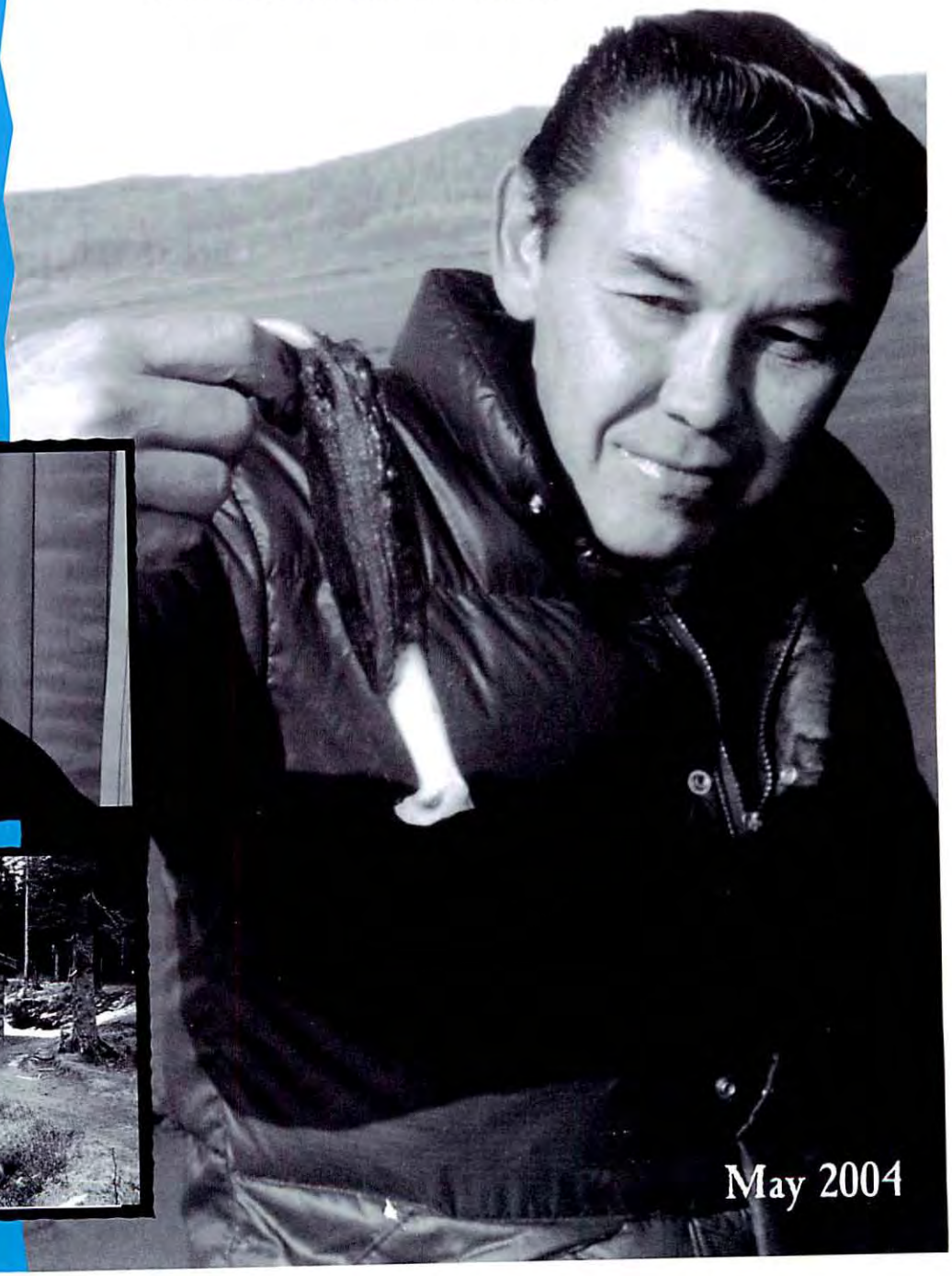
Iluani

Inside the Life and Culture of Kodiak Island



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

Nick Alokli
Marvin Bartleson, Jr.
Marvin Bartleson, Sr.
Dave Campfield
Larry Chichenoff
Tania Chichenoff
Rolf Christiansen
Paul Delgado
Aaron Ellison
George Inga
Jay Kaiser
Paul Panamarioff
Florence Pestrikoff
Olga Pestrikoff
Wanda Price
Betty Reid
Jimmy Skonberg
Alma Soderberg
Melvin Squartsoff

Thank you for sharing your stories. This book would not exist without your help.

Iluani

Inside the Life and Culture of Kodiak Island

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Acknowledgments

The week of April 18th-23rd, 2004 marked the second Oral History Layout and Design Workshop. High school students from Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Akhiok, and Chiniak all gathered in Kodiak with oral history articles they had written. The purpose of the week was to publish the fourth & finest issue of *Iluani* magazine.

Throughout the week we worked on the layout and design of our oral history articles. We couldn't have done it without the help of many people. A special thanks goes to Dave Kubiak for his continued support of the oral history project by sharing his time, energy, wisdom, and teachings regarding publication with us. You inspired us to take pride in our work.

Another thank you goes to Janelle Peterson for providing information on how to enhance photographs using Adobe Photoshop. Without Ms. Peterson's artistic eye the magazine would not be as pleasing to your eyes or as visually powerful.

Cherie Osowski (Kodiak Daily Mirror) taught us basic publishing skills using Adobe PageMaker, while Wes Hanna and Adam Lesh gave us the opportunity to view the jobs they and the other employees do inside the Mirror.

We also want to thank Deborah Carver for copy-editing and doing the final editing on our articles, and Betsy Lund for also proofreading.

A special thanks to KANA for their financial support for our housing, and the Kodiak Baptist Mission for letting us house with them during this intense week.

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We want to thank Melissa Olson and Melissa Miller for transporting the snacks and the lunches to the College. Keeping us well fed during our long days was important. Thanks to David Lussenhop for using his time to do morning activities with us to get our day started, and to Teri Schneider (The Kodiak Island Borough School District) for paying for our transportation and food with grant monies.

Thank you to Patrick Saltonstall (Alutiiq Museum) for e-mailing some of the photographs that are being used for the magazine.

Finally, we want to thank the Senior Center for allowing us to share our accomplishments with them at our evening potluck and presentation.

All monies from the sale of the magazine beyond the cost of printing will be withheld to continue with the publication of the magazine in the future.

Best Wishes,

Shea Sargent, *Iluani* Staff Member, Chiniak

2004 *Iluani* Magazine Staff

Forward

Well, this year's *Iluani* staff has done it once again – spent hours upon hours of interviewing, transcribing, story writing, photographing, designing, editing, and proofreading their work.

As we come together each spring to do the layout and design, the largely unnoticed energy that has been poured into these articles throughout the year blossoms into the document you hold in your hands. This is somewhat of a rite of passage for rural high school students. They have dug their roots into the stories of the elder people of their communities, and through this collaborative work have produced this magazine, evidence of the richness of the soil and the springing forth of their own growth.

This is the fourth magazine I have had the pleasure of helping students produce, and it is by far the most brilliant work I have seen from them. Their work needs no introduction – the quality stands proudly on its own, facing the sun.

Enjoy,

Eric Waltenbaugh

Are You Up For The Challenge?

Stories from Olga Pestrikoff's child raising years.

By: Fawn Chya

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLGA PESTRIKOFF

Olga with her daughters Stacey, Zora, Allison, Larissa and Gerie.

Raising children, are you up for the challenge? Parents go through tough times raising children, but after interviewing Olga, the memories seem worth it. I am enjoying my teen years, but I will one day also be a parent. Olga Pestrikoff shared with me some of her family stories. I could tell they brought back so many wonderful memories. They made her laugh so hard it brought tears to her eyes! I look forward to the day when I can laugh at my own family memories.

I am from a family of five, which includes two younger siblings. Olga raised five children of her own and two others. I wanted to hear a mother's point of view on raising children in our village, and see how it has changed from then to now.

Olga Pestrikoff grew up on Afognak Island and moved to Old Harbor in 1975 where she raised her family of seven. Ms.Pestrikoff brought up her children the same way she was brought up. Olga is also the head teacher of our school. Because of her experience with kids and the love she has for them, I thought she would know a lot about the topic. She describes the kids she raised: "They're all hard workers – most of them are hard workers – they like to have fun. They contribute to their communities and do volunteer work."

In my family I have a lot of responsibilities. I do dishes, buy my own gas for my Honda, do my own laundry, help keep the house clean, and babysit. I was curious to know what kind of responsibilities Olga gave her children. "They always had jobs that depended

on their age and ability." Things she had them do included: cleaning their house, cleaning outside their house, and taking out the trash; stacking wood, hauling wood, and helping with subsistence activities; gardening, helping to cook meals and helping to care for each other. I was surprised that her kids and I have the same amount of responsibilities, yet theirs seemed more laborious.

> "Part of the responsibility from my family was Gerie had to do 100 hour of community service in this town..."
>
> -Olga Pestrikoff

Unlike myself, Olga's children were often required to participate in subsistence activities. Ms.Pestrikoff told me a humorous story about Stacey, her daughter, who was helping with a subsistence activity. "Stacey and her cousin were helping (to skin a deer) and what they were doing was picking up the garbage that the guys were throwing down as they were cleaning this deer meat ... Uncle Jim asked Stacey, 'Stacey what are you doing?' and she said, 'I'm stacking hoofies!'"

Olga also felt that volunteer work in the community was important. Ms.Pestrikoff described that sometimes when her children were in trouble she would require them to perform some kind of volunteer work. I know from personal experience that at the end of each school year, we spend a day picking up garbage in our village, which I don't particularly enjoy. I can't picture having to do volunteer work as a parental requirement. Ms.Pestrikoff described that sometimes when her children were in trouble she would require them to perform some kind of volunteer work.

One time, "Gerie had gotten in trouble when she was 12 with a couple of her friends ... but they had gotten in trouble in the community. Part of the responsibility from my family was Gerie had to do 100 hours of community service in this town. The Tribal Council didn't say it, or the cops didn't say it,

> "If you are gonna mess up that bad your gonna pay for it." - Olga Pestrikoff

Larissa, Gerie, Stacey, Allison, and Zora celebrate Stacey's wedding

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLGA PESTRIKOFF

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLGA PESTRIKOFF

Olga and Gerie gathering Oohitaks (Chitons).

PHOTO: OLGA PESTRIKOFF

Olga as a teenager with her siblings.

or anything like that ... I said, 'if you were gonna mess up that bad, you're gonna pay for it.'" Olga laughed heartily before she went on. "So she had to do 100 hours of community service." I was amazed that Olga required her children to do community service, where in my family, and in other families I know, it is not required.

Along with responsibilities, her children also received consequences and rewards for their choices. When her children got into trouble she would sometimes ground them depending on what kind of trouble they got into. She said, "The time depended on the infraction and number of occurrences." I know that getting privileges taken away hasn't changed since then. When I get into trouble I get grounded, I get my phone privileges taken away, and I get my Honda taken away. Some things never change.

> "Raising children is a very important job and responsible parents should really be commended."
> -Olga Pestrikoff

Olga went on to give an example of a time when a child she was raising got caught in the act of graffiting. "The Tribal Council-the Tribal Court-was really active in those days and they tried to tell me what they wanted the kid to do and I said, 'No way! They're gonna go down there and there gonna scrub that off first, and then paint over it.' 'Cause they (the Tribal Council) were just gonna have them paint over it. And they ended up having to do 15 hours of community service in addition to cleaning and scrubbing it off.'" Today the tribal does not have Tribal Court on a regular basis like they did then. I am glad that they do not have a Tribal Court anymore because half of the town would know about my personal mistakes. It would be humiliating!

On the other hand, when her kids did something above and beyond, like extra chores, they got rewarded with extra privileges. Similarly, when I do something exceptional I usually get to drive our truck, get a later curfew, and get extra money. Olga's family enjoyed making cookies together and having family parties. They also liked to go sledding in the winter. "Just whatever – whatever the weather allowed outside and what was appropriate inside," said Olga. Every once in a while she would give them candy, but mostly at parties.

I was surprised at how funny Olga could be, especially when she told me this anecdote.

"One of the big, big problems with having a great big family, there is always a lot of socks in the laundry, so, um, once a week, usually on a weekend we would have a sock party and that was all the clean socks in this big basket would get dumped in the middle of the living room floor and we would just sit around that thing and we'd pair up socks and we'd have like snowball fights with paired socks, we'd have socks flying all over the house so we'd have fun. Nobody thought it was work, but what it was, was a sock party and we got our socks paired and everybody had socks for the whole week and the next week."

In talking with Olga I realized that raising children could be a lot of hard work, especially if you had a large family like she did. She said, "Raising children is a very important job and responsible parents should really be commended because the children get quality time from their parents."

"I love kids, what can I say"

-Olga Pestrikoff

I also realized that with good choices come rewards, and with poor actions comes serious consequences. Raising children in Old Harbor today may be less traditional, but the key elements of child rearing are still the same. I asked Olga if she had anything else she would like to tell me and she said, "I love kids. What can I say?"

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLGA PESTRIKOFF

The Pestrikoff girls gather for a winter photo.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY NEVER FORGOTTEN

1989 EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

By: Chantelle Bartleson and Lisa Squartsoff

PHOTO: MELVIN SQUARTSOFF

Melvin Squartsoff

1989 is a year I'm sure any Kodiak fisherman will never forget. On March 24, the Exxon Valdez that was carrying approximately 54 million gallons of North Slope crude oil grounded on Bligh Reef, spilling nearly 11 million gallons into the Alaska waters near Prince William Sound.

The salmon that had been increasing greatly for the past years came to a dead stop as the crude oil from the Exxon Valdez spread through out the Gulf of Alaska either killing or contaminating everything it came in contact with.

" Yeah, 1988 was the best fishing year we ever had, lots of fish and high prices."

- Melvin Squartsoff

Interview with Melvin Squartsoff

Melvin Squartsoff moved to Port Lions in 1982. He was a salmon fisherman at the time, (and still is today). He seemed somewhat upset, as would anyone, when I asked him about the horrible accident that took many years to recover from. I interviewed my dad about the spill because it's a story that he had never told me before and I wanted to see what his thoughts were about this major tragedy.

"In 1989, I was 32 and I was the owner of a set net site.

That is how Cathy and I made a living. Before the spill, the salmon runs were awesome. They kept increasing every year. Yeah, 1988 was the best fishing year we ever had, lots of fish and high prices. Then sadly the year of the oil spill everything came to a dead stop. I can't even imagine what the fishing would have been like that year.

"It just so happens that Cathy and I were on vacation in Hawaii when we heard about the oil spill. We were just leaving the hotel when a breaking news story came on TV. At that time, we never thought that Port Lions would be affected, but sadly we were mistaken.

"It didn't take long for the oil to reach Port Lions. The oil took about a couple of months to reach Kodiak from Prince William Sound. So the community, as well as myself and Cathy, helped out the best we could. My job at the time of the spill was to go and look for any animals and birds that were affected by the spilled oil. While we were on the Port Lions Oiled Wildlife Survey Team, the other community members were part of the beach clean-up crew that cleaned up oiled kelp and other things on the beach. There was also an oil boom crew. They placed protected log booms around the salmon streams to keep the oil from reaching salmon spawning areas.

Port Lions Wildlife Clean-up Crew

PHOTO: MELVIN SQUARTSOFF

"The big dollars brought out the worst in people."
-Melvin Squartsoff

"That summer of '89 was terrible for the community. There was a lot of bickering among residents. The big dollars brought out the worst in people. Exxon used the 'divide and conquer' system. They gave jobs and contracts to some, but not all residents. This strategy worked well to keep people from uniting and protesting against Exxon's methods. Except for one instance I can think of.

"Exxon wanted to put an incinerator on a barge in Veikoda Bay for burning bags of oiled material from the beach clean-up crews. Everyone in Port Lions was worried that the fumes from the incinerator would blow through Port Lions creating an additional health

hazard. Fortunately, Port Lions residents were able to keep Exxon from putting them over there.

"Luckily, by the summer of 1990, we were able to fish commercially and subsistence fish, however there weren't many fish and the prices were really low. Today the prices are still pretty low; but it's not only because of the oil spill years ago, it's also because of the influx of 'toxic' farmed salmon. I think that the fishing industry will recover, but not to the level of 1988.

"So far, everything has recovered, like the beaches, sea mammals, and most sea birds have recovered better than I thought they would. The one thing that we noticed is that the puffins were less abundant at one time, but other than that everything seems to have recovered."

As we were getting ready to wrap up the interview, I couldn't help but ask my dad one more question. I asked him, what do you think would happen to Port Lions if Exxon paid?

"If Exxon paid, I think that it would bring mixed blessings. On the other hand there could be financial security, but yet (it) could cause a lot of problems. I think that a lot of people in the village would leave, but Port Lions could also grow. I guess we'll just have to wait and see."

Interview with Marvin Bartleson Jr.

Have you ever wondered what could happen to the economy if there was an oil spill? Do you think things would ever be the same again? How would an oil spill change the lives of people and animals? Would any of the animals still be okay to eat? These are all questions that arose when the Exxon Valdez oil spill took place in 1989. I interviewed my dad, Marvin Lyle Bartleson Jr. about the oil spill and got his thoughts and views about the terrible tragedy. Personally, I believe that the oil spill was very tragic to the community of Port Lions and sea life. This topic interested me because the interviewee is my dad, and I thought it would be interesting to preserve the way he remembers the spill. I also thought it would be interesting to learn about the past history that has caused so many things to change. Here's the story!

"By the time supplies got here, it was a matter of cleaning up damage that was already done."

-Marvin Bartleson Jr.

"In the year 1989, I was twenty five years of age, working as V.P.S.O. (Village public safety officer), a resident of Port Lions for six years, when the spill took place. Although, I had never owned my own boat, I was a fisherman for six years, I had fished on the; Confident, the Windagow, and the KFC5, with Lester Lukin, Robby Hodel, and Ivan Lukin.

"As I said, I was the village public safety officer, so when the spill took place, I got a dispatch from the Alaska State Troopers, within an hour of the event. I didn't think, and no one thought with the amounts and with the wind that the oil spill would reach Kodiak, but it did!! It reached Kodiak and beyond!!

"We had to utilize what local resources we had, one of the things we did was cut down trees and limbed them and used them for really sensitive reproductive areas for the salmon." They were log booms that floated at the top of the water as a way to soak up the oil so that it wouldn't be able to get to the sensitive areas for the salmon. "That didn't work very well. By the time the supplies got here, it was a matter of cleaning up damage that was already done. Basically, the whole community helped clean up the spill. There were people hired through boat charters and man workers to help clean up.

Clean up was mainly for the people that got hired, but everyone pitched in. Since I was the village public safety officer, I had to coordinate all the local efforts."

He recalled good fishing the year before the spill. "1988 was the best year for fishing that we ever had, that I can remember. The runs were extremely strong. Also, in 1988, we got a dollar a pound for pinks and after the spill in cents; it has been way less than twenty cents a pound for the last several years.

"It has been so long since the spill happened. Initially, it took a big toll on sea life. Birds especially, but all animals suffered from it. Since then, the species have rebounded, but you're talking about something that happened a long time ago. We still see some tar balls wash up every now and then, so there is still some oil in the water from the spill.

"I doubt that the money in the fishing industry will ever be the same, but I don't know if that could entirely be blamed on the oil spill. There are other issues, such as farmed fish, other countries, with all the different variables involved in the fishing industry today, I don't think the prices will ever be realized as what they used to be before the spill. The spill definitely contributed to the drop of the price though.

"If Exxon paid, I don't know if it would change too many people, but that's human nature, and who's to say? I know if I got a settlement from Exxon, I would be the same person I am now, except I wouldn't drive a hunk of junk around town. Having a lot of money would take away a lot of stress from people, so you'd probably see lots of happy, smiley faces around town. I think most people live here because they love where they live and that's not worth any amount of money. Sure would make it a lot more nice though. As I said, I don't believe that people would change all too much, but people in this village aren't individually wealthy, so it would probably change people some. But for the most part, no.

" I know if I got a settlement from Exxon I would be the same person I am now, except I wouldn't drive a hunk a junk around town"

-Marvin Bartleson Jr.

I think we have a lot of good people in our community.

"Some things have never gone back to normal, and never will after an event like that. I believe that eventually the earth will clean itself, if given the chance to. It affected every aspect of our lives, our subsistance way of living and people were afraid to eat anything, even deer because they go to the beach to eat kelp for salt. It was a scary time and people put their money into meats from Safeway rather than buying bullets for their guns. Scars were left and people will never forget what happened."

As I finished the interview with my dad: Marvin Lyle Bartleson Jr. I felt a better sense of understanding about the spill. It was a good feeling to learn more about my dad's past, and why everything is so different now after the spill. Also, after doing the interview, I sat and thought about the spill and a bunch of new questions arose in my head, maybe another day I'll ask him them.

Ouzinkie's Roads

By Scott DeTorres and Josh Larionoff

"It was pretty hard," Larry Chichenoff replied, when asked what life was like before there were roads in Ouzinkie. Larry is a local who was involved in constructing the roads in Ouzinkie, and we wanted to hear his story on how our roads came to be.

"(Before there were roads) you'd have to get oil and pack it up to your houses. There wasn't a truck or anything. You'd have to pack up 5-gallon cans. It was the same way to getting wood. It was just a lot harder without roads. I mean it was (just) cowpaths, no airstrip. It was pretty different.

"Now (that we have roads) you don't have to pack oil, now it is a lot easier to live. It's a lot more convenient to get fuel, get from place to place, easier to move stuff to build. I don't know, it just makes life much easier with the road access to anything you want to do. They [started to build the roads] in 1974. I was working with ... building em', so it was great, I mean I had a good job. I was getting paid big bucks. I went to two years of college and then I didn't go back ... because I started working on the roads, and I was making more money working on the roads than I would in any job I got after college. So I stayed and worked on the roads for over two years.

PHOTO: MICHELLE JOHNSON

Larry Chichenoff being interviewed in Ouzinkie

"As far as I know, everybody wanted the roads 'cause like I said, all there were before was cow trails, board walks, and stuff that couldn't handle any vehicles. There were no cars or motor bikes in those days. (The roads) were federally funded by B.I.A. Bureau of Indian Affairs came in and built (the roads) but ... it was mostly local guys (that) were hired. There was only one or two supervisors and the rest was local hire. It was all locally built. It was a federal grant, D9's and TV24's, all old cable- driven machinery. They're not even existing any more but there were graders um ... I think there was one hydraulic machine. That little John Deer 450 was the only hydraulic thing we had, but for the bigger stuff like pushing

> **"Before there were roads, you'd have to get oil and pack it to your houses."**
> **Larry Chichenoff**

PHOTO: MICHELLE JOHNSON

Ouzinkie's main road to the dump

rocks and stuff it was all cable- driven D9's graders and a couple of scrapers."

Then we asked him a few questions on how long of a project it would be to build the roads and he simply said, "It took over a couple years." It was quite a long process. Actually like I said it was great because it was local workers." He was obviously proud of the work local people do.

We were rambling about which roads came about first and my uncle Larry said, "The very first one was Third-Street. That's the one from the pit hill ... and then we started building strait up to the intersection of the roads. And then we went up towards the pump house. I think the first one we built was all the ways up to the pump house just to make it easier for the water guy to get up there. So Third-Street was the first street built. I think there's over 2.5 miles, with every little part, including the one to the dump." There have been a lot of people that moved to Ouzinkie in the last 30 years, so we slowly need to build roads for future purposes.

"Well, for expansion I wish we could have more roads built like for the new air strip. The new air strip that will be built in Ouzinkie will be great for us because planes can only land on certain winds and the new air strip will let us have better transportation. They were supposed to build out that away and that would be great for, you know,other housing units and stuff. Hopefully we'll have more roads here, but a bridge to town I don't really agree on that cause that will just allow too many people easy access to here and it's too easy to go to town. There'll be too many people just, you know, cruising through. I don't think anybody agrees with it." There are good things and there are some bad things about a bridge to Kodiak. A bad thing would be too many people on our Island. A good thing is better transportation to Kodiak just like the new airport that will be built.

> **"As far as I know everybody wanted the roads."**
> **Larry Chichenoff**

PHOTO: MICHELLE JOHNSON

The road to the pump house where the village gets there water.

> **"I think there's over 2.5 miles of road with every little part including the one to the dump."**
> **Larry Chichenoff**

After talking to Larry, we have a better understanding of how we got our roads and what it took to get them. We are grateful that we have roads now and didn't have to grow up without them. Life without them would be pretty hard.

They Put Your Culture Inside You

By Curt Azuyak

Photo: Courtesy of Al Cratty

Wanda Price (center) with Old Harbor ALutiiq dancers at Forth of July.

> I love seeing the kids doing it and I just hope they carry the spirit on that was taught to me by my Elders.
>
> -Wanda Price

Alutiiq dancing was once important to our Alutiiq ancestors. Over the past 100 years, the tradition almost died. With the help of Elders such as Larry Matfay, Christine Ignatin, and Mary Haakanson, it has become an important part of Alutiiq culture today. I wanted to learn more about Alutiiq Dancing because it looks fun. The elders wanted us to learn Alutiiq dancing because they wanted to keep the culture going. I specifically wanted to know why dancers wore beading on their heads and to learn how Alutiiq dancing was used in the past and why it is done today.

Wanda Price has had a lot of experience with Alutiiq dancing. She has been teaching the students of Old Harbor for seven years. She learned how to dance when she was in school, and feels that she is still learning today. In addition to being an Alutiiq dancing teacher, she works at Old Harbor School as the secretary and aide. She is an Alaska Native from Kodiak Island and was raised in Old Harbor. She is the daughter of Mary and Sven Haakanson Sr.

Wanda had many teachers. She tells me that Larry Matfay remembered seeing the dancing when he was younger. She explains, "We were taught by Mary Haakanson, Violet Gran, DeeDee Chya, Adrienne Chya, and Wilma Berns. And they were taught by Larry Matfay. So the dancing we do now is taught from our Elders. That's how I learned it." Her teachers wrote down the songs and brought them to school. According to Wanda, they "showed everybody how to do it, and they explained what each movement was. That's how we learned it, step-by-step."

The movements and dancing originated on Kodiak Island. The songs were sung to hunters so that they had a safe journey. In the past, dancing was done to welcome people into their community and to send the hunters off:

"They're doing dancing to represent the animals that they are going to get, and when they get back. They do dances to celebrate the food they brought back." Wanda dances today because she doesn't want the culture to be forgotten. She does it to, "teach our children that our heritage is very strong."

The clothes the dancers wear, or *regalia*, are made from sea otter fur, bear fur, sealion skin, and bear guts. Wanda explains that it is about "using the animals, but not wasting. They'd go hunting, but we used the parts of the animals for their gear." Shoes were not typically worn. They would put bracelets on their ankles to accentuate their movements. Alutiiq dancers wore beads to represent their rank in the clan. The women wore beaded headdresses and the men wore beads on their visors. The more they had, the higher their rank.

Wanda says Alutiiq dancing is "something you never stop learning." She still practices. She is not ashamed to make mistakes, she continues to do her best. "I feel that people shouldn't put people down because they're not saying it right. They should just be proud that each village is trying to put forth the effort to bring the culture back into the dancing." When Wanda needs help with the movements or singing, she looks to her mom, Mary Haakanson, or her daughter, Tasha Price.

Emotionally, Wanda describes to me her feelings about Alutiiq dancing. She feels proud of her dancing skills and for teaching this tradition to the Alutiiq kids. When she dances, she feels proud of her culture and of living in Old Harbor. She says this of Christine Ignatin, Larry Matfay, Polly Tunohun, and Mary Haakanson, the Elders who taught her how to Alutiiq dance: "They put your culture inside you. That makes you proud of who you are ... I love seeing the kids doing it and I just hope they carry the spirit on that was taught to me by my Elders."

Much like in the past, Alutiiq dancing is a way to celebrate events in the village. We celebrate high school graduation, Fourth of July celebrations, and when honoring somebody from the community. It is clear to me that Wanda really likes to dance. Dancing connects her to her ancestors and the pride she feels shows on her face and in her spoken words, "All the stories in all the different villages, the dances are all different now. But it stems from the same heart, the same culture. We all do our movements different but it represents that we are Alaska Native Aleuts from Kodiak Island. That's the way I feel and that's the way I was taught." I admire Wanda for her skills and work in Alutiiq dancing.

Photo: Courtesy of Old Harbor Native Corporation.

Wanda Price druming while kids are dancing.

> We all do our movements different but it represents that we are Alaska Native Aleuts from Kodiak Island.
>
> — *Wanda Price*

Have You or a Family Member Ever Battled an Alcohol Addiction?

By Josh Wilson

My stepdad, Rolf Christiansen, age 36, has. He led a normal childhood: going to school, biking, playing sports, hunting, fishing, and hiking. Rolf was raised and still resides in the village of Old Harbor, Alaska. His grandparents, the late Rolf and Sasha Christiansen, whom he admired, raised him.

At age 12 Rolf had his first encounter with alcohol. "I don't really know why (I tried alcohol. It's probably) because my friends were trying," he said. Peer pressure plays a large part in young adults' lives when it comes to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. "I wanted to fit in, I joined the rest of the kids that were drinking. I thought it was fun until I kept getting into trouble. I just ended up at the wrong place at the wrong time, and they were just having a big party and I just joined them."

When Rolf got into his 20's, "It used to be: drink on birthdays and holidays. Then the next stage was starting to drink for two days (at a time). Then

Rolf Christiansen

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALUTIIQ MUSEUM

"Drinking was hard on my body"

when I got to two days of drinking, I didn't like it. Then I knew I wanted to stop," Rolf explains. Drinking was hard on my body. I became depressed and was very unhappy with the way my life was."

It wasn't until Rolf was 26 when he became aware of his problem: addiction to alcohol. An eye-opener for Rolf was his DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) that he received while in Anchorage. A condition of his DWI was that he was ordered by the court to attend alcohol counseling. He attended nine months of outpatient treatment and watched many videos that made him realize what substance abuse and addiction can do to a person.

Quitting alcohol didn't happen overnight though. It took another five years of struggling before he finally conquered his addiction.

When Rolf first stopped drinking, "All the people that were once my friends were no longer my friends anymore, so that's a change all at once."

Role models played an enormous part in the days Rolf tried to defeat his addiction to alcohol. He credits many Elders, most of whom have deceased, for his journey to sobriety.

"I had the desire to stop I knew there was a better life", Rolf said. He admires his wife, Gwen, and two kids, the remaining elders, and sober, healthy people. "I don't care for alcohol, I don't think I will ever drink it ever again, and I have a wife that doesn't drink and do drugs, and two wonderful kids, and I am determined not to touch alcohol," Rolf states sincerely.

When asked how his life has changed since he stopped drinking, Rolf shared, "My life has changed dramatically! Stopping drinking was only the first step, I changed my entire life. I got a divorce as my ex-wife would not commit to stopping to drink, attended AA meetings, and changed the activities that I once did when I drank."

Many positive things have come Rolf's way the past four years since quitting alcohol, not only a new wife and son, but the discovery of a hidden artistic talent once he became sober.

He learned that he had the gift of a carver. Many of his Alutiiq paddles, masks, and other artwork are all over the world.

"I keep busy carving, spending time with my wife and kids, and subsistence hunting. If I have a problem I talk with our priest and friends, it is not easy. I have problems like anyone else, but the way I choose to deal with them is in a healthy way."

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALUTIIQ MUSEUM

Rolf's Autiiq art

Rolf's advice to the younger generation is, "Not to drink and not to do drugs. Get into your culture and subsistence way of life and choose healthy living. If you don't know what a healthy life is then ask someone, learn. Find an adult role model to teach you. Talk to your Elders, learn your past. Get involved with positive things in your village", Rolf explains.

Addictions are an everyday battle; they are in the back of his mind and never go away. It takes a strong person, their family, friends, and Elders to conquer addiction, day by day. I'm proud to be a part of a family that faces its problems and deals with them as they come. I have learned a lot from Rolf and admire his desire to change and live life to its fullest.

Rolf with his family

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALUTIIQ MUSEUM

"My life has changed dramatically!"

Power to the People

by Geremy Clarion & Matt Delgado

PHOTO: GEREMY CLARION

Hydro Bulding: Housing for the hydro-generator system.

It was about one in the afternoon on Feb. 24th, 2004, when Matt called his grandfather to confirm our interview this afternoon. Once we got the OK from Paul Delgado, we gathered our interview gear and headed out the school door.

When we reached our destination, Paul's house, we were a little wet from Matt's four-wheeler. Walking down the driveway to the front door, we noticed the grass was glistening with fresh rain from that morning. It was still drizzling.

We stepped in the door, and the first thing we noticed was that the lights were on and the TV was blaring, neither of these would be possible without electricity (power) which is the subject of this interview. We looked to the table and Paul was sitting there, ready for the interview. The first words to come out of his mouth were, "Let's get going."

Paul is a 58-year-old grandfather. He is pretty large in stature and has a beard and mustache, both showing signs of gray. On both arms, which he probably wants us to notice, are

Hydro-Generator system inside the building.

PHOTO: GEREMY CLARION.

tattoos, one on each arm. To most people he can be intimidating, but if you get to know him he's kinda jolly, in his own way. Oh yeah, and he is also the number 1 reason we're able to write this article.

He moved to Ouzinkie in 1968 from Sacramento, Calif. Not having a job, he decided to apply for the first one that came along. This just happened to be the same one he's still working. He is the Generator Maintenance Man. His job is to maintain power to the village of Ouzinkie.

PHOTO: GEREMY CLARION

Paul Delgado

Since he was around before Ouzinkie had a large power source, we asked him what it was like before you could go and plug in a T.V. or a microwave. "It was dark," was his response. Following his comment we all broke into laughter. "No it was good. When we didn't have electricity everybody read. I think it was good for the people, everybody, and everyone. I haven't read a book in, in 25 years and I used to read, Zack and me, the mayor Zack traded Louis Lamour pocket books. All kinds of pocket books. Everybody read, and I think it was (a) good education because everyone read. Kids didn't stare at the T.V. all the time, and listen to that kind of music.

" It was a happy life. You lived off the... not necessarily off the land but without all the luxuries we have today. No planes, no... there was just trails... life was good, but technology comes and you get... now we're spoiled. When the lights go off everyone's just dumb, but it was good without it. I'd say it's better now we got the more convenience but we coped with it real good".

> "WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OFF EVERYONE'S JUST DUMB !"
>
> — *PAUL*

He went on to tell us that before electrical lighting became a 24/7 possibility, they used to run only until 10:00 at night. When they went out the people would light up their kerosene lamps. "Everybody had a kerosene lamp, every house had kerosene lamps, two or three of them. Lights would go off at 10:00 and you'd fire up the kerosene lamps".

When we asked how life was harder, he had one straight, and simple answer. "No microwave, no coffee pots, no hot water tanks. Life was just totally different".

Going ahead in the timeline a bit, we questioned Paul about how electricity came to be in the village of Ouzinkie. What he told us next is what threw us off our hypothesis about him running the power source since it first came to be. Paul told us that when he started off in the power business in Ouzinkie there was already some power supplied by the existing cannery generators. He also explained that the power being supplied was only used for powering lights in the houses, and only a few houses had this technology. "They were grateful for light, that's all they had, nobody had nothing electric to plug in, just the light bulbs." They didn't have to read with a flickering kerosene, you know we had to trim wicks and stuff."

After Paul explained this fully to us, he started in about when he started working, and the things that started to happen, "We had the cannery here and they gave the village electricity off their power, and then when the cannery pulled out they left the generators here. That's when I started. We used to run it from eight to ten at night cause of (the cost of) fuel."

He then continued to tell us about the city developing, and needing more power. "The city started becoming a real city, fourth class or something like that, and we got grants to upgrade the system. We started running 24 hours a day. The generator at the school used to run the village, and I used to run that".

Following the installments of the generators, the growing population and modernization of the village demanded more power! Having no choice but to acknowledge the village needs, about twelve years ago, the city installed a hydroelectric dam. This proved to be a perfect solution for the power problem, but even today, there are times when people are put in the dark from long dry spells mainly in the dry times in summer and frozen days of winter. When this happens, especially in the winter days people must resort to the now, ever so popular, candles. But we do cope.

Transitioning to more recent times, we questioned our interviewee about changes electricity had caused. He admitted that, even though life was simple, and good before electricity, the kerosene lamp and a good book are no match for a light bulb and ESPN (Entertainment Sports Network). Paul has seen, and caused many changes in our small village's power supply, and he has given us this small portion of what he knows and thinks about it in this interview.

Now, in ending this article we hope that if you are reading this right now, you have a better understanding of the changes in our little town since the deliverance of POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

PHOTO: GEREMY CLARION

Matt Delgado interviewing Paul Delgado at his house.

My Life as a Teenager

By Clara Anderson and Amber Panamarioff

"In my teenage years, I had a beautiful relationship with my parents. There were four girls and a brother. We all respected them very highly until we got out on our own and then we messed up,"Tania Chichenoff said. We had gone to see Tania Chichenoff because we wanted to interview her on her teenage years.

Tania Chichenoff grew up in Karluk. Her parents were Larry and Katie Ellanak. She has three sisters and a brother: Kathy, Lilly, Angeline and Daniel. She moved to Ouzinkie when she was 17. She had to move to Ouzinkie with her family. Her father was needed in Ouzinkie, where he became the new church reader. Tania is now a village Elder in Ouzinkie. She has eight children, 35 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Tania Chichenoff
Photo by: Amber Panamarioff

> "In my teenage years I had a beautiful relationship with my parents."
> Tania Chichenoff

Tania Chichenoff began by telling us about the games she used to play in Karluk. One was called lapture.

"We were brought up in Karluk on the island. We played lapture. All kinds of games we played. Hoops ... jump rope. One of course, tag. We played all kinds of games that they don't do nowadays." In "Hoops" you use the hoop from a wooden barrel. You would roll the hoop along the road using a stick.

Listening to Tania we realized that games in the past were fun, and didn't cost a lot of money. Games we play today cost money - like riding bikes,electric games,or just shopping. Life was simpler,but still fun for Tania.

The game lapture is still played today. Lapture is played by splitting people into two groups. There are two bases. One group is behind the first base, up to bat. Each member can take one hit at the ball. If a batter hits the ball a good safe distance, he then runs to the other base. If a batter does not hit the ball he lines up behind the base and waits for a good hit. If there is only one batter left and no one has made a run to the other base and back the last batter can take three swings. If the last batter (who took three swings) never hits the ball, one other member can take two additional swings.

PHOTO: CLARA ANDERSON

Devin and Wylder playing lapture on the Sandy Beach

The outfield team is spread out. The outfielder has to try to catch the ball. And if he doesn't catch the ball, he has to try to hit the person who is running.

We asked her what she did for fun with her friends. She went on to explain: "Went for walks. We actually mostly stayed at home doing stuff, and we never got to go out until we were done with totally whatever we had to do.Then we would go out ... just for a walk, and of course, I had to be in at a certain time." She had to be in by 7 o'clock. Today it's different. Kids today have to be in by 9:30 or 10:00 p.m.

Tania always had something to do. Even though she didn't have a job, she always had chores to do.

"First thing in the morning after breakfast, we had to wash dishes,sweep floors,make beds... and then same thing after lunch. Never got to do anything until we got our chores done. We washed dishes again, sweep again, and then maybe we get to go out.

We asked what her most important chore was. " I suppose ironing. In those days you had to iron everything". After that we asked her what would happen if you didn't do your chores and she said, "We just didn't even think of not doing it. We just did it. We didn't think of not (doing chores). It was no, no problem! We just did."

We asked her if there was ever a time she didn't have to do chores, "No, no never, never. Let's see I was 17 when I moved here. Up till then I still did whatever I had to do when we .... moved here." Today some teenagers have to do chores, and some of us don't. Many of the chores we do, would be different than the chores Tania did. Chores today might include taking out the trash, doing dishes, laundry, keeping our rooms clean, or housekeeping.

It was clear that Tania really enjoyed being a teenager despite the chores. It was a

good time in her life.

Tania mentions that there were more dances for teenagers back then. Today we have dances too, but not as much as she experienced growing up. Her teenage life was so much different than our teenage life is right now.

"When I was a teenager we went to dances, had fun." She loved being a teenager. There was nothing hard about being a teenager. "There was no problems with it."

We asked her what a typical day at school was for her and she said, "Well, we only had one teacher. Her name was Mrs. Bingham ... one first through eighth grade. We had a regular math,reading ... regular school,school stuff. I don't even think I finished the eighth grade. I didn't. I went to seventh grade, maybe in Karluk ... but I didn't go to school here (in Ouzinkie) I actually don't remember too much of my school years."

As we sat and listened to Tania we could hear her sense of enjoyment about her teenage years in her voice. We could tell that she loved being a teenager. At times we feel being a teenager is tough today. But, after listening to Tania we realize that there were more chores back then. They had just as much fun in past years as we do now, but in different ways.

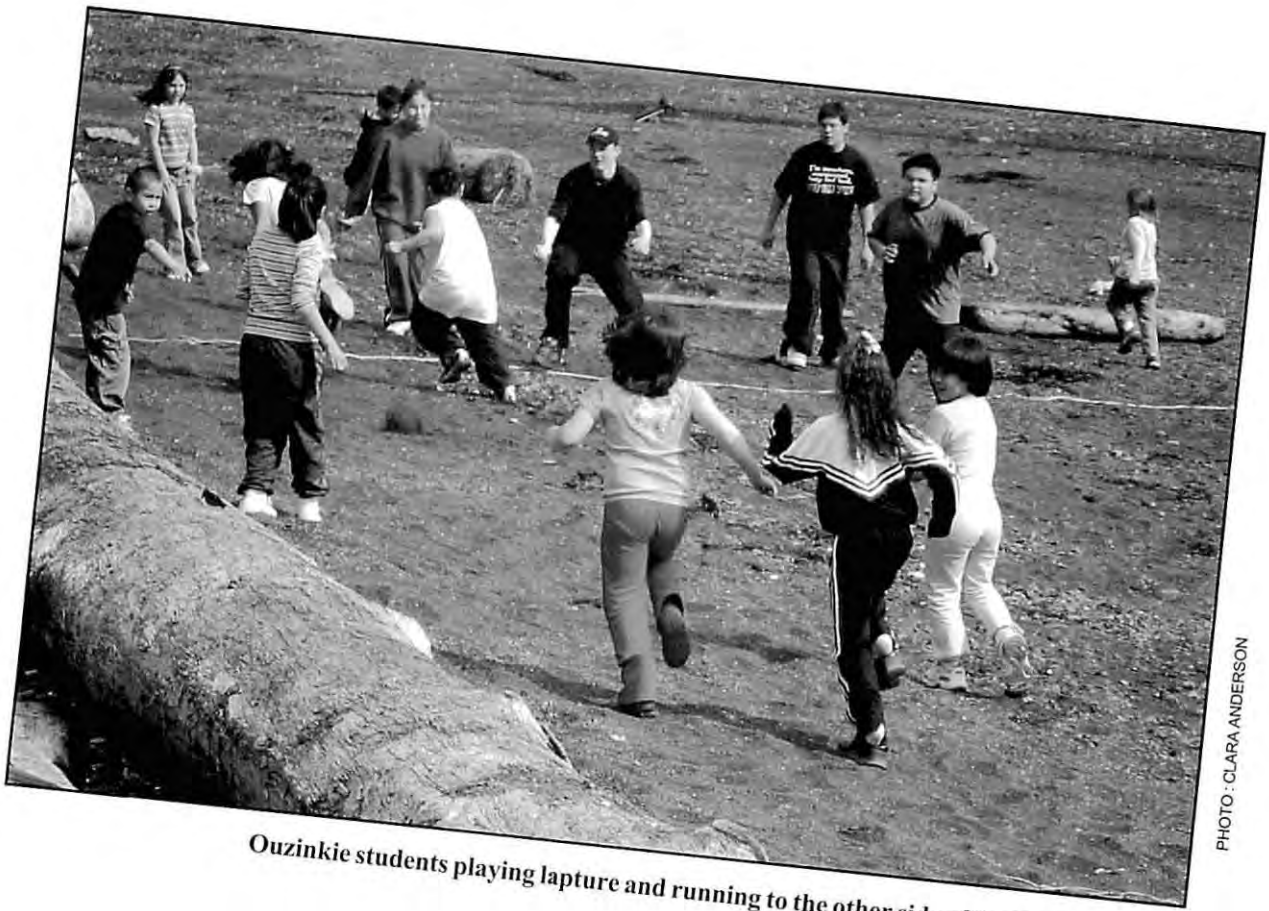


PHOTO : CLARA ANDERSON

Ouzinkie students playing lapture and running to the other side of the line.

A Summer in Port Hobron

George Inga's unforgetable memories of a whaling station

By Wesley Christiansen
Layout by fawn chya

Photo courtesy of Glenna Christiansen

Whalers in the early 1900's processing whale meat.

I have been by Port Hobron many times; I even went to it once. It is 4 miles from Old Harbor to the whaling station on Sitkalidak Island. Today you can see a dried-up boat, rusty old tanks, and a broken-up dock. I bet there's still some oil in these tanks. I have always wondered what that place was like when it was open. I wanted to know what Port Hobron was like when it was a processing station. George Inga ("Papa George") has been around for many years. He grew up in Old Harbor and knows a lot about what has happened around this area. He is a respected Elder who shares the history of this area with whoever is interested. I thought he might know about Port Hobron. I was right, he told me that he was over there in 1934.

Papa George told me about the time he stayed at Port Hobron. "I was about 8 or 9 years old when I spent the summer in Port Hobron, probably 1934, cause whaling station closed in 1935. I spent the summer there, my two brothers were working there …," Papa George said. He moved over there with his mom, his sister, and his brothers.

Photo taken by Peggy Stoltenberg

What remains of the whaling station.

"Sometimes there would be five or six tied up at the pillings."
-George Inga

He talked about going down to see how many whales had been brought in the night before. "Sometimes there would be five or six tied up to the pilings," he said.

There were three boats that would bring the whales in. The Aberdeen was one of the big, iron boats. They would bring in Humpback and Sperm whales. "Sometimes in day time, they would come in with two whales on each side towing them," he explained.

Papa George described how they moved the whales from the dock to the top of a hill where they processed the meat: "Them winches must have been pretty strong, they tied them by tails you know and they pulled them all the way up to the top on the flat place where they processed them." After the whales got to the top of the hill, three men would start cutting them up with a curved-shape knife. His words drew a picture in my head, "They start cutting the blubber skin length wise about a foot each by a foot wide all the way from the back to the front and... They would tie up a chain or cable to one end and then they pull it with the winch just like peeling an orange with the winch."

After they cut the fat off, the workers hooked them and pulled them to the boiler tanks. Papa George explained, "They had about 10 big boilers right even with the floor. They towed them there and dropped them in there, every bit of it."

I was curious about what happened to all the oil and meat after they were processed, "They shipped it, they used them for something," Papa George said. "The freighter *Denali* would come and get the oil and then the bones." There was a big shoot going down to the water. They used to put the scraps of whale meat and guts

Whalers at work during the early 1900's.

Photo courtesy of Glenna Christiansen

"Once in a while they would let everything go."
-George Inga

down the shoot. "Once in a while, they let everything go…," Papa George exclaimed. He remembers one time when they were going in the skiff and the shoot almost dumped on him. He was excited telling that story.

Then he began to tell me about the workers at Port Hobron. There were two warehouses where the workers stayed. The workers wore boots with spikes on the bottom, "Long, sharp ones," Papa George explains. The walks would be covered with slime. They would use them to walk on top of the whale too. Jack Spurns was the foreman at the whaling station. Papa George said, "He wasn't stingy for the meat." He would give the meat away to people who came over from Old Harbor. When Papa George talked about him, I could really tell he respected the man.

> "SOMETIMES IN DAYTIME THEY WOULD COME IN WITH TWO WHALES ON EACH SIDE TOWING THEM"
>
> – GEORGE INGA

They were killing too many whales so they had to shut the whaling station down. "There's no … processor any place in Alaska, I don't think," Papa George told me. I am glad I had this chance to talk with Papa George and learn about what Port Hobron was like. When I go by there from now on, I will think about the workers cutting the meat and fat off of the whales.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENNA CHRISTIANSEN

Whale carcus.

"Can't Do Too Many High Kicks When You're 80 Years Old"

By: Phillip Christman
Gabe Edwards
Shea Sargent
Tim Kimmel

PHOTO: NED GRIFFIN

Betty Reid in her early 80's

"...Can't do too many high kicks when you're 80 years old," chuckled Chiniak's own, Betty Reid, World War II veteran and former professional dancer. As a young girl growing up in Ventura, Calif. during the Great Depression, she was fortunate to be able to take ballet lessons because her father had a steady job as an oil worker.

Unfortunately, her potential career as a dancer was postponed due to the United States entering World War II. For patriotic reasons, she joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) in 1943. Even though men only had to be 17 years old to enlist, women had to be 21. Since Betty was only 20, she needed her parents consent. When asked why she signed up, she replied: "Well, I almost had to. It was after Pearl Harbor and they were killing all my friends."

She had no idea what she was about to embark upon.

Her first assignment was an aviation metalsmith. "Because I had worked in an aircraft factory before I went in, they thought I had some mechanical abilities ... (but) I wanted to be a pharmacist's mate."

She was then posted to a big Navy hospital in Samson, N.Y. where she saw images that would stay with her for the rest of her life. Most of the patients were undernourished and shot up, and got tuberculosis easily. Back then, the only way they knew how to treat TB was by doing a pneumothorax.

"They'd poke a needle in your side and collapse one of your lungs, and that was so the other lung would work by itself, and the other one could heal up. When that one got a little better they would collapse the opposite one," Betty said.

When all else failed, they would perform a lobectomy (removal of lobes from a lung), which in many cases resulted in death.

Betty recalls the very first operation she took part in. She was the scrub nurse, the one that hands the doctors the instruments.

"You're already sterile. Somebody else ties you up and everything and you got gloves on already. For some reason one of the operations was ... postponed or something. And so I had stood there for an hour or two while, you know, just standing still like that and then this operation was almost over. This patient was lying on the (operating table) ... he had a spinal or something. He could talk and everything, so he said. I fainted. I fell down. I just about, you know, had my knees collapse. And the first thing I knew, there was somebody on each side of me, you know, easing me down to the floor. And they laid me down on the floor beside the operating table there. And this guy looked at me and said,

When asked why she signed up, she replied, "Well, I almost had to. It was after Pearl Harbor and they were killing all my friends."

'Who's the patient, you or me?'"

Betty's experiences also led to witnessing some medical techniques that by today's standards seem almost medieval.

She described other methods used to strengthen and mend the human body. "...Another guy had his finger shot off ... so they had to have some flesh there, so they took it and they sewed it to his stomach ... and bandaged (it) there and everything and he had to leave it there till flesh grew onto his hand and they left it there so he could get some (flesh) so he could move his hand again."

As if that weren't bad enough, another man had his leg wound cleaned in an unusual way. "I remember one guy and they would use maggots if they couldn't scrape all that (dead flesh) off. They'd put a tent over there (to keep them contained). I don't think he knew it was real maggots but they would eat the rotten part, you know. They would get down to the good part of his leg and then ... they wouldn't eat the good part but they'd eat all the rotten slimy stuff."

Upon being honorably discharged in 1946, Betty received the Victory, American Theater of War, Good Conduct, and the Ruptured Duck medals. The Ruptured Duck was the name everyone gave to the Golden Eagle medal issued upon leaving the military. When she left the service, she decided to use the G.I. Bill to pursue her interest in dancing. She attended the American School of Dance and took lessons from Arthur Prince and Madam Nijinska (sister of the famous ballet artist, Vaslav Nijinski).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BETTY REID

Betty Reid in the Military

"She was a funny one. She'd smoke this big long cigarette while she was dancing and teaching ... She'd go around with her stick, you know, and she'd tap people, like tuck your hips under and put your chin up and chest out." With her newly acquired skills, Betty moved to Kodiak Island in 1953 to begin teaching dance classes on the Naval Station.

At that time, Kodiak was much smaller than it is today.

"It was little tiny dirt roads, no pavement at all. About every other place was a bar... and a whole bunch of canneries...and three churches."

This was before the big earthquake of 1964.

"I was a cashier on the base. It was ... a little after quitting time and all the people upstairs in the office and the girls and all the people in the store had already gone home. I was still in there counting the money and this light starts swinging back and forth hitting walls on both sides. (I) turned the radio on, and it said, 'Everybody head for high ground.' So I went out on the steps in front of the exchange where it is now ... and I could see across where those ramps are down into the water where the hangar is and all of a sudden, that thing emptied out and you could see the bare bottom of the ocean there."

A 1953 Dance Brochure

After all the commotion had died down, she noticed two great big buoys sitting way up by the hangar where the gas station was. Betty went up to a house on Aviation Hill and listened on a transistor radio.

"And they were telling me about Kodiak. (It) was, you know, washed off the face of the earth. No more Kodiak, they said. (People) tried to send messages and stuff but they couldn't do it."

In 1972, Betty bought land in Chiniak and began to build herself a home with just a hand axe and saw. At that time, life was hard because there wasn't electricity in Chiniak for 15 more years. She cut branches to burn in a stove to cook food and keep warm. Over the years, she made many improvements to her home that made it comfortable and cozy. She even had another house built on the other end of Chiniak. To this day, she still lives independently.

After learning about her unique experiences and self-sufficiency, we gained more respect for Betty Reid. She has shown us that you don't need a lot of things to have a pleasant life. Before the interview, we only knew Betty as a gentle, grandmotherly figure who always smiles. Despite all the hardships she has been through, she still seems like a carefree and happy person. She is proof that you can lead a fulfilling, individualistic life.

When asked if she would change anything in her past, Betty simply replied, "I don't know, I'd guess I would do pretty much the same."

What does she like best about Chiniak? "I like to go fishing. I like catching silvers," she chuckled.

Did she ever think about moving away from Kodiak? "Well... I mean I've lived here 50 years, you know, so that's most of my life. I wouldn't know where else to go because ... I like it here so I don't have any intentions of moving away."

" That's The Toughest Job I Ever Had"

Story By: Kirstin Bennett-Balluta & Lovett Panamarioff
Layout: LaRissa Panamarioff

PHOTO: JAKE OSWALT (COURTESY OF THE ALUTIIQ MUSEUM)

A photo of the Ouzinkie cannery taken in the late 1940's.

Finding a job in Ouzinkie is hard, but it didn't use to be that way. Canneries used to provide plenty of jobs here. After the Ouzinkie cannery got washed away in the 1964 tidal wave, many people lost their jobs or moved to other places where there were canneries. We wanted to know what it was like to work in a cannery, so we asked Alma Soderberg to describe her point of view.

Alma was born and raised in Ouzinkie. Her parents are Tim Panamarioff Sr. and Alice Panamarioff. She was born in 1940 and is now an elder. She works as a janitor for the Ouzinkie Native Corporation. She has lived in Ouzinkie her whole life, but worked in many places away from Ouzinkie because she had to find work. She is well known and respected by everybody.

She started working in the cannery in Ouzinkie when she was 17 years old in 1957. How did she start working there? She told us. "Well being that I quit school, I had to do something, and I was anxious to start working. They needed workers down there at the time, those Kadiak Fisheries of Kodiak."

When she started working in the cannery, her first job was on the pick line. She said, " I was on what they call the pick line where the crab meat came down and pick you know, little excess shells...I think...I don't remember if that's all I was doing. That was

quite a bit of years ago." She laughed, "But I think that's what mainly I did."

Alma's cheerful response when we asked her how she liked working in the canneries was, "I loved it, I did." Inevitably like everything else, there were pro's and con's about her job. Alma liked earning money and meeting new people, but she didn't like that she had to get up so early in the morning, and get cold. "We used to get pretty cold," she said.

What she thought of the boss was that she liked him. She said, "My big boss was very, very nice. I still like him today, and my floor lady was really nice too. Like I said, everyone got along. I got along with everyone. I guess they were really nice. They were fair, very fair, to everyone if you did your job. You never got recommended [to get fired], they were wonderful and gave everyone a chance. As long as everyone worked, everything went fine."

PHOTO: LOVETT PANAMARIOFF

Alma at her home in Ouzinkie during our interview.

Her boss was very helpful. If you needed a break she would give you a little extra break and take your place if you couldn't be there. She worked just like them, both for Alma and her co-workers. She definitely helped around everywhere.

You had a lot of co-workers in a cannery. They were from all over, all kinds of different nationalities. There were Caucasian, Filipino, Alaskan Native, Japanese and many more. "Well I think it was very important... to get along with your co-workers. I still think till this day you should get along with everybody you know, and most everyone [back then] did."

We wanted to know what a typical day was like, from the time she woke up until the time she went home from work. "I got up, ate breakfast, took a shower and didn't have too much time to get ready. [Then I'd] go to work, have our coffee breaks, work until lunch hour, go back to work at 1, have another break at 3 o'clock get off at 5. Sometimes we'd even go back at 6 till about 8 o'clock, 8-9 at night. It depended on how much crab you had to get done that day."

Alma worked in many canneries. She told us she has worked in a crab cannery, shrimp cannery, and an oyster cannery. She said, "That's the toughest job I ever had, schucking oysters, don't ever do it. It's really hard," she laughed. Alma worked in many places as a cannery worker. She worked in Alitak, Uganik, Larsen Bay, Port Lions, Old Harbor, Kodiak, and Ouzinkie.

We asked if women got treated any different than men. She said, "No, no, uh uh, I think they were all treated equal ... when I worked anyway."

As we sat and listened to Alma we thought about how good it must have been to have canneries. Now that we don't have them around anymore, there are a lot of people without jobs. In addition to jobs, canneries also provided a chance for people to meet others from around the world and an opportunity to travel.

From Boys to MEN

By: LaRissa Panamarioff and Martha Ann Johnson

PHOTO BY: MARTHA ANN JOHNSON

Dave Campfield was born in 1947, in a place called Tolary, Calif. He was raised in Seattle and moved to Ouzinkie in 1990 after marrying his wife, Angeline, who had already lived in Ouzinkie practically all her life and didn't feel like moving away. His parents were Loren Campfield and Bessy Brooks. Dave is a Vietnam War veteran and we decided to interview him on his experiences in the military. We learned a lot from him during our interview and it was very interesting to hear what he had to say.

> **"The first time you get shot at is not a lot of fun, I'll tell you. Either you get used to it or it drives you nuts!"**
>
> ***— Dave Campfield***

He started by explaining how he entered the military at the age of 17.

"I went through the 10th ... grade into the 11th, and then I quit school and went into the service. I just wanted to get outta Seattle. It was growing pretty fast and the Vietnam War was going on. Most of my older buddies were already enlisting or drafted into the army, and I thought darn, you know, I don't wanna stick around here if they are all going, ya know, I wanna be with 'em. So at that particular point in time, there was seven of us that enlisted into the buddy program and we went through boot camp together. So that way you got to be with someone you knew. I spent nine years and six months in the military.

"I talked my dad into signing me up for the military, and that was in ... February of 1965 ... I was inducted into the service after my dad signed the papers. Two weeks later I was flying off to San Diego to go to boot camp. I was ordered from boot camp right directly to a carrier. We bombed the coast of North Vietnam and South Vietnam there in 1965-66 crews which lasted for ... six and a half to seven months and there I was aboard the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk. From there I transitioned back to the states and went through a squadron B-A 113 and

we were stationed back aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise ... I was going through more and more schooling, all the time. So it was pretty interesting.

"I continued my education while I was in the service. That's what qualified me for a lot of things I did while I was in the service. I basically grew up in the service ... I mean we grew from boys to men in that war. You talk to anyone of those Vietnam vets and they'll tell you the same thing. In five minutes you go from a teenager to a man. How long you want your life to be. You're gonna perform well. You're gonna perform well, you're gonna go out there and what you have to do to survive this thing, and it's not unlike any other part of life, the unknown, it's like when you're looking for a job. What do I want to do? Well, you throw yourself in the middle of it, and work your way out of it. That's what combat is. There's a bad spot there, they throw you in as a team and you work your way out of it. You keep God on your side.

"I finally got a chance in 1967 to put in for Navy Special Forces. They were having a lot of problems to get Navy people in country Vietnam and the Navy Special Forces which was the riverboats and Seal Team One, were having a big problem getting people to support them. So anyway, I re-enlisted in 1968 ... and they sent me off to the Special Forces school in Coronado Beach down there in San Diego. Then I left them just before they sent me into their buds training. That is their hellfire, up all night, combat training that the Seals go through. We leave them at that point and go through Camp Pendleton for our heavy-weapons training. Our only job is to operate with them and our close support for the gun support so I didn't wanna go through buds (training) with them bullying me. I, in no way, shape, or form would ever want to hafta go through anymore of their training than I, what I put up with.

"The first time you get shot at is not a lot of fun, I'll tell you. Either you get used to it or it drives you nuts. But it was something. We'd all come in there, a bunch of newbies. You know, it wasn't just run and go hide in the bunker kind of thing, it was go out there and get the bad guys. So that was a lot more fun than waiting for someone to throw a grenade in your bunker, or some doggone thing. I didn't like going into a bunker because ... there was no other place to go, and one of the bad guys could come in there, and throw a grenade and get you all just that easy. It's a whole lot better to be out there and fighting it out than be sitting in one place like a sitting duck.

> **"There was 55,000 men that lost their lives in that war. In 1974 we watched it all go back to North Vietnam. You know, that was a real tear jerker for a lot of Vietnam vets."**

Dave Campfield in his home in Ouzinkie during our interview.

"When you're in the military you want to turn around and get as much training as you can, you know, so that you're worth something to em', otherwise they're gonna put you on the ground and you take this rifle and you're gonna go over there and do this. It's a little different when you're flight crew so that you have some choices.

"I was in TET offensive '68 and got outta there. In fact, I was ordered outta there. I finally got out of Vietnam in 1969 and I had 45 minutes to pack. They came down and said 'Campfield, where's Campfield!?' I was in the gun shop and I said 'over here.' He says 'You're on the next plane outta here, you gotta go, there's no two ways about it!' I said 'man all I want is a duffle bag! Anyone wants my crap can have it, I'm outta here!'

"I flew the 145 miles to Saigon. You're just all tensed up ya know, something's gonna go, something's gonna happen here. Cause you know we're wondering if were gonna get a rocket attack or something, and we're all sitting there, everybody's quiet, and most of us sitting there with our eyes closed, and finally they close the door to the airplane. Pretty soon the jets' accelerating down the runway, and sets you back in the seats, and then you hear the wheel going, and all of a sudden everybody just starts hollering and clapping. Anyways, the captain comes over the speaker and he laughs and says 'This isn't the first load of you guys I've pulled out of here' he says, 'soon as we're up to altitude were gonna serve the beer!' Kinda still gives me the goose bumps to think of it. Not a lot of guys were lucky enough to ride out of there alive. There was 55,000 (men that) lost their lives over that war. In 1974 we watched it all go back to North Vietnam. You know, that was a real tearjerker for a lot of Vietnam vets. We weren't very warmly received. We weren't heroes in the eyes of the... nation because we were over there doing this dirty, nasty, police job that nobody else wanted, but we functioned well and we did our jobs well. The Army, the Marine's, the Navy and the Air force, the Coast Guard were there, the National Guard was there. Everybody did a helluva job, but there'd be no pat on the backs. (We'd) be just lucky to get outta there with our lives."

Despite the unwelcome return, he doesn't regret it."I'd do it all (again) just the way I did it. I wasn't the most successful person or anything like that, but as human nature shows, you are better off to be where you're at, than to change anything else, at my age, so anything you do, do well ... accept your mistakes and move on. That's the way to do it."

PHOTO BY: MARTHA ANN JOHNSON

Dave Campfield at his home in Ouzinkie, relaxed during our interview.

Generational Change

By Marcella Amodo, Donene Eluska, and Samantha Kahutak

PHOTO: GEOFF BECHTOL

From left to right: Marcella Amodo, Florence Pestrikoff, Donene Eluska, and Samantha Kahutak.

"I got married at 17, had my first child at 17," Florence said. Today, getting married at 17 seems very uncommon because there aren't very many people getting married in their teens. After learning this, and other things about Florence's life, we started comparing our lives with hers. This comparison helped us understand how her way of life was different from ours.

Like Florence, most Akhiok students were born in Akhiok. She describes that she, "was born right here in Akhiok in 1937 to Martha Naumoff who was from Karluk and Larry Matfay who lived here in Akhiok."

Florence believes that they played outside more than kids do now. "Let me see, well, there was a lot of playing outdoors. More than today cause we made up our own games. I think a lot of it was handed down from the adults."

She explained to us that she never got bored, there were always things to do, especially at home. "We did certain things only certain times of the year. I think it was a good thing because it kept us looking forward to something. It wasn't boring and it was something. I don't think we ever... I never felt bored. There was a lot of work to be done around the whole house. I think of it now as just survival. It was a lot of preparation for the winter and in the fall. It was a different kind of work when I was growing up."

We are glad to see that the hunting and preparing for the winter still goes on today, but it surprised us because she made us realize how much easier it is for us now than it was for them then. Now, we have the ATVs and we no longer have to cut wood for the stoves.

After telling us about some aspects of her childhood, we asked her if she could explain to us what school was like for her.

"We went to school. School started at 9 o'clock, the first bell rang at 8:30 a.m. and it was pulled by a rope. You see those pictures in some books that have a bell? Just one bell. We felt privileged to ring that bell, and the second bell was at 8:45 a.m. and we better be in the school by 8:45 a.m. I remember being late twice maybe more than that, but I do remember standing in the corner. The teacher would make us stand, facing the corner because we were late, time out I guess. For myself, I don't remember being treated mean. I liked school. I thought it was a good experience."

The one thing that caught us by surprise was that she said she was never treated mean. There are so many stories about school that we heard of back then of kids getting hit with rulers and getting hit with belt buckles that it surprised us to hear one of our Elders say that has never happened to her. I can't imagine having to go to school and not being able to speak the language that my parents raised me to speak and get in trouble for using it at school. Today, it's against the law to do that to students and when you hear about what our Elders had to go through to get an education, you begin to appreciate what we have today, including the laws.

She also told us how the grades only went to eighth grade and after the eighth grade, they had to finish school at Mount Edgecumbe.

"Before I left Akhiok, Nick Alokli and I went to Mount Edgecumbe. This was in 1950. I was so homesick. I cried the whole nine months. It wasn't easy for us to come back home; you know people didn't have the money so I stayed there. I went to the principal's office. I told him 'I want to go home!' I'm crying. He wouldn't send me home, so in the spring when we came back, I didn't want to go back to Mt. Edgecumbe."

Now, our schools go through 12th grade and we don't have to go to school anywhere else, which we are so thankful that we don't.

"My gosh, can you imagine only getting mail two times a month?"

— Marcella Amodo

After she went to school she went to Old Harbor and worked in the postal service for over 20 years.

"I went to Old Harbor, I got married at 17, had my first child at 17, had a lot of kids, got my first job working at the post office. It was hard for me. We had no telephone, I couldn't call to get instructions. I guess I did OK. I did work for over 20 years in Old Harbor then I moved to Kodiak and worked at the main post office there for a while."

There are a lot more options we have for jobs now in the village, like health aids, VPSO, and jobs for the different corporations; but we have to at least have a high school diploma. GED's are starting to not be enough to get a job anymore. So for us, we find getting a job to be more difficult than it was back then only because we need so many different requirements and take so many tests.

"We would receive mail twice a month if we were lucky. The mail boat's name was uh...the Shuyak when we look out the window here the weather is nice, the little spots there where it clear, you can see the ocean. That's where we would see the boat. People all over the town, the village, would look out that way when the boat was expected. It was an exciting day.

"My mom and dad took me with them quite often whenever the boat came around maybe three or four times a year. We would go around the island. See my mom was from Karluk so she would take me with her to Karluk just to visit her relatives. We would stay there probably a month because the boat would go from Akhiok to Karluk then got to different places all over the island until we reach Kodiak. From Kodiak, it would go on the other side of the island Old Harbor, Port Lions, then to Akhiok the next time. It came back from Kodiak and we would stay there most of the time."

My gosh, can you imagine only getting mail two times a month? In this day and age, we are able to receive mail two to three times a week because of all the planes we have. Not only do we receive mail on the planes but instead of taking a boat to town, all we have to do is jump on a plane.

Florence has learned a lot from her past experiences. One of those experiences was learning the Alutiiq language. We were surprised when she told us how she hadn't grown up speaking the language but she learned it by listening.

"See, I didn't grow up speaking it, I listened. Well, I must have been a good listener. I heard my mom and dad speaking at other people in the village."

Florence explained how she learned Alutiiq, "There was some little children, all of them spoke Alutiiq, I'd listen to them."

Florence's ability to speak Alutiiq has allowed her to become an Alutiiq language instructor. She started teaching Alutiiq in 1993.

" In Kodiak there was somebody by the name of Philomena Knecht that needed somebody to help with the Alutiiq language. We had a project at the high school. I had some, uh, white students that did pretty good, did really well with the sounds. It didn't go off too well, we did it only one semester, then we tried it again the next year at the college with the adults. There were a few people, we did some videoing, doing TPR. That's total immersion. We didn't speak English at all, only gesturing you know, pointing, acting out. That was fun and of course funding ran out so that was no longer done. Then, Shauna Hegna and April Laktonen-Councellor, talked to Sven Haakanson Jr. and required the museum to have a Alutiiq language program.

"He contacted me. The Alutiiq language is really pretty simple. Once you get the stem words, I can go off on that, but I won't. I hope it picks up here. It's pretty neat. One of you ladies will do it one of these days, be an apprentice. That would be nice. That's where I am today, doing that kind of stuff."

Florence is currently working as a language instructor at the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak.

As the interview came to an end, that was when the thought of comparing our lives with her's came to mind. It surprised us at how much lifestyles can change over time. We discovered how much easier our lives are now having the technology that we have. I mean there were no telephones, computers, electricity, etc. back when Florence was our age. It is hard to picture ourselves without having those things because we're used of the lifestyle we have now.

After the interview was over, it made us wonder how we would be able to live without the things we have today. Her childhood compared to ours seems like two different worlds.

Florence is a great role model for all of us. Throughout her life, she was faced with challenges such as learning the Alutiiq language by listening to adults speak it, working in a post office without any experience, and raising a family at a young age. She didn't look at them as problems she *had* to do deal with, she lived up to them because she knew that it was part of life.

Someone Special

PHOTO: GEOFF BECHTOL

Florence Pestrikoff

Poem By: Samantha Kahutak

Sitting there waiting till my question comes up.
She's sitting there talking when my question comes up.
Shaky like a kitten.
My question is answered.
She will wait till another person has another question to ask.

She's sitting there,
looking at all of our faces so she could remember us,
she asks me to write down our names so she could remember whose name goes with whom.

She leaves the next day,
I had fun trying to know how her life was,
when she was a kid, and when she grew up.
I'm here now writing a poem about her so I won't forget about her till I see her,
next time I see her.

Life as a Fisherman

By Jon Panamarioff and Devin Skonberg

PHOTO: DEVIN SKONBERG

Jimmy drinking coffee at the Corporation

It was 7:10 a.m. when we walked in to the warm, cozy house that belongs to Jimmy Skonberg and his family. There are pictures all over the walls, all types of artwork and beadwork that his wife, Marie Skonberg does. Jimmy was sitting at the dining room table reading the paper. The first thing we heard when he walked in the door was, "I've been expecting you."

Jimmy started his fishing career in Chignik. He got his first crewmember job in 1962 when he was 13. Of course he fished before that, but never as a crewmember. That was on his uncle Harold Skonberg's 32-footer, the Sun. He fished in Chignik until 1968. After that, he fished in Kodiak.

The first boat that Jim ever ran was a Whitney Fildalgo Company boat named the Caradene. He ran that boat for two years. The first year he ran it, he ran it in Kodiak. After that he ran it in Chignik. Since then, Jimmy has run seven boats. The boat he's running now is the biggest. It's the F/V Lorena Marie. It's a 42-foot LeClerq. The next biggest boat was the previous one, it was a 38-footer. It was wooden. Jimmy also named that boat the Lorena Marie.

We know that Jimmy has a lot of experience on the water, so we asked him to share some rough-weather stories with us.

"Most of the time when someone gets into a dangerous situation, they really don't realize it till afterwords, that you know, the dangers that were involved, but uh, I don't know if I'd call it a dangerous situation or not, but I've popped my windows out of my boats ... I think four different times now. Three times with the other boat (old "Lorena Marie") I owned, and I knocked the windows outta this one here on a Northeaster but uh, it was a little scary and exciting but uh, once it was over with, I don't know if it was dangerous or not.

The only real danger that I was in where I was actually scared for a while was uh, when we got into a hundred mile blow outside of Yakutat one year. We were out in that stuff for about 30 hours I guess. We uh, kind of didn't think we were gonna get out of it. But it was a strange feeling because after a while, you were just out there trying to get out of it. The fear was gone you know, we kind of accepted what was gonna happen, but we obviously made it, I'm here." He chuckled. "That was the Lady Lee, it was 54-foot steel boat. Yeah, I think it was about 54-feet over all, but it felt like a toy out there in those waves. At one particular instance during that trip we had our anchor light, you know, up in front there, and the screws came out, and uh, it was hanging down on a about a 6-inch chunk of wire, you know, and uh it was swinging and hitting the window real hard and uh I had to time the swells and Bobo and I were on wheel watch and so I got a pair of wire cutters and, that was probably the fastest I've ever moved. We came up on one swell, I ran up cut the light off and I was back in the wheel house before the boat went down into the next wave." He chuckled as he remembered the harrowing experience.

"If I stumbled, I probably would have got

washed over the side, or off the stern. But uh, we had to do it you know, it was kind of like no choice you know sooner or later it would've busted our windows. Of course I was a lot younger then, and I wouldn't attempt it now."

> **"If I stumbled, I probably would have got washed over the side or off the stern!"**
> **— *Jimmy Skonberg***

We were on the edges of our seats listening to that story. It sounded like a scary situation. When we finally got over that story, we asked him about the roughest weather he fished in.

Jimmy launched into another story, "Boy, it's hard to say... cause you know I've ran some pretty small boats that uh, I kinda fished in the roughest weather I possibly could with those. With the one I got now, of course it's not a big boat, but uh, some of the stuff I fish in now, I wouldn't have fished in with those little company boats we used to run, but uh, wood ones too of course. I've been caught with my seine out in some stuff to where we were actually pounding you know, on the stern, you know the stern of the boat would come outta water and pound in-between swells. Dip the bow underneath trying to get to the skiff when you're closing up. I've been caught in a few of those, but, seems the older I get, the less I like fishing in that kind of stuff."

PHOTO COURTESY JIMMY SKONBERG

The first boat Jimmy ever got on as crew member

We asked Jimmy about navigation, if it's easier now than it was then. He said that he doesn't even know if what we do now is navigation, because the longest run we make now is just across Shelikoff. He never even had a radar until be bought his own boat.

"It's much harder to find a crew now than it was before, you know not too many years ago, you walk through the boat harbor in Kodiak boats have signs that said full crew don't ask, and now it's just the opposite. Guys have signs that say crew member needed no experience necessary."

Jimmy's fished salmon every year since he started, with two exceptions. One year was the oil spill, and the other, he was ill. He's also participated in the king crab fisheries, years ago when we had a king crab season. Along with tanner crab, we still do have tanner crab seasons, but he hasn't fished them lately. Jim also used to longline for cod. He hasn't done it in about four years, but he's thinking about doing it again sometime. He still fishes halibut of course. Fishing halibut now is a lot different than it used to be. It wasn't too long ago that they started fishing IFQ's. They used to have derbies, like twenty-four hour openers. Jim says those were lots of fun. Jim tells us about a flare opener in Kitoi Bay. Kitoi Bay is a small bay where there's no room for the amount of boats usually in there, and a lot of fish in big schools. It's extremely intense, only a select few boats will get the big load, most guys will strike out.

"I've been in Kitoi Bay in alotta flare openings, and they're fun. Good for the adrenaline. You uh, cork somebody, or uh,

somebody will cork you. It's just one of those things that just can't be helped. There's no, no hard feelings when it's over with. You know it's kinda luck of the draw, you uh, there's been a couple of times where I'd be sitting visiting with one of the boats and telling stories before the opening, and when the flare goes off, you know, him and I would be bumping each other's skiffs and competing, and uh, that sort of stuff you know. It's something you just do, you don't worry about the consequences till it's over with. But the number one thing that I try to watch out for in a flare opening like that, hopefully everybody else does too, is uh so you skiff man don't get hurt you know. Boats usually have lots of protection, but the guy in the skiff don't.I try to position my skiff so he don't get run over.Try to watch out for someone else's skiff cause it's the guy in the skiff, he's not the one who runs the operation, he gets set out there, he's kind of uh, in the middle of the action and you know some of these boats, they do 20 knots running their seine out. It gets, or it could get real dangerous if you get somebody out there who's careless. That's my No. 1 priority and catching fish is second nature. Hopefully we'll get em', but you definitely don't wanna kill somebody trying to catch a fish.


PHOTO PROVIDED BY: JIM SKONBERG JR.

The boat Jimmy previously owned, F/V 'Lorena Marie'

"Other than that, uh, yeah, I've, I've made some nice big sets in there. One particular time, I sunk my seine with fish. We managed to save a little more than we could hold in the hold, but uh, there's been times when I've missed them too, and had to end up fishing all day to get a load, but it's luck of the draw, you know some of the guys seems like you hear a few guys catch em' all the time, but for the most part, I think we've all had a bad opening and we all remember a good one."

We asked Jimmy if he's ever piled up a boat. He said he did twice. "I've bumped rocks more than that, but uh, but twice I've done damage." He chuckles while remembering a story. "Once was in 1967 king crab fishing, I was a crew member. I was on the wheel, put it, or I put it on the beach you know. I did quite a bit of damage. It was the boat Sierra Seas. Lost a lot of fishing time up on the dry dock, so of course back then I was pretty young, and not as experienced as I am now. Now not that I know everything of course.

"Then, salmon fishing with the boat I have now, coming out of Kanatak Lagoon over on Igvak, tide was high, there's a bit, big rock there you know just when you go in the lagoon, big rock pile and it was covered you know, at high tide. I misjudged coming out that morning. I was going pretty fast when I hit that, punched two holes in the bottom of the boat, so we lost a days fishing and went back in, you know, did alotta patch work. It was pretty impressive because I got on the radio, you know, and there was quite a few guys that offered a helping hand with what they had on board. You know like Splash Zone, and fiberglass and stuff like that, and they ran it into me. It was really a good feeling to know once you're out like that and somebody has a problem everybody chips in and tries to help out. But anyway, we got it fixed up and never leaked a drop, fished two more days after that. Came across on a northeaster. We gave it a pretty good test, well, that first night we tried to come across, we were pounding out there, and then we got about eight miles off Unalishavak, and I decided I didn't wanna try it, you know with that damage on the bottom, so I turned back. I found out later that

everybody turned back that night, the ones that tried it. Some of them didn't even go, so the next morning, it was nice. We had a real good crossing and we got to Port Bailey, and they pulled me up, flew in a fiberglass guy, and got her all fixed up. And the guy told me if I woulda had a new boat, you know they build 'em lighter now, and if I had one of those, I probably wouldn't be bringing it back." He said, you know, "I definitely hit hard, and I know that for sure, so I was pretty fortunate."

We asked about any funny stories Jimmy has to tell. He tells us a couple of good ones. "Yeah, there's always something funny that goes on out there but, one particular one that comes to mind is the first year I ever ran a boat, in fact, it was the first set I've ever made in my life. Back then, we used to have midnight openers instead of at noon, like we do now, and uh, I set, I set at midnight, in pitch dark, I held till daylight. Another boat and I was facing each other. The only fish we could have possibly caught (were) between the two seines. I always think back at that and chuckle a little. That was pretty funny. And one other funny thing was, of course it didn't happen to me, but uh, this guy off another boat fell overboard, and his crewmen put a line around him, winched him back on deck and when they winched him up, the line back lashed on the gypsy head, so they stopped the winch, untangled it and they dropped him back in the water. It was kind of a greenhorn crew I guess. There was a lot of screaming and cussing going on. That was pretty funny. Anyway, that's just a couple things that come to mind.Can't think of anything else off hand."

That must have been a sight to see! It must've been hilarious. We left Jimmy's house anxious for next summer. We hope to get some experiences like those of Jimmy's. After talking to Jimmy, we tried to think of things like that for next summer for fun memories.

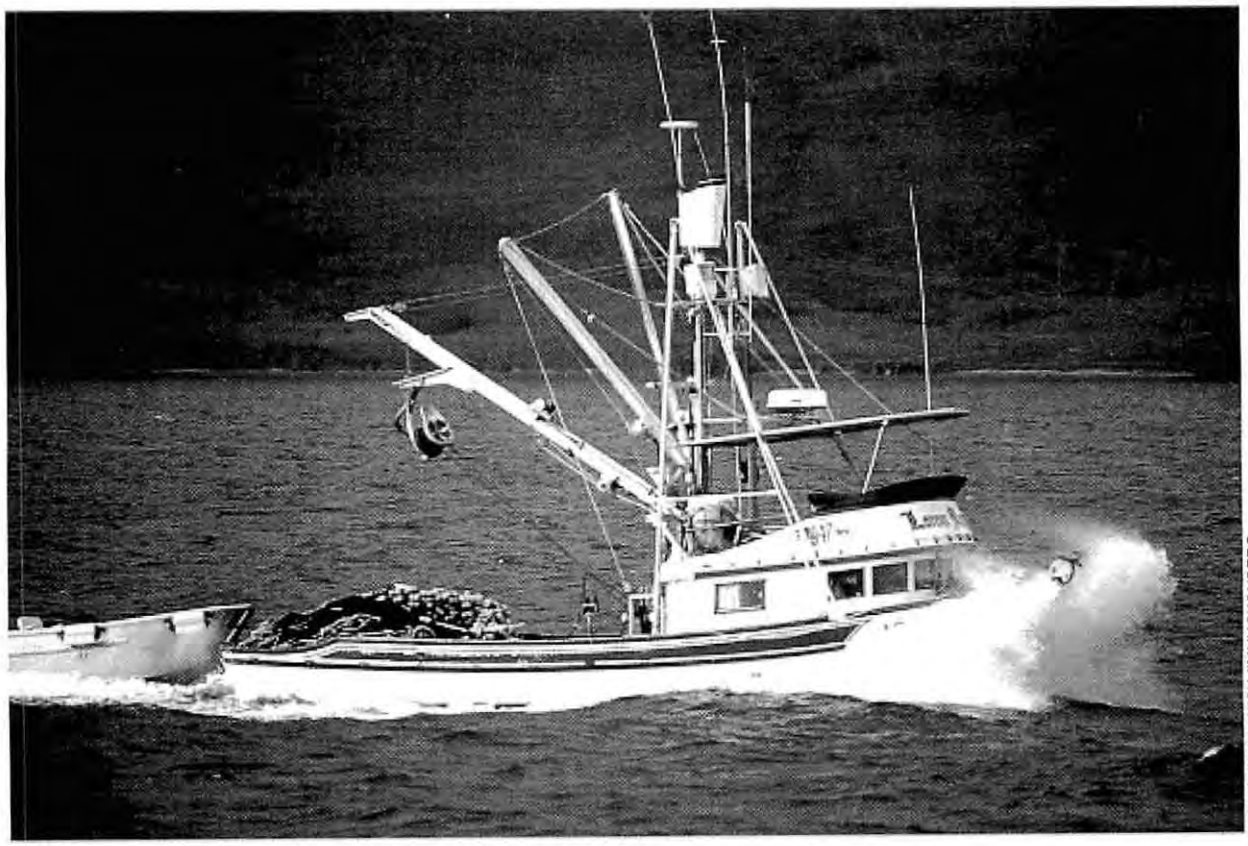


PHOTO: COURTESY JIMMY SKONBERG

The boat Jimmy currently owns, F/V 'Lorena Marie'

A Landmark Saved

By Amanda Squartsoff and Lars Ursin

Do you ever wonder why they had to rebuild the causeway back in 1992?

I know that the causeway used to be one of the main ways of transportation to the other part of town. Port Lions is divided in to two parts, one half used to be called Port Wakefield and the other half Port Lions. They are now connected by the road and the causeway, and only called Port Lions. Well now you can know the truth behind the re-building of the causeway and who was involved with it. I knew one of the main people involved with the re-construction of the causeway was Jay Kaiser so I knew he would be the perfect person to interview.

"There was some controversy over the re-buiding of the causeway."
— Jay Kaiser

When we reached his home, he seemed excited to be able to tell us about the re-building of the causeway. He went to his teakettle and put on some hot water so that we could all have some tea. We then went into his living room to get started on the interview.

"To the nearest of my recollection the causeway was built by the people who ran and owned the Wakefield Cannery at the ferry dock." Unfortunately the Wakefield Cannery burned down in March of 1975. Soon after that had happened they purchased a 149 foot long floating processor, the Smokwa.

"The causeway was first built sometime between 1965 and 1966, somewhere in that area. They used the causeway as a transportation to get back and forth from Port Lions to Port Wakefield.

"The causeway was left wide enough to accommodate vehicles. At that time there was no road. There was some controversy over the re-building of the causeway. " Some people felt that the causeway was nothing more that a painful reminder of the tragedies that had happened on the causeway years before. There were still some people who wanted to move on and make something more of it than a bad memory. They then decided to let things go and start something good.

"They had to re-build it because it had been condemned. The original deck had been ten feet wide, wide enough to accommodate vehicles in a one lane pattern and that deck had reached a point where it was considered unsafe and they closed off. (At) that point of time people were

Photo: Melvin Squartsoff

using it more as a walkway, and there was getting to be too many rotten places in it and people started falling through so they shut it down. The reason they wanted to rebuild it was because the foundation was still in good shape and the community felt like they could rebuild it so they did.

"We started to rebuild the causeway on July 6, 1992 and they finished in an amazing 33 days on August 26, 1992. The crew ran about 10 people, but people came and went as they left for other jobs. They were picked by who turned in the applications first. The sooner, the better although it did take quite a while for the planning of the causeway. I think that it could have taken somewhere between six months to a year to get everything started.

"In Juneau (high school students) fought for the grant (to rebuild it) and ended up getting $75,000 to work with."

That tells you that kids could do a lot more than expected.

Photo Taken by Lily Pestrikoff

Photo Taken by Lily Pestrikoff

"We had 33 days, 10 people working 8 hours a day so we ended up with $26,400 for our overall paycheck"

— Jay Kaiser

"Melvin and Pete Squartsoff were the ones who were mainly involved with it. They were the ones who got me to be the supervisor.

"Each crew member got paid $10 an hour, but the supervisor was paid $12. It was more of a public service than anything. The wages were pretty low and they knew that they would have to work with what they were awarded with, and that is why they made it five feet because the cost of materials was too high.

"I was quite pleased with the amount of time that it had taken them to build the causeway. The goal was to get the job done, not only to get the materials paid for within the $75,000 but pay for the labor also. So they knew that they would be working against the clock. I don't remember what the end cost was for the materials, but from what I remember the money was spent.

"We had 33 days, 10 people working eight hours a day, so we ended up with $26,400 for our overall pay check. The crew went up and down, but the average was 10. Toward the end there was less people because the jobs were running out and all that they had left were a few chores to wrap up, so the crew got shorter.

"There were some incidents on the causeway, and some deaths that prompted them to get the road built because the original causeway didn't have a railing. It only had bow railing, which is only 8 by 10 inch piece of wood.

"During the construction of the causeway they did run into some obstacles. Removing the old material, they had roughly 10 foot wide area to work on and they had all that old decking to put off and the decking was 3 feet by 12 feet and it was waterlogged. So they took chainsaws and took it directly in half, took crowbars and pried each half up and each half took two people to lift it up, because being waterlogged made it heavy. They were talking about a plank, when dry one person can pick it up easily. This thing was so old and so full of water that it would sometimes take two people to take one half, one piece and put in on a trailer. They used four-wheelers backed out onto the causeway with trailers to haul materials starting in the middle and then working to the outside working on each shore so they split the crew and put five people on each side, and started in the middle pulling it up toward shore on each side and they had turnouts to use to turn around.

"It was an obstacle that they were working on water and at low tide you could be 12 to 15 feet above water and if anybody fell that was a possible problem.

"Laid a board, nailed it down, laid a board, nailed it down until they met in the middle. One of the other obstacles that they had was how to get the handrail out to the middle, because that was heavy material so they hired Abner Nelson and his KC-5 to lift the material off of the dock and onto his boat. He carried (it) around and onto the beach, and hand lifted it off of the boat to turn outs, that way they got the material without hand walking it out to the middle. They tried to make it as efficient as possible to not move as much material cause there was way too much. They set up and did most of the cutting over there.

"They had women on the crew that were almost better workers than the guys, reason being, in order for them to keep the job everybody had to show up on time. It was a real job, everyone had to show up on time and start at 8 o'clock. They were much more consistent and reliable so that I was pretty proud. They learned how to swing a hammer and they got good. They pinned nails that were 4 inches. That was rather humorous watching them learn how to use hammers."

"They had women on the crew that were almost better workers than the guys!"

— Jay Kaiser

Nowadays the causeway is used for many different things, such as a shortcut to get across, or just a place to go for a nice jog or walk. It's way safer than taking the Bay Road especially when the bears come out and its way faster too.

All in all it's a good thing that they had decided to rebuild the causeway instead of letting it rot away. Personally I think that the causeway is a part of Port Lions and that without it I don't think it would be the same here.

Photo taken by Melvin Squartsoff

"That's the Way We Grew up and it was Tough"

By Ryan Amodo, Dustin Berestoff, and Amanda Phillips

Nick approached the interview very calmly. He seemed very professional and relaxed, he wore a gray plaid shirt, and he seemed happy to share his story of growing up in Akhiok years ago.

"I was born at Alitak cannery, May 20,1936. Because we were from Akhiok we had every spring there in Alitak. We had to take all of our bedding, utensils, and everything that we used at home. We had to take them to Alitak because they wouldn't feed us in the mess halls. White people had their own mess hall. Filipinos had their own mess hall. But, us Natives weren't allowed to eat in the mess hall. We had to batch. Batching means we had to buy our food from the store." As Nick described the old days, we began to realize that being Aleut and growing up in the village was difficult, but could also be fun.One difficult thing about growing up in Akhiok for Nick was school.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NICK ALOKLI

Azxima Alokli, David Peterson, Nick Alokli, and Madrona Peterson.

"Before school used to be so bad to where none of the students back then wanted to learn anything. I don't know why we even went to school because we didn't learn anything. We used to get punished so much by the teachers and that is the truth. We couldn't speak our own language. Aleut was my first language, that is what I knew how to speak I had to learn English. When I try to talk English, I'm always going back to Aleut, so it was hard. We'd get punished every time we talked in Aleut. We'd get slapped in the hand with those straps, you know the ones with the buckle, and they hurt. They were long and it had a buckle at the end. Then they had them pointers you know like rulers, if you point at the blackboard they would hit you over the head and boy that hurt. You know that's the way we grew up and it was tough."

Nick cautiously continued, "Like I said we didn't learn nothing. Well, at least I didn't cause I was getting punished too much I just didn't want to learn. To us, Akhiok was it and why would we want to learn?"

Nick finished up talking about school in Akhiok and began talking about his experiences at Mt. Edgecumbe in Sitka.

"I was 14 years old when I went to Mt. Edgecumbe. I couldn't read and I'm not ashamed, it's just the way it was because I just refused to learn English because of the punishment. At Mt. Edgcumbe I stayed there only nine months. When I came home I could read and I moved two grades up. I don't even know what grade I was in here when I left and I don't remember any report cards or anything."

One thing we learned from Nick is that school is better now than it was in the past. For example, nowadays our teachers aren't as strict as they were 50 years ago. Teachers don't hit us for speaking Aleut like they did a long time ago. Of course, we didn't know how speak Aleut.

Nick did a good job explaining how school was harsh. He also described how

other aspects of village life were hard.

"In winter it was so harsh, you know, I guess it still is sometimes but not as bad as it used to be. The snow used to be piled up to the buildings it was 4-feet deep and it used to blow 100 miles per hour North/West. We had no oil stove, we used to have to carry our own water from the well. We had to chop wood and saw wood. We couldn't get no wood because it was frozen. The only thing we could do is get alders up the hill and pack them and bring them down to the people with little lumber they had. They would make a big sled and they would tough it out to the island and fill them up with the alders and everybody would pull the sled back.

" I was getting punished too much, I didn't want to learn."

We had to get our wood from all over in the skiff.

We only had a 5- horse Johnson and 10 horse was the biggest motor, you know they were higher up if they had 10 -horse-power. It took us an hour and a half to get to Alitak, over an hour anyway with those little motors." Today, it takes 10 to 15 minutes to get to Alitak. After he told us about the

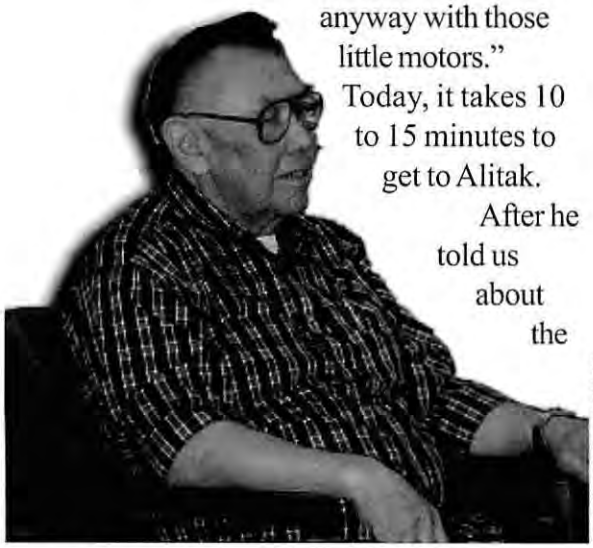


PHOTO: GEOFF BECHTOL

Nick being interviewed during Akhiok's Alutiiq Week.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NICK ALOKLI

Nick with a razor clam near Sandy Beach, Alitak Bay.

hard parts of growing up he began to talk about how they had fun.

"Part of my younger years was fun too. We use to go out and make our own games and we were always out, the more it blew the more we loved it! We went all over, we would skate, moonlight especially, we used to skate across the big lake and the lake behind the church we did a lot of stuff.

" We made our toys like we carved our own boats. We used to use them tubs them wash tubs. We would go along the beach and we'd go full bore if you hit something you would tumble. Some of us used them square boxes and pulled it around and made them big waves towards the beach. We used to have fun but our parents used to get mad at us because we got wet. We used them made up boats you know we played with them on the beach and our pants had holes (they had holes right in the center of their pants, right where there knees would

PHOTO: GEOFF BECHTOL

be) from kneeling down playing boats you know that was fun."

Another thing Nick shared were his memories of living here while World War II was going on.

"There were a lot of Army personnel down there. They had two big barracks on the hill. They had a mess hall and a lot of warehouses, and way up the hill they had a tower. There were two machine guns in the tower, two big machine guns. I don't know how they got them up there. The Army used to target practice across the tundra. Once the cannery was so blue(because of all the military people). The Army was spreading over Alitak because there were Japanese planes flying above. Everybody was supposed to go up the hill. My grandpa was old, he was in his 80s. I will always remember that he couldn't get passed the middle of the hill, he couldn't make it any further. We had to make it safe for him until everything passed. Then, I guess they said it was O.K.so everybody went back down.

After Nick told us about growing up in the village, chopping wood, his school experience, and his memories of WWII, we realized how hard it was growing up as a Native in Akhiok. At times we all wish we had lived in the old days, but after we heard Nick's stories we visualized how hard it was to live in the old days. Part of the work we do now is not even half of the work they did then.

Alitak Reindeer Company

By Lucas Kahutak and Charles Simeonoff

Did you know there used to be a reindeer company on Kodiak Island? Well, we didn't either! Nick explains how he was part of the Alitak Reindeer Company.

"The agreement for the company was signed Oct. 1,1927. The reindeers used to come around Alitak every spring. They would come around from Halibut Bay around Karluk Prarie side. Every spring they would come down here (to Akhiok) and get a little fatter. Sometimes you wake up early in the spring and you look across you could see big herds. You could see little herds here and big herds over there (talking about across from Alitak). One time there was 1,200 of them."

We wondered how come there weren't reindeer around Alitak anymore. Nick explained that.

"There was a fire in 1948. I was 12 years old, in Upper Station. It burned from Upper Station to Lower Cape and from Lower Cape it burned all the way to Alitak and then all the way behind Akhiok. There was firefighters here, 100 of them, from the Navy. The fire didn't come into the village because the firefighters stopped it. All of us evacuated the village, and after all that burned that's how come the reindeers don't come down anymore. There was no food for them around here. They stayed up North and they've been there since 1948. Otherwise, they would be still coming down. I think it would be a lot better because I think they got killed over there, most of them you know people just shooting them just for fun. That's what I heard."

MAP: LUCAS KAHUTAK

Map of 1948 fire that forced reindeer migration.

"We've Come A Long Ways"

By Michelle Johnson

On March 2, 2004 I interviewed Paul Panamarioff about the Ouzinkie Tribal Council. He is a former president of the Tribal Council. He was elected president for the first time in 1995. He resigned in 1996, and in 1997 he got back on the council, when he was relected president. In 1998 he also took on the job of the administrator along with being the president. He was president until 2003, and still holds the job as administrator today. When I interviewed Paul I was originally interested in learning about what it is that the Tribal Council does for the people of Ouzinkie. I ended up learning a little bit about the history of the council and about their greatest accomplishment.

" I say about the last ten, fifteen years we've come a long ways."

— Paul Panamarioff

Paul shared with me what he knew about how the leaders were chosen in the past. " As far as I can recall, there's always been a chief. My grandfather Paul Katelnikoff, who I was named after, used to be the chief. I don't know how they were selected in them days, but as far as the tribal structures, it's been going on for centuries and centuries. In 1950 we had our first constitution with Mike Chernikoff being our first president. That's on a written document paper trail." Paul didn't know how the first constitution was written or by who. He was also not sure what the Tribal Council's goals were back then.

In the beginning of the Ouzinkie Tribal Council, Paul speculated that people who worked for the council would do it all for free. "Back then it was probably all voluntary services, just people that were generally interested in keeping things going the way they were . . . I don't think anybody got paid until the last maybe ten years." These people must have really cared about the village of Ouzinkie and its people. No one really knows how the people were elected in the beginning of the tribal before there were written records. It is also unknown about the things they did back then. Today the community chooses the president and vice-president through election.

Paul shared some of the goals the tribal is working on today, " Some of the tribal's goals today are the health and social wellbeing and economic developments of the community. Our major concerns are continued education for our younger generation. Hopefully, some of them will come back and do some of their education through the council; be grant writers, administrators, these kinds of things, you know. Economic development is now one of our main goals. Also of course getting people to work, and be able to support their families."

Within the last 15 years, the Ouzinkie Tribal Council has made many new accomplishments. "I say about last 10, 15 years we've come a long ways, the tribe for being recognized more then we

ever have." I could see that he was very proud of how far the tribal has come.

During the fall of 2003 the Ouzinkie Tribal Council moved into its own building. This building is the tribal's greatest accomplishment for the village of Ouzinkie. The name of the building is the Cultural Youth Activity Center. The building is approximately 5,000 square feet, has two levels, and was finished in the fall of 2003. To build the building, the council hired people from the community to work on it, keeping true to its goal of economic development.

"It's a place to house our veterans and keep them honored."

— Paul Panamarioff

There was some controversy about where to build the new tribal building. "We took over the spot where the basketball court used to be and there was some concern about that. What are the kids going to do now 'cause there's no basketball court?" The building has been designed not only for the Tribal offices but also for the community. "So, here we're going to have a game room and a library with computers." The Tribal's building has a pool table, a foosball table, and also a ping-pong table. The library has seven computers with Internet access for the community to use. The community was disappointed in the beginning with the loss of the basketball court, but with the new activities the building provides, the community is grateful.

The Tribal's new building also holds a wall that is dedicated to the veterans. "It's a place to house our veterans and keep them honored. A wall dedicated to the veterans. Forty some veterans here that I can think of... you know more per capita then any town our size." The tribal holds a ceremony dedicated to the veterans every year and some students from the Ouzinkie School go to the culture center and honor the veterans each year on Veterans Day.

PHOTO: MICHELLE JOHNSON

PHOTO OF THE VETERAN WALL

When I asked Paul what he would like to see of the tribal in the future, he replied, "I would like to see the tribe become the government body of our village."

Peace and Quiet in Camel's Rock

By Misty Larionoff

PHOTO: MISTY LARIONOFF

Floyd Anderson being interviewed in his home in Ouzinkie

My Grandfather Floyd Anderson first went to Camel's Rock when he was, "just a kid," with his parents. They went to Camel's Rock, "Cause we like to go hunting and sport fishing. Yeah, it was peaceful and quiet you know, don't hear anything but birds, once in a great while you might hear a bear."

> *"Why would a cat try to get in to the stove?"*
> **Floyd Anderson**

Q. Where is Camel's Rock?
A. It's across from Ouzinkie to the southwest.
Q. How old were you when you went to Camel's Rock?
A. Just a kid, with my parents.
Q. How did you get there?
A. We went over there on a skiff and the folks built a cabin across New Georgia and Winston. We stayed there for a number of years when they smoked salmon and salted fish. Years later in '64 we had an earthquake which took the house and everything away. The old man decided to rebuild across the bay ... across from Judd's high grounds.
Q. Why did you go to Camel's Rock?
A. Cause we like to go hunting and sport fishing.
Q. What do you remember about Camel's Rock?
A. Well right now, I remember all the fish in the streams, hiking all over the mountains, and enjoying it out in the Bush, I guess you could call it. We used to go to Doctor's River. I don't know why they named it Doctor's River. Nobody knows, but people have been trying to find out for years. In Doctor's River there was just silvers and pinks, later we'd start seeing dogs. Now I understand that thousands of them are gone now.

Q. Who lived out there with you?
A. Well, I lived with my parents until I got married and then I took my wife there.
Q. What was it like to live there?
A. I liked it, but I don't know if the other people liked it. I used to beach seine too. I used to stay at Camel's Rock and then go out to what they call Doctor's River and fish around there. Later they moved the markers out in to Camel's. They closed that whole area, and then we had to move out of there. So I went up to Sharatin Bay and highlined for Columbia Wards at Port Bailey for about five years
Q. Did you have many visitors?
A. I can tell you that, yeah, lots especially in Fourth of July. We had people from Port Lions, Anchorage, Kodiak and Ouzinkie. At times we had two planes land and we'd have a three-day celebration. We'd get all the logs ready for a big bonfire and get all the stuff ready, of course, and I would run into town. Of course every body brought their desserts and stuff. It was fun. There was more people at Camel's Rock than there was in Ouzinkie.
Q. Did you go to Ouzinkie or Kodiak to get food?
A. Both places. We went to Ouzinkie to get food if it was good calm weather. If we were thirsty we would go to town. One time we filled up the whaler full of food in Kodiak. There were times we'd go to Port Bailey to get it all, depending if I was fishing for salmon.
Q. Did you have any pets on Camel's Rock?
A. Yeah, we had our own pets. There was dogs and foxes. Deer came. Bears came to the porch! That (laughs) kinda let your hair stand up! (Laughs) And there was one time we had a woodstove. How, how can I explain this? We had a 50-gallon drum cut. You know. Made a door and fixed it up. It was a hot day and the cat kept trying to get in there. Now why would a cat try to get in the stove? I have no idea. The cat is going crazy trying to get to the stove, so I opened it up, and boy I got scared too. I think I hollered and flew across the room. A bat came out. We didn't hear it but the cat sensed it, or heard it, and he was trying to get in. There we were trying to get it out. Trying to save its life but it was hit too hard with the broom, and we put it to sleep.
Q. Can you tell me a story about Camel's Rock?
A. Well, I don't particularly think of one that's interesting. I did a lot of hunting over there and a lot of sport fishing. We'd go and get cockle clams and other clams. There are razor clams, but we never told anybody until a few years ago where they were. They're at the spit that comes out there on the other side. That's where the cockle clams are. I understand that, what do they call them, sea otters are eating the razor clams. When Nita and her sister Shannon were younger I wished to the gods that I named it Camel's Rock Hawaii! Every time we'd go, we'd tell them that it's hotter there than in Ouzinkie. When it's low tide, they'd go out wading. Yeah it was peaceful and quiet. You don't hear anything but birds and once in a great while a bear. I went hunting one time and my wife went with me. I had seen ducks. I told her I saw fresh bear sign so I gave her the 30.06 gun and I said I'm going to sneak up on the ducks. Here in case if the bear comes shoot it. I knew they were getting scared just thinking about it. It's goofy.
Q. What was it like being alone with your family?
A. Well, I loved it. That way nobody was bothering us. I could go out hunting or fishing when I wanted to. It's peaceful and quiet.
Q. Why would you go to Camel's Rock?
A. Just to go and relax. Get out of Ouzinkie. Get away from people. You know, nice and quiet. I would go and spend some time with the boys. We'd go hunting in the fall and spring. In spring all the family would go as soon as school was out. We'd have everything ready, and then away we'd go.
Q. Who named Camel's Rock?
A. I don't know who named it Camel's Rock. I don't know why they named Soldiers Bay, Doctor's River or Windy Point --- I don't have a clue.

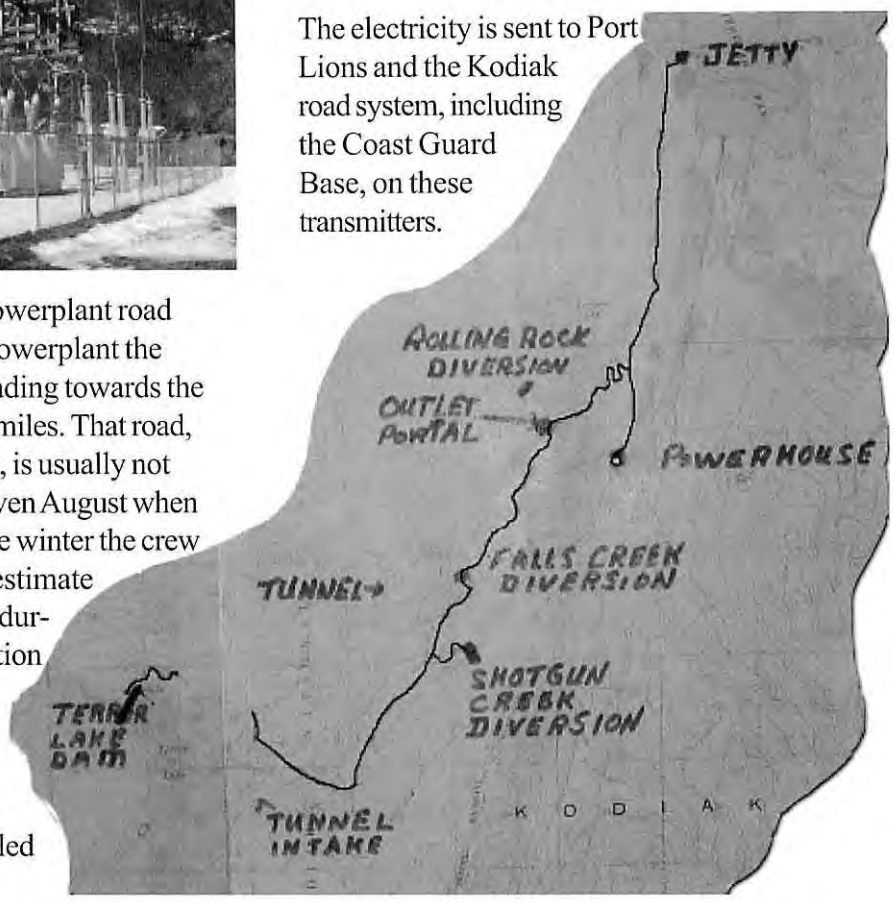
Terror Lake

A Tour of Kodiak Island's Hydroelectric Powerplant

By : Jonathon Brandal and Rodney Knagin

Port Lions students Jonathon Brandal and Rodney Knagin, met Aaron Ellison, a KEA employee and local Kodiak resident on the jetty at the head of Kazhuyak Bay for a tour of the hydroelectric plant facilities. Aaron has been working there for three years and was very exited to give us a tour.

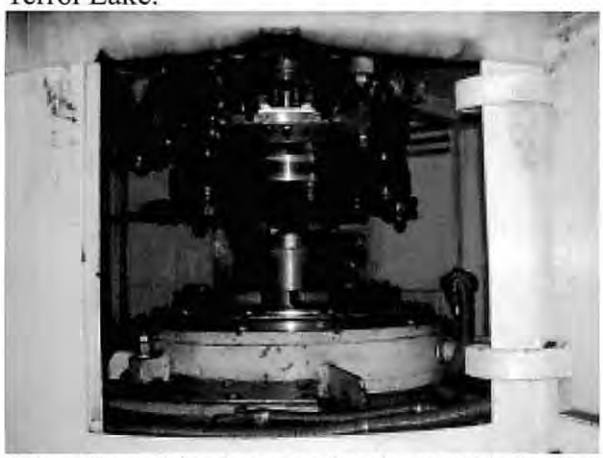
The electricity is sent to Port Lions and the Kodiak road system, including the Coast Guard Base, on these transmitters.



This map shows the powerplant road system. From the jetty to the powerplant the road is four miles. The road leading towards the dam is approximately thirteen miles. That road, seen on the left side of the map, is usually not accessible until about July or even August when the snow melts. Throughout the winter the crew conducts tests on the snow to estimate the amount of water expected during the summer season. Inspection of the facilties includes checking the intakes and outlets as well as walking the nine-foot diameter tunnel when it is shut off. The next shut off is scheduled during the summer of 2006.

Aaron checking out one of the turbines to insure it is operating correctly before moving on in our tour of the facility.

These are the two 10 MW vertical axis impulse Pelton-type turbine generators that generate electricity by using the flow of water. The plant is built against a very steep mountain below a river and lake where there is a dam actually on Terror Lake.



When the turbine is opened at the top,this is what you see.

" I'd go back and do it all again in a heartbeat."

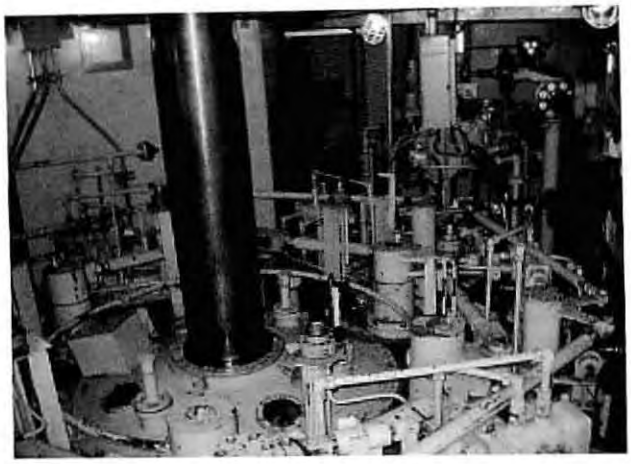
Marvin Bartleson, Sr.

Marvin Bartleson, Sr. lived and worked at Terror Lake for 13 years. He started working in the winter of 1984 as the Electrician Maintenance Operator (EMO). He said his first year of work was a little busy because everything wasn't properly adjusted and it was difficult getting everything started. Marvin had enjoyed his job because it was enough to keep him busy, but not enough to drive him crazy.

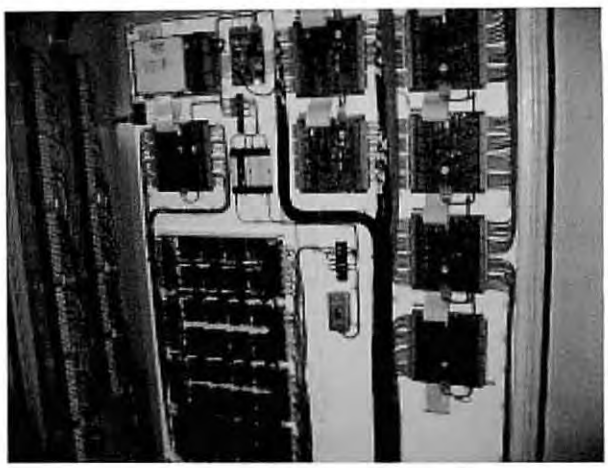
As the EMO he did everything the other guys did plus the electrical work. "...You have to be able to do almost anything that comes along, including the heavy machinery like graders and loaders. You name it, anything that had to keep the project working I was capable of handling."

The best thing he loved about working up there was watching the wildlife and going duck hunting. Marvin once said that down by the head of the bay he had counted at least 37 bears at one time.

Today we are technically advanced operating computers and televisions, while storing our food in freezers and refrigerators. We owe a lot of thanks to all the people who have kept the Terror Lake powerplant going over the years.



This is one of the turbine shafts. They spin at 750 RPMs. You would defenently get dizzy spinnig that fast.



This is the mother board. There is a simular one to the left. Can you imagine having to rewire all the wires, well they had someone come out and do it last year.

In heavy snow fall, KEA crew use snowmachines to access the top of the mountain where the dam and intake are located.

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