butter. Aleut is harder to say, I think. It's harder to pronounce. 'Cause mom and her cousin and another gal say some of the really Aleut words. They're just harder to pronounce. Even my kids have an easier time saying Russian words. My folks didn't speak it as much in our home. They just spoke it when they didn't want us to know what they were talking about, and now my mother gets frustrated because I don't know it, so I told her "well it's your own fault because if you're not around it all the time you just don't learn it." Even my grand-parents when us kids were around, they always spoke to us in English. When I went to the Russian Orthodox Church, it was all in Russian, but then I didn't really know what they were saying. Some of the words I knew, but not a whole lot.

"One of the games we used to play was taught to us by a Russian Orthodox priest. It's called poltchku . To play, you have a group of kids and you choose one person to be "it." Then somebody takes a stick and throws it as far as they can and as soon as the stick is thrown all the kids run except the person that is "it", and go off and hide. The kid that's "it" has to go find the stick then run back to the base and say " poltchku on the stick", then he says " poltchku here I come." That meant he was coming to look for you, and if he found Rhonda, Rhonda and him would run back to the base and the first one to grab the stick, like if Rhonda got it, she would say " poltchku for myself." And if the person who was "it" got it, they would say " poltchku for Rhonda." So anyways, it went on and the last person that was found was "it", then you'd go back and throw the stick and it all starts over again. Sometimes we'd get such a large group playing, we'd forget who all was playing. But the idea was to be the first, or to beat the guy there so you wouldn't have to be "it". Another game we used to play was Lapture, which is a bat and ball game similar to soft-ball, but you just have two bases. The batter stands at one base, and the pitcher stands beside him and throws the ball up, and the batter hits it from there. Then if the ball goes far enough out in the field where the other team is, those who batted before you got to run to the other base and if you could make it back during that time, then you could just keep on going till one of the other team caught the ball or as you're run-ning between and you get hit by the ball, then it's the other

teams turn to bat. Would you like to go out and have a little demonstration? We could play Lapture for the rest of the day. (laugh)

"We also played Derbase. Each team has a big base and a little one which they call a prism. It's just a circle in the ground. They're spaced quite a ways away from each other and you're separated into teams. One team has one base and the other team has the other, and you go and run around as each other comes out of the base and you try to touch the other team. If you catch somebody then you put them inside the prism beside your base and the other team has to run and try to get those kids out of your prism. If you end up with one team all in one prism then the other team wins. It was fun; kept us occupied. What else did we play? Oh, Teekling. Wintertime on ice on the sleds, the teekles are round wooden pieces about 2½ feet long, with a sharp nail in the bottom and you poke that into the ice as you set on your sled and skooted along, that way. We ice skated, played Crack the Whip an awful lot. I guess that's about it!

"At Christmastime we had alot of fun. We would carry the Star around and go caroling. I guess that's what you would call it, although we caroled inside with the star. While you're singing songs in Russian and sometimes Aleut, you twirl the star so it's constantly turning. Seems like the... I don't know what you call it, not the twirler but anyways, sometimes he'll be twirling it one way and the next time you look, he'd be turning it the other way. It used to be really neat. The stars were decorated up really pretty. We always got treats. Candy or cookies or something when we went with the star. During Russian holidays like Christmas and Easter I especially remember cleaning! All of the cleaning you had to do. We always changed the drapes or washed the walls or painting or rewallpapering. We cleaned the yard, and it went on for days and days. It wasn't just vacuum the carpet and that's it. They just really, really cleaned. And when there's cleaning, there's baking. Then for Russian Easter we used to go trading eggs. When I was a kid, we used to always go to our grandparents first. Of course only my mothers parents were living. And then we went to Aunt's and Uncle's houses, then we were allowed to go to our friend's houses. Respect was a big thing when we were growing up. Respect your elders! If they scolded you, you knew it was kind of like their duty. Your family was never hurt or offended if somebody else scolded you.

"I lived in between Afognak and Kodiak until I was 18, and had never been out of Alaska. I went to Anchorage and Palmer and Wasilla. I won a free trip up there through a program, a camping trip. So when me and Bill got married in June of '64, we went to Old Port Wakefield, then left in August and went to Utah. Talk about a "green" person! Some of the things I used to think would happen to me. Then we went to Oregon. I enjoyed Oregon more then Utah. I guess Oregon reminded me of home. It was the very first time I'd been away for any length of time from my folks. It was a hard adjustment to make. Utah was so closed in for me. Just mountains, mountains, mountains! Here you get used to the mountains green all the way to the top. There it's just brown and yucky. Oregon was a lot bigger city than in Utah. Bill had relatives there and I had an Aunt that we used to visit. But then again we didn't stay there as long. We moved back in '68, and Bill's been teaching at Base School since.

"We were married just after the earthquake and tidal wave. I worked as a cooks helper in old Port Wakefield, at a mess hall.

LOFKA, the store in which the Fearn's own.

We used to have free movies every Friday night, and of course it was Friday when the earthquake happened. I was just finishing the dishes and was getting ready to go home when I heard the windows in the kitchen rattle. I thought it was just the kids. They used to come early and mess around outside before it was time for the movie to start. I was walking to that end of the mess hall to tell them to stay away from the windows, and a guy came in from the store, just across from the mess hall. He said, "we're having an earthquake", and I said "no we're not, that's the kids out there." Then he said, "no, we're having an earthquake, just be still and listen and feel it." Well, sure enough, and so we went to the doorway. When I was growing up we were told never to stay inside, and not to go outside either, just to open the door and stand there. So that's what we did. There was myself, the cook, and the fellow out of the store and the storekeeper. We all went to the doorway facing the cannery. Boy, to watch that old cannery just go from side to side. We stayed there until it was over, and out comes the nightwatchman which is Christy Hansen now. Her maiden name was Smith. She had gotten off her dads boat and was coming through the cannery during the earthquake. When she came out she was just white as a sheet cause that thing was just going! So then I finished my work in the mess hall and went home, took my youngest brother and went down to the movie and met Bill there. My brother used to be really good in the movies you know, just sit and

watch, but that night he was really restless. So I took him home to the folks and here's mom running around with a shopping bag. She had all kinds of things in it, and I said, "whatcha doing?" "There's been a tidal wave warning," she said, "we're gonna take off and get to higher ground." And so she was packing food and what were our important papers and extra clothing for the kids. She told me to run down to the mess hall and tell Bill to get some warm clothes and come back to the house and meet us. So, I did, then we left together and made camp underneath a water tower. I told my mom "I'm not gonna stay here." She asked me why not, and I said "we're right under a water tower. If we get a tremor and it breaks then we'll drown anyways so we just as well stay down there!" But she convinced me that that was orders from the superintendant and he didn't want to split up. So I said why don't we go across the river, and it was kind of a little gully, but by that time they already had 2 big fires going and everybody was settled down to spend the night up there, so I stayed with the rest of the people! We didn't stay there all night. We went down about one or two in the morning. The only thing I could think of was I had to get up at 6:00 and go to work at the mess hall! But the superintendent came and said the crew would not be working till later, so I didn't have to be there till 8:30. I think we served breakfast at 10:00. We tried to get sleep but I couldn't sleep. My dad and I went out, just to walk around, and it was so quiet. There was strange things floating in the water. It was just really peaceful after it all happened. Some people said that during the day that it happened, the animals were really quiet. You know the dogs weren't barking and the crows, we had alot of crows! They weren't doing their usual bit of noisiness. It was really peaceful before and really peaceful after.

"The water rose real fast and then would go out. The tide would go out then come back in. It rose real high but the actual wave never did hit. The reason they relocated Old Port Wakefield was the island was sinking. During the winter, I wasn't there, but high tides would start coming up into the cannery. Mom wrote me in Utah and she said that she went to the store and when she started to come home the tide had come in, it was a big winter tide you know, and she couldn't go home because her house was surrounded by water. So she had to stay at the store till the tide went out and she could wade across to her house. But I wasn't there to experience all that.

"We moved back to Kodiak, and lived in town, in the Aleutian homes. Bill had kind of an import business, where he imported from Kenya, Africa and places like that and then sold them. Then we moved out here (Bell's Flats) in '74. And we decided, he decided that it would be neat to have a grocery store cause there is so many people moving out here and alot of people mentioned they didn't like running to town just for odds and ends. So we opened the store June 16 of 1976.

"The name Lofka is a Russian name that means "the store." It's spelled in English Pussian. Does that make sense? A couple came in last summer from Michigan, but she was originally from Russia and I think he was from Germany. Anyways, she said that she saw the sign and they knew that Lofka meant "the Store", but it was spelled wrong! Of course we knew that because if we spelled it the way the Russians

spelled it then nobody would know how to pronounce it. In Russian, they use v's for f's, I think that's one difference. So when you see v's, you pronounce an f.

"It's really surprising how many tourists we get in here during the summer, just passing through. They'd want a souviner and of course we don't carry anything like that. Some people came in thinking it was like a fur-trading post. They expected to see furs hanging down from the wall."

In conclusion to our interview, Thelma and I would like to thank Mrs. Fearn for being so kind and cooperative. We feel we have created a good story since Mary was so eager and willing to help us in any way.

Story and photo credits: Rhonda Gossage and Thelma Brasie.

Layout and darkroom credits: Rhonda Gossage

Thinking of the days in Afognak.

"IT WAS A QUAINT LITTLE TOWN."

AN INTERVIEW WITH STAN NELSON

"Oh, it was a quaint little town."

Almost two months had past, and I hadn't found someone who could give me the information I needed for a different type of story. Or I might say, a unique story. Frustration and anxiety was taking over, and I was ready to pull my hair out. But fortunatly I heard from a friend about Stan Nelson. His description sounded fantastic, so I couldn't pass up the chance of a visit with him. Taking the time to make the interview the best, I proceeded to make a list of carefully planned questions that I'd ask. A few days later, I started on my way.

The day was clear and sunny with a chilly wind that blew through my coat. Trying to find Stans house was a little difficult, because I wasn't so sure where Erskin Street was. I soon found it though. His house was brown and comparativly small, with a picture window in front that stared at me. The yard was tidy and well kept. Newly green grass was beginning to appear in his yard, and the first signs of life showed in the small flower garden that leaned against his fence.

I walked up the sidewalk to the garage that was connected to his house. The garage door was open and there was a car parked there. I peeked in to see if there was a door that connected to the house, and sure enough there was. I knocked on the door and Stan greeted me with a welcome smile and a, "How ya doing?" Comforted by the welcome I responded also with a smile, and I introduced myself. Stan was dressed nicely. He was wearing grey slacks and a white short sleeved shirt that matched the color of his hair. His appearance wasn't very revealing to his age. He looked much younger. Stan invited me in and asked me to sit down. His kitchen was so clean and bright. Baby blue colors and decorative nic-nacs were arranged neatly about the kitchen.

After Stan and I talked for a few minutes I suggested that we start the interview, and so we did. Stan was born in Belling ham, Washington in 1907. After graduating from high school, he worked a co-operative store with his father. He came to Kodiak in 1940 to work with O'Kraft & Son as a department manager. Stan worked with Krafts for nine years and then bought a partnership with Jess Blinn in the liquor business, or the B & B Bar. Stan remained partners with Jess for twenty years, until after the earthquake in '64. After retiring for awhile he worked with Sutliff & Son for four months, and then retired completely. Among these various occupations Stan has also served as a member on the City Council for several years.

Stan shared with me his various opinions and viewpoints from the questions I asked, and I in return shared some of my opinions and viewpoints with him. (I left my opinions out of the article though, because I was interviewing him and not myself.) Stan is quite a socialable person, as I had got accquainted fairly fast. I spent a wonderful and an enjoyable afternoon, and learned many interesting things I hadn't known before. I very much enjoyed the interview, and I'm sure you will too, as I share this article with you.

"I was born in Bellingham, Washington in 1907. My folks moved into a town called Enumclow, Washington, and I lived there through my twelve grades of school. Then I lived in

Stan Nelson at an earlier age.

Seattle alone there for about four or five years going through all the wholesale businesses there. In 1936 I came back to Enumclow, where my dad was the manager of a large cooperative, a general store. I managed the food department there for four years."

How did you become interested in Kodiak?

"Well, first of all I wasn't satisfied working for my dad. There was no room there for improvement that I could see. I used to be a little department manager, and I didn't like that too well. So meanwhile, in 1940, Mr. Ben Kraft from O'Kraft & Sons here, sent a telegram to the West Coast Grocer Company in Tacoma. They needed a department manager real bad because base was going in and town was growing like a weed. The people were even living in tents around here, and they needed some help. The West Coast suggested me. I took it up right away. I was just tickled. Anyway I landed here in November 10, 1940, and of course immediatly went to work for O'Kraft & Son. I was with him for nine years, and then in 1949 I bought a partnership with Jess Blinn in the liquor business. Jess and I remained partners for twenty years, until after the earthquake, in '64. Urban Renewal came in and the Alaska State Housing Authority with the idea of tearing up the streets and rezoning the whole thing."

Was the bar destroyed in the earthquake?

"No. They figured that Mission Road going through there would cut in there about six or eight feet, so they forced us to tear it down and take it out. That's the old B & B building. The person that bought the old B & B bar salvaged part of it and took it down to Shelikoff Avenue

where it is today. 'Course I've had no interest in it since 1969."

Have you had any other jobs besides O'Kraft & Son and B & B bar?

"I was offered a job as a department manager for Sutliff and Son. I worked for Norm for four months, and then I gave that up too. The department I had wasn't exactly my specialty. I felt that I wasn't doing Sutliff any good and he wasn't doing me any good. Norm is one of the finest people I've ever met here though.

"It's so funny, I've been living here so long. When I got my paycheck from Sutliff and Sons, it was the first paycheck I had received here since I'd got here. The reason of it was that Ben Kraft paid off either in cash or the credit company. If I didn't use up my credit or living expences then why I'd run into a cash fund that I could draw out of any time I felt like it. Of course being a partner with Jess, naturally we weren't on payroll either."

That would be kinda weird.

"Few have had the experience."

Did you enjoy living in Kodiak when you first came here?

"Oh yea. The first few months were kinda rough though. I had a little shack above Pattersons. They had the Russian graveyard just down below my shack. The first four or five months there was no electric lights, no water, no plumbing, just absolutely nothing. You didn't have much power. Well, like Kraft had a little generator for his store, and the Erskins' had theirs down there. But there was no city power plants; the rest was lamps.

"Ben was building me a little house behind the old Bank of Kodiak, where they built four little houses back there. We moved in there, then it was quite comfortable. There was no question about that."

Do you think that Kodiak was a much better place to live in the earlier times than what it is now?

"Yea. The town was much more homey and everybody knew each other, and the stores were all quaint. We made our own entertainment. We had alot of club gatherings and dance parties. Some of them we held in the bars. Another thing that was much better was that I was younger back then. Outside of that, the people today actually have a luxury in life to tell you the truth. One thing that gets me down, is that the people that have been here less than five years are calling themselves old timers and pioneers, and they're definitely not. They weren't even building when they came in here. It was already settled up. Back in those days there was no gain in trying to satisfy your ego or try to have a power. There was no such thing as that. Nobody was fighting over land rights, and contracts, and planning and zoning deals."

It must of been more beautiful back then too.

"Oh, it was a quaint little town. It's the damdest thing, you never even had to lock your door.

"I tell you, it was so homey. I remember years ago when we used to join in on Russian Christmas and Russian New Year. Everybody wore some kind of a costume, or a

mask or something, and they had a huge deal starring. Everybody joined the group. You'd go from house to house to house, and they had cookies or beer, and all kinds of foods. When they'd go past your house you'd go out and join 'em and sing. You don't see that anymore, haven't for years."

Well, when did the King Crab Festival come in anyway?

"Oh, a long time ago. Everybody got into the act here those days. There was no money involved or anything like that, it was just alot of work and fun."

Yeh. Now it's...

"Commercialized, ha,ha."

...to make money or something like that.

"It's a city agreement. Some want to satisfy their ego. Some want to have power, and some have an axe to grind. Nothing here anymore like what you call pioneer, statehood spirit."

Here I changed the subject a little bit from old times to now. I was trying to change the pace so as to attract Stans interest a little more.

Do you think that we should have more activities for kids and everything?

"The kids have got more now than they ever had before here. The funny thing is that back then they didn't take advantage of what they did have. There was excellent hiking here anytime of the year. The old days ya know. We would have a gathering and climb these little mountains around here and forest trails. We could always see the town no matter where we went. And they could go fishing anywhere they wanted to. There was fish in the rivers all around here. They had alot of things. They didn't have any pool, but we haven't had that either very long. We had lakes though. The kids got to do some thing theirselves. I think they should be self propelled. Something they can originate themselves, for fun."

When you came to Kodiak, when you were just getting settled into Krafts and so forth, were you ever interested in fishing or trapping or hunting, or anything like that?

"Well, I never trapped but I fished and hunted up here considerably, small game hunting. I served for the Island on the Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Board, representing the people at large. Businessmen as they'd say. Oh yes, I've been interested in the fisheries as an economic picture here, very much. Take the fisheries out of here and you don't have a great deal to go for."

At this point I completely changed the subject matter to questions and answers containing a sort of political view, economic, and so forth. He answered my questions briefly, expressing his view the best way that was appropriate. Some were answered with hesitence because he didn't want to point his finger at anyone.

Do you think that there are too many regulations on Kodiak right now? Like regulations concerning fishing, and land rights, and so on.

Stan Nelson today.

"Well, you've asked me a pretty hard question. I think that the land should be opened up as long as we are going to have a State of Alaska, and in order to enlarge the population. Economy-wise you have to open up more land and make it more accessable, and get down to earth on some of these prices on property. It's getting a little out of reason. We realize that inflation is one of the biggest factors today in American lives. You gotta consider that people in order to get started here have to have some incentive, besides standing on the corner and being robbed. It seems like every time you turn around there is a new law or ordinance going into effect. They can't enforce half of them anyway."

Do you think that the way the government ran Kodiak before was better than what it is now?

"Personally I voted for statehood. I thought that the state should have some say of it's own. I'm not so sure now that statehood was the best idea in the world either. I think that Federal has got us tied down a little more than we should be.

"I've been a city councilman under five different mayors since I've been here. I can go back to my first time on the city council in 1944. The taxes here were practically none, and we didn't get a great deal of help from the so called territory. That's what we were called in those days. They were handcuffed to give us money. So all in all I think that statehood was not the best for us. We have to accept it and make the best of it. Something on the losing battle. It's just that people don't stop and think that the whole nation was built on common sence. Pioneers, the people that came up here to invest their money or to be congradulated. I think of course that times looked pretty bum there, and they saw this big fishing splurge up here, and contracting and all that."

The conversation sort of drifted off, and Stan stopped for a ciggarette. I stopped the tape, and ended the interview. Stan and I went on talking about various subjects, and I thanked him for taking the time for the interview. I said good-bye and walked away from the house feeling satisfied and content about the information I had got from Stan.

Article: Sandra Tussey
Photos: Sandra Tussey

THE LIFE

OF

HENRY NESETH

Henry Neseth is a man in his middle 80's. He was born in Norway and lived there until he was 19. At that time he came to America.

Henry lives in the first house on the hillside above the boat harbor as you come into town. It is a frame house that Henry built himself in 1938. It was the first house built on the hillside.

When he came to America he lived in Chicago with his brother. Then he went to Minnesota. After awhile he went to Seattle. After that he lived in Seldovia for two years. He built a dory there and came to Kodiak in it.

He mined for four years on the Aiakulik River or Red River as they called it, which is on the southern end of Kodiak Island.

Henry Neseth has a wealth of knowledge that we have just barely tapped.

Henry was born in Norway on May 30th, 1894. His family had a ranch there. His Father was a shoemaker and later became a tax assessor.

Henry Neseth came to America in 1914. "There was lots of Norwegians that had come to America, my brother was here and my Uncle had a ranch in Red River Valley. That's in Northern Minnesota between Ida and Crookston."

When he first came to America he couldn't speak any English. But it didn't take long to learn."

Henry sailed on the Great Lakes and lived in Chicago with his oldest brother. His brother sailed on the Great Lakes for forty years, he was a cook on the big steamers. His brother's wife was a waitress. Henry washed dishes and stuff. "I was just a young man then."

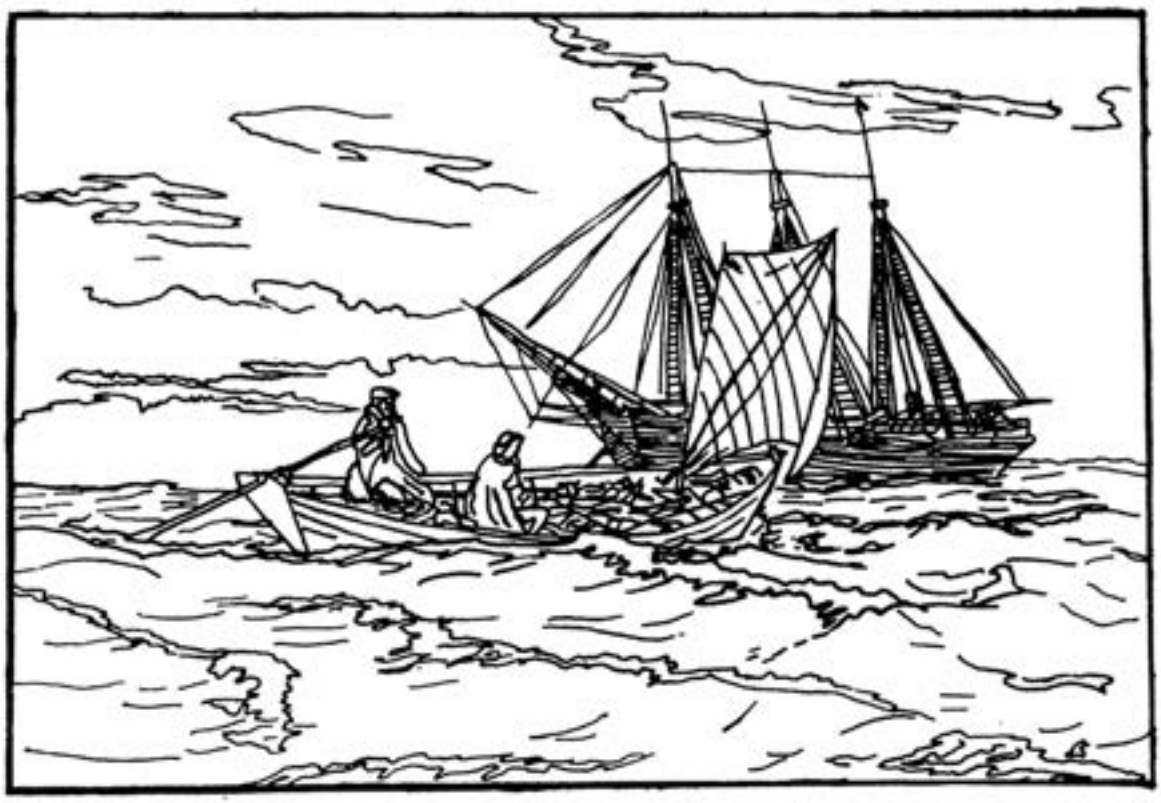
Henry Neseth enlisted in the military service in Minnesota during World War I. He spent three months in Fort Snelling for training. They were going to send them across to Europe and they gave them a physical. They discovered that Henry had TB and gave him a medical discharge. "That was a long time ago, but I'm still

Henry Neseth while in Chicago

nere, whether they made a mistake or not I don't know, sometimes they do."

He went from there to a place they call Laverne, Minnesota He worked in a restaurant there and cooked. He left there and came west to the Black Hills in South Dakota. He worked on the road gang there for awhile. From there he went to Casper, Wyoming and worked in the Salt Creek Oil Fields. When he quit he came to Seattle. He came late in the spring and then shipped out with Captain Becklin for Point Barrow. He cooked for him on that trip. When he came back to Seattle they got paid off in gold and silver, no paper. From Seattle Henry went to California. He stopped in a restaurant in Sacramento. "You could buy half a day old pie and a cup of coffee for 10 cents, or two great big cinnamon rolls. When he came back to Seattle with Captain Becklin he had ham and eggs and hotcakes for breakfast, all you could eat for 35 cents.

Henry sailed on a vessel by the name of the STAR, to Alaska. It was a mail boat that ran from Seward to Umnak. "Went to Unga, Sand Point and all them places. There was only three or four houses and a store out at Sand Point then." He went down to Unalaska. "There was just a pool hall, a church and a few houses there." The next year he came up to Sanak Island and was going to go cod fishing on a sailing ship called the Progress. It belonged to a cod fishing company. The Progress had two cabins, one down in the focsle, focsle is an abbreviation for forecastle, meaning the part of a ship where the sailors live, andthen there was a cabin on the deck that had



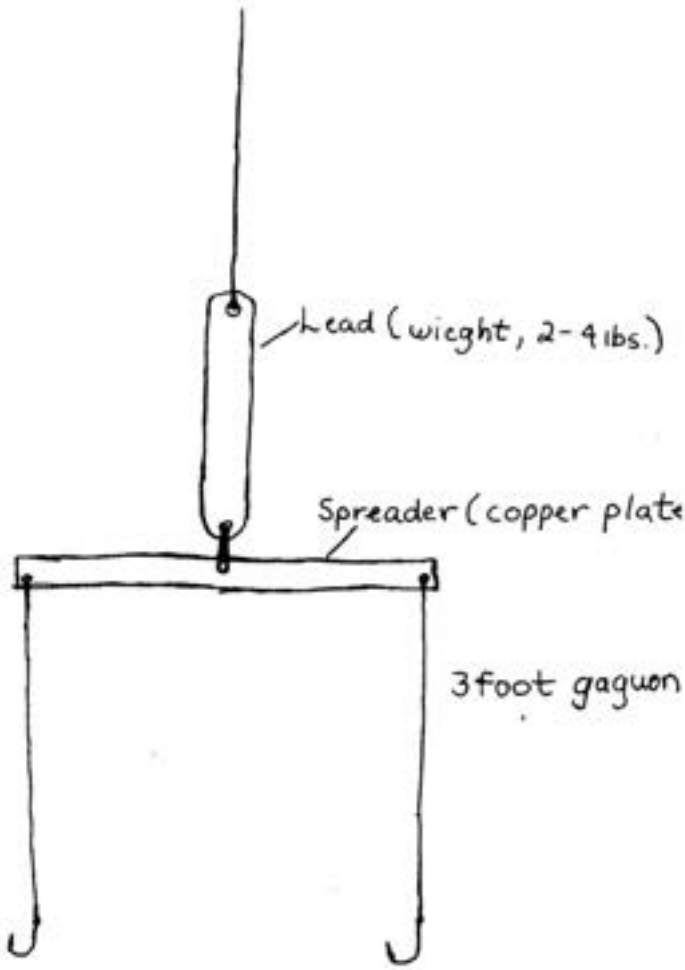
"This picture shows two men in the boat, but we had only one man."

eight bunks.

"The engineer, he was from Ketchikan, he slept down in the focsle. Everybody put a curtain in front of their bed, because someone would have the light on so they could read and the curtain kept the light out of their eyes so they could go to sleep. One evening that engineer was laying down, he wasn't sleeping and some body started to pull the curtain back. It was this Peruvian that came up with the dress gang. He was using narcotics and he had a great big butcher knife in his hand. After that everybody had hammers, hand axes and clubs.

"One morning this Peruvian, he ran out of narcotics and he went completely crazy. Between the focsle and the deck by the mess room , back aft, there was a deck load of 100 gallon distillate drums to use for motors and they had boards laying on top of them. We was standing there waiting for the breakfast bell to ring. All of a sudden we see this Peruvian come out of the focsle and he put his hands on the rail and dived, head first overboard. Somebody threw a life belt out and we seen his head bob twice, thats all and then he was gone."

Henry only worked one summer as a cod fisherman. They used dories. "Them dories were built on the East Coast. We only had one man in a dory. Under the seat we had a pair of oars and a little sail, most of the time we used the oars, when a little wind would come we'd put up the sail and do a little sailing. Right behind the seat there was a board across from one side to the other. There was nails about a foot apart in the ends of the board and there was



Handline used for codfishing

two hand lines, one on each side. There was two hooks on each line. You had what they call the spreader that separated the hooks. Everytime you pulled up a fish you took a turn around those nails so it didn't go down as far as it did the first time. The cod fish follow the bait up and pretty soon you can see them down there." When the fish are unloaded from the dories they are weighed. "We got 38 cents for a hundred pounds of fish, fresh fish before it's been cleaned. Of course we didn't have to pay room and board, we didn't have to pay for anything, if we did, we wouldn't have had

any money left."
One day they had twenty-seven thousand fish on board the Progress.

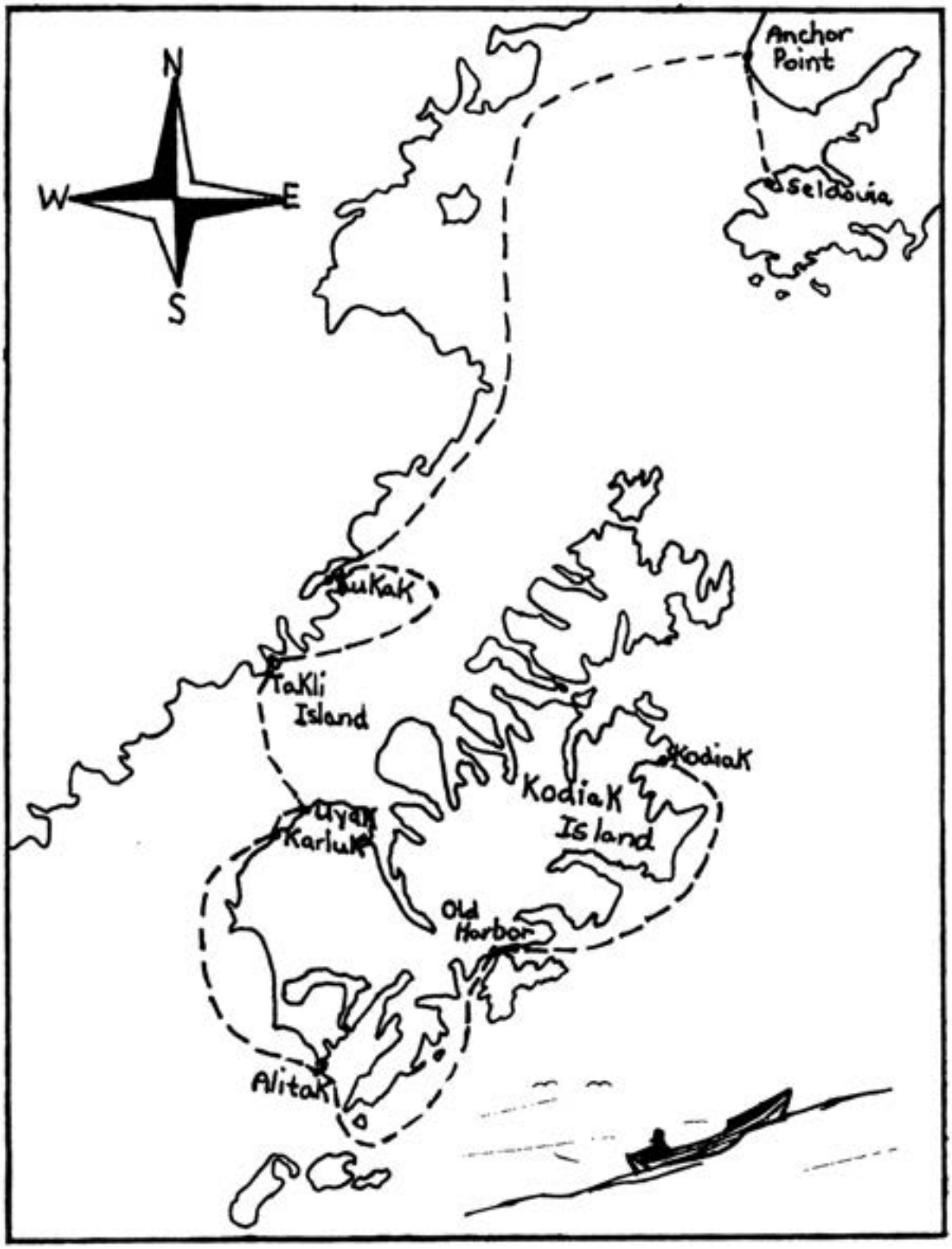
"There was three dress gang working that day. The dress gang cleaned the cod fish. First they would cut the head off and pull the insides out, then they split them and took the backbone out and then layed them flat and spread salt on them."

Henry Neseth also did quite alot of salmon fishing. When Henry started to fish in Naknek with the Pacific American fisheries he got 12 and a quarter cents apiece for a whole Red Salmon. He fished in Kodiak for a year with a man by the name of Pete Iverson. They had a boat that belonged to Neils Christianson. They fished for Trinity Packing Company, that had a cannery in Three Saints Bay. They had a seine skiff that you pulled around with a pair of oars and they took 75,000 humpies and dog salmon out of Port Hobron. "There were so many fish that you couldn't hardly tell where we had taken any." They got 3 cents apiece for "those great big dog salmon."

Henry Neseth lived a little over two years in Seldovia before he came to Kodiak to live. He built a dory there and put an 8 horsepower two cylinder Cliff motor into it, the kind of motor they used for cod fish dories out around Unga. A man by the name of Hank Russell went with him. They had the bows with canvas stretched over it so they had a place to sleep and eat. They had a little coal oil stove to make coffee on and fry stuff on. They were called Swede stoves. "That's what you had in all the fishing boats out in Bristol Bay. They could make coffee in just a few minutes. They used coal oil instead of gasoline." They have a small tray around the top. "You put a little coal oil in there, touch a match to it and you could preheat them." They had a small handle that you pumped them up with. "They would burn real hot and didn't use up alot of fuel. They were something like a blow torch only a much wider flame."

When they left Seldovia they went up to Anchor Point, came down the west side of Cook Inlet to Kukak. They stayed in Kukak for a day and then went from there to Takli Island and across to Uyak, down to Karluk, from Karluk to Alitak, from Alitak to Old Harbor then to Kodiak. "We never had any trouble at all."

Swede Stove



Route taken by Henry from Seldovia to Kodiak.

Henry mined for four years on Red River on the southern end of Kodiak Island. He beachmined for gold. At that time gold wasn't worth very much Gold then was $20.60 an ounce. That was the standard price of gold.

Frank Peterson was a man that lived down there for forty years and he mined all the time. The last eight days Henry was there he took thirty-two ounces of gold with a rocker.

When Henry came to Kodiak there was only about 500 to 600 people here. There were two stores, Erskines and Krafts. There was only two pickup trucks, Krafts had one and Norman Noble had the other one. The beach was clean, no houses or canneries on it except for Kodiak Fisheries and a small shack.

We had fun interviewing Henry Neseth. He's a very interesting man. He's done many things and been many places.

Story:Larry Hellemn
Lenard Thomas

Layout:Larry Hellemn
Lenard Thomas

Photos & Drawings:
Larry Hellemn

HOW TO CATCH AN OCTOPUS

The best time to look for an octopus is when the tide is fairly low. You take along a little clorox and a fairly long stick. If the openings around the rock are not open, take the stick and clear them open. Once you cleared the openings, you then pour some clorax into the opening. If the octopus does not come out of the other side, stir the water around, so the clorox will spread around. That should sting the octopus enough to make it come out. When it starts to come out, stand back a bit and let it get all the way out of the rock. Then you could grab it by the legs or the head, and throw it against a rock, so that the head will hit. That will kill it after a couple hard slams.

The size of an octopus can get up to 14 feet for each tentacle. I'd say they get up to around four feet or more here in Kodiak.

The way you cut up an octopus is you cut off the legs nearest the head if possible, then slice off the outside skin.

-John McCormick

Nick Wolkoff Schooner Days

"I was born in 1895, here in Kodiak. Right by the electric shop, up the road a bit. There was a house there. Most of the houses were by the water. There was nothing back here, just all woods.

"There was sixteen in my family altogether, I was the oldest. I had to take care of the others. There was Pete Wolkoff, Paul Wolkoff, Sam Wolkoff, but mostly all of them are dead. The others had no names, because they

were too young to do anything. They were just kids, you know. Yeah, I'm the orphan in the house, you know."

Nick Wolkoff is a very nice and open person. He has a way of making life into a story. His life is one which seems fulfilled to us, by the way he takes things so calmly now. For a man of his age, we thought he would be grouchy, instead he was calm and polite. Inviting us in without knowing us, then sitting down and telling us about his life. There he sat for as long as we talked, smoking a cigar that covered the room with its aroma. He sat telling us a life, and we like journalists were getting our historical information for Elwani.

We have at last completed with no questions, Nick's life and the happenings around him. We would like you to read for a taste of history.

"Well, my father was a seaman, sailing on a schooner during the summertime. My father lived here, in Kodiak. My father was from Kodiak. Yeah, my mother was from Ninilchik, she was a native woman. My father's name was Wolkoff and my mother's name was Kvasnikoff, she was born in Ninilchik. Then my father brought her here to Kodiak.

"When my mother would spank me, I'd run away to my grandma's house, you know. My mama wouldn't spank me there.

"If I did something wrong, they'd whip me with a willow. Spankings that was pretty hard. Hurt like hell, especially when they took your pants down, then it was worse."

Parents weren't the only ones who punished Nick. Officers also punished people.

"Oh, they punished me too. See you got punished not like now. If you go down the street and see an officer, you stay on one side of the road and salute him. If you don't do that, they wouldn't tell you anything. Then they'd send two guys, these two guys bring you there and whip you for that. That was for not saluting them, you know.

"My mother and father were good people. They're both Russian people.

"I spoke Russian and English. My father and mom spoke Russian. My mom spoke just a little Aleut, but I don't speak Aleut. I never talked with them in Aleut, we never learned it. All of Kodiak spoke Russian, just areas around spoke Aleut. Cu da putter will, means how do you feel in Russian.

"In my day, we'd go to dances, we used to have a good time and go dancing. Used to go all the time we could. Dances were the same as now. Got to get yourself a girl to dance with. Yeah, used to do waltzes, three-steps, minuet, that's the one I liked the best. The one, the minuet, mostly French minuet.

"And if a guy scratches a girl's hand like this, that means he wants something. Then the girl pulls away fast. That was the most fun.

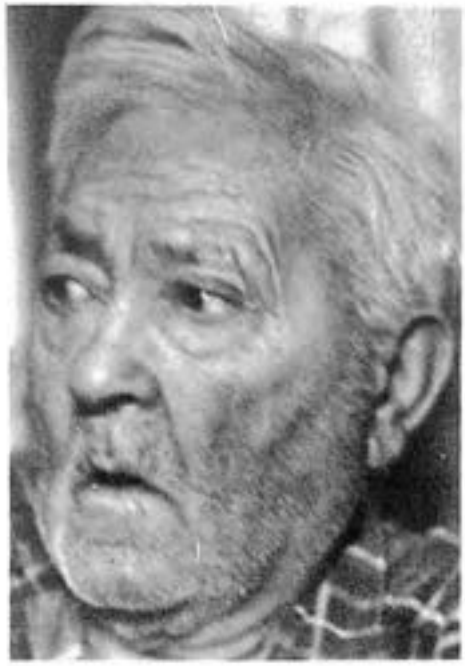
"We used to go on picnics too. Used to go over to Woody Island and make something to eat there."

Afterward...."We used to play ball, that's about all, you know Lofka? It's with a ball, you know. Oh, go in parts like four to one side and four on the other side. That is how we used to play it. Then one would throw the ball, someone hits or kicks it before it touches the ground. But you got to hit that ball before it touches the ground or your out. If you do, then you got a game.

"Besides that we used to chop wood. There was no oil in them days. We used to go up into the woods, chopping wood and carrying it home. Then saw it off in blocks for stove wood. That's all you can do, there was no oil. Not too much work in them days, salmon fishing, other salmon fishing, nothing to do but go out fishing. From the beginning I was a fisherman.

"In them days, there was alot of fish. The Buskin River was full of fish. When the tide went out there was about that much, around two feet high along the mile long beaches. All dead, you know. Come down the river and died. Stink! Oh, would it stink, from that rotten fish.

"My parents worked. Both my parents did. The worker's had to load the ice on the boats. They got paid twenty cents an hour for it. (I couldn't work, I was a small boy then.) I had to take care of my brothers and sisters and stay home.



"The Schooner Wolfe came to hunt sea otter. Every schooner had ten bardarkas, two men to one bardarka each. They would go all around Kodiak Island and come back, come up and out into the channel and wait for ice.

"The ice came from Woody Island in those days. Ice was sold in blocks, and then taken outside. They would bring sawdust for ice from outside. You've got to have sawdust for ice, you know. With the sawdust, they would load up the schooner, and head back down to San Francisco again. Do it every year like that, come and hunt the sea otter and get the ice, and head back down. That's all they used to do, they never fished. They just get the ice and go back down to San Francisco.

"The ice was for the rooms, to keep the meat cool.

Usually in San Francisco, they cut all around, you know, and the room is inside the ice. That's where you keep the meat for the preservation. What else you could do was salt it.

"The Schooner Wolfe had sails, and small machines, small power. It was made out of wood.

"I was only sixteen years old when I first went sailing. I sailed from here to San Francisco and back. You got a little money for that. Then in a year my daddy got sixty dollars and I got forty dollars a month. Exactly comes to a hundred dollars a month for us. Anything I made I gave to my mother. Then they put me in father's place, because he was a mate at that time.

"We used to go trapping in the wintertime. We'd trap foxes and sell the skins, some people would keep them. And ducklets, we used to go hunt ducklets and sell them. Fifteen cents a duck to people, those who could buy duck. We never sailed in wintertime, too tough, you know. It would blow and was cold all the time.

"I also used to tend gardens. I had to keep the field clean of weeds. The gardens, some were near the house. But most were out where Beachcombers is now. Used to call it Potato Patch. There was gardens from one end to the other. Gardens, everybody had gardens there. Some people had gardens planted near their house.

"There was a store too. The first store was the A.C. Company, then another man bought it and it then became S.C. Company. The same store. I don't know who has it now. It had groceries, toys, and everything.

"There's been alot of changes. Before there was no radios at all; seamen used to come in by no radios. A fellow would go up on the mountain and watch, if a boat come in. They would go up on the mountain and look around. If they look outside and see smoke, then they yell, seaman! seaman! Then everybody in town would know a seaman was coming. This was because there was no radio in them days. That's how they told if someone was coming to Kodiak.

"Same as with measles. Oh yeah, we had the measles, measles were dangerous. If you got a cold after the measles, that'll kill you. I had the measles myself but that never happened to me. Just laying down and keeping warm that's about all. Never had any medicine back then to help like now.

"Later on, I got married and lived with my wife for ten years. I got no kids from my first wife, because she had T.B. When the baby was born it had T.B. and they died. Her name was Sally Todulla, she was Polish and Aleut girl.

"Then I met another woman, she was my second wife, and was Polish background too, her name was Alexanderia.

"If you want to marry you have to ask the parents. The parents call for the girl. The girl comes up and sees the boy. Then the parents ask her if she wants to be married to you. If so, you gotta make a banya in three days. Make the banya, you know for the

parents. It's alot of work.

"After I married I worked, same as I did before. Longshoring, when a schooner came in we unloaded or loaded it. No machinery at all, no winch, we used to use two horses.

"And I helped the carpenters, that's all the work you can do. I'm no carpenter myself, but I did help build things.

"Went out fishing, halibut, cod fish, salmon, and herring. No cannery, so we used to salt our fish. The cod we would brine.

"There was alot of coal back then, no oil or gas, just coal. That's why they called it a steamer, because it makes alot of steam. That was in order to make the engine go. I used to work in the coal. They used to bring coal in on big barges. I don't know how many tons of coal, but alot of it. It used to fill two schooners. Work was for two weeks. I used to unload it to the dock, then from the dock to coal bunkers. Then if you wanted coal you can go up and get it.

"Besides what I've told you, there was no other jobs to do. Some people would trade with each other, like dig ditches. It was harder to get a job then than now.

"We used to have fun too. We used to go out dancing, and twenty-five cents to see a show. Tony's bar was here then, you had to lean up against the bar. They didn't make drinks like they do now. You never saw a fancy drink, drinks then were served straight.

"I had a house made out of logs, just a common house. The logs were crossing each other. Had around six rooms. There was a cooking room, kitchen, bedrooms, livingroom, and then the area on porch for storage. We had the bathroom outside, not far from the house. You can't make it too far. My boy was born in this house, the log house. This house, my two girls were born, by doctors and midwives. They're to help bring the baby into the world. I've lived in this house say about fifteen or twenty years.

"I remember one time, we were on the boat and the boat went down in five minutes. We were coming from the Bering Sea and we ran into bad weather. Smoke blowing in the air, so I went to see the skipper. 'How far from here to Kodiak?' The skipper said, 'Pretty far and we're pretty short of gas, another couple of miles and we'll be out of gas.' So we had a flag out, that's the way a seaman can tell if something happened to us. Just by moving it a different ways. There was alot of schooners going by. There was one going north and one going south. One came and their skipper asked if we were in trouble. Our skipper said, 'Not in trouble, but we could get lost.' Then he asked the name of the place. Their skipper asked, 'How long you been here?' Our skipper said, 'Not long, it took us 40 days to get from Frisco to here.' He told us how many miles to Kodiak.

"Then we couldn't get out of the storm, so we had to do something. We went around a island to

anchor up for the weather. That's when we went on the reef. Nobody died, then we rowed to shore. Six or seven days after that we rowed in two dories to Chignik, cause we were right out of Chignik. We got to the cannery around midnight or quarter to one. Someone said, 'Where have you been?' We told them we were on the island for six or seven days, and all we had to eat was mussels. So they took us up to the mess hall, we sure done a cleaning there. All around the table, we were eating everything. Then we called Kodiak to come pick us up.

"Well that's about all I can think of."

Since it was all Nick could think of we thanked him and went to writing our story. But not really a story, but a life of someone who is very nice and exciting to talk to.

Story: Marlene Deater

CHEEDUK

2 or 3 quarts of salmon berries
sugar to taste
Place berries in a flat metal sauce pan and mash with a wooden potato masher. Sweeten to taste, chill for an hour in refrigerator. This is a dessert that was often served with fresh salmon or pirok.

Recipe from Jackie Madsen

"Father Is From"

Akhiok

Walter Simeonoff-

My mother is from Ayakulik and is now living at Akhiok. She's been living in Akhiok for about thirty years or more. She's now a health aid nurse at Akhiok, and she also teaches kindergarten kids. She was teaching Aleut language to the younger kids at Akhiok. She is a mother to eleven kids.

My father is from Akhiok and is still living there now. He also stayed in other villages besides Akhiok. He probably was living in Akhiok for about forty years or maybe more. He was a President of Akhiok for about twenty years, but he resigned and now Andy Kahutak is the President for Akhiok. My father is now a salmon fisherman. He's been fishing with Fred Coyle Jr.. He's only a father to five kids.

This is an interview with my father Walter Simeonoff, Sr..

"My parents maiden names were Pasha Kiijuf, and my mother's was Anna Melovedoff. My mother was from Kaguyak and I don't remember where my father was from.

"The type of jobs my father had were mostly sea otter hunting, seal hunting, and fishing. My mother didn't have a job. She always worked in the kitchen, such as, cooking, washing dishes, and also washing clothes.

"My parents to me were pretty strict. They used to always treat me like a child. They wanted me to listen to them all the time.

"They believed in Russian Orthodox, because as I was growing up, they taught me how to cross myself after I ate breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They also told me stories about the Russian Orthodox church. But I don't remember how the stories went.

"My mother was an Aleut and my father was a Russian. So that makes me part Aleut and part Russian.

"They did have instruments in those days. My mother used to play a guitar, and I don't remember what my father played, because I was a little bit too young. I was also too young to remember when he passed away. They used to mention their childhood. When they used to live across from Akhiok, which they call "Old Village", they use to have a tough time. They had no bathrooms, water, electricity and they had no gas lamp. They used oil lamps. They used seal oil. That's what they used most of the time.

"We were interested in ookjaaq. Especially bow and arrows. Some people call it throwing spears. The way you play it is you hang a porpoise from the ceiling with thread. The porpoise is about two or three inches above the floor. You try and hit it with the spear. They bet on things they have of their own such as, weapons, houses (huts), and their clothes. They bet on those because it is a very difficult game to play. Right now we only play for small things, such as, pennies, toothpicks, and matchsticks. Yes, we still play ookjaaq. We play it during lent.

"My father spoke Russian. My father is half Russian and half Aleut. My mother is a full blooded Aleut. My father was a church reader in the Russian Orthodox church at Akhiok. He also spoke a little bit of Greek. I didn't understand him when he spoke Russian and Greek.

"My mother was from Kaguyak, Alaska and my father was from Akhiok, Alaska.

"Well they didn't live in the city of Kodiak, but my father went to the city of Kodiak on a bidarky (kayak). They did not tell me anything about their parents.

"I stayed with my grandparents at Akhiok. They were the ones that raised me because, my parents died when I was young. My grandfather played an eskimo drum and my grandmother played a guitar.

"There was twelve press key accordians and they had small round accordians, but I really don't know how much they had of those small ones.

"I could only remember what my grandmother did, she weaved grass baskets and sold them for about two dollars a piece. I don't remember if my grandparents told me old stories or not. I can't remember my grandparents maiden names.

"The religion my grandparents were was Russian Orthodox, because my grandpa was a reader in church. I don't know anything about their interests.

"As far as I can remember about my parents was until they died. I remember what my father did, he worked in the church because he was a reader, and I remember my father trying to teach me things about the church because, he wanted me to be a reader. And my mother use to just do things in the house, like cleaning it and taking care of the kids. When my father wanted me to be a reader, I told that I didn't want to, because, I just didn't have the patience to do it. The main thing my father did was going out fishing and he'd take my mom along with him. He use to take us kids to "Dead Man's Bay" to do beach seining. And that's all I remember, I don't remember anything else."

Story by: Laurie Simeonoff

MY LIFE AND FAMILY

YVONNE ZHAROFF

Mrs. Zharoff was born in Fairbanks, Alaska and has lived in Fairbanks, Sitka, Dillingham and Kodiak. She has lived in Kodiak for thirteen years. She speaks French fluently, *Aleut* and *Upick* a little. When she was asked about her family, here is what she had to say.

"I have three brothers and I am the only girl. Their names are Jerry, Leon, and Ed. Jerry was the oldest, then Leon, then myself and then Ed. He was five years younger than I am. Currently all of my family lives in Dillingham. Jerry and Ed both drowned fishing.

"My father's name is Orville and my mother's baptismal name is Alexandria, but she has shortened it to Alice. Her maiden name was Griechen.

"My father was a farmer and we sold some of the stuff from our farm locally. We homesteaded 55 acres and our main crop was potatoes, but we had other vegetables to. The money we made from it went to buy the fertilzer and seed, so it kind of payed for itself."

I asked what her parents were like and here's what she said.

"My mother didn't really talk alot. She was always busy working. We always worked together. She was more or less a quiet person. She still is. She was raised in a village where the women don't talk to strangers and they stayed at home. My parents didn't go out alot of places. My dad still prefers to stay at home where he can work for himself. He is a very quite, easy going person.

He was very much influenced by my great grandma Smith. He still holds to the saying, 'Do what you have to do.' Both of them were minded your own business and didn't interfer with what your neighbors are doing. They were very much a home bodied people."

What religion were they?

"Well, my dad didn't belong to a church. He belived that you do what was right and that was it. My mother attended the Morovian Church."

What nationality were they?

"My mother is Aleut and German. My father is a little bit of everything. Indian, Scotch-Irish, English and somethings I don't know about thrown in."

Did they play any musical instruments?

"My mother played the violin when she was a little girl. My dad grew up out in the country. He never saw the inside of a store until he was nine years old. The first time he went in to town he had a penny to spend. My mother grew up in the village at *Pilot* Point."

She was asked about her grandparents. This is what she had to say.

"My Grandpa Gus was from Germany. His name is Gustov Rhinhart Griechen. My maternal grandmother died when my mother was 23 so I never knew her. But I remember my great grandma on my dad's side. When I was three or four we went down to Idaho and spent a year down there with her. I remember her house. It was a big house and there was a big apricot tree, I remember my older brothers getting sick on apricots. We use to spend alot of time with my great grandmother. She had chickens out in back.

"Grandpa Gus, when he came from Germany, he spoke German, but he doesn't speak it anymore, because he says he's American now. My paternal grandma was Nesperce. (This is an Idaho Indian tribe.) Grandpa played the piano. He liked music and he liked to garden too. Grandpa died about ten years ago. Grandma died in the early 70's."

Next I asked her about her childhood. Some of the things we talked about were, games she played, her chores, rules that she grew up with and the punishments, and her school. Some of the games we talked about were Miatche and Deerbase. She told me about some of the rules.

Miatche is a ball game. It's similar to base-ball. But you have only two bases and two teams. You divided everybody up, it doesn't matter how many play. Any number can play. Then the team that is in you pitch the ball for yourself and you hit it with a club. The ball is about twice the size of your fist. It is a big skin ball. You hit it in any direction. Anywhere where you think there's nobody around. The other base is about 100 feet away, your team has to get down to that base before anyone is caught. You get caught by getting touched with the ball. The person who touches you with the ball, caught you, drops the ball and starts to run behind the base. You then pick up the ball and try to touch someone on the other team.

In Deer-Base, you have two bases like in Miatche, but you don't have a ball. Everyone on the opposite team sets up obstacles of which you have to get over. You had to run and slip behind the other base before you got caught. The bases are in a wide arch. We also did alot of things at home. We didn't have a television or electricity at all where I grew up, until I was ten years old. The big thing was to get an Anchorage radio station and listen to programs like "The Lone Ranger" or "People are Funny". We played alot of Monoply, Sorry and cribbage."

She informed me that her dailey chores were milking the goats, carrying kindling for the stove, carrying water, feeding the chickens and those kinds of things.

I asked her about some of the rules she had and this is what she said.

"We didn't have alot of rules. I guess the only real rule we had was to keep our chores done and to do our homework, but most of the time we were free. So I read alot. Our punishments were not many. My dad had a razor strap. So we

use to watch what we did or didn't do. When he got mad he simply walked over to the wall, took it down and used it which was seldom.

I asked her about her schoo, and this is what she said.

"The first school that I went to had six classrooms and an outhouse out back. It was green and white. My first grade teacher was Mrs. Wasserman. My second grade teacher was Miss. Drenth. We use to call her "Miss Grunt" because she was so crotchety. It was a small school, we had about 40 kids. We had real bells above the school in a bell tower and the janitor used to ring it."

I asked Mrs. Zharoff what she did in her spare time and this is what she said.

"I played the trombone. My dad got me a flute so that I would be more like a girl, but I never learned how to play it. I read and wrote alot. I have several books of poetry that I wrote."

Mrs. Zharoff and I also talked about some of the superstitions they had when she was small. She told me about some of them and I want to share them with you. Here they are. The first one is about *Chuggiack*.

Chuggiack is a bear man. He could turn into a bear or a man anytime he wanted to. They always said that he would come and get you if you were bad.

Another one was about the full moon coming in the window on you while you were asleep, because when it would start to wan, you would waste away and disappear just like the moon, only you would never come back again. I was never quite sure about what all was supposed to happen, but Natalia my girlfriend, was afraid when the full moon was out and if she was staying at my house, we would have to cover my bedroom windows.

Blackman is like the story of Big Foot. Only in Wood River he is a big black hairy man. He was called Dochskebuck. If people said he was in one area, then people wouldn't go anywhere near there for a long time. He was suppose to catch people at night and they were never seen again. The grown-ups use to always tell us that if we weren't good, then he would come down and get us too.

There's a place just below Clarks Point, just below Dillingham, where they believed these little people lived under ground, and they would come up at night. There was a well but nobody ever used it. The water was always fresh and in the winter time there never was any ice on it. People were afraid of them and believed if you went to where there was a place where they would go in and out, why they would pull you under. Near Clarks Point there was alot of holes and people believed that this is where they would come out at. But it was actually the nesting ground of some mud swallows. Another superstition was one about the dogs. When people were going to die, the dogs would come and howl over them and if you woke up at night and the dogs were staring and howling at your house, it was supposed to be a bad sign.

Also if three ravens sat on your roof and cawed, it was supposed to be bad, too. Someone would get hurt or something.

They use to tell us a story about the Northern Lights. This is what they had to say.

If you were outside at night and you saw the Northern Lights and you sang, hummed or whistled, they would come and take you up in the sky. So we were always

afraid to make noise when the Northern Lights were out. When we saw them we would run as fast as we could for home, because we were afraid they would catch us. When they sing it means they are coming to look for you.

Story transcribed and arranged by:
Vicki Stratman

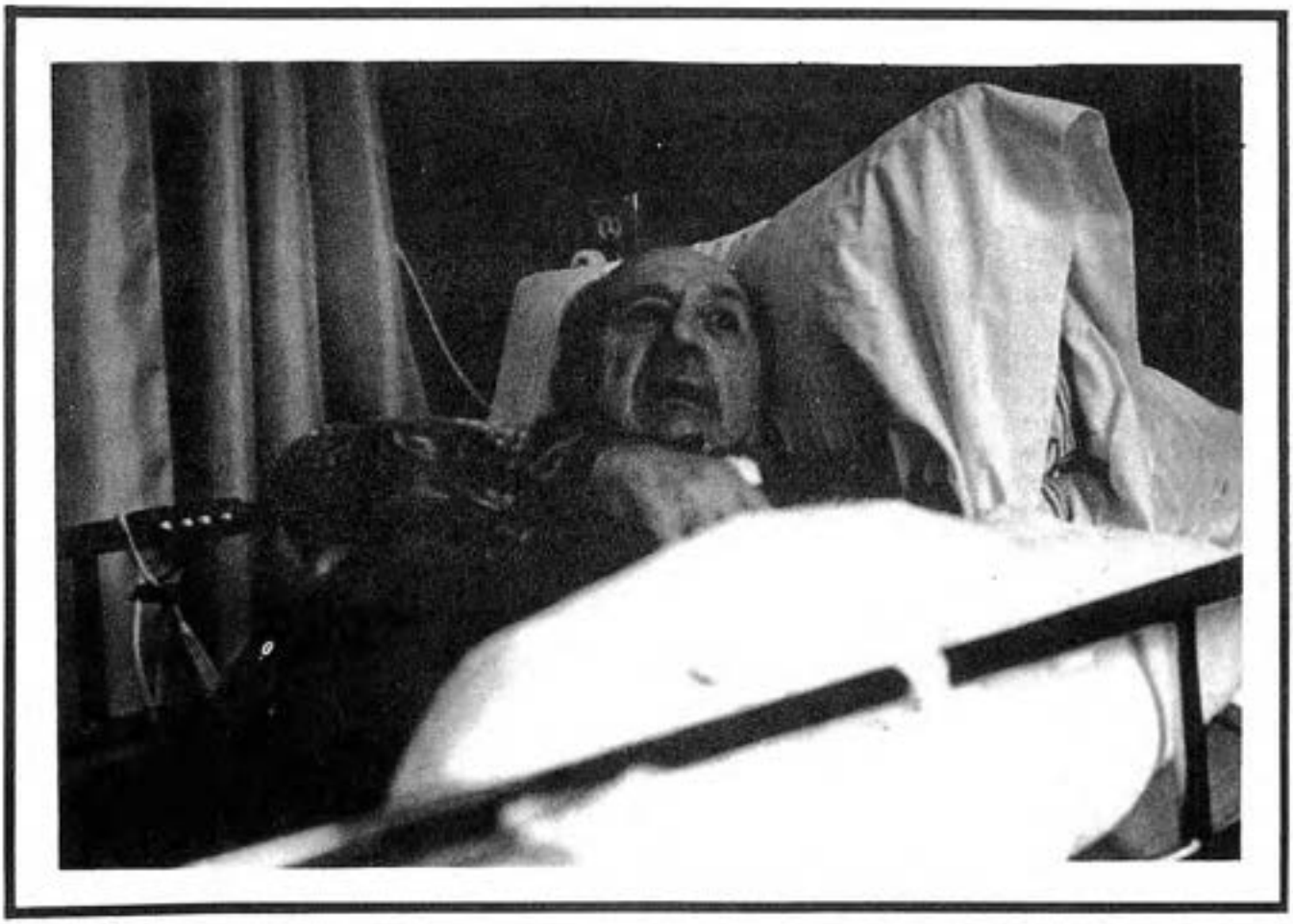
OCTOPUS FRITTERS

1/2	cup flour
3/4	teaspoon baking powder
1/2	teaspoon salt
1/8	teaspoon pepper
1	egg well beaten
1/3	cup milk diluted
1	cup chopped or ground cooked octopus

Sift dry ingredients into bowl, add beaten egg to diluted milk and add to dry ingredients. Beat until smooth. Add chopped or ground octopus. Drop by tablespoonfuls into hot fat in frying pan. Brown on both sides. Drain. Serve with cream sauce.

"It was a big day when the boat came in"

Tommy Clampffer



Kodiak has changed quite a bit in the last 40 years. One way to find out about these changes is to talk to old residents of Kodiak. We decided upon Tommy Clampffer as our contact. Tommy was staying at the hospital in the Extended Care wing as the result of an accident. Before the actual interview, we were apprehensive about meeting him. The nurse showed us to his room and asked us to wait while she adjusted his position so he could be more comfortable during the interview. Tommy was so excited, he could hardly wait to start telling us about his past.

"I was born in Glennside, Pennsylvania in 1906. I'm 72 years old."

Childhood is an important part of every person's life. Tommy related a story to us abo his childhood.

"I had two sisters. Every Sunday when I got dressed up wi

a tie on to go to Sunday School, they'd grab a hold of me by the tie and always beat the hell out of me every Sunday. But, during the week, I put the run on them because I didn't have no tie. I had a good life. I rode horses for H.B. Widner. I was a trainer for Justice Arns, beanpole chase riding. Then mother died and she asked me not to ride horses any more because I was hurt two or three times. So I quit riding horses and I went to Temple University after I got out of high school and I went from there to Williamson Trade School, that was before Temple College. I learned to be an engineer and a layout forman, blueprint reading. That was what I came here as."

One thing that there isn't much of these days is close families. Tommys' family was very close.

We did lots of things together. My father and I used to go hunting. We used to go swimming together. My sisters and I were always together. We picked berries together and helped grandma make jelly and oh yeah, we were always a close family, very close. We were very close, my two sisters and I. Even if one was in New York and one was in California, each one knew what the other one did. There was always letters going around. My sister got a letter from my sister in New York, I'd get the letter the next day from California with my sister's letter in it and what she said to her and I would send a letter back and it would go from one sister to the other. Yeah, we knew what each one would be doing. I shot a bear one time and had it mounted into a big rug and sent it to my sister there in Pennsylvania and the kids went to school and said, oh you ought to see what my Uncle sent us, a great big Alaskan Bear.' My sister in California always nagged me about it. Until the day she died, she was still mad at me. Everytime they'd get that bear down and put it in front of their fireplace for years her three little daughters and they're pretty big now, would bring all the kids home from school to see that big bear, a Kodiak bear."

One of Tommy's favorite things to do was to go muskrat trapping.

"I'd take my sisters early in the morning, take a light and go looking along the creek to catch the muskrats. Oh! It would be a big day when we caught a mink. Oh boy, I had to give some money to my sisters then for helping me. I didn't have to give them money or anything when they helped me catch the muskrats, but when I caught mink, we got three times as much from the mink than from the muskrats. I had to pay them. I didn't like to catch them. I mean I liked to catch them, but I didn't like to pay them."

Many years ago, the only subjects taught in school were reading, writing and arithmetic.

"When I went to school, they didn't have all those fancy names for everything. We had math. I was pretty good at math. I wasn't no good at reading, I was pretty good at history."

"I lived in Pennsylvania on and off till I came to this country. I came to California and I stayed in California two or three years and I came to the same company I was working for and I came up here to work on the base as construction forman. I landed here on March 10th and I've been here since 1939. I've been to the United States twice in the last fourty years. Both times they were to the hospital.

Tommy has a real concern for people especially kids. He raised 28.

"I only have three of my own and the rest of them I raised were from Larson Bay, Karluk, here after fires, but they're not mine, I raised them. I got a lot of them. Over there I walk across the street and some girl would go 'Hello Dad, How you doing?' Someone would say, 'Well, who's that?' 'Oh, that's one of my kids I raised.' I raised the Chya boys. They had their first Christmas tree under the roof of my house and they were like two sons to me. My children have native blood in them. They are half-breed."

Tommy had many interesting stories about Kodiak. Among them was a story about Mrs. Kraft's cows.

"Mrs. Kraft used to go out and holler, 'Bessie! Bessie! Here Bessie!' And hit the milk bucket with a stick, bing, bing, bing, bing, and old Bessie would come running over there. She'd open the gate and give her some grain. Then she'd sit down in the front yard and milk Bessie. Mrs. Kraft had a couple other cows and when they were building the movies, they were putting building paper over the cracks and then they would put the siding on and the cows would lick that paper off. The man that put the building paper on, had to run them out of there. The cows would lick the paper because there was lots of salt and starch and stuff in the paper and the cows love that.

"We used to go hunting rabbits and ducks a lot. On a day when the wind would be blowing would be a good day to go. You would hear bing, bang all day long from people shooting. They didn't have to worry about game wardens back then. We used to shoot until we figured that the ducks were gonna start laying eggs. When they would start having eggs in them, well, everybody would stop hunting. Word did get around. As soon as somebody shot a duck that had some eggs in it then we'd let them have their young.

"I had my own boat. I had the Tippy and I lost that when it blew up and then I had the Betty L. and then the last couple of years I got another boat. I made quite a bit of money sometimes fishing. Other times you couldn't fish because there was none. Now they are all starting to come back again. Now, if they'd get those hatcheries in here. The creeks are so full of stickle back, they eat up all the eggs. If they don't eat up the eggs, they eat up the little fish before they get back to the sea. If they get hatcheries here, they could clear out all those creeks plant them with hatchery eggs or hatchery fish. Oh yeah, the price of fish today, you don't have to catch many. The price of fish used to be 4¢ a piece, put in a hundred thousand, that's $4,000.00. Today you put in a hundred thousand and it's worth $200,000.00. Lot of difference isn't it, between $4,000 and $200,000. There was no time for years and years when I didn't have a hundred thousand fish. If we didn't have a hundred thousand, then we'd start stealing from the rivers. The Bureau of Fisheries used to say, go ahead, take them out, there's too many there. They don't say that now. They catch you in the river now, well, they'll put you in the dungeon and throw the key away."

When Tommy came to Kodiak, king crab fishing wasn't the popular sport it is today.

"I was one of the first to start the king crab fishing here. I had tangle gear. They said there's no king crab here, but when I put my tangle gear out, I'd never seen so many king crabs in my life. A lot of fe-

males and not very many males. We didn't even know how to do it. We just put them in, but we learned. We caught crabs and then we made shrimp pots and put shrimp pots out. Caught a lot of shrimp but they were so small. That's not what we wanted. We wanted big ones. They're too hard to peel, the little ones. That's another thing that started here. Hundreds and thousands of dollars we made off of shrimp and crab."

As most people know, the tidal wave resulted in a lot of changes to Kodiak.

"Kodiak was one street from Erskin's dock around up through town and ended down where Berg Motors is. The other street came from the base and ended up there at the police station and the other one went up the hill by where Doc. Johnson's office is now and then it went all the way out to Mill Bay. Then, that was the only road and the only way you could get in and out. They called it the Old Thompson Transfer Road. Old Thompson lived way at the end. The only reason he lived out there was because he had a bunch of goats. They didn't want their goats in town, so they moved out there. When they did, there was just an old road. You'd get stuck 25, 30 times from downtown to the mission. Then the Army brought in hundreds and hundreds of loads of dirt and made Mission Road what it is today. Then after the tidal wave, I was living right there on the waterfront. All them canneries built on room after room and the tidal wave come and busted the canneries all up. They went floating out in pieces. All Kodiak was floating way out in the channel. It wasn't just the canneries. All the boats were in the boat harbor. They all broke loose. They were going out and the next wave would come and push them all back into Kodiak again. Downtown Kodiak there was a big seiner right in the middle, right in back of where Ardinger's is now. There was a great big seine boat resting and over where Kraft's parking lot and up on the side of the hill over there, there was a scow with 1500 crabs in it. They had to truck them all out of there. They were all getting rotten and they had to truck them all out. The Army came in there with trucks so people wouldn't get sick in Kodiak. They were taking them down and dumping them off into the bay. Oh, there was lots of changes. There was two boats right, well they didn't get as far as Kodiak Motors where the Bakery is now. There was one big scow and one big power scow laying right in the middle of town there after the tidal wave. There were boats all over the place, high and dry, 30, 40 feet up in the air. I mean not 30 feet up in the air, but 30 feet from where the water was up to where they lay. I guess when they had the tidal wave here they figured it

Tommy listens as we ask him questions.

raised 64 feet. They found stuff up in the trees. I went through it all and it didn't look like no 64 feet to me. I've known an awful lot of water, these trees here, great big ones, it was blowing so hard and whipping, the big ones just touch the ground and come back again and the ground was going in 4 or 5 foot swells by the end all during the tidal wave. Oh my God! Cars like that were parked like they are out there were jumping up and down and bouncing all over. I got a black eye out of it. My wife says, 'I left my shoes under the table.' I went and got underneath the table and another shock came and I went to get up and I hit my head when I got up because the table leaf fell across my head and face. I thought the whole building was coming down but it was just the table leaf."

When Tommy came to Kodiak, he was a construction forman and right after the tidal wave, many houses had to be built. Tommy told us about the house he built behind the hospital.

"That yellow house there I built that out of lumber that came up here through the Lions. It was given to them after the tidal wave. The only things that had to be bought were the siding, plaster boards etc. I worked for Western Construction and I had a contract for building. Almost all stuff was free, the decking and the rafters.

"I lived in Ouzinkie for awhile and I used to live in Karluk during the fishing season. Every year we take our boats and all go down there and fish and live there in the village where we could have a banya bath all the time. We fished for red salmon for the whole month of June. Then we'd leave there and go to Uganik. We'd stay in Uganik till the end of humpie season and then come home. That's the only villages that I stayed in. I go to Old Harbor. My wife's from Old Harbor. She was one of those that the Coast Guard evacuated from Old Harbor during the tidal wave. The tidal wave struck the village all down. The only thing left standing was the church. Well, anyway, they drug all the people into Coast Guard boats, then sent them by plane over to Elemendorf Airfield. I've still got a coat in my Volkswagon camper that I traded a fella for. I had a bright red coat and up in Anchorage they were giving away free clothes and stuff after the tidal wave. Well, he came home with a good sheepskin coat and I liked it and he said, "Well I like that red coat you got." So we made a swap and I still got it yet today. I use it for hunting only.

"In Kodiak there was only one school. It was downtown. Everybody from all around had to walk to school. There were no busses. There's a rule now that if the bus doesn't come and stop and pick them up, they don't have to go to school. Then, they had to walk to school and walk home. The only bus that really went to school was from the Mission. Mission had an old bus, an old Ford truck and it would smoke and bang and jump around and take the kids from the Mission to school. Sometimes on the way it would have 15 or 20 kids hanging on to the windows and everything else, bumming a ride home on Mission Road. They had no high school.

"There were only two stores in town. One was Kraft's and one was Erskin's until after the tidal wave. After the tidal wave Glen and Elna Banks started the City Market, and the meat market used to belong to John Broadcloth. You could buy any kind of meat you wanted, If you wanted T-bone steaks, stew meat or liver; it was all the same, 25¢ a pound, not like it is today. Liver is $1.75 lb., T-bone steaks are about 4 or 5 dollars a pound. Stew meat is worth $2.00 a lb.

It didn't make no difference then. Meat was meat. If you wanted steaks, you bought steaks and made stew, it was cheaper and it was better quality.

"There were only two churches here when I first came, one was a Russian Orthodox Church, and the other was the Baptist Church in back of the Mission. The Mission used to be on Woody Island, then they moved it here, but anyway somebody said there's more than 15 churches in town, more churches than there are bars. I thought they had enough bars but now there's more churches. They just started a couple of new churches around here, the Moons have come in and some other Bible outfit. Holy Smokes! They couldn't even pass the law that there would be no bars open on Sunday. Not even with 20 churches in town. I think they had 150 people that voted against it. There must be an awful lot of church people that drink on Sunday because they didn't go. I thought for sure that would pass because I drink on Sundays and I didn't want the bars open on Sunday, but all those church people must think it's good to drink on Sunday because they didn't show up."

We found Tommy to be a very nice person. During the interview he really made us feel comfortable. He was very generous with his information and with his candy. When we went back for his approval on the article, he was up in a wheelchair so it won't be too long before he's out of the hospital. We really appreciated the information he gave us. It helped us and the readers of Elwani to realize the changes that have taken place in and around Kodiak. The information we got helped us to see Tommy's view about Kodiak, and the way he feels about life.

Interview: Dawn Jewett, Kyle Bundy, Jean Carney

Photography: Kyle Bundy

Story: Jean Carney, Dawn Jewett, Kyle Bundy

Layout: Dawn Jewett

Tommy was excited to tell us about early Kodiak.

"IN MY COUNTRY"

HOA PIKUS

When we went to see Hoa Pikus in the Bilingual room of the Kodiak High School, we were thinking of someone much older and much more aged. To our surprise she was young, but she had many things to tell us. In this interview we talked about her life in Vietnam and her first impressions of Kodiak. One of the reasons we interviewed Hoa is because we were interested in cultural differences between Vietnam and America.

When I first found out that my husband wanted to marry me and take me with him to this country, I thought 'This is not going to be a big change. It'll just be like moving to another town. Because when you marry a man in the army, you usually move from town to town, and it's such a long time before you can see your family. Then I felt, 'Oh well, when we move I can go to see my parents every few years.' Then a friend told me that it wasn't so close. When I came over here, everything was so different. I wished I could be back in my own country. Weather changes and everything were difficult for me, even time, because daytime over here is nighttime over there. I found out that everything was so different. Now I feel that every country has something good and something bad. You just have to take that into consideration, which is why I don't miss my family much anymore.

"When I first came to America, I was so delighted because there was snow on the ground and I had never seen snow in my country. I was very surprised when I went shopping because in my country there are large open markets and you argue the price back and forth until you are satisfied and then you do this all day until you have everything you need. But here you go to the grocery store and everything is in neat packages and you can take what you want and pay for everything at once, and it only takes a few minutes or maybe an hour. Afterwards you have time for other things.

"It surprised me to see that everything was taxed, but I found out it was used for helping poor people. You have many good and bad things in every country. I miss my country because a different country means a different way of life.

Hoa told us about the war in Vietnam and how it affected her.

"With the war going on over there a lot of children were

forced into the army by the time they were eighteen. The war continued for so long in Vietnam that people were born with it and grew up with it. Somehow it didn't affect them as much as it did me. Most children didn't go to schools, instead they stayed at home and helped their family to survive by growing vegetables in the garden or fishing for food.

"My father stayed in the army for sixteen years in a different part of the country. We moved from place to place and usually nobody stays in one place, unless they get discharged out of the army or retired.

Hoa went on to tell us about her experience as a nurse and midwife and about meeting her husband in a military hospital.

"After I quit high school I went into training to be a nurse in one of the hospitals. When I worked there, my husband was part of a team called a Public Health team. They worked with a civilian doctor in the hospital where I worked at the time. I majored in English so I interpeted for the nurses when they went to give vaccines.

Hoa then told us about the schools in Vietnam and how they differ from schools here in America.

"The schools in Vietnam are more or less private paying schools. We only have one public school from kindergarten to fifth grade. The students over there, when they go to the public schools, they have to pay for all their paper, books, and any kind of material they need. They don't have a library or an office to lend them materials. When they get to Junior High they have to go to a private school which most families couldn't afford, so they had to drop out of school."

"I only finished up to the tenth grade, because my father got out of the army and afterall my older brothers and sisters got married, so to my family, I am the older child. So I had to quit school and go find a job to help support them.

Hoa then recounted a few of her customs.

"In my country the women mostly stay home and work around the house, the men have much more freedom, they may even take a second wife if the family agrees. We have a lot of customs in my country. It might be better if some of them did not exist. I was going to visit my parents in 1974, but we had some problems with my husband's family, someone died. So we had to go to the funeral. So my chance to go back to my country to see my parents was gone because the next year Viet Nam was taken over by communists."

After the interview we were left with a feeling of sadness because of Hoa's life in Viet Nam and why she can't go back to it.

Left to right: Ward Milligan, Hoa Pikus, and Kris Hansen

Story and interview by: Kris Hansen, Walt Davis, and Ward Milligan

"YOU CAN BE SO CLOSE, BUT SO FAR"

MYRTLE SHANAGIN

In the month of November we took a skiff ride to Anton Larson Bay to interview Myrtle Shanagin. It took about 10 minutes to get to the ramp leading to her house.

While walking up the ramp to her house, we were greeted by her dog Zha Zha, a red chesepeake, who is blind in one eye.

Myrtle was waiting for us on her porch. She greeted us with a smile and invited us into her house. It is warm and cheerful and reflects her love for the land she owns.

There are many artifacts and knick-knacks around her house. Many are taken from her own back yard.

"I was born in Kodiak, since I was about six, I've lived on Kodiak. The first time I remember is when I was six. My grandfather, Anton Larson, died when I was six, just before I started school. We visited him for a few days, then he passed away. That was in 1933.

"When I was a little girl, all I had was a Shirley Temple doll. All the dolls then had material stomachs, not like the ones nowdays, they're hard now.

"When I was a little girl, I got into my mothers curling set. Everybody curled their hair with a curling iron. You had a kerosene lamp and held the iron over it till it got hot, then you curled your hair. I didn't need it, my hair was already curly.

"I took my mom's comb, put it in the lamp, and it caught on fire. I threw it on the floor and it started burning. It all turned out ok.

"We made a lot of our toys, like dolls. We were always playing house. We played tag, hopscotch, jump rope, and run-sheep-run, which is like hide-n-seek. Our parents never had any problems with us, we were always outside playing. We would go down to the beach, pick up broken dishes, anything we could find for playing house. We would find things to make frosting with and then we would make beautiful little mud cakes."

When we asked her about her house and if she likes living out of town, her face lit up while talking about her home.

"We built this house in one month with a chain saw. The lum-

ber we used is Kodiak spruce. It was built in 1967.

"You can be so close, but so far. Helen used to live on the island and when the men went fishing, niether of us used the boats. We would holler across the bay, or talked on C.B.

"My mother, my sister, Molly live on the island. Hoke is over there, up above him is Ken Casey He has a telephone where you can call into town for a few minutes. Over by the creek is Dirty George. It's him, his wife and little boy.

"I've lived on the bay since 1965. I just got the title for five acres after ten or eleven years.

"We have a well and Hoke pumps the water up in our hoses, underground, and the water runs into plastic containers on the porch. In the winter, we have to bring them inside.

"I have a couple of gardens. I have some strawberries, and a flower garden, not very big, but it's pretty.

"You can find quite a few artifacts around here. My son Oly found a little man. He was sitting down. The natives must have made it.

"There was an old village down here. We uncovered a skeleton. It had all the parts except the legs. We find skulls and lots of things. You find them in layers. After the tidal wave, the banks went down and the artifacts were just lying there. Beautiful ivory things, too.

"I have seven children. Between Nick and I we have a dozen kids. They're all grown, we have thirteen grandchildren and one on the way.

"Petrina, Johnny, and Linda were raised sleeping in the barn in sleeping bags. Johnny used to sing songs. When the kids were small, Oly, Kris, Gorden, Gary, and Petrina would play ball. They were noisy! Then, they would get mad at each other.

"We had an advisory teacher out at Juneau, but it didn't work out too well. So, we went a couple of nights and came back and forth until Gorden was old enough to go to high school."

"Then, I got to live out here for a year and a half steady It's my home now.

"There was three of us in our Junior year. I could have taken my Junior & Senior year in one. I thought I was going to school the next fall,but instead I went and got maried.

"Anyway, I got my GED, and a college course about 2½ years ago. Not too long ago."

It seemed like a longer trip back, because it was colder and almost pitch black. It was fun, but exhausting. We are glad we took this Elwani class.

Story:
Debbie Maxwell
JoAnn Amundsen

"WHEN I WAS GROWING UP,

NOT MANY WOMEN WORKED."

FECKLA METROKIN

In the early 1900's, 1900-1948, all the fishing in Bristol Bay was done with single sail, sailing boats. Then they progressed to hand powered dories or power skiffs. When Feckla Metrokin, my grandma, was growing up in Bristol Bay, she and her two brothers, Martin and Charlie, used to row a dory around to pick the nets. They beach set netted during the summer fishing periods which last from 12-24 hours at a time.

While they were set netting, her mother, Sarah, worked at home and her father, Carl, worked the cannery docks at Red Salmon Canning Company as a watchman.

Even though she only fished for about four years, from 1934-38, she had fun and gained knowledge of fishing. Her brothers, Martin and Charlie, still fish and so do her three other brothers.

The nets they used had one line with lead on it to hold it to the bottom and one line with cork on it to keep it afloat; gillnet web of cotton was between these lines. The outer end of the net was anchored with what she called a 'deadman', which was an old cooler from the cannery loaded with rocks. The end on the beach was just staked with a large wood or metal stake.

The only incident that Feckla told me about was when they kept their nets out too long and she and her brother, Martin, had to cut them so they wouldn't get a fine from the Fish and Game.

The only season that they really had was a red salmon season, the season lasted from June 25 to about July 25.

While Feckla was fishing, her father couldn't afford a power motor or good equipment, so they only averaged 5,000 fish, depending on the season. Her brother, Martin, had to row her father's hand made dory to the 'Tallie Scow.'

At the 'tallie scow' the fish were counted or tallied and they were paid. At that time one averaged about 12½ cents a fish.

While fishing, she had help from her brothers, Martin, who helped with the oars, and Charlie who was kind of young, was more weight than he was help. If anything went wrong he would say, "I'm gonna go tell Papa."

Early Bristol Bay Sailing Boats.

After fishing for four years, she worked in the cannery on a 'patch table' first, where they turned over any skin showing, cut the bone and skin hanging out before the cans went into the vacuum to seal and cook them.

Then later she moved up into the mess halls as a waitress. The tables were family style. Each waitress was assigned four tables, about 32 men. She also worked in the laundry for awhile. During the time she was in the mess halls she did some cooking. When I asked about what kind of food they ate she said they ate better in the cannery than most others, they ate really well.

While Feckla was growing up in Bristol Bay, not many women worked, but now the times have changed and most, or all of the women I know work. Even Feckla still works at Kraft's downtown, she's been working there since about 1966.

Feckla Metrokin

Drawing: Mat Freeman

Darkroom, Story and Layout credits by:

Heather Metrokin

Early Crabbing

BURNIE LINDSEY

The DEEP SEA, the first crabber to fish in the Bering Sea.

To a young man in the service early Kodiak may have looked like a small village that didn't have much of a future. Like so many long time residents here Burnie Lindsey found an interest in Kodiak. It was here that Burnie, as a young man planted his roots. He brought his wife here and raised a family.

The story he tells of such things as his first job, and the goals he worked for. He also tells us of concerns his first boat and the trials and errors of his first crabbing experiences. Burnie seems to have a little story for everything, like the tidle wave and the problems it caused for him. His first job to his first boat. He makes everything interesting.

He lives on Spruce Cape Road with a magnificent view of the ocean. When we walked up to the door we could hear the waves breaking against the rocks about fifty feet away from where we were standing. As we knocked on the door we could almost immediately hear his dog, Freckles barking. Then he opened the door and a kindly little face appeared in front of us and welcomed us in. We got acquainted with each other as we set up our equipment. Well, it is so interesting that we'll let him tell you.

"I lived in and around Seattle until I was sixteen and a half then I went into the Army Transport Service, that was kind of like the Merchant Marines, and when I was seventeen I went into the Navy and was in the Navy two years during the last part of World War Two. After I got out of the Navy I went to navigation school. I got a third mates license, although I never used it.

I never felt that navigation was too difficult. I watched the charts pretty close. In those days we didn't have any electronic equipment like a radar or fathometer so we had to rely on the compass alot.

I went back into the Army Transport Service. I was on a freight boat, the Army called it the FS. It came to Alaska and stopped in Kodiak, and I had a chance to get on a harbor tug in Kodiak for the Army. I was a mate on the harbor tug. It was out in Women's Bay, the Army had the

harbor tug out there then, and I was on that freight boat for the Army Transport Service, and we came into Kodiak. I guess the main thing was we use to keep some barges and stuff up there in Women's Bay. During the war the Army had all kinds of boats, they were called power barges they used to be Army boats. The next year I bought a small salmon jitney it was about a 28 footer, thats when I started fishing on my own. I guess it was in 1950. I guess I have been salmon fishing here every year since 1949. I owned that little jitney the Gray Goose, it was also called the Baldie. Then I had the Mary Lee, then the Quadra, it was the third one. When I had the Quadra it was an old cannery tender, it was 70 feet long. We fished two jitneys when we fished salmon. I got a new jitney that year, we fished the old one and the new one. We use to tow the two jitneys around where we would go. The Quadra was a real old boat, it was built in 1912. It had been a cannery tender for American Fisheries down at Alitak. We were transporting king crab for a couple of guys who were fishing down at Alitak and we were to take them down to Port Wakefield on Raspberry Straights. This was back before the earthquake. Port Wakefield had a crab processing plant at the time. We were coming off Shelikoff Straight with a load of crab, and it got pretty rough with a northeastern wind, the boat started leaking pretty bad, we were having trouble with the bilge pumps too. We were taking in water faster than we could pump it out so we headed for shore. We just made it to the beach at Harvester Island in time before it sunk. It had a six cylinder Atlas Diesel in it, the water was up it's cylinder but it kept chugging away. Then we ran it up on the beach so we had to throw all our crab out. When the weather calmed down we did a little work on it to where we could float it again and brought it back to town.

The insurance company auctioned off that boat, and another guy bought it. It was here in town until the tidal wave hit. After the tidal wave it washed ashore and they burned it. So that makes a jitney, the Mary Lee, and the Quadra, then another jitney that makes four boats. I fished just

SIERRA SEAS, the biggest and best boat Burnie ever owned.

the jitney for a couple of years then I sold it and fished company boats for three or four years. I fished the APA Ten and the APA Nine then I bought the Loretta O. I had seven boats in all. I just bought another one It is in San Diego. It is a short fisher.

I got the Sierra Seas in 1969, and I fished dungeness with it for a while, then I started fishing tanners and kings. The Sierra Seas is probably the nicest boat that I ever had, the biggest one, and it had the most equipment on it. I don't have it anymore I sold it over a year ago During crab fishing we would have three crewmen, two besides myself."

We asked Burnie if he had any accidents on the boat.

"I did back in the early days, I hit a few rocks and things like that but I learned to be a little more careful. In those days the Coast Guard was pretty scarce, they didn't have any helicopters and things like that. I remember once when we were going through Geese Channel, we hit a rock and we had to beach it and the Navy sent a tug out to pick us up, that was probably our worst accident. Another time on the Mary Lee, that was the second boat I owned, we were anchored out in Kalsin Bay and were fishing crab out there and we drug anchor and went on a rocky beach and there was enough sea to roll the boat back and forth on the rocky beach, so it did a lot of damage to the bottom of the boat, but we were finally able to get back in town and get it fixed at Alvine's Marine Repair which use to be down town Kodiak up until the time the tidal wave hit. You use to have your boat fixed right in town which you don't have any more. When he got his new dock he was able to handle boats 80 or 90 feet, and he worked on your boats right there on the dock.

"When I first came here nobody was fishing king crab except me and a few others. Sometimes the fishing was real limited, salmon was about the only fishery. Some local people also used to fish herring.

"I was one of the first to start crabbing around here and we started fishing with tangle nets; that was the first ones. Pat Cannon fished tangle nets a little bit, there was a number of others who tried it but they all had the same experience where you get into a bunch of females and you just kill all of the females. It took you so long to clear your net so it just didn't work out. It was probably the early 1950's when we started fishing king crab with tangle nets, there might have been some in 1949 but then we started dragging for crabs, they dragged for them for several years then the guys started trying pots. They made these little light frames out of 3/8 or 1/2 inch rebar and put chicken wire on them. They were so light they would bounce around the bottom. We didn't know that then, but that's what we found out later. They didn't fish good at all, that chicken wire would eat up in just a matter of a month or so and your pot would be full of holes.

"I was fishing King Crab in 1951 when I first fished with tangle nets. It was like a gill net on the bottom with a great big mesh. The Japanese use to fish'em that way. You'd anchor one end of the net, then set out an anchor on the other end out. Then come back in a day or two and pick them up, for a while I did pretty good but then we kept getting the females. It was hard on the females and hard on us too. There was quite a good population of crabs but we didn't get that many when we were fishing out there. Later

that same year we started dragging for crab. Lloyd Cannon started dragging for crab just before I did and it seemed like he was doing pretty good, so I started doing it. We wouldn't make much money. Sometimes we did pretty good but sometimes it was hit and miss. Seemed like you could get all the females but then getting the ones you wanted was something else.

Lloyd Cannon had one boat and I had another boat with drags and we'd run clear around Afognak Island prospecting for crab. We'd keep in contact so as to let each other know how we were doing. Sometimes some of the guys from Afognak Village did pretty good dragging for crabs but generally it was hit and miss, it never really was a successful fishing till they got these bigger more efficient crab pots developed. We used to drag for bottom fish and we'd chop up the fish and put them in bait jars. Later on they started getting herring. The market was kind of limited there too. There weren't very many fishing so you could usually sell what you had. We'd bring them in and put them in big live boxes.

"Hiram McAlistar had been a dungeness fisherman for years and you know the dungeness pots were round. He believed that every crab pot had to be round. He wouldn't fish them unless they were round. He started building these six foot round pots and he really started doing good, he made a lot of money, of course those pots were a little heavier than the pots we had. Then he put stainless steel wire on them so it didn't get eaten up like the chicken wire did. He did real good on them for several

Burnie Presently fished this boat, the FJORD, during the 1978 season.

years, then a lot of others started using those round pots too and they did good, but then other guys started developing these square pots, these heavier square pots, eventually they found out that they were really better. I think it was in the 60's before they really started being successful with the crab pots. We used a purse winch to bring the pots up, this was a block and davit out on the side and we'd run it on the purse winch and haul it in. The first ones we made weighed less than a hundred pounds, they were pretty light. The round pots probably weighed a hundred and fifty, to two hundred pounds. They were heavier than the others and that helped. Most of the boats were just salmon boats, not many were built for crab. The boats used to get beat up quite a bit from crab fishing, it was pretty hard on them because they weren't equipped for it. One of the bad things about fishing is being away from home. It was real bad one year where we had a water shortage in Kodiak and none of the processors could operate. We were fishing tenners on the mainland and we crabbed at Homer and I was gone from home almost a month. It's pretty difficult to raise kids when you're away from home.

"I liked Kodiak from the first, I was on an army transport service when I got here so I just got a job on a harbor tug and kind of liked it, it's an enjoyable life. I got kind of tired of crab fishing though, but I guess I never did get tired of salmon fishing. I never did miss home much, that is, Washington, I always enjoyed living up here. My father was a stockbroker in Seattle and people wonder how I became a fisherman when my father was a stockbroker but I guess that kind of life just didn't appeal to me. I have always enjoyed life, especially here."

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GROWING UP HERE

DOUG DAWSON

Mr. Dawson came from Montana where he grew up until the age of seven. He and his family came to Kodiak just before the war broke out. Mr. Dawson was pretty small at the time so he really lived his whole life here in Kodiak.

"Growing up here in Kodiak in the early years is alot different than it is today. The community was very small, there was a little over a thousand people here. Most people lived in the downtown area. There were alot of nice little things like when you knew everybody and there weren't any conveniences like other areas had. The community did things on their own. For instance, if you wanted ice cream you had to make it yourself. They had their own ice cream and pop bottling company and so people were fairly independent in those times. Most people who grew up in Kodiak as small kids enjoyed it because there was a fair amount of freedom. We also had a good feeling among all the people. We were all living in Kodiak as part of the same community."

They had just finished building a hospital about a year before the Dawson's came to Alaska. Dr. Bob Johnson who is here now had his father come up as one of the first important surgeons for the hospital. The old hospital is located where the mental health center is. They added on to the old hospital since they built it. It was a very important addition to the community because other-wise they had to have operations elsewhere. When the first doctors came they had their own operating rooms in their own homes. Mr. Dawson lived in a house for awhile that had belonged to a doctor and one of the rooms is where he had his operations. He left some of his old books and Mr. Dawson said he looked at the books to try to become a doctor. The books were a little complicated for him though.

"There were only a small number of people they operated on. Where people got operated on was a big two story house. There were alot of rooms so if the doctor had patients that had to be in a hospital he could keep them there for a short while. The new hospital was finished around 1939-1940. The clinic downtown called the A. Holmes Johnson Clinic and the library are named in Dr. Johnsons honor. Before they opened the hospital they had an opportunity to work with his surgery. Dr. Johnson built a boat just to keep his fingers nimble. They want to put it down in the library sometime as kind of a reminder. The medical facilities have always been a fairly important part of Kodiak. Dr. Johnson had his clinic located in another place so he saved alot of lives in the past. We also had a public health nurse in those days too. Kodiak has always been fairly fortunate since 1940 to have

medical facilities for the people to have."

At the time Mr. Dawson was attending school, there was only one school. It was all combined in one big building. Because of the increase of students they had to add some buildings on the outside of the school. The buildings they added were quonset huts. When Mr. Dawson graduated from high school, there were only sixty some students in the high school. At the time of his graduating class of fourteen which was the largest number of students which he had known about. There were a couple of other classes that had about ten.

"There was a school out at the base for a few years that went through grade school and high school. Until the middle of the forties, the two schools competed with each other. They had the school from the 1940's till about 1954 out at the base. Before that and like now, they had to bring the students to town. They had a fairly large amount of people in the navy out at the base at that time, so they opened up their school temporairly. When they finally built on to what is now main school, that relieved the problem somewhat. They all combined so it made quite a difference in the total number of students in the Kodiak school uptown. The old building was finally condemed. It was unsafe and had been around too long. Where the Koniag buildings are is where the old school used to be located. They added on to the present building with all the different wings in the school. The building which is used for the high school was built for kind of a regional high school concept that had students come from around the state. There was almost one hundred students coming from around the state for that purpose. What is now the borough offices was the dormitory. They changed all that into office buildings because they decided that the regional high school didn't work out as well as having high schools in the communities itself, so like now they have schools in some of the villages and will try to do that more around all the villages in Alaska. And so the old system is no good, then they added East and built a new facility out at the base.

"Being in a class with fourteen other students was a good feeling of being part of the class, we were small in number and except for a couple of courses, you all took the same classes. When we were freshman we just went from one room to another one. We all took general science and algebra together. There wasn't anything like general math at the time. All students took the same courses and then sometimes there were a few changes, some students could take certain math and science courses. We all took the same English class and so there wasn't really much of an opportunity to take so called electives. In those days we didn't have P.E.. We had study hall. We had a busy schedule everyday. We were here six periods at least. They offered us more of what we called the basics and not many extra courses. They did have shop for the boys and home economics for the girls and very seldom would you be allowed to go from one to the other like now we have girls taking shop classes and boys taking cooking classes and things they just didn't offer in those days. They didn't think it was necessary."

Mr. Dawson was here during the two tidal waves. "Once they had a new island formed in Japan. That caused some problems out in the chain. One place had a real disaster and so they kept telling us in Kodiak that the tidal wave was coming. They would warn us in time so we could get to high ground. They told all the students in the school to pack a suitcase with the very vital things that they would need in

case they had to be up in the hill for a day or so, they would have those and nobody had realized the tidal wave had already come in early in the morning, it was just like a high tide.

"They let us go home early that day to get ready. Finally we went to bed. The Navy would broadcast when it would hit. About midnight they broadcast the tidal wave was coming. Everyone got to high ground. We jumped in our car, which was a problem, cause we had two dogs, they didn't want to come and we wanted them to come. Finally we left one of them behind, then we tried to slam the car door, it was an old car, and the door fell off. We forgot our suitcases in all the excitment. Finally, we got to high ground. We saw people downtown walking around, there was no problems at all. We thought, how terrible, they were all going to drowned. Then we went up to see some friends where we could stay with them, 'cause they were on higher ground, but they were gone. They had already gone up the hill and they slept in sleeping bags and had a hard time getting out of the sleeping bag because the zipper got stuck so they had to stay a couple hours stuck in their bag before they got out. But the tidal wave didn't come then because it had come earlier. Some of the buildings on the water front were washed out.

"The last tidal wave, of course, we heard the earthquake in the afternoon and it was quite an experience just to hear the sound. I really don't know how to describe it. It was a tremendous roar. You couldn't see it, everywhere you could just see the ground rippling. Alot of people said it was like a bunch of waves in the ocean. It went on for five minutes, which is one of the longest times for such an earthquake recorded. An hour or so later, the first tidal wave came in, which was just like a high tide like years before and not to long after that, within another hour, just as it was getting dark, the first real destructive wave came in and wiped out the small boat harbor and destroyed a couple of canneries and all of the dock facilities in the channel area. During the night more waves kept coming in. Pushing everything further up in the valley, they kept coming all night. During the night we had another after shock, it wasn't terribly serious but upset everybody, but it was over in a matter of seconds.

"Nobody tried to go to the airport and try to leave. There weren't any planes to leave anyhow except for a few and they didn't know where they could go. So there really wasn't to much panic. It was amazing how calm, cool, and collect most people were. The Main School gym was turned into a big room for those people who lost their homes. They provided them with blankets and had a kitchen set up so they could feed them. For a week afterwards, they didn't have any classes and they just took care of those people. Then the government people came in and tried to arrange loans and things for the people. Some people did leave right after that, because they were afraid they couldn't stay and just didn't think it would be safe. Since that time we've never had a major earthquake here."

Since the tidal wave, Mr. Dawson had noticed some changes. He likes the neatness in the downtown area and all the modern buildings, but one of the things he has noticed is that the old town of Kodiak had kind of a charm to it, a certain picturequeness, the winding streets, the old false fronts that gave it kind of a uniqueness. Alot of people miss that and in some ways Mr. Dawson misses that too. He likes the way it's set up downtown and alot of it might have happened even without the tidal wave because they were talking about urban renewal, which was a federal government

program to upgrade communities all around the U.S. They would have done some changes, how much no one knows, because it was still being discussed, but when the tidal wave occurred, then that made obviously no choice, but to do what they did.

Mr. Dawson's fondest memories of Kodiak are just being the small community and everybody working together and recognizing you. Just feeling part of the community and then growing up in the nice summers. He also remembers times when they would go out to what they now call Lily Lake. In those days they called it Big Lake and going swimming, just spending the whole day at the side of the lake learning how to swim. In those days, if we wanted to swim, we had to learn to do it ourselves. And so he and all his friends taught themselves. It was a nice time and a good strong feeling even though they had problems, they were all part of Kodiak. That is one of the reasons why Mr. Dawson came back. He liked that feeling, that's why he stays involved in activities. Mr. Dawson thinks that Kodiak has alot of opportunities for somebody to become part of the community if they want to.

Story: Leonard Charliaga
Alvin Lucas

AGUDUK

1 cup of crisco
1/2 to 3/4 of sugar
3 cups of berries, black or blue

First you whip the crisco till it is real fluffy. Than you add the sugar, whin it with the crisco.Than you fold in the berries.

JOYOUS TIMES

-betty springhill-

Betty Springhill and I examine her ivory selection

When I did my interview on Mrs. Spring hill, I felt nervous. I wasn't so sure of myself. I didn't think that Mrs. Springhill and I would get along the first half hour. We were both nervous. I really didn't know what I was doing, but I got my interview done and was happy about it. When I was talking I was also jumpy in my seat. My hands were really sweating bad. When it was over and done with, I was so happy. That's how I felt when I did my first interview. I am an American Guamanian. I am fourteen years old, and was born in Guam. It isn't to far from Hawaii.

Betty: "My name is Betty Springhill and before I was married my name was Betty Carter. I was born in Cripple Creek, Colorado. I am a daughter of a gold miner, and we lived in Colorado until I was about four years old. Then we moved to the midwest oil field near Casper, Wyoming. My father was employed there by the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. We lived there very happy and comfortably until I was in the eighth grade."

"My family moved with my brother and I to Longmont, Colorado where I went to high school. From high school I went to the University of Northern Colorado. When I got my Bachelors Varsity Degree during the depression, it was quite a scramble for teaching jobs at that time so I was lucky."

"After we moved from Longmont, we moved back to Cripple Creek. This was because the price of gold had been raised and it was worth while for us to turn back to mining. After that we went to Cheyenne, Wyoming. This was in 1944, just after the war ended. I started teaching in 1944. I retired in 1971. I taught all those years in Kodiak except for two years. One after I had my baby and the other was when they didn't have a kindergarden, and so I stayed home with her the year before she went to first grade.

"Outside of that, I taught for forth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade at different times. I taught music here and about half my years here in Kodiak were spent as an elementary principal. First was the down town school and the main school both, and then later years after the tidal wave, the new school. That's where I was until 1971 when I retired."

"When I came here to Kodiak, the grade school was all in what we called the older down town school building, and the high school was upstairs, then as the school grew they put in qounset huts around the building to try to accommodate the high school students that were coming in from base. So they were forced, of course, to build the main school."
After the main school they built the high school addition to that, I moved up to the main school."

Ardina: "Was it easy being a principal or was it pretty hard?"

Betty: "It wasn't to difficult when I was doing it, we didn't have some of the problems that have come along after, for example, I never had a major drinking problem or drug problem with the students. There were a very few major problems about the children who weren't properly cared for, who needed help and that sort of thing. But I never had to get into that drug business, which I am very grateful for. I really look back on to those years. And it wasn't enough I suddenly became a principal. I gradually grew into it so that my whole career was one of gradual groth and development."

Ardina: "If you had a chance to be a principal, would you take up that chance once again?"

Betty: "Yes. I enjoyed it very much. It was very challenging. I'd even do it now with all the problems that have come along in the last ten years.

"I am 62 years old. My father died in 1944. My mother's still living at the age of 91. She lives with us. My daughter is married to a young fisherman. She lives near by, so we have a small family but it's a very close family. All our ties are here so we just take trips, rather than move away."

Ardina: "What did you do when you were a child?"

Betty: "I just had an enjoyable time. I did all the things that kids do. Always had an easy life. I just did all the little things that were fun. I was always so musically oriented, and I had been singing when I was just a child. Singing was fun. I learn to play the piano at the early age of nine. I was very much involved in my life with music. It still is a very important part of my life. Singing it, playing it, teaching it, is a part of my life. The extent of my musical activity now is playing for our church once in a while."

Ardina: "As a teenager, did you socialize with anyone."

Betty: "Yes. I've always socialized with and love to be around people. And there was always a group. It was a very active society."

Ardina: "Did you enjoy sports?"

Betty: "Not too much. I was not inclined towards sports. But for some reason I tried everything."

Ardina: "What was it like when you first went into the world.?"

Betty: "Very easy."

Ardina: "Did you get a job right off?"

Betty: "Right off. No struggle, right into the world of teaching. I enjoyed it very much, it was easy and I was very successful at it. Everything worked wonderfully. It was a very important part of my life. I was always active in church work. I could remember when I was ten years old playing for the church services."

Ardina: "What religion are you?"

Betty: "I'm protestant. I was raised presbyterian. Then, John, my husband, is lutheran. They organized a lutherian church here. Now we are both members of the "Saint Pauls" congregation up here.

Ardina: "How do you feel about life in general?"

Betty: "Very good. I love life. I am very fortunate that I have a great capacity for enjoying everything that's about my life."

Ardina: "How different is it from the way it used to be?"

Betty: "Very different. There was a lot of excitment with the war years. But it was a small village with muddy streets and we were always in some kind of boots or something to cover up our feet. But there was always a lot of friendliness on Kodiak; a lot of social contacts. I think the major change was after the tidalwave. It happened very gradually, all of this change. What happened is I guess I got older, and many of us, they call old timers remained, while some of our friends left. I had the feeling that there are many new people here with me."

Ardina: "Is the quality of life better or worse?"

Betty: "I would say that there is a warmth and friendliness that is missing. But my thoughts

of Kodiak, when I came up here in the forties was a great deal of warmth and friendliness, knowing each other and being aware of each others problems."

Ardina: "Was it a rough time during the tidalwave?'

Betty: "Yes it was. I can remember when we had a helpless and long feeling during the wave. Our building was gone. Jewelry was floating all over the shop. When the water went down we had to pick up the pieces by hand and carry them back to the house. A lot of material and things were missing during the period.

Ardina: "Are the teenagers now different from the way they used to be?"

Betty: "A little bit. They weren't sophisticated, they were wiser, easier in the world."

Ardina: "When you were young, what did you think about the direction that our country is going today?"

Betty: "Our country developes as we go through different times. I don't , of course, see any catastrophy. But,in general, I think of something back then."

Story and photos:Ardina Rice

ESKIMO ICECREAM

Boil together for two or three minutes

2 cups seal oil and 1 or 1 1/2 lbs. reindeer fat

Cook until lukewarm. Take a bowlful of loose snow (not too powdery) and add oil, beat well to avoid lumps. Let freeze abit Let freeze a bit. Fold in berries if wanted.

(author unknown)

Boats, Boats & More Boats

We recently interviewed Ken Defrang on boat repairing and he told us alot of interesting things about his business and the kinds of jobs that he does on boats. Ken gets jobs of all kinds, from small ones; like ripping out just rotten plank and replacing it with a new one, to big ones like ripping out the whole front of a boat and replacing it.

This article tells about several different kinds of jobs that a Kodiak boat repair man like Ken Defrang and his crew have to do year round.

Ken was born in Minnesota. He has been in the boat repair business since 1949; here in Kodiak, eight years.

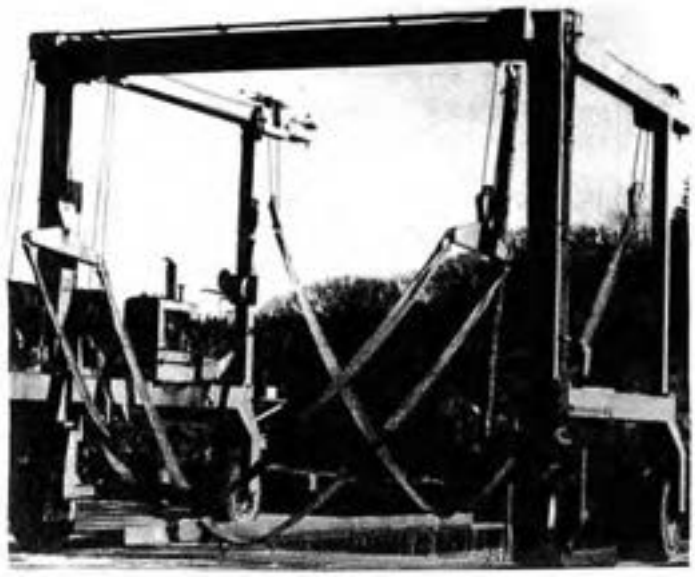
We asked Ken how he got into the boat repair business and he said, "I was a fisherman, and I bought a boat that was wrecked, and rebuilt it, then sold it, made some money and bought another one. I fixed that one, and decided I wanted to be a boat repairer, so I went to school in 1949."

According to Ken he gets his boats over to the shop by way of a Carry Lift. A Carry Lift is a four-legged Monster that picks the boats out of the water and wheels it over to his shop. The carry lift can only handle up to a 52' boat.

"I try to stick mainly with boats under 50 feet. Once in a while we go down to the boat harbor and work, but I don't care to work on a boat unless I can get it into my shop. It's a lot hardier when you can turn out faster and better work, if we can get them right to the shop." That's what Ken tells us.

Ken and his crew work out of a 10' x 55' trailer which holds all the tools needed for repairing boats. Included in his assortment of tools are a band saw, sander, plainer, end jointer and **lots** of hand tools.

I asked Ken to describe the process of replanking. Here is what he said:
"First you have to take the old planks out with a ripping bar, which has a sharp hook at the end. You have to hit the ripping bar with a hammer and tear out the plank by pieces, or you can also get inside the boat and drive the plank out with a block, but most of the time you dig out the plank by pieces. Then you get a scribe and a bevel square to lay out your new plank. Measure your length of board, cut it out on the band saw, plane the board down, put your new plank in the place the old one was, drill new holes for the nails and nail the board in place.



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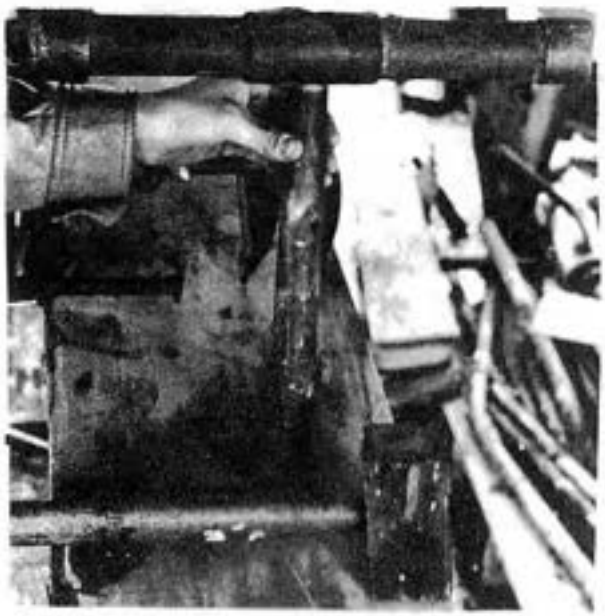
Some of the minor jobs Ken does are boats that were damaged on rocks or boats that need chafing gear put on the side. Chafing gear is put on the boat to protect it when hauling in crab pots.

Once in a while Ken gets an emergency job that he has to fly out to. "Maybe somebody has a boat on the beach. I go out there and patch it up enough to get it to my shop. When a boat goes on a beach sometimes it will cave in part of the wheel house and some of the windows will get smashed. When that happens we have to take glass and plyboard to patch it up with...that doesn't happen very often, but it does happen." Ken says.

Caulking is another type of work that Ken and his crew do. Caulking is the process of water sealing the seam after the plank has been replaced.

There are four things necessary for caulking a boat, these are; a wooden mallet, caulking iron, alot of cotton, and of course the boat!



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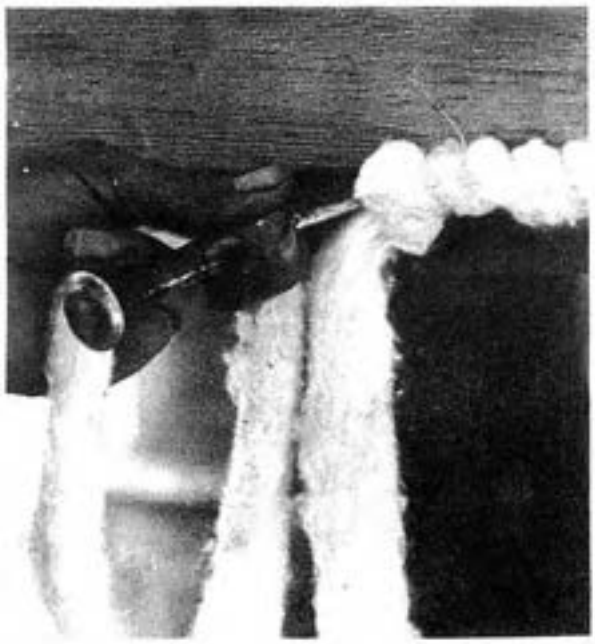
To get the story on caulking we had to interview one of Ken's helpers.

Here are the steps on "How To Caulk a Boat."

3

When you caulk a boat you take a 1' piece of cotton between your forefinger and the tip of the caulking iron, this is called a "bite."



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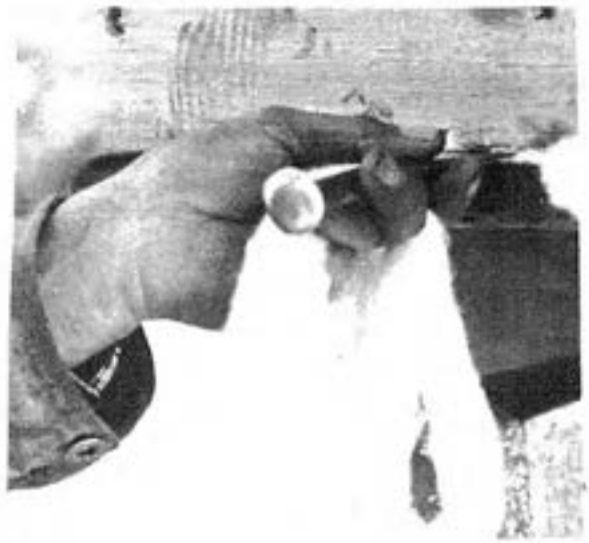
First you hit a couple of bites into the seam so you have something to start with.



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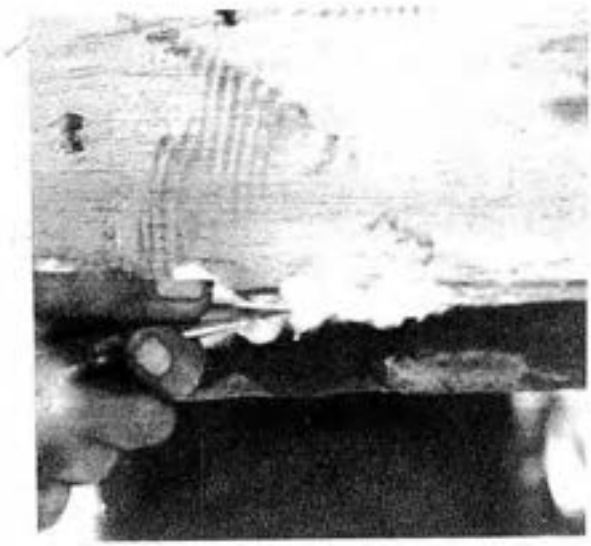
then you begin to hit the bites into the seam so they are tight.



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After you have several bites tapped in a row into the seam,

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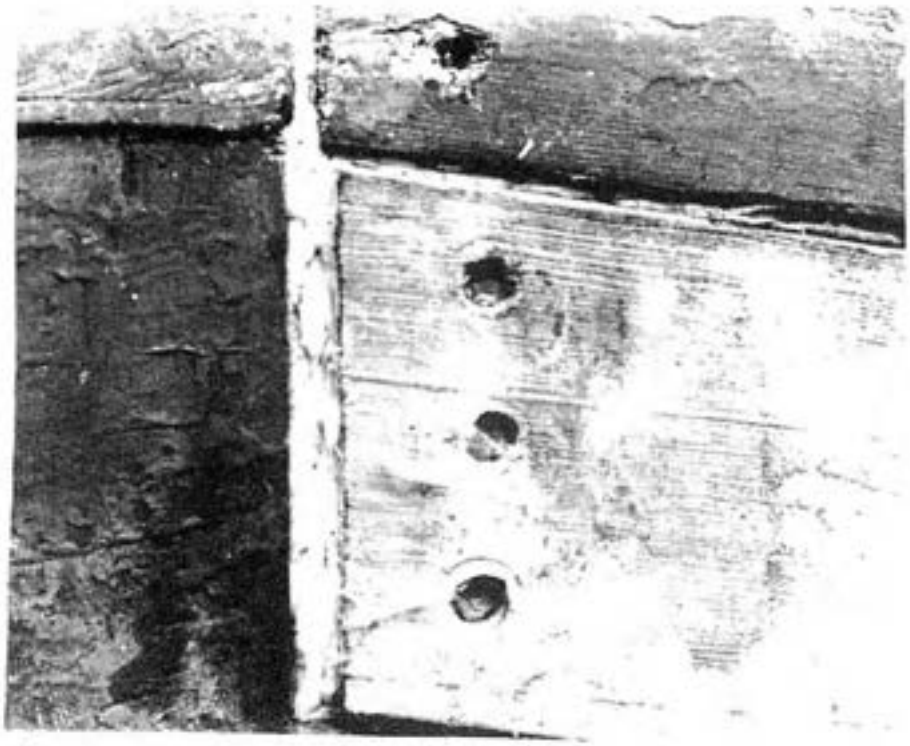
After you are done with the whole seam, you leave an extra piece of cotton on the end and let it hang off the side, so that if somebody else comes and finishes the job he knows where you left off.



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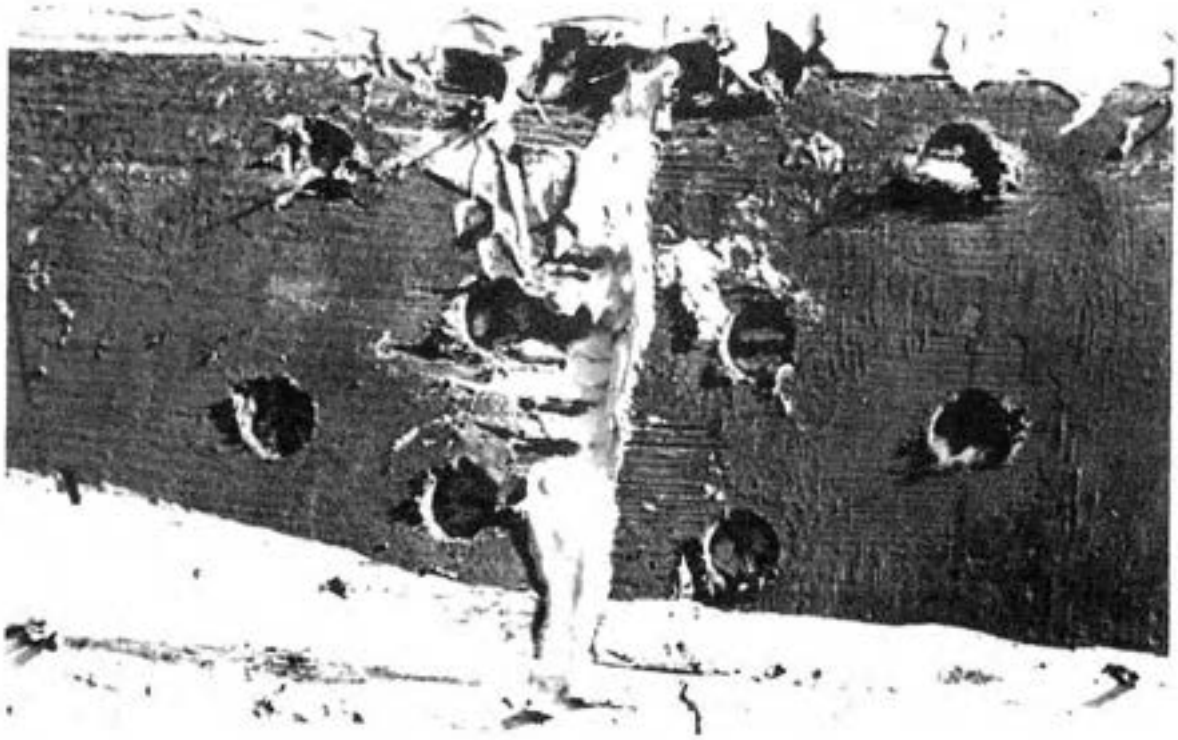
Eventually, this piece of cotton gets hit in tothe seam.

Elpiedo told us it is very important that the bites are hit in hard so that when you put the water sealer on and you put the boat back in the water the caulking doesn't come apart.



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This is what it looks like when the caulking is done. The white part is the water sealer that is put over the top of the cotton in the seam so as to make it waterproof.

10 Ken's crew left to right: Clarence Peterson, Randy Jensen Elpidio Navarro, Ken DeFrang

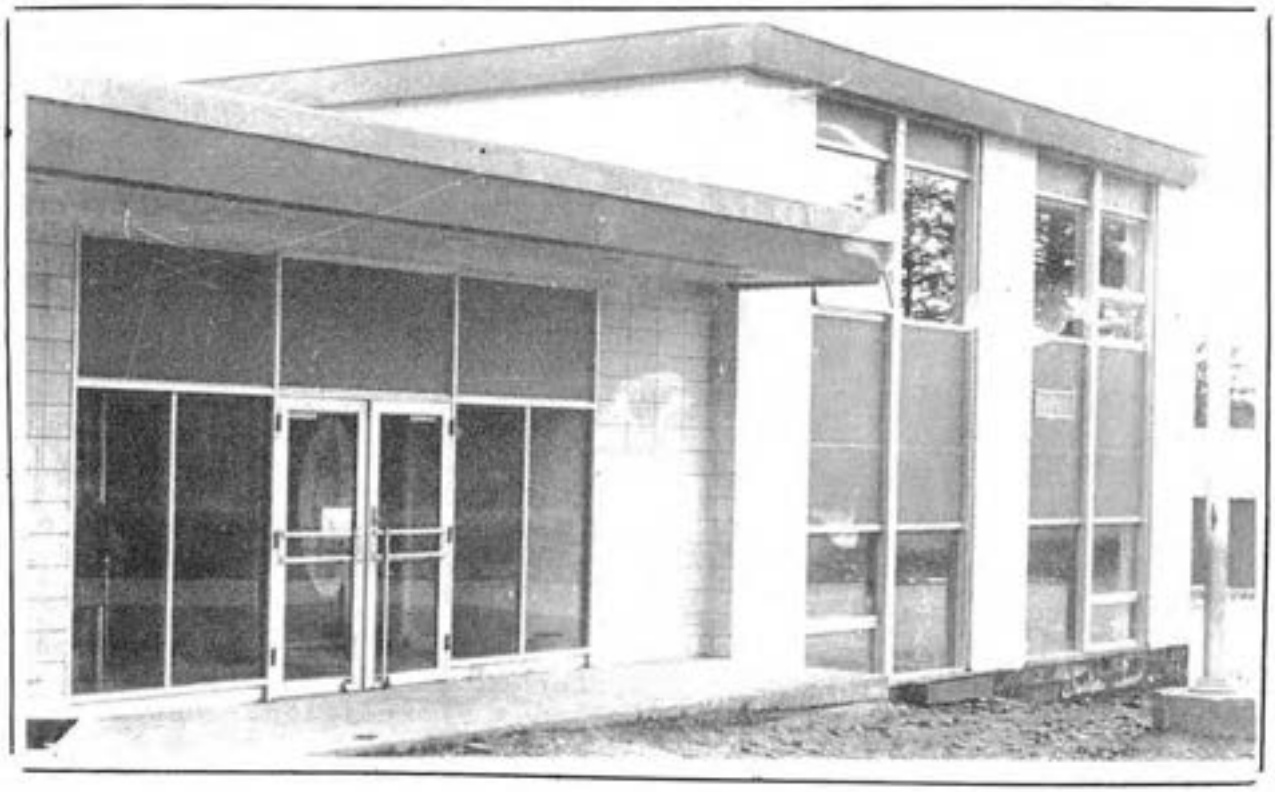
11

Article and Layout:
Dee Amponin
Greg Dahl
Photo credits:
Dee Amponin

Ken told us, "It's a year round job, and the only way you can get a vacation is to lock the door and say "I'm going..."

ONE OF A KIND

(st. mary's school)



Sister Margret Ann, who was born in Buffalo, New York told three Elwani students how much Kodiak has changed in the past thirteen years. "It has changed considerably since I came, I don't find it as friendly now." Sister Margret Ann said that she has seen the population increase. "When I first came it was just a nice feeling, everybody knew everybody and was awfully close." Sister Margert Ann has been teaching at St. Mary's School since 1966. "I started in the old school across from the Russian Orthodox Church." After moving two times the school ended up on the Mill Bay Extension Road (where we know it to be now).

Every year St. Mary's School puts on at least one play at Christmas to give the children of the school the true meaning of Christmas, and it gets the children up on the stage, in front of their parents. "The spring play," Sister said, "gives the children a little bit of musical history, the music of the past."

Sister Margret Ann told us that she has no trouble getting the children to perform, she simply tells them what to do and they do it. They enjoy doing the play's and look forward to it.

The first and second graders in Sister Margret Ann's class have two teachers. Mrs. Cusiak and herself.

Sister Margret Ann's main concern is the children's knowledge of religion. "I have alot of children in my class who are not Catholic, but I think that everyone growing up must realize his place in the world."

Sister Margret Ann began her teaching career in New York City. For almost three years she taught music. Then because of a shortage of teachers, "I was put into a classroom with about 70 first and second graders."

When asked if she ever wanted to be a principal, Sister told us, "No, never."

We also interviewed Sister Diane who is the principal of St. Mary's School. We asked her about the school's regular daily schedule. Sister pointed out that school begins at 8:30. In nice weather the students line up outside for opening exercises, the flag salute and the singing of a patriotic song. After this they go directly to their classes.

Sister Diane told us about the schools dicipline policy which has been used once or twice. Things like smoking on school grounds, skipping and tardiness.

Sister Diane is also concerned with the children's knowledge of religion, because their values on God is either of great importance or of no importance at all.

Sister Diane, a nine year resident of Kodiak, tells us that she as a child, went to a public school for eight years. After the eighth grade she went to a Catholic high school. She attended Youville College in Buffalo, New York, where Sister Diane was born.

CREDITS

Photography Laura Parish

Layout Linda Nordquien
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childhood memories

Ray, Gladene, and George, as youngsters.

GLADENE STEWART

Mrs. Stewart was born on September 3, 1913 in Webb City, Missouri. She has two brothers, Ray and George. Ray who was younger than George, was full of the dickens. George is the oldest of the three children. Mrs. Stewart is the youngest. Their mother's name was Nellie May Johnson Caldwell. Her father's name was George Caldwell.

When I asked her about her father she had little to say because he died when she was five years old. But she did say he was a miner of lead and zinc and in this work he contracted black lung or miners consumption. T.B. (tuberculosis) as it is now called.

For the next two years they lived in the country so that their father could have fresh air and a quiet atmosphere. Later his health worsened so much that they felt it would be better to move closer to town. So they moved to Neosho, Missouri which was about 30 miles away. They lived there until 1918 when their father died.

"While living in Neosho, while my father was living, there was this therapeutic spring about one mile away. So every day my brothers and I would walk to this spring with our buckets. And when we got there we'd have to walk down alot of stairs and as a girl five years old it seemed like alot. Then we'd walk the mile back home so my father could have this water he thought was good for him. After he died we moved to a little farm that we called the "Strawberry Patch" because my mother harvested the strawberries. The Strawberry Patch was about ½ a mile from our house."

While interviewing my grandmother she told me a few short, funny stories that happened to her as a girl. The following are just a few.

(Our two roosters)

"I can remember one funny thing that happened when my mother went to town with the neighbors. My brothers thought it would be great fun to get a big tub of water and put our two roosters in it and let them fight. So they put a lid on the tub and the roosters fought till they both drowned. When my mother came home and found these two drowned roosters, you knew two boys who had red behinds."

(The missing eggs)

"In back of our house we had this barn where our hens nested. So, we kept losing our eggs. My mother would send me out to get the eggs and I'd come back with one or two eggs. We all knew there should be more. One day while playing by the barn we saw this big ol' black snake slither into the barn and suck all our eggs. So the mystery of the missing eggs was solved, and my mother came out with a hoe and killed the snake.

(Our horse Nellie)

"We had this horse that we dearly loved to ride, my mother wouldn't let us go far. Once in a while she'd let us go to the store which was about two miles away. Sometimes we'd have a penny for candy. All three of us would get on ol'Nellie and of course I'd end up in the middle. Boy we loved that horse. My brother Ray got to the place where he was kinda mean to

Nellie. And one day Ray was gone for the longest time, so my mother sent George out to look for him. He headed toward the Strawberry Patch. Later we heard someone screaming and at the top of their voice, "Mom come quick. Ray's a dying. He's got blood all over his face, somebody's killed Ray!" So my mom got wet towels and cleaned him up and he wasn't really hurt bad, we assume he had been mean to Nellie and got a little too close and she kicked him in the head, from then on he had a little more respect for ol' Nellie."

(Who dunnit?)

"This was in the spring and our school house was on top of this hill. Down the hill were these people who had a big ol'sow who had just had baby pigs. Now, George wasn't like Ray. Ray was full of the dickens and ready to do anything. Now, where these boys got these knives, I'll never know. But at recess they went down the hill and cut off all the baby pig's tails. They came up the hill screaming, "George cut the pig's tails off, George cut the pig's tails off." So George got a spanking and the whole time he was crying, "But I didn't do it!" And the teacher would just say, "Yes you did, and here are the tails to prove it!"

(Copperhead)

"When I was six, my mother decided it was too much raising three children by herself. So we went and lived with my Aunt Maude and Uncle Charlie while my mother went to work in Oklahoma. They lived in a log cabin with dirt floors. I had never seen dirt floors before. But I got used to it. This house was located near a railroad so we'd walk down the track to school.

"About five blocks away there was these neighbors that had some puppies. This was in

the spring and the grass was fairly high. We were running around chasing the puppies. Pretty soon I went in and I had a bite on my heel. It hurt kinda. Well, I was only six and a half so I was crying. They looked at it and said, Oh my god she's been bit by a copperhead!" All I can remember is everyone crying thinking I was gonna die. They soaked my foot in a pan of coal oil and put a wrap on my thigh. Someone cut and sucked the blood out and they went and got a lady named Kitty Blair. She knew all about herbs and old fashion medicines. But I lived through the whole ordeal."

(Our New School)

Later my Aunt and Uncle found a better place to live about seven miles from where we first lived. So we had to change schools again. Their school's name was 'Salty Bend.' There we had a male teacher that had only one leg, he got the other one cut off in the war. He was real nice to the girls but real mean to the boys. I can remember him taking one of the boys out and spanking him with one of his crutches."

(Baptized in leaves)

"One day at school during the fall, we played this game called baptizing. We would baptize each other in the leaves. Everyone had gone once and so they decided to do me again. So they got a big pile of leaves. It was a big pile. Well, we had two or three smart-alecs that decided it would be fun to catch the leaves on fire. So while I was buried they caught the leaves on fire, they barely got me out in time! Needless to say that they got in bad trouble by the teacher and also by my brothers after school."

(Another move)

"We didn't stay there too long, we found a beautiful six bedroom stone house. So we moved there. So we had to change schools again. This one was called Black. To get there we had to walk through the woods. I'm really surprised the wolves didn't get us. It was such a long walk. Every morning on our way to school we'd pass this house which was about three fourths the way there. There was an old woman who lived there and everyday she'd have us come in and warm and have a hot drink for us, then hurry us on to school. I will be eternally grateful to this old woman. Isn't that funny, I don't even know her name."

After our interview she said, "I could tell you so many things you could write a book on just my childhood memories!"

Story by:
Heidie Johnson
Darkroom credit:
Heidie Johnson
Layout:
Heidie Johnson

Vance Shaw

Vance Shaw tells about all the different jobs he's had as a child growing up. This story is mainly about his taxi cab job. Vance got his first cab job up in Seldovia, he drove for them for four months, then quit to go salmon fishing with his father. He came back to Kodiak, and worked at several different places until February of 1967 where he got a job driving cab for Ace-Mecca.

He seems to really like his job. He has an opportunity to do alot of things, while he's still working. He goes fishing in the summers sometimes, and gets to do alot of the things that he likes. He says that if he wants to go out somewhere while he's still driving cab he can just park it and go. While driving for Ace-Mecca, Vance gets a chance to meet many different people.

"I was born in Portland, Oregon on February 11th 1946. In June my mom and I came to Alaska on the Alaska steamship Denali, my dad was working at the base then. We stayed in Kodiak until 1950 and then we moved over to Afognak, I worked at the sawmill there. I moved back to Kodiak in 1964. But I was in Afognak when the 1964 earthquake was on. It wrecked alot of buildings, nobody really got hurt. It washed away the community hall, and turned our house around. After the tidal wave, I went to work at Wakefields for a few years, then I worked in Seldovia for awhile. In 1965 I was transferred from Wakefield fisheries in Kodiak to the Seldovia cannery. I worked there for three months. While working there I met Buddy Bickford who owned the taxi company in Seldovia. I had my first job as a taxi driver there.

After driving there for four months I quit, and went salmon fishing with my father in Terror Bay. After fishing I came back to Kodiak and worked at the Pacific Pearl until February of 1967. I came back here in 1967, and from there I went to work driving a cab, I've been driving cab ever since.

"There's six of us in my family, two boys and two girls, I'm the oldest. My mom I believe was raised in Oregon, my dad in Washington.

"Afognak really isn't a very big town, they had a community hall that they just built before the tidal wave. We went to school in a little one room school house, until I was in the eighth grade. I went to school in Portland for my third and fourth grade years. I guess I spent the rest of the time in Afognak. All we had in Afognak was a grade school. High school was all correspondence courses, that we got through the mail.

"We used to build our own rafts and things you know, with surplus lumber from the sawmill, things like that. We always went rafting around out in the bay. I had an old car when I was about 16 that I used to work on, that I tried to get running. I really didn't have to much time for hobbies, cause I was working at the sawmill, and also doing my school work. I took correspondence courses for high school, and hung around with the rest of the kids that were my age, just the usual childish things, except there was more, it was harder to get into trouble over there 'cause, it was just your parents if you got into trouble, you got restricted for awhile. There was so many things to do like, hunting and fishing, and they used to have a few dances at the school. We lived three miles from where it was so we had to walk to school alot of the time. The rules that we had when we were younger weren't to much different than they are now, we had to be in at a certain hour at night. I guess it was quite abit different, seems like we got to bed around 8:30 or 9:00 when we were in grade school, of course we didn't have t.v. over there either so there really wasn't any excuse to stay up late and watch the late show. Other than that it probably was pretty much the same. It was alot of fun growing up in Afognak, there was alot of hunting and fishing. And I went to work in the sawmill when I was fourteen for half days, I did schoolwork during the afternoons, and also took correspondence courses for high school.

"I fished alot over in Terror Bay, fishing wasn't really too bad over there, I paid off my boat the first year. It wasn't a big boat, but it was a boat, a twenty six foot jitney. In 1962 we started fishing in Terror Bay, we had to camp on the beach alot. We spent alot of time on Afognak, about thirteen years. Technically I was raised there, I was there from when we came back from Portland after the fourth grade. It was in 1956, then I stayed in Afognak until the tidal wave, then went out on my own. We did alot of hunting and fishing over in Afognak, hunting was my hobby.

"When I first came to Kodiak it seemed like I knew everybody, it was alot friendlier than it is now, today the people are more distant. In those days if you dropped your wallet on the street with money still in it you'd usually get it back with the money still in it, now they're more likely to take it away from you, or wait for you to drop it.

"After the tidal wave when they were building Port Lions, I helped over there, I worked for the Public Health Service for awhile, putting in all the water lines and stuff. One time I

walked from Port Lions to Port Bailey. I guess it must've been about twelve miles. It's all up in the hills and through alot of brush.

"I cannery worked since 1966. All I've mostly done was drive cab, and sometimes fish in the summer. I fiddle around with part time jobs, a little bit of cannery work sometimes and at the same time, driving cab was usually an extra job.

"When we came to Kodiak we were getting our t.v. from the base, there was just black and white in those days.
I do like the way this town has grown, as far as having paved roads, and a little bit more variety of stores. It's the overall attitude of the people that I'm not too happy with. But they're still alot friendlier than they are in other big cities.
We didn't raise cows or chickens or anything, but we had rabbits, (not very many) mostly just pets.

"The way that I got into taxi business was in 1966 the canneries were really slow, and I just needed another job, I knew the people that owned the cab company and they put me to work driving, I drove for them for about two years then I bought my own liscence. I also worked as a dispatcher for about five years, three years on night-shift, two years during the day, then I went back to driving cab again. It was to tiring to sit in the office twelve hours a day. Plus being a cab driver. I'm basically my own boss, I work my own hours and it gives me a chance to go fishing in the summertime, it's really nice. I usually fish with other people in the summer, whenever there's openings for me. Driving cab gives you opportunitys to hear about the job openings alot, and it's nice, because you don't have to tell anybody your leaving, you

can just park your cab and go.

"I traveled to Anchorage and Homer and along that highway quite abit. I've gone back to Portland and Seattle a few times on short vacations, and I've been to Idaho a couple of times, my grandparents live there. My grandfather used to have an old goldmine there, that we used to get to work at when we were kids. We got to swim in the Snake River one time. Its neat to hear all the stories about it now, how treachorous it was supposed to have been. There are still a few calm spots where you can go swimming.

"I do like driving cabs, not like its a good opportunity, I mostly just like being my own boss, you don't have to punch a time card, and you don't have to get to work at a certain time. If you don't work you're only hurting yourself by not making the money. Plus you get to be out in the fresh air all the

time, it's alot of fun. I've been driving cabs for about twelve years, I started driving right after my birthday in 1967. In those days you had to be twenty one years old to drive. My mom and dad both drive cab, and my brother flies for Flirite, both my sisters are married. My one sister is living in Bethel now with her husband. And my youngest sister's in Portland.

"I do have my own cab, I have the car and the license. I just bought the car in April of last year. I had my own license since 1973. To get a chauffeurs license you have to fill out forms and have letters of character reference from some business owners, and you have to get a physical. You don't have to take an actual driving test, if you have an Alaska drivers license. That already shows that you can drive a cab. And the permit to have the car on the road itself is a value of about $10,000 now. This city is allowed twenty seven liscences and they've all been bought. The time I bought mine I only paid four thousand for it, the price has gone up to around ten now though. Right now there are quite a few people that are driving for Ace-Mecca. Some drive for awhile then find better jobs. They work some on double shifts, and the people that own them drive them themselves. It's just what I did for years, until a couple of weeks ago. Right now I'm leasing my car on day shift for a certain amount each day."

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