

### **Lake Iliamna Interview # 13**

Interviewer: *Before we begin, is there anything you would like to share? What was it like growing up around the lake?*

Respondent: [I was born in] 1938; February 20 in Kaskanak. I put Igiugig on [the respondent form], but its Kaskanak. I didn't hardly go any place, I just helped my mom and dad get food; get fish for the dogs. [We spent our time] fishing, trapping; I didn't go to school. I travel all over the place; from Kaskanak I was seven years old and my mom tell me to go to the mouth of the Kaskanak [River]. I went down; I had my own [dog] team [when] I was seven years old. I had five [dogs]; [when] my dogs got tired, I stop in a big tree. I sleep with the dogs, and they warm me up. I get up to go check my leader; she still wait for me to go cross the river. My dad used to take me every place he go; I travel all over the place. When I get older, at Russian Christmas from Kokhanok I go behind the mountain with the dogs. [A friend] packed me over to go ice skate, and go back to get the dogs. That's where we used to camp, behind the mountain by Kukaklek [Lake]. [An elder from Igiugig] is my cousin; we're all related over here.

Interviewer: *Did you used to spend time at Kukaklek Lake with people from Igiugig?*

Respondent: We used to camp up there and [trap] beavers; [people from] Nondalton go there, too. [We used to catch] lots of fish there, too, like at Lower [Talarik Creek]. And Pedro Bay, [we would] go down there with the dogs.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced, or heard stories about earthquakes?*

Respondent: [I remember the earthquake in] 1964 or whatever, [on] Good Friday. [That is the] only one that I feel over here, over in the bedroom in my old house. [In] 1955 I had that house. I had three kids in the home; I don't like to have them in the hospital. My daughter, too, want to have her baby in the house. I hardly stay home; used to stay outside all day. We had no chainsaw; [we had to use a] hand saw, cutting all day. Nowadays kids can't even go across the river walking.

Interviewer: *Have you ever seen evidence of landslides, or heard stories about them?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you ever seen cracks in the tundra, places where it looks like the ground is tearing?*

Respondent: No. I even go to the other side [of the lake]; I travel all over the place. I was 11 years old when I go to Branch River, to Levelock, and from Dillingham I go around the river to Portage Creek to Ekwok with dogs; I go over there for race in 2001, I guess it was 2001. First, [I raced in] New Stuyahok. I travel all over the place, even down states. My husband never got me a passport; he went to Italy. I did go, [and I have] traveled all over the place. From here I walk over to [unintelligible] to get beavers, and get my limit. I even go firefighting.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced tundra or forest fires during your lifetime, or heard stories about them?*

Respondent: Not around here, in like Fairbanks; Kenai.

Interviewer: *Have you ever noticed any areas where the tundra appears to be sunken, or actively sinking?*

Respondent: No, but I think [I have seen that] not far from Fairbanks, [near] Beaver Creek and Rose Creek; you sink all the way down like that [*gesturing*].

Interviewer: *Have you ever observed patches or deposits of sand located away from the lake? In the tundra?*

Respondent: No; only around Lake Iliamna. [There is] lots of sand around the beach, and rocks.

Interviewer: *Are you aware of any bluffs in the area that contain sandy, loose layers?*

Respondent: No.

*Do you know of any bluffs that are actively eroding?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you ever experienced fallout from volcanic eruptions, or heard stories about them?*

Respondent: There's a volcano back there, in island; we always see smoke. I hardly stay home and listen to stories; I'm outside camping!

Interviewer: *Did people ever talk about the Mount Katmai eruption in 1912?*

Respondent: I don't know about that. I know about this mountain around here; it blew up one time.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard stories about tsunamis, or big waves on the lake?*

Respondent: [I have heard stories about] big waves, yeah; [waves so big] you can't even see that big mountain. My cousin tell me about it; he say it's scary. [*Name removed*], you talk to him? [*Name removed*], you see [her]? [She] got married, take down Naknek.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced, or heard stories about big storms?*

Respondent: [I heard stories about storms from a] long time ago, I guess. Eight or 12 of them go down to Igiugig with a sail boat, [at Grants] lagoon they tipped over; east wind put them on the beach.

Interviewer: *Have the winds or storms changed in any way?*

Respondent: A long time ago [we] had no wind. Even those dry woods have no hair; [we] had no winds long time ago. From here to Kokhanok, the snow [was] this deep because it don't blow away. My grandpa used to tell me [how the] snow was this much, past here. From Kokhanok, [we used to travel] over with dogs; now it blows heavy. After the '40s [we start experiencing] east wind; [now we have] bad east wind over here.

Interviewer: *Have seasonal storms changed at all?*

Respondent: [We get] just a little breeze sometimes.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced unseasonably cold or warm spells?*

Respondent: Yesterday was cold. My grandpa tell me [not to] go out when its east wind; he say, "You freeze to death." [My] two sisters and my dad and mom, they all freeze to death. In 1955, when they went down to Igiugig, they freeze to death [on their way]. Like the timber on that side [of the lake], the timber is black; you can tell that some weather is coming.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any specific changes in the weather compared to when you were younger?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have any rivers altered course? Is this normal?*

Respondent: Yes. This [river] here, the channel on this side [changed].

Interviewer: *Do you think the environment is getting wetter, drier, or remaining consistent?*

Respondent: It seems like everything is worse and worse every year; no more snow nowadays, just a little bit. It used to snow lots; sometimes [we used to] go up to that big [mountain] there, and we used to sled down when [we were] kids.

Interviewer: *Is a good snow pack important for travel conditions?*

Respondent: [We travel on] crust snow in the springtime; you could go with dogs in morning, and at nighttime [when the snow is hard enough].

Interviewer: *Have you observed any changes in the timing of freeze up and breakup?*

Respondent: This year [breakup] is faster; I don't know [why]. I was playing bingo down in Nebraska, and [someone] tell me, "You see the birds go up north, that means you have early spring." You see, old people know. It's a different year this year. This is early spring; breakup is

early. It was different [before]; you could go across the river with dogs. [The snow and ice is] going [away] fast, every year.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any new species of plants and animals? Are there any species that are no longer present?*

Respondent: A long time ago, when we go hunt moose, we used to go from Igiugig to Kukaklek [Lake]; [we used to go for] like one whole month until we get one moose, and caribou. And we [used to] go up to Knutson Bay, stay up there to get one bear. [Now we have] no more moose, and no more caribous around. [We used to] get one moose and come home. Now, it's harder to get moose [because] everything chase them away, [including] helicopters. We have a hard time getting moose; it's not easy. It's the same thing as now, long time ago. We don't get moose right away; it takes a long time to get moose. Helicopters don't bother moose. And fish [are gone], too; everything gone! Yesterday I get three little fish; they'll come back, same as caribous and moose.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in the water level on the lake?*

Respondent: No; same.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any new streams or lakes forming?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have any lakes or streams in the area been drying up?*

Respondent: We used to go hunting every spring [for] muskrats, [but] streams dry up; lakes dry up. Empty water; [there is] no water in the lakes and creeks in Igiugig.

Interviewer: *Do the plants and animals you depend on appear healthy?*

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard any stories about starvation?*

Respondent: My grandma used to tell stories [about starvation]; she was blind. A long time ago they had starvation; the only [food] they eat were suckers, black heads, bore heads, and sticklebacks. [They would] poke them with a needle, put them in a pot, and drink it. People came from Bethel to fish in Lower [Talarik Creek]. [That is a] long way walking. Everything is gone nowadays; I blame it on helicopters. Even Nondalton has a lot of moose up there; helicopters don't bother me. They told me about the fish, too; [they] used to dry the fish eggs, and put them away in the ground to save it. They [would] eat one little egg; keep it under your tongue all day. I think about it when I'm fishing, too. Now I don't go no place; I go from here to bingo to church, and that's it!

Interviewer: *Do you know of any old camps or village sites that have been abandoned?*

Respondent: No. I know where [name removed] had a camp by Copper River, [near] Kokhanok.

Interviewer: *Those are all of our questions; do you have anything else you would like to share?*

Respondent: No. [I used to travel] down to Naknek with the dogs, and I even go in those lakes; I travel all over the place.

## Lake Iliamna Interview # 14 & # 15

Interviewer: *Do you have anything you would like to share? Do you have any questions?*

Respondent (1): [There was a] big [earthquake] in 1964; there's going to be a big one someday, and we kinda [have to] be prepared. It's hard to say when the next one is gonna be, with the fault lines. [We need to] open up the case a little bit; a little more awareness. Iliamna mountain was acting up a little while ago, due to earthquakes and volcanoes interrupting things.

Respondent (2): We live in the ring of fire; I studied this. We studied auroras; my grandparents used to say, "Don't whistle, and respect them; they'll take you away," and that kind of stuff. All the northern lights are is a sun storm blowing particles, [and it] collides with the earth's magnetic field and creates light. [Did] you know that's enough light to light up the whole United States? It was an online class, and I had to write this aurora legend [about] what I think [the aurora] is, and I just – my senior year, and I was really pushing myself. [My legend said that] when the northern lights come out, when I am hunting, and [I said that] it was my ancestors guiding me home. [It was for] an essay contest, I entered it into this contest; sent it off, I think there was 48 schools, [including] all 50 states had students enter. A week after I graduated high school I checked my mailbox, and I opened up and there was a piece of paper; I opened it up and there was a check that said "NASA" on it, and the second thing I pulled out was my certificate and it said, "Congratulations, northern lights, first place prize essay contest." [It included] pictures of plants and solar systems, constellations and posters of northern lights all over the world. A small little story like that; it's a good way to express yourself.

Interviewer: *Were you born here in Newhalen?*

Respondent (1): [I was born in] Kwiguk, up on the Yukon delta, and now there's a new village that's formed on the delta called Emmonak.

Respondent (2): [I was born in] Anchorage; I was four months early.

Respondent (1): [I was born at] at "Emo," yeah. When I came here in 1978, that's when we got married; 1979 or 1980, and I've been here ever since. I'm originally from the YK delta.

Earthquake stories; they always had little earthquakes [in the past], small ones.

Respondent (2): Are you asking the question, did people have a conversation about it? Father [name removed] was telling me about the earthquake in 1964; like that far back?

Respondent (1): I was in Anchorage in the '64 earthquake, but the earthquakes around here I don't really [remember] feeling. I hear the ground crack, and it's an earthquake. Maybe because I was in the big earthquake – I don't know my, sister said [it was like] Russia bombed America. I mean, Russia bombed Alaska! The roads were like waves [during the 1964 earthquake]. My father said, "Everyone to the door frame!" I felt sick though; dizzy. It was a weird feeling. You could hear the rumbling; my older sister tell me, "Russia bombed Alaska!" I thought I was going to die because I felt the dizziness; the atomic bomb. Lots of things came through my head

[during that time]; I've been in Anchorage, and the roads were like this [*making a wave motion with hand*]. Earthquake park fell down, and Fourth Avenue [was] the same way. My sister calls it the devil area; lots of those bars fell down, and a lot of people were lost.

Interviewer: *Have you ever observed evidence of landslides in the area? Have you ever heard stories about them?*

Respondent (2): Like erosion?

Respondent (3): On a bigger scale –

Respondent (1): Over here there's like little landslides.

Respondent (1): I haven't seen anything

Respondent (1): Like that cut bank you guys walk up; there's big chunks. You guys come up from Igiugig; the bluff there, that's the bluff you can see the layers.

Respondent (2): Are they doing carbon dating on that too?

Respondent (1): During the summer [when] you walk or go boating you can see where [the bluff is] wavy, then straight, and then wavy again.

Respondent (2): That could have been an earthquake. What I'm curious about is if that earthquake; if there's a tsunami in the lake or something. I've never heard stories of it.

Respondent (1): They didn't have no tidal waves here, I know that. I've always had plans for my family if a tidal wave comes; we drive up the mountain, up the peak. Our land where we sit right now, it's how many feet above sea level, about 1,300 feet above sea level here. This whole Iliamna, not on this spot, but the whole Iliamna is 1,300 feet above sea level. Pilots have to set their altimeter, and that's why you need science and math; you need science for flying.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any areas in the tundra that appear sunken, or are actively sinking?*

Respondent (2): Up in the mountain, Roadhouse [Mountain], there's a trail we go up the mountain and there's this one spot we go down, this steep hill that looks like there was a creek there, but there's no creek there. You go up with a four-wheeler, and there's a crack there.

Respondent (1): The mountain is kind of high; there were lakes there before, and the earthquake made the lakes go down and there's dry lakes [there] now.

Respondent (2): There's a place we used to go hunt geese and it used to be a lake, and it's dry now; we call it "Dry Lake."

Respondent (1): It's maybe two or three miles.

Respondent (2): No, it's a quarter mile.

Respondent (1): The Dry Lake, everybody go geese hunting is this side of [*name removed*]; it's maybe a mile in.

Respondent (1): That [lake] over there became Dry Lake when he was born; it's getting drier now, maybe a hundred feet from the lake.

Respondent (2): One thing I've been noticing is really hot summer; dry, no rain. Three years ago until now it's been nothing but rain and wind and cold. As of late, we've been getting lots of rain, and it's been cold. Three years ago [it was] hot and dry; too many fires.

Respondent (1): It was 92 degrees here for three days straight.

Interviewer: *Have you ever experienced, or heard stories about tundra/forest fires?*

Respondent (1): Only one that burned – Iliamna burned from the dump.

Respondent (2): 2003; that's the year I graduated, and I was working at Grand's Cafe. [I don't remember if that was in] 2002, or 2003; [it burned] 5,000 acres.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced ash fallout from volcanic eruptions? Have you heard stories about eruptions?*

Respondent (1): [I haven't experienced ash fallout] since I been here. My father in law said one day there was that much ash [*gesturing to thigh*], when [Mount Saint] Augustine blew up, or [Mount] Redoubt. Since I've been here, Redoubt blew three or four times.

Respondent (2): Redoubt blew up; we had to evacuate school.

Respondent (1): The wind turned.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard stories about the Mount Katmai eruption?*

Respondent (1): No, I never heard about that. My dad told me a story about Mount Iliamna when it blew up; I was seven or eight years old.

Interviewer: *Have you seen bluffs around the lake with loose, sandy layers that are actively eroding?*

Respondent (1): The only one I know of is by the bluff coming from Igiugig; that's the only ones that have been falling down. [That is the] only ones I notice.

Respondent (2): On the other side of this river there's rapids because there's sand; those are the only ones you see. I think all the stuff you see is stuff created by glaciers a long time ago. I think this lake is a glacier lake.

Interviewer: *Have you observed bluffs that contain swirled layers of sand and sediments?*

Respondent (1): Not that I know; only where the bluff [near Igiugig] is.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard stories about tsunamis or big waves on the lake?*

Respondent (1): Everybody always say to watch out [during an] earthquake; a tidal wave [could] come.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced much flooding here?*

Respondent (1): Fall time, that's every fall [we experiencing some flooding]. The water come up, and it freeze and then overflow come up over the bank.

Respondent (2): By Roadhouse Creek it gets really deep [during the fall].

Respondent (1): in springtime it gets frozen when it rains it fills up.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced big storms here? Have you heard stories about storms from the past?*

Respondent (1): As far as I can remember there used to be lots of snow here, but no more; snow has vanished.

Respondent (2): My grandpa told me, he used to live in the old village, and they used to have to dig each other out of the house [in the] '50s, '60s. Now, there's hardly any snow.

Interviewer: *Does it get windy here? Do you experience storms with high winds?*

Respondent (2): Fall time; we get every kind of weather in the fall. Iliamna is known for wind –

Respondent (2): And rain.

Interviewer: *Has the intensity or the prevailing direction of the wind changed?*

Respondent (1): It gets up to 80, 90 miles an hour; it's normal. It was a couple weeks ago, we had to stay an extra day; they cancelled the flight. [It was a] nice day, but it was windy.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in plant and animal species? Have you observed new species, or any disappearing?*

Respondent (1): There's new kinds of bugs –

Respondent (2): I will say two things; bugs. There's bugs I've never seen in my life –

Respondent (1): Mosquitoes –

Respondent (2): Yeah, red mosquitoes; I've never seen them. They're all red; I've never seen them in my whole life. There's green mosquitoes on the green plants, but I've never seen the red ones that are just flying around. And where did the caribou go? Where did the moose go? We haven't gotten them in 12 years; [now we have to] travel a long ways [to hunt].

Respondent (1): I know caribou migrate up north; they travel, and a lot of their ground is eaten up. Then they go back to the grounds; that's the life of the caribou. That's not man changing them. My a'pas told me that, but that's migration; they give a chance for their other food to grow.

Respondent (2): I don't think it's migration; I think it's something else.

Interviewer: *How has the berry harvest been during the recent past?*

Respondent (1): We don't have too many blackberries this year. There's red berries, blueberries; there should have been a lot of blackberries.

Respondent (2): My grandfather used to say, “When there's lots of mosquitoes, there's lots of fish.” I think our hot, dry summers are going to the lower 48, and their rain is going up here.

Interviewer: *Has the timing of freeze up and breakup changed during your lifetime?*

Respondent (1): Normally [breakup happens] by the end of May. So far, all the time I've been here, it's breakup by end of May. Sometimes it don't freeze up.

Interviewer: *Is it common to have open water in winter?*

Respondent (1): [The lake] freezes, and then opens up, and then freeze; [the weather goes] up and down; never stay cold. It stayed cold for three, four months, but not like this. One week it is freezing. I'd say in maybe three, four years it's start doing that; up and down, up and down.

Respondent (2): Except last year we had a good stretch [of cold weather].

Respondent (1): I could drive a truck to Kokhanok!

Respondent (2): One year for [winter] carnival we went over in boats.

Interviewer: *Do you have permafrost here? Has the permafrost changed?*

Respondent (1): When they dug my well last year, my wells only 40 feet deep, but they hit permafrost only after 1 foot maybe. About 2 feet, and they went right through it then they hit

bedrock; probably at 28 feet, and they drill through that. They pump out that black stuff; that black sand is gold there.

Interviewer: *Are you still able to harvest what you need for the winter? Are fish still plentiful?*

Respondent (1): I can get fish no problem. My son in law goes to hunt for us; he has to go farther and farther away for caribou and moose, but when the season is closed there's moose right in the village.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about starvation from this area?*

Respondent (1): A long time ago my parents told me that people up north – people came this way [to look for food], but I don't know how many millions or thousands of years ago [that was]. People [came] from up north; that's why this village is here.

Interviewer: *Are you aware of any abandoned camp or village sites in the area?*

Respondent (1): This village was by the rapids then, by the old school, then [it moved] by the dump, and now it's down here.

## Lake Iliamna Interview # 16

Interviewer: *Before we begin, is there anything you would like to share? What was your upbringing like?*

Respondent: The year I go to school was '58 here; no, in '53 I go to school. That's when – '56 my parents moved down to Levelock; everyone moved from Igiugig to go to school. There was no school in Igiugig; we go to school in Kokhanok and Levelock. I went to school here in '53. [I was born in] 1938, [on the] Branch River.

Interviewer: *Do you come from a large family?*

Respondent: I've got four sisters now, and one brother; I lost two. There was six or seven of us family, in my family. We moved a lot when we were kids; we went down to Naknek, used to stay in South Naknek, and Branch River. We move a lot everywhere. The last time we moved to Igiugig [we] stayed in igiugig. We used to camp out in winter time; spring time we put up fish, then fall time we go for spawned out fish. Knutson Bay, by Pedro Bay, they call it Knutson Bay, that one; [we used to go] that way with boat, power boat. My dad had sail boat when we were small; sometimes we go to Kokhanok in fall time. That's what they call that; Kokhanok Falls.

Interviewer: *Do you have any favorite stories?*

Respondent: [When] I was growing up, like old times way, [we had] no power, no running water, and no indoor bathroom. When we [used to] camp out in winter time with dog teams we [would] just camp, and travel around with beaver traps. They would skin 'em, and sold it to Dillingham.

Interviewer: *Did you used to trap a lot?*

Respondent: [My father] used to, but he never did tell us stories; that's why we don't know nothing [about] old time ways. He used to tell my mom what he used to do when he was young, but I don't know. My dad, he was quiet like us. We are quiet like our parents; they hardly say anything, but my dad [would] tell mom what he used to do when he was young. He used to walk; used to live over Cook Inlet side with mom's parents. My mom grew up, and my grandpa raised him; my grandpa took care of them. [They lived on the] Cook Inlet side, someplace. [They would] travel there; they used to move around after they went home, stay a couple days, then go. [They would go] to camp, and go beaver hunting; muskrat hunting with dog teams.

Interviewer: *Have you ever experienced, or heard stories about earthquakes/ground shaking?*

Respondent: The only time I know [there was an earthquake] is 1964, when I first got married. I [remember] a second one; [my son] was about maybe a year old when I was down at that little house down the road. My late husband used to work for state; at five or six in the evening it started earthquaking. It was six-something.

Interviewer: *Have you ever experienced ash fallout from volcanoes, or heard stories about volcanoes erupting?*

Respondent: They used to talk about those mountains blowing up, like Iliamna and Augustine; that Augustine blow up, but I don't know what year. We used to live – it was snowing with ashes in the winter time, maybe [it was] about '70s.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard stories about the Mount Katmai eruption?*

Respondent: I never heard about that, [it was] before i was born I guess, yeah. I don't know that one; before I was born.

Interviewer: *Have you ever seen evidence of landslides around the lake, or heard stories about them?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any areas in the tundra that appear to be cracking, as if the ground was tearing apart?*

Respondent: I see some, but they aren't too wide. I don't even know how to read those maps; [the cracks are] just around, maybe just the cold weather [causes it]; I don't know. I have never seen earthquake cracks.

Interviewer: *Have you seen areas in the ground that are sunken, or appear to be sinking down?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any areas that are actively eroding?*

Respondent: No, not really. I don't know much about a long time ago; just starting to notice. Ever since 1920 or something; I don't know.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard stories about big waves of water on the lake?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced some large storm events here?*

Respondent: Only way is – I watch them in the news; that's it. We do have heavy wind; east wind most [of the time], yeah.

Interviewer: *Have the storms changed during your lifetime?*

Respondent: [The winds are] more stronger every year; east wind, north wind, and west wind. The world is changing.

Interviewer: *Has the amount or timing of annual snowfall changed?*

Respondent: Same thing [as changing winds]; sometimes we have no snow. Last year we didn't have much snow. We used to have lots of snow. [The snow] used to stay year 'round and [the wind] never used to blow hard.

Interviewer: *Has the lake ice changed during your lifetime?*

Respondent: It freezes alright, but the east wind breaks it up; [this happened] almost a month ago. [Now we are getting] rain; the world is changing every year, and the weather gets stronger every year. It never used to blow hard [when I was] growing up.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed an increase in unseasonably warm or cold weather?*

Respondent: I don't know about weather. We used to stay out in the camp in a tent [in all kinds of weather].

Interviewer: *Did your parents ever talk about what weather was like when they were young?*

Respondent: I don't know those old time ways; very few I know. When I was growing up my dad never tell. My dad's dad was alive, but he never tell nothing. [My sister in law] used to tell her story all the time; he used to tell her about how he used to live. You guys gotta ask her; sometimes she told me. She said that a long time ago she [was] told how he used to live, that he used to walk all the time; no dog teams, just walk. When I wanna know, I ask her when I see her. She's the only one that knows my grandpa's stories. I never see her much.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced, or heard stories about flooding here?*

Respondent: Not really, but a little bit flooded down on the beach. I don't know what year, though. Those creeks [have flooded in the past], but not too much. [They flooded] just enough to reach our smokehouse. I don't know why [they flood]; probably from overflow.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any new plant or animal species coming into the area, or any species that are no longer around?*

Respondent: My mom used to tell us, or my gram, she used to tell us that sometimes animals disappear then they come back; caribou, moose, porcupine. They said one day they go around the world; they travel then they come back [after] maybe a year or somewhere around there. People always look around for it, and see nothing. Sometimes [we] go down to New Stu or Levelock to look for caribous; sometimes they see some around here.

Interviewer: *Are there fewer animals around now that you rely on for food?*

Respondent: I don't know.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any new plants in the area, or any that have disappeared?*

Respondent: No. I always go out berry picking in fall time after [we put up] fish. [I pick] black, blue, and salmonberries, and cranberries. That's how we grow up; on land and sea. Blackberries always dry up in springtime; the cranberries don't.

Interviewer: *Why do you think some animals are not as common around here anymore?*

Respondent: When they don't hunt them, they don't come around no more; like muskrats. They used to hunt muskrats, otters, minks, and beavers. They hardly go trapping [now].

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in "normal" seasonal weather?*

Respondent: Sometimes [the lake] don't freeze right away; sometimes [the lake doesn't freeze until] December month. Sometimes it don't freeze, the lake, when it's not very cold. A long time ago, before it started blowing, the lake freezes by November and December. [Back then we used] mostly dog teams; there [was] no hondas and snow machines. Breakup sometimes [happens] about May month, sometimes first week of June. When it's blowing east wind all the time, the ice go away faster; [the wind] takes the ice up that way and it melts.

Interviewer: *Do you feel that the weather has become less reliable?*

Respondent: Like two years now we been having cold summers; I don't know why. It's been cold [in the summer]; last year, too, it was cold. I never notice in July; it was snow and frost in July month. One of the ladies told me it was cold in summer time last year. It used to be hot, but like two years ago it was cold. Like I said, my dad never tell us story about nothing; never tell us story, nothing. He was an old time guy.

Interviewer: *Where was your mother born?*

Respondent: I don't know, maybe here. My dad [was] born in Branch River. That's how my parents were; we're all quiet.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any rivers to be changing course? If so, is this normal?*

Respondent: Every year the channels change; now it's on the other side this year.

Interviewer: *Do you feel like the environment has gotten wetter, drier, or remained consistent?*

Respondent: It's been damp.

Interviewer: *Have any new lakes been forming, or new drainages?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard stories about starvation?*

Respondent: I don't know about that because my parents never talked to us about starvation or sick peoples. I don't know that; I don't know about that one.

Interviewer: *Do you still go to fish camp? Is your camp close to the village?*

Respondent: Right now [my fish camp is] down on the beach. Across the river people used to put up fish; these people. They are all on this side now. My mom's fish camp in Igiugig, nobody use it now. My sister used to use it, but she got her own fish camp in Levelock [now]. I got one sister in Levelock, one in Texas, and one in Kenai. Me and my brother, we lost four – two brothers, and two sisters. My baby sister is in Texas; she don't call me. Only my oldest sister, she always call her. She always [used to] call me when she was in Levelock.

Interviewer: *Do you have anything else you would like to share?*

Respondent: Not really. I always talk to my girls about how I was growing up; I teach her how to cut fish, and she's always glad I teach her how to do stuff. She's learning a lot; she's always glad I helped her. Only thing, like some of [the skills I have], she don't know how to do; like when you make something, or make stuff, like [how] to knit or sew. She never used to know how to split fish; she's learning a lot. [She's learning how to do things] on her own; I hardly help her. She split [the salmon], and hang them. We used to have a little cache, [big] enough to put the fish in there, stretch, and pile them up. We don't count it, but we put up as much we can. We used to have lots of dogs. Fall time we dry red salmons; we air dry. We come home; my dad used to bury whole fish in the ground and leave it all winter till spring, then they eat it just like fresh fish. They dig enough to keep the fish cold. [They would do this with] any kind of salmon, even rainbows or whitefish. Then in November we get white fish, and put it away in a cache. [We] just lay it flat; that's how I grow up, with no freezer, and just wood stove. [It used to be] too cold to go outside. Nowadays, the oil stove really spoil us. We used to help our dad when he get wood. After he chop wood, we bring it in the windbreaks, and get everything ready by evening. [We used to] carry water. Those young kids [today], they don't know nothing about long time ago; all they know is TV and computer. They always go out fishing, though. Some stay home and work. All my kids go fishing, except [name removed].

I had one adopted daughter, but she just moved out last year; she lives in Anchorage. My daughter's daughter, she used to call me "mom" because she don't know her mom much. Ever since she left, I stay alone. [My daughter] comes up and cook for me; she always busy working, plus she got two boys to take care of. She always go meetings; she's the oldest one, and son's in Levelock. Only one away from me is [name removed]. When they ask me, I tell them what I know.