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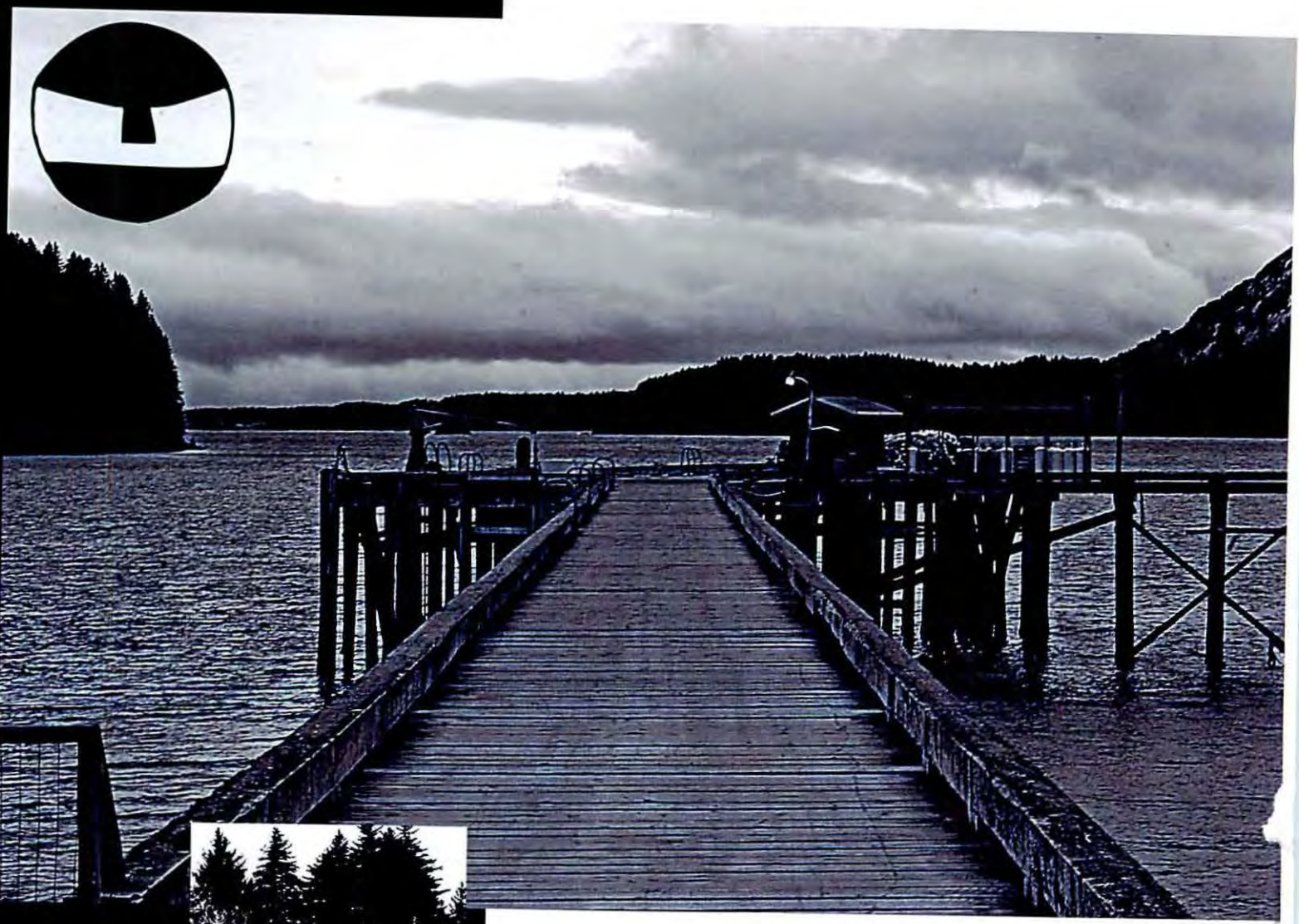

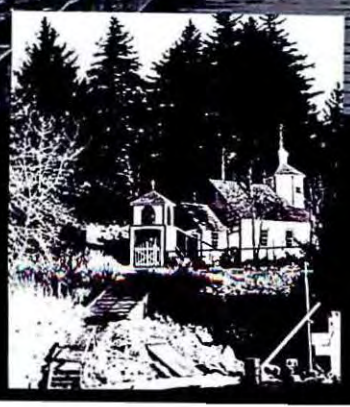

Inside the Life and Culture of Kodiak Island

Acknowledgements

The week of April 18-23, 2005 marked the third Oral History Layout and Design Workshop. Students from Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions and Chiniak gathered in Ouzinkie with their oral history articles and "can-do" attitudes.

During the week, we worked on the revision of our articles and the layout of the Iluani magazine. We could not have done it without the help of many people.

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Most important, we would like to thank the elders and community members who took the time to provide us with our interviews, which are the backbone of this magazine and project. Without them, Iluani would not be possible. We hope that our stories did their lives and experiences justice!

Compiled by Curt Azuyak

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This Issue of *Iluani* is dedicated to all of those whose stories are recorded in this magazine.

Tony Azuyak, Sr.
Marvin Bartleson Jr.
Angeline Campfield
Melodi Chichenoff
Jack Christiansen (deceased)
Judy Clayton
George Inga, Sr.
Arnold Kewan
Georgia Kramer
Donny Muller
Harry Lee (Fuzzy) Nelson
John Nelson, Sr.
Fred Patterson
Jeff Peterson
Wanda Price
Gwen Sargent
Ray Schulte
Dave Southwick
Melvin Squartsoff
Patricia Valen

Thank you for sharing your stories. This publication could not exist without your help.

Iluani

Inside the Life and Culture of Kodiak Island

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Younger Years

Growing up in Ouzinkie, an interview with Angeline Campfield

By Wylder Clarion and Roslyn Delgado

Photo courtesy of Angeline Campfield

Angeline and her siblings

"It was like Christmas to us when the city first got electricity. We were really happy; it changed everything," Angeline Campfield remembered. She has been a long time resident of Ouzinkie, Alaska. She was born in Karluk, but has spent most of her life in Ouzinkie.

She has lived in Ouzinkie for fifty-five years. She moved there from Karluk when she was six years old. She told us she has four siblings, three sisters and one brother. She has been happily married to Dave Campfield for about 15 years; she has one son and four daughters. She has been a reader at the Russian Orthodox Church for fifteen years, and has provided daycare for young children at the activity hall. Since she has lived in Ouzinkie for so long and is such a big part of the community, we thought it would be a good idea to interview her about how the village has changed.

"It was like Christmas to us when the city first got electricity. We were really happy; it changed everything,"

Life in Ouzinkie in the 1950s differed a lot compared to today. When she was younger there weren't any of the modern conveniences we have today. Angeline explained, "When I was younger there was no electricity, no running water, no hot water. I had to carry water for drinking from a well; I carried in wood for the fire stove. There was no diesel as there is now days. We lived off wood from the beach." Life in Ouzinkie was rough compared to today; people back then had to work hard to get by. Even though she had a lot of siblings she still had to do her fair share of chores.

Despite the discomforts of the chores they had to do, Angeline liked the scenic walks through the forest before they had gravel roads. "There was no traffic like there is now days; no traffic at night. It was nice and quiet. I actually liked it like that. I think of those days and kind of wish that maybe that we didn't have

Angeline and grandaughter at Monks Lagoon

Photos courtesy of Angeline Campfield

Angeline and her husband, Dave

so many cars and ATVs," Angeline said. When she first moved to Ouzinkie, they used nothing but cow paths to get around the village. After Ouzinkie built the gravel roads the village went through a lot of changes.

"There was no traffic like there is now days. It was nice and quiet."

Some of the changes the village has gone through have helped the community grow. "Ouzinkie has come a long way in housing development, especially with the new cultural center that has added a lot of modern city life to our little town and with a new basketball court coming up for the teenagers. I think that will add to Ouzinkie's development." Throughout her life she has seen a lot of changes in Ouzinkie. Another change she has seen is that when she first started reading in the church they only sang in Slavonic (Russian dialect). All-in-all she has seen lots of development and changes in the village of Ouzinkie and she has a lot of knowledge about this community.

John Nelson Sr.

By Willie Nelson

John Nelson was born March 31, 1914 in the village of Afognak. His father was Alfred Nelson, Sr., and his mother was Irene, the daughter of Father Alexander Petellin. John was one of eleven children in his family. His family loved music, and each of the children played an instrument. The instruments that they played were guitars, violins, and harps. Dancing was a very popular activity in Afognak, and at one time there were two dance halls there. John always played steel guitar for dances, so he never learned to dance.

Photo courtesy of John Nelson, Sr.

John Nelson, Sr. at home

In 1951 John married Helen Knagin. They have twelve children, thirty seven grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren. He started building things when he was a little boy with a small tool set, and naturally moved on to normal sized tools as his skills got better. John then worked as a fishing boat carpenter from March through April, and went salmon fishing in the summers. Another carpentry project he helped work on was the building of the school in Afognak. He also built two houses in Afognak and the bunkhouses in Port Bailey.

The damage caused by the tidal wave that followed the earthquake on March 27, 1964 influenced the decision to move the village of Afognak. It was the strongest earthquake ever recorded on the North American continent. Alfred Nelson, Sr., John Nelson, Sr., John Pestrikoff, Oscar Ellison, Jr., and Frank Sheratine were the village leaders that made the decision to move the village of Afognak to Settler's Cove. One of the jobs John had was to go and look for good locations to build a new home. He also helped build ten houses in Port Lions and the restaurant, but when asked, John is not sure exactly how many houses he has built.

The construction supervision and a large portion of the cost to build the new village was a service project by the Lions Club. It was Dec. 11, 1965 when they started moving to Settler's Cove by boats and barges. To find out where their houses would be, they had drawings for lots. Churches were the first to pick their lots. Families moved into their new homes in less than a year. The Afognak residents voted to name their new home Port Lions to show their appreciation to the Lions Club.

Today, he still does carpentry work. When he was eighty seven years old he finish the last house he built. When he was eighty nine, he needed a new project, so he built a shop to keep working in. Now, at the age of ninety one, he is still working away at projects for himself and his family.

"If I went over there without any training, I don't think I would have lasted."

by Curt Azuyak and Gregory Ignatin

The Vietnam War was the longest military conflict in U.S. history. The war lasted from 1959 to 1975. It cost the U.S. over 50 billion dollars. The Vietnam War was fought at the cost of 58,000 American soldiers and 304,000 wounded. The Vietnamese lost 3 to 4 million soldiers on both sides (North and South). The reason the U.S. entered the war was that they were trying to contain communism. Tony Azuyak Sr. was interviewed about his experiences in Vietnam. This is his story.

Photo courtesy of Tony Azuyak Sr.

Tony Azuyak Sr. at his house in Old Harbor

Tony was born in "Alitak…a place called Alitak, Alaska. Everybody thinks of the cannery, but it wasn't the cannery. Till six years old, I was in Alitak. It's now called Akhiok. Then I moved to Old Harbor in 1955." Tony still lives in Old Harbor.

Tony was 20 years old when he joined the Marine Corps. "I was here in the summer for ten days, I guess. It was hard leaving because everybody was fishing. That's all I did was fish." So, Tony had to leave fishing behind for a while to go to Vietnam.

Tony was in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Six months of that year was used for training. "The war was going on at the time, and they gave me… six months training before I went over. I got to thank the Marine Corps for that… all the training they gave us made it easier for me to be over there. The Marine Corps is a good place to be. They know what they're doing when they train you. If I went over there without any training I don't think I would have lasted.

Tony was a "foot soldier, so I walked every place I went over there. I walked about all year in Vietnam."

Tony was an M-60 machine gunner in Vietnam. He had to sit in the middle of his squad so he could be protected if the enemy tried to ambush the gunner in the middle. He never got to see the enemy much, "They were always in tunnels, and they only fought in the night." Tony starts thinking for awhile;

Photo courtesy of Tony Azuyak Sr.

Tony with some of his friends in South Vietnam

"They were always in tunnels, and they only fought in the night."

we could tell he wasn't telling us everything. Later, he ate sugar cane and thought it was some kind of candy and it was Agent Orange and he got sick and had to go to the hospital in Japan.

He came back to Alaska after the war and he started fishing when he got back. He also went seal hunting at Cape Barnabas. Today he works here at the school as a custodian and he works on other stuff like engines, Hondas and cars. He used to be a chief for the tribal council in Old Harbor then he retired. I have learned a lot from Tony Sr. by interviewing him about when he was in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. I had never heard him say much about when he was in the Marine Corps. When he was younger he never liked to mention Vietnam, but he likes to talk about it now. Although he does have some flashbacks, he doesn't like to say anything about them.

Photo courtesy of Tony Azuyak Sr.

Tony with his family.

Photo courtesy of Tony Azuyak Sr.

Tony Azuyak Sr. receives an award for bravery.

It's a Lifestyle Choice, Not a Job

By Falon Will and Chelsea Robustellini

Photo by Fuzzy Nelson

Outside his quaint village home lie nets and buoys of all shapes and sizes. A speedboat sits to the side of the yard, accompanied by nets and all sorts of neatly arranged tools and gadgets. His green house sits atop a hill. We walk the motionless dirt road. Three dogs lie about on his lightly weathered porch. As we approach, they lift their heads and give us a quick look, then commence lounging, forcing us to step over them to get into the house. Before we are able to knock, we are greeted by Fuzzy's dogs, then by his daughter, Anna.

We walk into their familiar, welcoming living room. Upon entering, it becomes obvious that he's a fisherman in more ways than one. Covering the walls of his home are various pictures of boats, salmon, fish gutting, etc. A giant, lifesize painting, done by his eldest daughter, is of one of his sons amongst a sea of fish looming above the couch we sit on. Next to the couch rests a photo of him and one of his sons, on deck, looking out on the water at a crisp summer day. A pictorial history of the boats he's owned covers a good amount of wall space. Every corner of their home is covered by fishing paraphernalia. Just a glance at Harry Lee (a.k.a. Fuzzy) Nelson's home leaves the imprint of his vocation in your mind.

Fuzzy's family gathers in the living room, where Kathy (his wife) breaks out the family photos. We all delve into their family's pictorial history. Chelsea and I listen to them reminisce. They tell stories about men falling overboard, great fishing seasons, and how they've got to where they are. You see, Fuzzy didn't just wake up one day and decide to fish. In the words of his son, Michael, "I didn't choose to fish: I was born into it." Fuzzy's father was a fisherman, his ancestors from Afognak, as well as his ancestors' ancestors, were all fisherman. He comes from a long line of fishing dating back thousands of years. Geological evidence shows that Kodiak had been surrounded by water for thousands of years before human settlement. In order to establish an enduring population, his ancestors had to find a place to harvest food regularly. Archaeological digs have uncovered sites that tell the story of natives' reliance on marine resources all over the coast.

And that reliance hasn't changed. It was vital to Fuzzy's ancestors from Afognak, where he grew up, and it has the same value in his family today. It's their livelihood. He used to subsistence fish with his father as a child. But it wasn't until age 11 that he began his fishing "career." He was so eager to fish that he even stole his father's skiff early one morning to go out and catch some. He wasn't alone in this endeavor; every one of his eleven brothers and sister has been or are in the fishing industry.

"When I'm fishing it's the only time in my life when I feel normal. It's the most beautiful thing. We get to see the sun rise and set every day," said Fuzzy. When we asked Fuzzy where he'd be had he not been able to fish he replied "Gee....you know....I've never thought about it. I couldn't imagine my life without it. I just love being out in the water," he said fondly after telling us a story about fishing with his father. The same way he lovingly speaks of fishing with his Dad is the way his kids speak of fishing with him. We interviewed Michael, Fuzzy's second eldest son, while he was packing to go herring fishing. His very first childhood memory is playing out at sea in Peril Cape, tossing binoculars into the air. As we were talking, he positioned his hand about three feet from the ground and said, "I've been fishing since I was about this big. I love being out there; it's a part of me." He is a fulltime fisherman. Like Fuzzy, he intends on fishing until he simply can't. "I'm going to fish until it's not longer an option," said Michael, with a smile on his face.

Photo by Fuzzy Nelson

When we asked the rest of the family what fishing meant to them, each response uniquely explains the dynamics of fishing in their lives. "I've always been surrounded by fishing," said Anna when asked how it influenced her life. Anna spent a few summers salmon fishing with her dad but has retired into fish wrapping at a local lodge. Lena, Fuzzy's eldest daughter, is also a fisherwomen and through high school and college fished for her Dad also. Lena is also an accomplished artist whose work is a distinct reflection of her fishing background. Dotting the walls of their home are all of Lena's scenic art pieces. Most are of (you guessed it) fishing. "Fishing pays the bills," said Willie, Fuzzy's second youngest son, nonchalantly. Willie would probably be a fisherman too, but he gets terribly seasick. Last, but not least, Kathy said, "Fishing is the backbone of this community and my family." It's an eminent force in Kathy and Fuzzy's home. It's a tie, a bond, the sinew that weaves them all together. Their entire existence as a family is centered around its magnetic pull. Where they live, their income, their food, conversations, art and very being revolves around fishing. Fishing isn't just a source of income or food - it's an entire way of life for the Nelson's, as well as many other families here in Kodiak. Fishing is not just the backbone of the Nelson clan; it's the lifeblood for the villages, Kodiak, and even Alaska. Fuzzy's profession, as well as his family's lifestyle, reflects his ties to the Alutiiq hunter-gather ways that have been, and continue to live on, here in Kodiak. The fishing tradition lives on in the lives of Fuzzy's children, and will continue to be perpetuated as long as there's fish in the sea. To them, it's an art project, dinner, a pastime; not a job; but a lifestyle.

"You Make the Most of What You Do"

by Elilai Christman, Dallas Dominguez, Wesley Kimmel, David McCloskey, Joseph Christman, Seth Patterson

"I don't think I've ever had a job I didn't like.... You make the most of what you do." These words do more than anything else to sum up Fred Patterson's philosophy of life, a life the average American can only imagine.

Fred was born in 1939 in Kansas City, Missouri to Fred and Catherine (Manson) Patterson. He was raised with his grandparents who were farmers in an urban area. During his childhood he moved and changed schools several times because he lived in many places. Although he was an only child, he had many cousins who were like siblings and closest friends. Most of the time he got along well with them, but one time he got into a fight with one. "He and I...we were in the back seat of the car, and we must have been – I don't know – six, seven, eight years old, and we got into a fight. And I mean it was like two cats in the back end of that car, in the back seat. It was a real slugfest right there in the middle of town. Of course, my mom came out, his mom came out, and you can imagine what two kids got for gettin' into a fight." At the tender age of twelve he earned money working in a corn field detassling corn. Even though it was a hot and dirty job, he enjoyed it because he got a penny a minute. Despite a childhood centered on farming, Fred wasn't destined to follow the family trade. He clearly remembers significant events of World War II, particularly the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. On a more personal level, two of his uncles served in that global conflict. One was involved in the Normandy invasion, while the other served in occupied Japan. They might have inspired him to choose a career in the military.

Commander Fred Patterson USCG (Retired)

Photo courtesy of Fred Patterson

Fred joined the Navy, serving in Virginia, California, and Hawaii, but left after four years of service. While trying to decide what he wanted to do next, a cousin mentioned the Coast Guard. According to Fred, his recruitment into the Coast Guard "just happened." He had always wanted to get into aviation, either to fly or become an electronics technician. Starting out as a Petty Officer 2nd Class, he received his assignment of choice: Port Angeles, Washington, where he worked in electronics as an aircraft radioman. After about a year, the Coast Guard sent him to OCS (Officer Candidate School) for three months, then on to flight school in Pensacola, FL. Little did he know of the remarkable experiences that lay ahead for him.

"I don't think I ever had a job I didn't like."

Of the many search and rescue missions he flew for the Coast Guard, several stand out in Fred's mind. While stationed on the West Coast, he joined the search for survivors of an Alaska Airlines crash near Juneau. Sadly, there were no survivors. Another time, he was called out to a sinking boat in Southeast Alaska to retrieve the lone survivor. The rescue took so long that when they finally landed in Sitka, they were so low on fuel that the engines flamed out.

Not all of his rescue missions took place in Alaska. For example, when he was stationed in Puerto Rico, he was on a routine patrol far out in the Caribbean when the crew noticed two guys hanging onto a log surrounded by debris. Because the helicopter just happened to be in the right place at the right time, both men were safely rescued. On another mission, this time a planned rescue, they almost killed the man they were trying to save. His trimaran sailboat had capsized and he was sitting on the upside down hull. As the helicopter descended to lower a rescue swimmer into the water, sharks became attracted to the boat by the thumping of the rotors. Fortunately, they plucked the sailor off his overturned boat before he became a meal for the hungry predators.

Photo courtesy of Fred Patterson

Fred's favorite aircraft to fly: the H3 Pelican.

"Helicopters are just fantastic! Matter of fact, they probably should make you pay to fly 'em."

While many of the search and rescues took place out in the ocean, one of the most memorable occurred far from water. In Guyana, a country on the north coast of South America, Fred and his crew were called upon to rescue a lone survivor in the jungle. Circumstances made it impossible for them to return to base after the rescue, so they had to stay at a diamond mine camp in the Amazon. While there, they were offered curried goat by a very nice lady. Even though it was really spicy, they ate it anyway because it was all they had to eat. They found out later that the hot curry had been used to disguise the taste of the spoiled meat.

When asked what the longest flight he ever made was, he described without hesitation a mission that took him to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, halfway to Africa, just to save one man on an African ship. The flight was so long that the helicopter had to land on an aircraft carrier out in the ocean to refuel. Although this was a lengthy mission, it was much easier for him than the time when he had to be away from his family for three months while serving on an ice-breaker. By that time, he and Susan, his high school sweetheart and wife of 48 years, had started their family.

Fred and Susan have six children, three boys and three girls, all but one of whom live in Alaska. In addition, they have "a whole slew of grandkids. I ought to find out how many one of these days. I think there's nine of them, I believe." The Coast Guard is what originally brought the couple to Kodiak and, although many servicemen and women move away from Alaska after their tour of duty is over, Fred and Susan chose to stay on the island. He retired from the Coast Guard in 1983 with the intent of pursuing his favorite avocations – hunting, fishing, and hiking – from their home

in Chiniak. Instead of retiring completely, he continued his love for flying by becoming a pilot for Flirite, a local air taxi service. After Flirite went out of business, he started Seahawk Air with former helicopter pilot Tom Walters. It was during this time that he began building his home in Chiniak, a process that is continuing to this day. Fred and Tom eventually sold their business, allowing Fred to retire for a second (and final) time.

Photo: Ned Griffin

Interviewing Fred at Chiniak School

Fred could never really get flying out of his blood, though, having been behind the controls of military aircraft as diverse as the T-34 and T-28 trainers, the C-130 cargo plane and HU-16 (Albatross) amphibious plane, and three different kinds of helicopters. When asked whether he preferred fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft, Fred didn't hesitate at all. To him, helicopters are far more versatile because they can hover and therefore are not restricted to airports. "Helicopters are just fantastic! Matter of fact, they probably should make you pay to fly 'em. They're so much fun to fly, but they paid us to fly 'em, you know."

Besides military aircraft, he has rebuilt and flown a Cessna 180 and Piper TriPacer, as well as started building a kit airplane that he has never finished. It was in one of these small planes that he and his wife had a most extraordinary experience while in the Caribbean island nation of Haiti. They wanted to visit a castle that had been built on top of a mountain, but of course they decided to make the trip by plane. To do so, they had to get special permission from the commanding general of the air force. They got clearance to fly into an airport on the north end of Haiti. "We came in over the top of the airport, and...they had barrels all over the airport, and we made a pass down the runway at about a hundred feet. ...As we came back around we looked down and there were all these people ran out of the bushes, and everybody grabbed a barrel and they moved them all off and then we landed. And as we were rolling down the runway they were rolling all these barrels back on...to keep the guerilla forces from landing at this remote strip. So only we could land there. ...Then we got on mules and we rode up to the top of the mountain to this guy's castle and then came back down. They opened the airport for us again."

When asked to sum up his feelings about his military career, Fred replied that the Coast Guard treated him very well. He liked all the places he was stationed, but admitted that Kodiak was his favorite. He has even played Santa in the Santa to the Villages program. He appreciated being able to have his family with him, something that was not possible in the Navy. "I just don't think there is anything more fulfilling or satisfying than to be able to help someone or to save a life....What the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Army, the Navy does for one individual – I think that's one of the things that gives us our strength as a country." Fred held the rank of Commander when he retired.

Does he plan to slow down now that he is in his mid sixties? From what he told us, that's not likely. Fred has plans to return to Europe as well as visit New Zealand. In addition to traveling, he wants to continue hunting turkey and deer, and fish red salmon, silver salmon, halibut, "and everything."

Our interview with Fred Patterson showed us that a person's childhood does not always determine what he or she ends up doing as an adult. In Fred's case, he got lucky and stumbled into a career he loved. He showed us the importance of finding a job you enjoy. Even more important, Fred taught us that you should do what he does and "live life" to the fullest.

"You Stand Proud When You Help Somebody"

by Matt Delgado, Josh Larionoff, Amber Panamarioff

Photo by Matt Delgado and Josh Larionoff

Melodi at the clinic

The story we wrote about is Melodi Chichenoff's health aide experience. We wanted to write this story because we wanted to know what it's like to be a health aide in the community of Ouzinkie. Melodi Chichenoff has been the health aide for the village for eight years. In the beginning, Melodi did not know whether she wanted to become a health aide or not. "Love Panamarioff talked me into becoming one," states Melodi. The way Melodi first became interested in emergency services and medical care was when she used to take care of her aunt who had cancer, and she also worked at Providence in Anchorage.

Working at Providence taught her the precautions she would need in further jobs. "You always think about yourself first," said Melodi. Melodi explained that you have to wear gloves for fluids; if it's really bad, you have to wear eye goggles. Although there are times when you have to deal with the gloves and eye goggles, there are other things that need to be done. Most of it's pre-ordering medications for people who are on monthly meds: blood pressure pills and some diabetes. "It's very rare, but we get spurts of sicknesses like the flu."

In the clinic, there is a medicine machine. It stands out and you can write your paperwork and you can type it on the computer there. You can also send pictures and do heart EKGs. This information can be sent from Ouzinkie to Kodiak or Ouzinkie to Anchorage, wherever your doctor is to retrieve the information. When the doctors get the information, they answer the questions and tell you everything you need to know and answer all your questions, and then they send it back to Melodi.

Melodi doesn't only have to deal with office things; sometimes there are emergencies and accidents that she has to deal with. Melodi has been around when medivacs were needed. "A medivac is when you do not have the equipment to tend to the patient. And you call the Coast Guard, and you call the doctor, and the Coast Guard comes and picks the patient up," explains Melodi.

If an emergency happens to occur, Melodi goes on call and also tries to assist anyone who needs help. "I try to help everyone to stay calm." The most stressful emergency that Melodi has had to deal with in all her years as the health aide is suicide. "I couldn't do too much after that was done."

The thing Melody enjoys the most about her job as the Ouzinkie health aide is when she can help someone who really appreciates the help. The thing she likes least about being the Ouzinkie health aide is being on call. We asked Melodi if she would recommend this job to anyone else, and her response was this: "Yeah, I like it. It's just, I guess, the call is way too much. But I would recommend it. Medical care is fun, you feel good, and you stand proud when you help somebody."

Just Another Step in Being a Village Public Safety Officer

By Chantelle Bartleson and Randy Boskofsky

The story I wrote about is my dad's (Marvin Bartleson Jr.'s) experience in training for his village public safety officer job. I wanted to do this story because my dad always talks about his "cold water" survival training and I find it very interesting and at times funny. I thought that everyone would enjoy reading about his experiences, because I enjoyed hearing about them. Here's the story.

Twenty-two-year-old Marvin Bartleson Jr. was the Village Public Safety Officer (V.P.S.O.) of Port Lions for five and a half years. Marvin, along with twenty-two others had to do a two week long survival training course. The course was pre-requisite; they had to take it. There were people from all over Kodiak Island and False Pass. The training involved classwork study on survival tactics for three days. They went down to the swimming pool for two consecutive days and did in-water exercises, donning survival suits in the water and out of the water.

"There was snow everywhere and everything was frozen."

One thing they did was put on a whole bunch of gear, such as hip boots, rain gear, and heavy coats, before getting thrown into the pool. Marvin says, "It's amazing, but true; you're more buoyant with all that gear on. It won't make you sink! It will actually help you stay afloat. I didn't believe it either, because I have always been a sinker. I have very low body fat and that body fat keeps a person buoyant. If I'd stay still in the water I'd sink like a rock! So, they put all that gear on me and threw me in there, and I was floating just fine. Even after the clothes got saturated, I wasn't floating as high, but I was still floating without having to tread water."

Another activity they did was survival suits in climate. The troopers took them down to the shoreline and had each one of them jump into the ocean without a survival suit, and then they'd get out and put the survival suit on and jump back into the water. "They did this exercise just to show us what the difference is. That wasn't fun either!" states Marvin. "Come to think of it, that was a pretty cold two weeks I spent."

The culmination of the exercise at the end was two days on Woody Island, when they made a mock set up for the V.P.S.O.'s to actually go out and start using the survival skills that they learned during the prior two weeks. The two days they spent on the island were with no supplies. The mock shipwreck was used basically to pretend that they were shipwrecked, so they didn't have anything with them. The only things the troopers gave them were what you might be able to get in an actual shipwreck. The troopers put them all into groups of four, and they had one survival suit that they shared. "It was the middle of February, so it was really cold and we didn't have anything. It was snowing when they dropped us off, and probably about 20 degrees. We had to make shelter and try to find fire sources. It was hard, because there was snow everywhere and everything was frozen," stated Marvin.
They didn't have any way to start a fire and they

couldn't find any ignition sources. "Of course, nobody had matches or anything like that," says Marvin. The way they stayed warm was with that one survival suit, huddling together in their shelter, and exercise. "You can't just sit there." They made a mock shelter, using one guy's pocket knife. It was all right to have, because most boats around here are fishing vessels, so there's bound to be one man that has a knife in his pocket. They found an old dead log and ran branches up against it; the ground was frozen, so it was hard to find anything like sod to make it warm. They also found a spot on the beach that was washed out from tidal surfs, and when it would snow, they'd go crawl up underneath there when the tide was out and they stayed pretty dry.

They stayed around their camp the first night and then the next day they went out to explore the rest of the island. They walked a little bit and it would warm them up some, and they explored the island trying to find anything they could use to help improve their shelter, or things they could eat. They had to eat whatever they could find. Marvin ate limpets, because he didn't care for the other things that were edible. "I ate raw limpets, not very many of them," states Marvin, laughing. The only way they could get water was from the snow. They could eat just enough to keep themselves plenty hydrated and they didn't have to worry about it.

"It was only two days, it's not like we were going to starve to death, or freeze to death."

There wasn't much to do, so they thought they'd take a look around. They followed cattle paths and tried to find any kind of items they could use to improve their shelter, and maybe find something they could start a fire with. "That didn't happen," stated Marvin. "So we sat and told stories. We were all V.P.S.O.'s, so we compared incidents that occurred in the villages that we had to take care of. We also talked about the training and what the worst part of the training was." One time, they were in their shelter on the shore and the tide came in while they were sleeping and they almost got stuck in there. "That was pretty funny!" One V.P.S.O. brought out a can of bacon and matches that he had smuggled out there. He found an old steel dumpster that was partly rusted out at his campsite. He got this big raging fire going in there and he was all warm and happy. "He put his can of bacon up on the side and he was warming that up and he had some candy bars in there. I don't know how he got all that stuff out there; he must've had it in his coat or something. So, pretty soon, all the V.P.S.O.'s (all twenty-three of us), ended up over there at his camp, because we saw the fire. The trooper came out and caught him and took all his food away. I was standing behind the trooper by the old dumpster, and while the trooper was chewing the guy out, I reached up and took a few pieces of bacon," explained Marvin.

Marvin says that the worst part about it was really just the weather. "It was only two days; it's not like we were going to starve to death or freeze to death. That's one of the reasons they gave us the survival suits," states Marvin. The trooper went to check on all the V.P.S.O.s at the twenty-four hour mark, just to make sure everyone was safe and nobody was in danger of losing their lives. "So, it was really hard to make it super real lifelike; we didn't get thrown into the water off a boat and have to make it to shore, soaking wet, and crawl up the beach half frozen to death, and then have to try to make signals." They did some of that stuff. They made an SOS with rocks and used trees to spell out the letters. They were told that they could do that, because the Coast Guard knew about the training exercise on the island, so they knew not to respond to it. "And that's about all we did."

The purpose of this training was to gain personal knowledge of what it's actually like to be stranded without any kind of supplies. "For two full days of it, I know forty-eight hours doesn't seem like a long time, but it is. It seemed more like two weeks than two days. It was no fun. We were frozen. Everyone made it. Nobody got injured or frost bite or anything like that."

The Unforgiving Sea Takes a Giving Man

By Sean Price

Imagine a stern faced man in a 42 foot Leclair salmon boat with a top house and red trim. The boat was cruising through stormy, black, churning seas. The wind howling with speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour and dark menacing skies looming overhead. That what it was like on April 4, 1996 when Jack Christiansen's boat capsized outside of Cape Chiniak on Kodiak Island. That day Old Harbor lost one of its finest men.

Jack used his boat to fish for salmon, herring, crab, and halibut. Participating in almost every season, he provided a healthy income for his family and crew.

Photo: courtesy of Wilma Berns

Jack Christiansen

I interviewed my mother Wanda Price, who remembers her Uncle Jack fondly. "He was a fisherman and he was always fishing. He was on the water twelve months out of the year."

"He was a fisherman and he was always fishing."

I have heard from many people that my uncle was a great man. He had a large family, consisting of his wife Benny and their three children. He was one of the brothers of the Christiansen family who are related to the Haakansons. His mom Sasha had nineteen kids. I think that is a lot of kids. "They led a very full life," Wanda said.

"He started fishing at age sixteen." "He used to bring tons of fish to the beach and get the elders and everybody else to come and clean fish." Wanda explained, "He loved gathering meat for the elders when he was a kid. This is important because it helps keep the Alutiiq tradition of respecting your elders alive.

photo courtasy of Wilma Berns

Jack's boat, the Desiree C., capsized outside Cape Chiniak.

During the summer, my uncle Jack would take people to Ocean Beach on the southeast side of Sitkalidik island. Sitkalidik is an island off the shore of Kodiak that has a rich history. There are a lot of traditional native housing sites there. He would take them on his boat and transport their ATVs for them. Everybody loved it on the hot summer days because the kids would swim and so would the adults.

Surfers hired Jack to take them to Ocean Beach, a six-mile-long white sand beach with great surf. It has everything from Japanese glass floats to great hunting areas. The trail to Ocean Beach is a popular ATV (all-terrain vehicle) riding spot because it is at least two miles long.

You get to Ocean Beach by going into Port Hobron and taking a trail across the island or by using canoes to take the lake route.

My uncle truly loved the community of Old Harbor and believed in community wellness. He was the village's favorite man, or so I think. "He made it fun for everybody in the village" said Wanda Price. "He brought the community together by convincing people to go on picnics with him to places and stuff like that." From my interview, I learned almost everyone I know has fond memories of Jack.

THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE

In Memoriam

*** JACK CHRISTIANSEN SR. ***

The Nineteenth Alaska State Legislature joins family, friends and Alaskans across the state in mourning the passing of Jack Christiansen Sr.

Jack Christiansen was born in Old Harbor on September 14, 1953, to Rolfe and Alexandria Christiansen. He lived in Old Harbor all his life, and was a valued member of the community. Jack's family is a large one, and he had a close working relationship with his brothers. They formed a combine and fished together. To share information on the radio, they spoke in Aleut. Jack blended the qualities of both cultures, and became a well respected highliner throughout the island.

Jack was an avid and an able fisherman; he fished for salmon, herring, crab, halibut and cod. He was a competitive man and had one of the biggest sets out of Togiak ever recorded. He was well known as a conciliator as well. When there was an argument, it was Jack who would go around to all the parties, calm ruffled feathers and bring them together again.

Jack Christiansen and his wife, Bernadine "Benny," have three children, daughters Desiree and Tara and son, Jack Junior. He once told Benny that he wanted to be buried where he could watch the boats come and go. His cross is the first you come to when you enter the cemetery, and last you see when you leave.

The members of the Nineteenth Alaska Legislature extend their condolences to the family of Jack Christiansen, the town of Old Harbor, and his many friends.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Date: May 2, 1996

PRIME SPONSOR

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In Loving Memory Of Jack Chistiansen

The Kodiak Launch Complex Impact on the Island

By Zack Strong and Jonathon Brandal

Before we tell our story, we would like to say thank you to Ray Schulte, Judy Clayton, Georgia Kramer and Arnold Kewan for taking the time to talk with us and express their views and knowledge. Thank you very much, from Zack Strong and Jonathon Brandal.

In 1998 the Kodiak Launch Complex successfully launched its first rocket, setting the trend for many more successful launches up to the present. Based on Kodiak Island, the Kodiak Launch Complex has become controversial among local residents of Kodiak, and people abroad. Amid complaints of adverse effects on the environment and wildlife of Kodiak Island, the launch facility has experienced tremendous success, growth, and recognition around the world. The Kodiak Launch Complex is now a front runner in the developing of a successful ballistic missile defense for the United States of America.

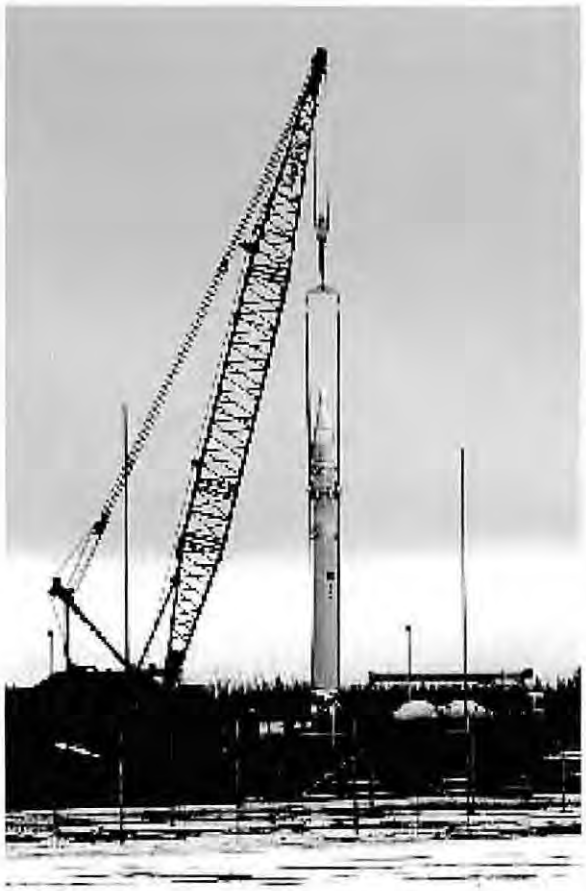
"I believe that our efforts to stop even just one possible attack, is worth everything we could put into it."

To fully tell the story about the Kodiak Launch Complex, we decided to talk with retired Air Force fighter pilot, and head of the Kodiak Launch Complex, Ray Schulte. To get a more rounded view and feel of the launch complex's affects on Kodiak, we also interviewed a few of the local community members of Port Lions. Ray Schulte holds the positions of Health, Safety, and Environmental Director, as well as the Range Safety Officer (or RSO) at the Kodiak Launch Complex. Some of the duties Mr. Schulte has performed include the health, safety, and environmental impact of all operations carried out by the Kodiak Launch Complex; the overseeing of all implications of safety leading up to, during, and after rocket launches at the complex; and dealing with customers who want to launch rockets or other space vehicles from the complex. The Kodiak Complex is an independent facility that works together with the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the Department of Defense (DOD), as well as various other clients such as NASA.

With the basic questions out of the way, we decided to get a general overview of the missile defense program and the goal that our nation wishes to attain with such a system. When we asked Mr. Schulte what the main objective of our missile defense program was, he gave us this insight: "The overall goal is to defend the United States with an interceptor program that will intercept a missile at any point in its flight that will keep it from ever making contact with U.S. soil." He also directed us to the MDAs official website http://www.acq.osd.mil/mda/mdalink/html/mdalink.html for more in depth descriptions and explanations.

Next we discussed Kodiak's direct role in the testing of the interceptor missiles. We found out that the Kodiak Launch Complex does not have the capability to launch interceptor missiles and, at the present, there are no plans to install them. The Kodiak Launch Complex's role in the process is to launch target missiles for the interceptor missiles based out of the Reagan test site on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Mr. Schulte explains the procedure further: "Our role is to bring in a space vehicle (to the launch complex), a rocket, assemble that rocket, then on top of that rocket the payload. And that's what we refer to, whatever we

put into space, is called a payload. A payload is an instrumental package that sends back all kinds of telemetry, or information though radio waves, back to ground stations all over the world. And it flies up to a specific point in outer space, where the interceptor is then launched. And the idea is to intercept it and destroy it. So, our job is to get that instrumented payload package to the right point in space." Five of these missile tests were scheduled for 2005, with one already successfully launched in January. According to Mr. Schulte, MDA is making remarkable progress, though the only site that is currently capable of launching actual interceptor missiles is in Fort Greeley, outside of Delta Junction, Alaska.



Photocourtesy of Ray Schulte

After getting all of the background information about the MDA and Kodiak Launch Complex out of the way, we delved deeper into Mr. Schulte's personal experiences and direct knowledge of the Kodiak Launch Complex. Mr. Schulte explained his job in more detail. "I am involved from all the way back when we begin planning a mission. We call that a launch campaign. So, from the time we started planning a launch campaign until it's over with I am involved in every step of the way. We go plan what type of space vehicle will be used, how it will get to Kodiak, and all the stages of the rocket. They come in pieces and we have to assemble it. [We plan] how we'll transport it out of the Kodiak Launch Complex, how it gets tested prior to launching it, where we plan to launch it, where we plan to fly, every aspect." He went on to say that "...once the rocket is set to arrive on Kodiak Island, I go down to my office at the Kodiak Launch Complex. Then I remain at the Kodiak launch until the mission is complete."

We then talked about the atmosphere leading up to, and during, the launches. Mr. Schulte told us that about 15 people are employed full time at the complex, but leading up to the launch there is an influx of about 150 rocket scientists and engineers, not counting the people from the different government agencies. According to Mr. Schulte, "Some of the brightest people, probably in the world, are involved. We have physicists and rocket scientists that are truly amazing people that we have a privilege to work with. It's a really great atmosphere." Hard work for 14 hours a day, seven days a week, goes into preparation to launch a rocket. Although the work is grueling, Mr. Schulte says that it "is very exciting, and very positive." After a launch, clean up of the ground support equipment (GSE) begins.

With renewed interest in missile defense, Kodiak has been a hot spot for visiting scientists and independent and government researchers. Mr. Schulte says that the national as well as local economy of Alaska and Kodiak benefit tremendously from the launches conducted by the Kodiak Launch Complex. The MDA spends about $7.7 million on every launch, most of which goes to the community of Kodiak. Mr. Schulte commented on the latest launch carried out by the Kodiak Launch Complex. "For all of November and most of December, about 40 days, that MDA people occupied almost every hotel room and every rental car on Kodiak. It is just a tremendous influx of people and their money. They have to eat every day, they have to have a place to sleep, they rent cars, they buy all kinds of souvenirs. A lot of these people have never been to Alaska before, so it's a really exciting thing for them on a personal level. And so they like to take back boxes of fish, boxes of crab, sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats. You know, the whole range of souvenirs and gifts from the state of Alaska and the island of Kodiak. The impact is millions of dollars per launch." It is obvious that the launch complex positively benefits Alaskans as

"It's a really great atmosphere. Needless to say, I am a very strong supporter."

well as the United States economy.

Although the economic benefits are evident, there are those who say that rocket launches hurt the environment and have adverse effects on the animals of Kodiak. When we asked Mr. Schulte about this, he replied, "We are required by both the Federal, local, and state wildlife organizations to conduct tests of the waters around the range and around Kodiak. As well, [we are required to] do population counts of birds and other land and sea mammals to determine whether there is any adverse impact. And those have been done now since long before the complex was built, as a matter of fact. So, it's been going on for over ten years. There has not been one single instance of a negative impact to fish, marine mammals, land mammals, or birds from the Kodiak Launch Complex. Not one. We are required prior to every launch to go in and take bird counts, animal counts, and water samples. And then after the launch we conduct another set of surveys. These are done by independent environmental agencies, not by Alaska Aerospace. We have to pay for it, but it's done by someone else so that there is no conflict of interest. These are very extensive surveys and samples, and are sent off to independent labs for review. All of the water samples are, we don't do them ourselves, again, for conflict of interest. And again, we have not had one of them come back negative."

In closing our interview with Mr. Schulte, we asked him his personal views on the importance of the missile defense and the Kodiak Launch Complex. Mr. Schulte said that "If you look back at the damage done by just two aircraft attacking us on September 11th, 2001, it caused over a trillion dollars in economic damage and killed over 3000 people. And those were just commercial aircraft. They weren't designed to destroy a building. If you take that scale and use a nuclear weapon and say there is someone out there that doesn't like the United States, who would launch a nuclear weapon at us and hit a city, the impact would be something that we've never experienced before. So, I believe that our efforts to stop even just one possible attack is worth everything we could put into it." He continued, "Needless to say I am a very strong supporter. I believe we are a very good neighbor, and that we work very hard to promote the island of Kodiak and Alaska. And that is a very exciting industry to be in. And a very good thing for Alaska, to be into high technology and space exploration."

As we contemplate the interview with Ray Schulte, we have come to the conclusion that the Kodiak Launch Complex is a fantastic facility to have on Kodiak. Through the complex, the economy benefits immensely. Also, the launch complex brings jobs and recognition to Kodiak. The Kodiak Launch Complex is an invaluable asset in the future of Kodiak Island, Alaska, and the United States. Even though we agreed with Mr. Schulte that the facilities impact Kodiak Island tremendously for the good, we wanted to go to the community and find out if we were supported in our conclusions.

The first community member we interviewed was Judy Clayton. She commented that she had "mixed feelings." She explained that, "I feel that in terms of looking at the world situation at this time that... realistically we have to look at protecting our nation." Mrs. Clayton went on to say that, although she agrees

"If you look back at the damage done by just two aircraft attacking us on September 11th, 2001. It caused over a trillion dollars in economic damage, and killed over 3000 people."

"Some of the brightest people, probably in the world are involved. We have physicists and rocket scientists that are truly amazing people that we have a privilege to work with."

with having a facility that operates in a missile defense function on Kodiak, she also has concerns with the facility. She says that "as they are claiming more and more islands and land around it, it is also impacting the subsistence as well as some of the archeological areas, as well as the fishing in this area. So I have mixed feelings." Aside from commenting on the positive effects on the economy, she summarized her views by saying, "I definitely see it as something positive for the economy. I'm not too concerned about the environment, but I am concerned about the claiming of the land around. And I would like to see, I do know there is some interactions, and that there is a positive workings between the missile base and the city of Kodiak and I hope that we can coexist peacefully, and it is to our mutual benefits."

After our interview with Mrs. Clayton we found another community member, Georgia Kramer. She expressed her opinion that "I'm for it, just because I think it's good for us. We will be able to be alarmed if something is happening. Yeah, it's a good thing. I don't know much about it."

Next we took our questions to Arnold Kewan. He expressed his thoughts that he "really didn't know much..." about the complex, but from what he knew he was of the opinion that "...it does make us a target for terrorist attacks because of the rocket launch area." He continued, "I wouldn't say I disagree with it being there, but like I said, I really don't know much about it. I don't want to say anything bad or good about it." When we delved into the subject further, Mr. Kewan was the only person we talked with that thought that there were no positive impacts from the launch complex on the economy. He summarized his feeling by saying "It's probably good for Kodiak or the state or whatever. It creates jobs for people you know, but I really don't know..."

In closing, we believe that the Kodiak Launch Complex is a great service to have on Kodiak Island. We have found varied opinions, but are of the thought that the general the public at large supports what is going on in Kodiak. We believe that the launch complex boosts the economy and provides outstanding opportunities in, as Mr. Schulte put it, "high technology and space exploration."

We would like to once again give a huge thank you to everyone who helped tell this story. We want to thank Ray Schulte, Judy Clayton, Georgia Kramer, and Arnold Kewan for their time and support.

Photo courtesy of Ray Schulte

"It's a Good Clean Life." George Inga Sr.'s experiences at the military base on the island of Adak during WWII

by Larry Shugak and Ross Elvehjem

World War II was devastating to many countries. Our country was hit, but it was not that severe. During WWII there were a couple of active Army Air Force bases in Alaska. Their main purpose was to watch for enemy craft and prepare for attack if necessary. One of these vital military outposts was on the island of Adak. Adak is located halfway between Seattle and Japan. It was home to over 100 Army Air Force B-29 bombers. Adak was not always the best choice for planes to take off and land because of the wind and fog. Adak's climate caused many planes to crash because of high winds and fog. George Inga Sr. served in the Air Force from May 23, 1944 to May 3,1946. He spent most of that time on Adak Island.

Photo courtesy of Georgene Inga

George in uniform

Born May, 3, 1923 in Old Harbor, Alaska, "Papa" George Inga Sr. got drafted in 1944. "I didn't join the Air Force he said." "When we got to Adak they told us we were in the 11th Army Air Force." Before heading to Adak, Papa George trained for a number of months at Fort Greeley in Kodiak. His detail trained during the summer months and every day they climbed Mt. Pillar which is 1,300 ft tall. "I'll tell you it was hot," he remembers.

"I'll tell you it was hot."

The day-to-day routine of the Army Air Force was very different from training. His daily routine included cleaning the pilots' living quarters and caring for pilots' needs every day from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Their only day off was Sunday. On Sunday, Papa George and his buddy Nick Ignatin, who was also in the Army Air Force, went fishing in a lagoon for trout.

George's daily routine differed from the people of Adak because he was now living the military life instead of his subsistence way of life. Unlike George's Alutiiq family and friends, Aleut people of Adak were moved to a different place for safety reasons. They were moved to internment camps in southeast Alaska. The conditions were poor in these camps. Most people died from diseases. After the war they were allowed to return to their homes but many did not return, because they had either died or lost their homes, which were pillaged and burned.

Papa George had to adapt to Adak's climate, which is somewhat similar to the climate of Kodiak Island. However Old Harbor is more protected from the wind. In Adak, winds blow up too 100 mph. Papa George told us: "It was foggy and windy. The wind blew so hard—that's how I started losing my hair. It often was so foggy that you couldn't see the end of the runway." Adak's climate was one of the biggest things he had to get used to.

Photo courtesy of Georgene Inga

George holding a prize bear

Some of his experiences he had in Adak were good,some were not so good. One time he watched the crash of a U.S plane about 500 ft.away. The pilot was not injured. According to George, he was able to parachute out of the aircraft before it hit the ground. "After that they drove him down to the airport and let him take off."

The worst experience George had was losing his friends he made while serving in the Army Air Force and having to write letters to their families, explaining how they died.

Photo courtsey of Georgeene Inga

George having fun

One of the things we enjoyed most about Papa George was his sense of humor, which still lingers in his seniority. In conclusion Papa George's experiences with WWII were amazing, and taught us a lot about life all those years ago.

"Our C.O. told us there was a woman behind every tree when we got there, there was no trees"

Photo courtsey of Georgeene Inga

George tree hunting

"The wind blew so hard — that's how I started losing my hair."

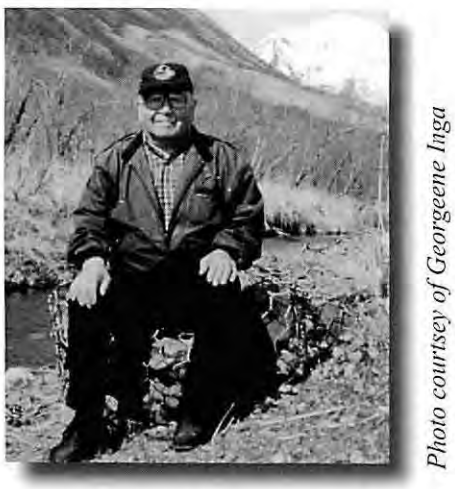


Photo courtsey of Georgeene Inga

George by stream

Photo courtsey of Georgeene Inga

A trio of WWII vetrans

Native Science

by Lisa Squartsoff & John Conley

"We were going to have no winter and two summers," says Melvin Squartsoff. This piece of knowledge that his father shared with him when Melvin was much younger seemed odd at the time, but as he grew up he would learn that his dad knew what he was talking about.

Melvin was born in Ouzinkie in 1957 and when he was a baby his family moved to Kodiak. When he was seven years old, his family moved back to Ouzinkie. After the earthquake and tidal wave of 1964, he moved back to Kodiak for high school. After high school, Melvin lived in Ouzinkie for a few years, and in 1980 he moved to Port Lions and has lived there ever since.

Photo by Lisa Squartsoff

Melvin being interviewed

Peter Squartsoff, Melvin's father, was the one who taught these observations to him, which have been passed down for generations throughout the Squartsoff family. Over the years, Melvin has come to find out that most of his fathers' observations have come true. Most of these observations talk about the weather and how the animals predict the weather.

One of the observations that Melvin shared with us was a time when he was in Barabara with his dad. "It was raining and blowing southeast. Before it showed any signs of clearing, we saw a bumblebee come out. My dad would say that it would be sun shining soon. Sure enough. The weather cleared up."

Some other observations that Melvin shared with us are about how he thinks animals have weather sensors, or built-in barometers.

"Another observation that my dad told me is that when you see loons or kuk-kuk-kuks is what he used to call them, it would be raining the next day. And so far, that works.

I've noticed one of my own observations too, when we were out elk hunting. On Afognak Island there was this heard of elk on top of a mountain. It was a beautiful, flat calm day. We watched the elk leave from the top of the mountain and go down into the timber into the low lands near the lake. We thought, oh man, we're going to get them tomorrow and we know exactly where to find them. The next morning we woke up and it was blowing northeast and raining. It was blowing like sixty miles per hour, and we could not go anywhere for two days. That tells me those elk knew that there was bad weather coming and they had to get off the mountain.

Another strange story I remember my dad telling me when I was younger, is we were going to have no winter and two summers. I had forgotten all about that until about four or five years ago. I was up hunting in November, and I saw some flowers blooming because it was so warm. For some reason it made me think of what he said about having no winter and two summers. With the weather patterns changing and our winters being so warm, it was just kind of reminding me of what my dad said."

The last observation that Melvin shared with us was about how you can tell if there are going to be a lot of fish during the summer. "My dad used to say this when we were going out to get ribbon kelp on the shore for the gardens in the spring. He said that if there was a lot of kelp, there was going to be a lot of salmon that year. I'm not so sure that observation was true, it was one of the things he used to say all the time."

I was happy that my dad decided to share this information with us, because it just goes to show you that even before we had all the technology that we have today, people still knew what the weather was going to be like.

The Search and Rescue Team

by Steven Eggemeyer

Have you ever been in need of the Coast Guard Search and Rescue team? Say you were in the woods or on fishing boat and you really needed them. You think all hope is lost when all of a sudden you hear a loud noise sounding like it was getting closer to you and you see that orange and white helicopter flying over you. You know that they have seen you because of that big searchlight illuminating you. If this has happened to you, well then you are one of the hundreds that have been saved from potential danger by the Coast Guard Search and Rescue team.

Photos courtesy of USCG

From dealing with illegal immigration to just plain helping people, they're always there for you. I had the pleasure to be introduced to one of the search and rescue team members. From the kindness of his heart he agreed to be interviewed by me. Some of this interview is included in the story below. His name is Dave Southwick and he has been in the military for twenty-two years and the Coast Guard for fifteen years. He is presently stationed at Air Station Kodiak. He is an Aviation Survival Technician, meaning that he goes out with the S.A.R (search and rescue) and does a weekly check on the villages and the oceans around Kodiak Island. He is also responsible for maintaining search and rescue equipment and does some diving. Concerning his day-to-day duties, Southwick said, "There are varied amount of things that can happen. If somebody is in distress, we may just go out there and fly around to be on the scene in case something goes wrong. We can sometimes drop supplies and pumps and stuff like that if they are taking on water. If somebody is hurt on a boat, we can go out and get them off as long as our flight surgeon says it is OK."

He further stated, "If the boat is sinking or sunk, we go out there and get everybody we can find."

Regarding fishing and the Coast Guard responsibilities to the fisherman, Southwick said, "Every once in a while we have to go out and spot check people. We contact the skipper on the radio and he gives us his IFQ number and we report that back. Other than that, we just want to make sure everyone is safe."

Always looking for ways to improve what they do, Southwick says that they are "currently working to develop and market another pump that is more resilient to water than the one that we have. The type of pump we have is about 30 years old and we are trying to upgrade that."

Southwick also pointed out that occasionally they have to deal with incidents that must be handled delicately. This is true of the foreign vessels that routinely come into American waters.

> "We just want to make sure everyone is safe."

"Where we run into a problem is if a foreign vessel is fishing in our coastal waters (which) are not allowed by law. What we would have then is a kind of international incident with the Coast Guard and that country involving the U.S. government and that country."

Southwick has been in Kodiak waters long enough to see many changes. But the biggest change he has seen has been the I.F.Q or Individual Fishing Quota. "The biggest change I have seen in fishing is I.F.Q. I.F.Q's allow the fishermen to go out when the weather is more decent, because they are limited in the amount of fish they catch. In the past with an opener, it happened on a certain day and

Photos courtesy of USCG

went for a certain time period, and if you weren't out there you missed out. And if the weather was really bad, the chances of a boat getting into trouble and sinking were a lot greater than they are today. And that's why I think [the reason] we've seen a decline in our search and rescue cases is boats don't have to go out in such terrible weather to make a living."

Below is an explanation of an I.F.Q according to the Pacific Management Fishery Council

What is an IFQ?

An IFQ is a federal permit to harvest a quantity of fish, usually expressed as a percentage of a fishery's total allowable catch, that may be held for exclusive use by an individual. A quota share represents a percentage of the total allowable catch in the fishery and, if transferable, can be leased or sold. Harvest privileges can also be taken away if the IFQ holder does not comply with federal fishing standards.

There are currently IFQ programs in effect for Alaska halibut and sablefish, for surf clams and ocean quahogs off the Mid-Atlantic States, and for wreckfish in the South Atlantic. IFQs are also used in New Zealand, Australia, and Iceland. IFQ programs vary considerably, depending on the fishery in which they are used and the regulations for each specific program.

The West Coast limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery operates under an IFQ program in which transfer of quota shares is highly restricted. Shares are blocked into three size categories (tiers), shares cannot be transferred separately from the limited entry permit, and no more than three permits can be stacked on a single vessel.

Photos courtesy of USCG

The Fishing and Hunting Guide of Old Harbor

By Garett Peterson and Kelsey Peterson

Photo: courtesy of Victor Peterson

Jeff Peterson in his Marine uniform.

You hear the gun shot and the deer drops. You gut the deer and it stinks. You cut the back hind quarters, front quarters and the back straps and put the meat in game bags. Then you hike down to the beach and go home. You hang the meat in the shed. After you age the meat, then you bone it. This is just one example of a day's work for our father, Jeff Peterson

My father first got interested in fishing and hunting when his father would take him out on a boat. He is a responsible adult that you could trust to go out hunting and fishing with for many different reasons. He started to run a boat when he was 13 years of age and he has fished for over 17 years.

Before Jeff was a guide, he was a father. He started his family at age 19 and eventually had five children. It was 1983 when he had his first child. "Loren, he was born in April. We got married in January 1983."

"So I took his boat out with the guy from Iceland and we went seining for dogs. The guy asked me how old I was, I told him I was 13, and he was very surprised. "

Courtesy of Kodiak Combos

Jeff with a blacktail deer

Right around the same time, Jeff joined the Marines and became a military policeman. "The pay in the Marine Corps was low for my rate. I was probably the lowest ranking guy that had a house and lived out of town. The fourth year we went to Japan and got a traditional Japanese house off the base. My son Loren was with us. The fifth year, as soon as I got out of the Marine Corps, I came up here to Alaska. They weren't hiring troopers, but the little VPSO job right there in Old Harbor was open. "

Jeff would become an experienced hunting and fishing guide, but it was a long road there. Jeff really didn't know what he was getting into, because he didn't plan to have a hunting and fishing business.

Since he was born and raised in Old Harbor, he knew where all of the hunting and fishing spots were. So, when he was the VPSO, the mayor, Sven Haakanson Sr., would ask Jeff to take visitors. He took people out fishing while he still had his VPSO uniform on. Someone sent a letter addressed to the postmaster asking if someone would take him out duck hunting.

Photo: courtesty of Victor Peterson

From left to right: Jeff, Loren, Rhoda, Kathleen, Kelsey and Kelly.

Mayor Sven contacted Jeff. ""There is this guy here from the housing or

the telephone company, can you take him out fishing for the day?' Yeah OK, I took him out fishing. A year later, somebody called up and said, 'You took my friend out fishing. What do you charge?' Nothing, just help pay for gas. " Jeff's transition to fishing guide was beginning.

Becoming a guide was a natural fit for someone who had spent so much time on the sea. He remembers a story from his childhood. " It seemed like my dad was always wanting to fish. He had a wooden grandy, and I think it was 30 feet. I'll never forget this older guy, I think he was 19 or 20 and he was from Iceland. He was a crewman on my dad's boat and my dad didn't want to take the boat out fishing even though I wanted to go fishing. So I took his boat out with the guy from Iceland and we went seining for dogs. The guy asked me how old I was, I told him I was 13, and he was very surprised."

As the years progressed, Jeff eventually got a new 29' Sea Sport boat, a promotional movie and recently an updated brochure. Quite a change from the days borrowing his dad's boat!

The fourth year we went to Japan and got a traditional Japanese house off the base.

Photo: courtesy of Kodiak Combos

Jeff with client and lingcod

"'What do you charge?' Nothing, just help pay for gas."

Photo: courtesy of Kodaik Combos

Jeff showing off a 65lb. King Salmon!

MEMORIES OF KODIAK

A STORY ABOUT PATRICIA VALEN'S YEARS IN KODIAK

BY ETHAN DERENOFF

Photo: Ned Griffin

Kodiak city nowadays is a medium city (by Alaska's standards) and has about ten thousand people living there.

Patty Valen was born in Afognak village in 1935. Her life has taken her across the globe. Traveling from Jerusalem to Omaha, Patty Valen has seen and experienced much in her life. But this article will be delving deeper into her stay in Kodiak than in any other place she has been.

When Patty lived in Kodiak City her first year, she was bedridden because of a disease called *chorea*. Her nerves were damaged on the left side of her body and she was unable to control the limbs on that side. She got *chorea* from malnutrition and possibly from her psychological state. The only cure she had was to eat well (fruit, fish, and vegetables) and rest. She could get around via wheelchair some days so she could pick up an apple or pear with the money her uncle sent her. After a year of resting she was finally able to return to school.

For nine more years Patty went to school in Kodiak. She took almost the same classes that we take today. Some go by different names now. Besides classes, Patty had to do daily chores for her family. She would cook a meal for five people, iron clothes, baby-sit for money, and other miscellaneous chores. Some might say, "Sounds bad," but Patty had fun doing her chores. She enjoyed cooking, cleaning, reading, board games, and watching the occasional movie. Many times Patty and her friends would run up and down Cope Mountain; sometimes she would look out of her living room window at the people below and imagine what they were doing. Kodiak was a fairly small fishing town back then, so everyone knew everyone else.

Back in the 1940s there were about 200 people living there, mainly fisherman. Kodiak was a different city back then, some might say worse and yet others may say better. Patty Valen's memories of Kodiak tell me that Kodiak was a good place to live, no better and no worse than it is now. During my interview with Patty, I found old Kodiak appealing; everyone was friendly, everyone knew each other, and there wasn't the impersonal relationship with the town that many have now. But, Kodiak now is also appealing to me for its feeling of civilization and anonymity.

A Lifetime of Amazing Stories
by Devin Skonberg and Geremy Clarion

"My childhood was perfect." According to Donny Muller, a lifetime resident of Ouzinkie, he couldn't have made it better if he wanted to. This is a rare answer to a question of this nature. Donny is a very lively and youthful 61 year-old-man whom we chose to interview because he had so many stories to tell.

Photo by Devin Skonberg

Donny sitting at his kitchen table

Donny was born in Ouzinkie, Alaska on May 18, 1943 into an average-sized family of two brothers (Bobby and Jackie Muller), and one sister (Judy Muller). Some of his childhood memories were of fishing and working for PHS (Public Health Services). Even more memorable were his grandma's hundred head of cattle. He recalls many times when he would go cow hunting with her. He remembered feeling that "the cows knew when it was time to butcher; we couldn't find them." Kraft's (Kodiak's local supermarket at the time) liked their beef. They would only buy his grandmother's beef.

While reminiscing about the cattle, he remembers a time when one of the bulls knocked down the holding fence that was being used to keep the cattle for slaughtering. This is one of the many incidents that led him to believe that there was something different about those particular cattle. He went on and told us of more unusual happenings with the cattle.

He also remembers how his grandmother would talk to the cows, and they would always do whatever she wanted them to. He gave us stories regarding his grandmother's cows, and how they affected his childhood. It seemed that he held his grandmother in the highest regard.

In his youth, Donny used to hike a lot. He would hike everywhere, mentioning that he hiked all of the mountains in the area. On one of his record hikes, it took him less than twenty minutes to go from the base to the top the mountain that lies directly across the bay from the Kodiak side of Ouzinkie.

When we asked Donny how Ouzinkie had changed over the years, he replied, "Lots. There never used to be any cars or four wheelers. We walked everywhere, I liked it that way. There was no such thing as motor vehicles. Nowadays I have bad hips; I can hardly walk to the boat harbor."

"There never used to be any cars or four wheelers. We walked everywhere, I liked it that way."

We questioned him about when he was in the armed forces. "I was in the army," he said. He was a mechanic. While stationed in Virginia, he worked on mostly Cummins and Detroit Diesel engines. He enjoyed his work, telling us, "It was just like a job. I worked from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m." A year after starting, he became an instructor and started teaching his trade. He told us that one of his main priorities was to make sure he always treated his men like he would like to be treated. He gave them the respect he felt they deserved.

After a little more time on the base, he became a squad leader. Soon his buddies started to give him nicknames such as "Alaskan" and "Polar Bear." People he didn't even know came up to him and told him hello referring to him by one of his nicknames. According to him, he was pretty well known at his station.

Though he was at only one station the whole time he was enlisted, he proceeded to tell us that he wanted to go to Vietnam. This was the same time that the Vietnam War was going on and he wanted to be there for it. He tried three times to get sent, but after a few tries his boss finally ripped up his request forms and told him they wouldn't let him go because they needed him at the base to keep training troops.

When the war was over and the troops came back from Vietnam, Donny remembered thinking, "They weren't in their right minds. I guess it's a good thing I didn't go." When he was getting out of the army and ready to go home and get ready for fishing, he went to tell his troops -- pandemonium broke out. They threw their tools everywhere and announced, "If you're going, we are too."

Photo courtesy of Ouzinkie Culture Center

Donny when he was in the Army

Fishing was a big part of Donny's life. He told us a few stories and gave us his opinion on dragging which he felt pretty strongly about. He blames dragging for nearly every fishing problem we have today, especially the

"As long as there's dragging, the crab ain't gonna come in."

crabbing industry failure. "As long as there's dragging, the crab ain't gonna come in. I hate them draggers," he told us. Before dragging came along Donny remembered when he and his father would catch the limit of 30 pots of crab. The crab would be holding onto the top of the pots and the line that the pots would be tied to when they set pots right around Ouzinkie. He and his dad used to fish crab in Danger Bay. Not only would they pull up a bunch of crab, but they would catch coral and some kind of tadpole-looking fish that was about 2 feet long, pure bright orange and stiff. He hasn't seen anything like that since dragging started.

We heard from a few other people that Donny had some scary things that he could talk to us about so we asked him to tell us some scary stories. Almost without

Photo courtesy of Donny Muller

Donny's former boat the 'Judy M'

hesitation he began telling us several different stories and incidents that he remembers from his past. Donny and Bobby were in Paramanof sitting for mallards. They heard something walking in the trees above them. They moved away from where they heard the walking. When they did, whatever it was started screaming and screaming. Neither of them had ever heard a scream like that. Bobby started hollering "Shut up," and it continued. After a couple more minutes, Bobby took out his gun and started shooting up at the spot where the screaming was coming from. When he did that the thing started screaming louder then before. The screaming got too much for them, so they ran back to the skiff where their dad was waiting. They asked him if he heard the screaming and he told them that he did. That proved that they weren't crazy. None of them could figure out what it was because they had never heard anything like it, or as loud. Donny said this was one of two times that he heard this screaming.

I'm sorry to say that we weren't able to include all of what Donny said in the previously typed words. I think I can safely and confidently say that we got a rather satisfactory chunk of the given material provided to us by Donny Muller. We'd like to thank Donny in this writing because this is an interpretation of the words and stories he gave us.

A Mother's Love

by Josh Sargent

Have you lost a parent at an early age? My mom, Gwen Sargent, lost her mother twenty years ago. My mom was born June 18, 1964, in Kodiak, Alaska, at the Griffin Memorial Hospital. At the age of twenty she lost her mom, and has since faced the trials, tribulations, and milestones of her life without a maternal influence. This must have been tough for her. I wanted to write this story as a tribute to my grandma, Metha Hansen, whom I did not have the privilege of knowing. Mom doesn't speak much of my grandma, but when she does I can tell that she was thankful to have had the time she did with her.

My grandma, Metha, was born April 10, 1940, in Ashland, Oregon. Her parents were the late Irene and Arnold Hansen. She was raised in Oregon and moved to Afognak Island at about age nine. "She went to Sheldon Jackson boarding school in Sitka, Alaska and made extra money ironing and doing house chores for people." She gave birth to my Auntie Joanne, my mom's sister, in 1960. My Grandma traveled back to Kodiak to visit her dad and her stepmom Ruth Hansen in 1962. It was then that she met Walter Sargent, Jr. She fell in love and followed her heart and moved from Oregon back to Kodiak. They got married in 1964.

Photo courtesy of Gwen Christiansen

Metha Hansen

Photo courtesy of Gwen Christiansen

Metha and her daughters, Joanne and Gwen

I enjoy hearing stories about my late grandma, like how she was a great gardener, how she loved to host big family gatherings, and how she loved her family with all her heart. Being raised on Afognak Island where her dad helped operate a saw mill was similar to life in Old Harbor. My mom tells stories of how they only got a mail plane once a month and how they had to rely on good weather for traveling.

Grandma had strict rules of order in her household. My mom laughs about how she, herself, is turning into her mom!

"Mom was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was sixteen and then she had a mastectomy and she had a year of chemotherapy. I helped to care for my mom during her battle with cancer. Eventually the cancer spread to her bones. She fought hard, but lost her battle after four years." My mom, aunt, and close friends cared for my grandma while she was ill.

I know they miss her dearly. "Mom was very strong and practical. She even planned her own funeral, including picking out the coffin, flowers, and arranging pallbearers. She had so many friends and acquaintances in Kodiak that during her funeral the Kodiak Police Department closed the roads and escorted the procession to the graveyard."

"I kind of had to grow up really fast and then after she passed away I had some really hard times." It was difficult for my mom to go through monumental things in her life without her mother by her side.

On February 14th, 1986, she married my biological dad, her first marriage. "The other important thing in my life was when I had you on December 22, 1987; you know I just really missed that my mom was not there for that. It wasn't easy growing up without a mom but I found surrogate moms, like my stepmom Linda Sargent, Anita Brechan, my mom's best friend, Joy Roberts, and Bonnie Donnelly. These women were strong influences in my life path." When we moved to Old Harbor, five years ago, she also met several elders that have filled a void in her life, like Mary Haakanson, and Emily Bigoli. "It was still really hard growing up past your 20s without your mom."

"I know that she is with me in spirit. I really do envy those people that have moms and grandmas and I hope if they read this they will be appreciative of them." My mom carries on many traits and traditions that my grandma once did; for example, sewing and decorating the house for holidays and passing on traditions so that they are carried on generation to generation.

It is really important to start traditions with your family because they may not be there forever. "I have done that for my family and for you, Josh. I just really know that mom would have loved you very much."

Photo courtesy of Gwen Christiansen

Metha, Gwen, "Granny" Irene and Joanne.

"I kind of had to grow up really fast and then after she passed away I had some really hard times."

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