

Lake Iliamna Interview # 17

Interviewer: *What was it like growing up in this area? When were you born?*

Respondent: [I was born in] '58; Anchorage. [I grew up] here. [It was] a lot different than it is today. I lived like everyone else, like subsistence lifestyle. People from here are originally from Old Iliamna village. [Name removed] was raised more in Lonesome Bay. Iliamna Village is up the Iliamna River; my mom is from Kenai side. She said she went up and down the Cook Inlet in a sailboat; her parents moved in to Old Iliamna. In the '40s they moved here to Pedro Bay. I live a mile down; I'm living in the house they had. I have four older sisters; no brothers. It just seemed like it was harder life [back then]; we didn't have the running water, sewer, [or] electricity. We lived off the land, basically. Once in a while someone would leave and come back with chicken, [but it] didn't happen too often.

Interviewer: *Did people utilize dog teams back then?*

Respondent: Even I did; my dad used to bring us to school in dog team. That was in early '70s; [we] used to walk between here and Pile Bay and Lonesome Bay. Nowadays you don't even walk to your four-wheeler.

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

Respondent: I remember that earthquake [in 1964]. We used to have chores after school, and I was carrying wood and the ground was like sponge, like a trampoline; you could see the trees moving. [My dad] told us to go inside; [he] didn't know that was the worst place to be. I remember going down to the beach; the ice was three or four feet thick, and it was pushed up on the beach. There were trouts, and bowheads, and sticklebacks pushed up on the beach. I asked my parents if they ever feel earthquakes; just a way of life.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced volcanic eruptions, or hears stories about them?*

Respondent: The only thing my mom mentioned was that [Mount] Katmai eruption; she remembered them talking about it, the older people. [They] said it turned into night during the day, and they got a lot of ash. [The ash] helps for stuff to grow, she said that; stuff grew better after that, the plants and garden. She just mentioned what she heard.

Interviewer: *Have you seen evidence of landslides in the area?*

Respondent: Yeah you see them, but it's mostly from water and rain. There was one on that mountain over there; not earthquake related.

Interviewer: *Have you seen areas where the ground is cracked, like it's tearing?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you seen sunken areas in the tundra?*

Respondent: Not [from] earthquakes; old settlements [where all that is left is a depression in the ground]. [I have seen them] by that mountain by the airstrip, about a quarter mile back. I think, with the Dena'ina, they were traveling and used them as camps. This area was water; my grandpa was born 1892, and he remembered as a kid going up to Old Iliamna with the bidarkis. Maybe the water was high that year; that area used to be under water.

Interviewer: *Have you seen areas of sand located away from the lake?*

Respondent: You run into those areas, an area that has sand. I've gone up here to Dumbbell Lakes and seen sand.

Interviewer: *Do you remember earthquakes other than the big one in 1964?*

Respondent: No. Is there history of bigger earthquakes years ago? I never hear of a big earthquake other than the [one in] '64; we get them all the time here. The other day [we had an earthquake]; it was a long earthquake, and you could hear it coming, the rumble, but you don't feel anything. That last earthquake was kinda big; I was wondering if I could run out or not. My dogs and cats come to me like I'm gonna save them.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any areas, or bluffs containing warped, sandy layers around the lake?*

Respondent: The cliffs are all rocky; you can't really see layers, you know? If you dug down, you could see the different layers; like a foot and a half [down] you hit the ash from Katmai, and before that you get [Mount] Redoubt ash. You know its [ash from] Katmai because it's really thick. Man, Redoubt is really smoking now; there is an area on the northeast [side of the mountain] where the smoke was just pouring out of there. Only [volcano] story I ever heard about was Katmai, and it was stories that they heard, that their parents told them.

Interviewer: *Have the characteristics of storm events changed during your lifetime?*

Respondent: Lately – even in my lifetime it seems like the winds are stronger than when I was a kid. In the winter you get your blizzards, and it seems like it's really strong. We get east winds, and we get gusts up to 50 [miles per hour] and beyond. [An elder] thought it was the trees that was protecting us; with the bark beetle the trees are not protecting us anymore. But I think there's a change in the environment somewhere. Like this winter we had no snow at all. When I was growing up it was common to have four or five feet of snow; not anymore. We used call the real winters cold; that lake would freeze over so you could use it [for traveling on]. No one even ice fished this year because that ice has been so bad. When I was growing up, the bay froze over every winter. We would get cold weather by the last of August, and by the first of December the lake would freeze over until May. [In the] '70s I notice it start changing; people boat all winter [now]. [We] used to have cold weather and lots of snow; you start worrying about snow in the winter for the berries. It's predictable in a bad way because it's cutting back on what we get in the summer. The only constant is the salmon.

Interviewer: *Has the salmon run always been dependable?*

Respondent: There was a year there was no salmon, before I was born. [During that time] they got trout and whatever they can, but a lot of them go hungry because you have to depend on the land. I don't know what year it was; when [my parents] were younger. This village never usually gets caribou; you have to go a ways [to hunt them], and moose didn't come in until the late '30s, early '40s. Somebody said they had moose before that Katmai eruption, and they went away and then start coming back.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about starvation?*

Respondent: I heard my parents talk about having a hard time to get food to eat, when they depend on subsistence; fish are such a big part of everyone's life. I heard them talk about one summer [when] there was no fish; there was some, but not enough for them to keep through the winter. Not only they eat the fish, but the dogs too. They used to get Arctic char, and sticklebacks; got the spines on them. They used to get them by dip net, and dry them out for the dogs. A lot of them starved because there was no food. Even now, if you don't have fish you are not complete. I give to elders who aren't able to come back anymore; we haven't got a moose in a long time.

Interviewer: *Has summer weather changed?*

Respondent: Our summers have been so cold [lately]; maybe that's why some of the berries aren't growing anymore. In the '90s my parents were sick; the temps were in the 90s in Pedro Bay. Now we're in a cold decade; the sun doesn't shine, and when it does it's not as warm as it used to be. We get blue berries – the environment is all screwed up. If it's not one thing, it's another thing.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced forest or tundra fires here?*

Respondent: Years ago, must have been in 1910 or late 1800s, there was a forest fire up here towards Dumbbell Lakes; you see old, burnt trees. It happened years ago.

Interviewer: *Have you observed changes in trees? Has the spruce bark beetle impacted this area?*

Respondent: About 10 years [ago] now; [the trees have] gotten to where you can't even use it, it rots. When they first start dying it was fine, but now it's seldom to get a tree to burn. A couple summers ago there were a bunch of worms coming off the birch; I've seen it more than once, at least six or seven times I've seen it. It's like a cycle; last summer there was some.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any new species of plant or animals coming into the area? Have you noticed any species disappearing?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in animal populations?*

Respondent: I'm thinking it might be just a cycle, but I haven't seen a muskrat in 25 or 30 years. I don't know what happened to the beaver; I haven't seen one in a while. I used to see muskrat; I don't see that anymore. I used to see land otter tracks. I was thinking, animals are on a cycle; maybe that's what it is. I think I'm the only one in Pedro Bay that's worried about muskrat.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed the environment getting generally wetter, drier, or remaining the same?*

Respondent: It's been more damp in the past 10 years; the lakes been really high the last couple years.

Interviewer: *Is flooding common here in Pedro Bay?*

Respondent: In the fall we get our rain. I think we had the whole summer last summer, cold and damp, not like it used to be. You hear [about] global warming, then why we cooled off?

Interviewer: *Do you know of any new lakes or streams forming?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have rivers been shifting course?*

Respondent: Knutson River does, it shifts. In '93 it rained so much it changed course and flooded out our airstrip. The village council is going to put a hydroelectric dam [on the Knutson River], and it changes because of all the rain we been getting.

Interviewer: *Are there any areas where a lot of erosion is happening?*

Respondent: Not that I notice; I haven't been over the river in years. This creek [close to the village] has been changing.

Interviewer: *Have the overall weather patterns changed?*

Respondent: [In the past], every year [weather] was the same; we knew we would get cold weather in September. [Later], the ice went out; that's just the way it was. In the late '70s it was so warm a while that the leaves start to sprout and it was January. It's not the same anymore; you can't – when I was growing up we knew that the first of December it would get cold. Christmas day this year we got over a foot of snow and a – once in a while it warmed up to zero; that was warm to us. There's been a change in the weather.

Interviewer: *Do you think weather is less dependable now?*

Respondent: We get fall fish here, we call it "noodlevai;" you would hang it up in October so it would freeze dry. Now you have to stick it in your freezer and hope it gets cold in December. A long time ago I remember going over the river, getting 100 fish; now you can't do that. It's

because the weather has changed so much; you can predict it anymore. I read, "Walter's Story," and he said that one time that this lake didn't freeze. The lady that wrote it is from here, a retired school teacher. She's Walter Johnson's niece. See this village, and anyone that ever [lived here], we're related. From the family – you learn a lot from those two books.

Interviewer: *Is there anything else you would like to share?*

Respondent: I worked for the Park Service, and the museum in Anchorage is putting on this Dena'ina exhibit, and the lady that's head of the exhibit, she asked me how I lived; she wanted to know, but I couldn't explain to her how I live my way of life. Even stories my parents tell me, it's hard for me to talk about the way I live my life, the way I was raised. How do you explain a way of life? I try to figure out why I can't explain it to anybody. I mean, how do you explain your way of life to someone who doesn't live it? I like working with elders, and I find out with elders you [should] sit there and visit with them, and it might take two hours.

Lake Iliamna Interview # 18

Interviewer: *What was it like growing up here; were you born here?*

Respondent: I was born in Providence Hospital; Anchorage. [My family included] six of us [kids]; seven of us [total]. This was a whole village here; I don't know how many people were here. More than 100 people [lived here]; sure seems like it now, but everybody had a lot of kids.

Interviewer: *Was story telling an important part of home and family life while growing up?*

Respondent: That's all we had to do; either that or going to get wood, or subsistence [activities] of some sort. My grandparents [told] mostly stories about hairy man or little men; that would keep you out of the woods so you wouldn't get lost.

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

Respondent: The only thing I ever heard stories about were lights, maybe they were falling stars or meteors. I just heard stories, tales of lights coming down the river; elders had seen [them]. They stayed and elders would follow it; there weren't a lot of people always together [back then]. I thought they were just meteors; clear nights in the winter. I never heard any stories about big foot or anything.

Yeah growing up we had a lot of earthquakes; [we were] under the table quite a bit of the time. Working up to the '64 quake, we had the hanging lights in the old school, and those would start shaking. I was outside [of Alaska] in '64; I left the state of Alaska in '59 [during] October Month. The lake [water level] came up; that's just what people told me. The lake busted and moved up, but no damage around here or anything. I was on the Oregon coast in high school; my buddy had an El Camino. We made some money cleaning up the beaches and yards.

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

Respondent: After that – flying from here, and going over Iliamna Bay, I was flying with [a friend]; he said the whole mountain had fallen into Iliamna Bay. There's a little island on the Cook Inlet side, you can still see it. He said, yeah, that was after the quake.

Interviewer: *Have you ever observed cracks in the ground, away from the lake, as if it were tearing?*

Respondent: You know, not even – [I am] not looking for it. I've seen parts where it's cracked, but I think that's from freezing. [Do you mean] like the Andreas Fault or something? That's quite obvious, but no; I've not seen anything like that here.

Interviewer: *Have you seen sunken areas in the tundra?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any areas away from the lake that contain deposits of sand, like a beach?*

Respondent: [Like] a sandbox? Yeah, I've seen a few of those hunting up toward Pile Bay, and up hunting toward Lonesome Bay area. I just assumed the lake had been there [in the past]; I thought they were just old, dry lakes.

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

Respondent: I've often wondered about that too; is the lake big enough [to generate a tsunami]? That's why I built up on the hill!

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

Respondent: I've heard stories about it, because I was gone. We've only had ash fall twice. I moved back to Pedro Bay in 1990. It was [Mount Saint] Augustine one time, and [Mount] Redoubt the other time. I was in Anchorage when [Redoubt] blew, and [the air] was black. [I have heard stories about] the one down there in Katmai; elders [were] fishing out the bay when we were younger; now it's in the history books. I can't recall now; they were just telling us, and we weren't too interested. We were just fishing out in the bay; [the elders talked about] things they lost and they moved to this side. I'll bet it did [have an effect of animals], but then after that moose started coming back into this country; growing up, my parents didn't have any moose. You dig down about 12 inches and you get a layer of ash like that [*gesturing with hands*]. I dug it all out, and threw it in my garden.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any sandy bluffs containing loose layers of sediment?*

Respondent: I've never personally noticed it; I'm sure if I were with a geologist, and they pointed it out, it would be in my mind. [I would] just say, hey what is that all about?

Interviewer: *Have you seen areas that contain swirled layers of sediment?*

Respondent: I've seen these warped [layers], yeah, up on those cliffs by Pile Bay. They've got some weird looking things there, right around there [*pointing to map*] to the west of Pile River. [I have seen] just something irregular in that rock wall, because we used to go shoot the swallows [there]; gives us something to do.

Interviewer: *Has the intensity or regularity of storms changed?*

Respondent: They were greater, but I think they're greater [in intensity] now; they affect our houses because we've got those spruce bark beetle [infested trees]. Since then, we've had the spruce bark beetle; we could never see the lake [in the past], and now the wind hits and it seems like someone's run into it. People try to say it gets colder now, I mean colder then. If you look back at the temperature trends, it's the same. But our houses are built different [then they used to be], and our clothes are a little different; you [used to] have straw in your boots for insulation. Everything's changed quite a bit!

Interviewer: *Have you experienced unseasonably warm or cold weather more compared to the past?*

Respondent: No, because it cycles and everything. The last couple winters it's [been] mild; this month it's raining, but last year it didn't.

Interviewer: *Have you observed new plant or animal species in the area, or any that have disappeared?*

Respondent: For me it's the same.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced forest or tundra fires here?*

Respondent: I was told, you know, in the early '20s there was a fire around here; I don't remember [when it was]. I thought it was – you figure it is a 100 year event; you look at spruce bark beetle, and you look at pictures back then and there was no spruce. If you come back here 20 years ago, this place was green with spruce trees. It was probably spruce bark beetle [that impacted the trees] back then; it wasn't written down.

Interviewer: *Does this area commonly experience flooding?*

Respondent: Other than the Knutson River jumping its bank; that's the only event other than the lake getting real high with [heavy] snowfall or rainfall. It gets real high; my dad told me growing up here, he was born in 1925 – first man born here – you could go around Knutson Mountain with a boat, there was water all the way around. Is that upheaval, or more growth? So I asked a couple elders and yeah, it was possible it wasn't roaring through with a speed boat, but you could pick your way through.

Interviewer: *Has the timing of freeze up or breakup changed?*

Respondent: It's cycles; many years the lake never freezes. It froze five times, but we don't use it [for travel in the winter]; you guys do! All the wind blew off the snow, and we got a bunch of ice. Nobody here will ever touch [the ice].

Interviewer: *Have you observed any overall changes in weather during your lifetime?*

Respondent: The resources were plenty [in the past]; there was nobody ever going hungry around here unless they weren't taking care of their family. I never heard of anybody going hungry, not like now. Game's just hard to come by; many – last time I went [hunting] we went through 300 dollars in gas. [We were] going out every day on the lake, camped [for moose]. You ask, "Do I want to go out every day, or chop wood?" [Now we] order our meat.

Interviewer: *Do you have permafrost here?*

Respondent: Oh yeah; [permafrost is] four feet down. I started my house; that's where I dug down and hit permafrost at 4 feet. I noticed where I didn't do that they forced their way up.

Interviewer: *Have any rivers been shifting course?*

Respondent: Not to a massive, whole new area, but in its [own] area. Knutson [River] here is doing that all the time.

Interviewer: *Is the environment getting generally wetter, drier?*

Respondent: [I know of a] couple of dry lakes right here, but we'll see this summer. Sometimes there's water in them; it's not something as if, we call them dry lakes, but sometimes there's water in them.

Interviewer: *Do you know of an old camp or village sites that are abandoned?*

Respondent: Lonseome Bay, there's a whole settlement in there; Jack Durant's Bay, but that wasn't a settlement, just some cabins. [I know of old settlements in] Lonesome Bay, Pile Bay, and Old Iliamna village.

Interviewer: *Has the road to Williamsport been used for a long time, before it was a road?*

Respondent: That was an old mail hauling thing; the park service has got a whole bunch of good pics, too, [from the] early '20s, World War I, World War II; that was transport for the armed forces. That's what that whole thing was all about; [they started it] in the early '20s, and they finished up by World War II. They were worried about the Russians getting over here, or the Japanese or whoever, but they got through the canneries anyway. I was born in '48. I was three or four years old; you hear a plane, and you run to the windows. I remember a lot of lightning back then; I remember lightning here growing up. [I remember thinking], is that a bomb? No, it was the lightning.

That White Alice stuff started in the '50s; that's how we ended up in Oregon. [I remember thinking], there's no winter here, which was kinda nice.

Lake Iliamna Interview # 19

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

Respondent: I don't know much about earthquakes, just the one time. I know one thing though; the weather has changed 100% since 1932. It's been so different that you couldn't know what the weather's gonna be the next day, or even, actually [during] the same day. It's nice now, but this evening you don't know [what the weather will be like]. So has the temperatures – the temp runs from 40 to 40; it could be you wake up in the morning its 40 above, and the evening it's 40 below. You can't understand it anymore. Going out, in my life, you stay out in the woods [and you have] food to eat. You could go out and have a good time in the woods; good weather. You couldn't spend a day out there now [because you would] get caught in a storm, especially if you're in a boat or something.

Interviewer: *In the past, could you depend on the cold weather?*

Respondent: Oh yeah; still do. Like you said, if you can get out, the ice is different. This year we have no ice at all, hardly.

Interviewer: *Did the lake freeze all winter in the past?*

Respondent: Oh yeah, except for the last five years it was just very seldom to use it [with a boat in winter]; it's bad.

Interviewer: *How does the lack of lake ice affect you?*

Respondent: Oh yeah, 100 percent. Like now, all winter you couldn't drive from here to Iliamna or Pile Bay because of pretty thin ice; the ice is spotty. You go five feet away, and nothing! It is not like it used to be; you can't get out [of the village during winter]. Around here, you can't do too much snogo riding 'cause it's rough in the hills. I used to do a lot of dog team driving on the ice, and out in the woods. It's been a few years.

Interviewer: *Did you used to keep dog teams?*

Respondent: Just about all my life, about 30 years, 40, 50 years, 60 years. Yeah, it was the only way [to travel]; everybody traveled by dog team.

Interviewer: *Did snowmachines replace dog teams?*

Respondent: Yeah, when they first start coming out; big, old clumsy things. Most of my work in my life was guiding; I get a lot of pictures taken.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed changes in seasonal weather, including summer?*

Respondent: Summers – summer is cold. [It is] not like it used to be; it's so doggone cold you can't even clean fish [because] your hands are cold. It used to be warmer in the summer; now you get all wet and you hurry up. I don't [commercial fish] anymore. The way we used to make a

living was to go to Bristol Bay, but not anymore; this year's gonna be nothing. [The salmon run is] getting worse every year. Have you been watching it? It's been getting worse every year; no silvers at all, just reds. [Now we have] nothing else but reds.

Interviewer: *Have storms been changing in intensity or frequency?*

Respondent: Oh the storms are hard nowadays; you get a storm now and the wind really blows. Wind and rain; can't stand against it. In my days, I wasn't raised here; I was raised in Lonesome Bay. Ten miles we used to row in a skiff 'cause there was no such thing as a motor in my days. [We used] boat and oars. We used to row up there and row back home; no way to do that now [because] you'd be stuck for a week. We used to do a lot of rowing, rowing all over the [bay].

[Things are] changing quite a bit. Now, as far as living, I really think it's too easy. If we need meat or something, we know it's out there; if it's up on the hill no one's going out there. A long time ago we used to climb that mountain. Now, for one thing I know, there was two moose out there in Porcupine River and they're still out there. There up on the hill, and everyone wants meat! That's where I just come from [ice fishing]. That's something else that's disappearing completely; trout, disappearing completely. You could walk down any day you feel like eating fish; now you starve to death. I don't know. Everyone keeps blaming it on the sport fisherman; I grew out of it, guiding, and I don't think it is [the cause of the problem]. It's just nature, I think, almost like a cycle. Who knows when it will come back. Everything goes, I mean everything. Right now even the bugs are going; mosquitoes, bumblebees, even ladybugs.

Interviewer: *Are other species of animals disappearing?*

Respondent: Swallows are disappearing; last year we didn't have any. People say it's because of the food but, I don't know, there's food all over the world; it's all the same, all over.

Interviewer: *Are there any plant species that are experiencing changes?*

Respondent: They're all dead. That's something else that's going on; all the trees, everything, even grass has quit growing. Spruce, they're just about all dead and fall down. I noticed the last couple years the birch is going; [there is] no more sap in them, just drying away. During summer, you cut spruce and it's just wet and now you cut them it's just dry. So, a few years and we won't have any birch either. Of course I know some of the spruce is coming up pretty fast, new ones.

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

Respondent: [The lake] don't hardly freeze and then it freeze. Like I said, [freeze up is] getting later all the time. Like now, we should've had – out here in 1942, around there, we got about four or five feet of snow; couldn't even see the bushes [because] the snow's so deep, and you got about four feet of ice on the lake. Early in the morning like this, you go hunting, freezes, take off with your dogs in the woods. You gotta get back though; that used to be fun, though, but I guess I'll never see those days again.

Interviewer: *Is there less snow now?*

Respondent: Oh yeah, there's no snow. In fact, we didn't have any snow this year. Like I said, we would've had about four feet of snow [at this time of year in the past]. We had a little snow mixed with rain, a little snow mixed with rain all winter. [It is] storming, but it's not doing any good; we might of had six inches of snow [this winter], that's about it.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced earthquakes here?*

Respondent: 1947, yeah, and we had one just here. I don't even know if it was an earthquake; I was doing something in the house there, making coffee, and something hit the wall there. Everybody was running around saying, "Earthquake, earthquake!" It didn't bother the ice or anything, though.

Interviewer: *Are earthquakes common here?*

Respondent: Never; once in a while. This might be the first year we felt one since that one in anchorage; 1947.

Interviewer: *Did it cause any damage?*

Respondent: No, but it shook up pretty good. My kids were out, you know, and one of my boys was climbing the trees and he was up pretty high and that birch tree was swaying. He was swaying away, and he couldn't figure out what it was. I don't think it affected anything; the only thing I think – it could have been my imagination, but it seemed like it affected the muskrats. There was no more muskrats; the ground shook them all together I think. The way everything else is going, old mother nature have her way!

Interviewer: *Do you remember the 1964 earthquake?*

Respondent: I was here. I never even saw the ground break any place. One place, Iliamna River, but it wasn't very wide; [it] broke it apart, up Iliamna River. That's the only place I've ever seen the ground break, Old Iliamna, up river about six miles; ground open, about quarter of a mile above the bridge near Old Iliamna. I haven't seen [other places] like that, and I've been around a lot.

Interviewer: *Have you observed sand deposits away from the lake?*

Respondent: No, I haven't seen anything like that.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any areas, like bluffs, that contain sandy layers that might be eroding?*

Respondent: Not that I know of; it could be somewhere around if a guy paid attention to it, but you don't pay attention to it and you just go right by.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any areas where landslides have happened?*

Respondent: Well yeah, but that's from a rainstorm, and the whole side of the mountain comes down into the lake, right by the lake. In fact, by Lonesome Bay, it came down into the lake. [There are] a few more, but I couldn't place them.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced fallout from volcanic eruptions?*

Respondent: No; last one was that little mountain over there. [There was] a big bunch of smoke, but not enough to bring ashes over here; maybe the winds.

Interviewer: *Did your parents and grandparents tell stories about weather when you were young?*

Respondent: We have a lot of stories, but I'm too old [to remember them all]! That's the only pastime we used to have a long time ago; that's the only pastime we ever had. That's the way they put the kids to sleep, that's the way they fell asleep. [We had] some scary stories, some of them are long stories, and it takes almost all winter to tell one story. The longest one I ever noticed, and I've heard a lot of them, but the one about the weather, that's a long story. East wind and west wind would fight each other; you got east wind and west wind. [It was about] how the east wind crawls in to hide from the west wind. You know, it's a lot of times cold in the hole and it's cold outside; that's supposed to be when the west winds lost [so] it stays cold.

Them stories are miles and miles away, and it would take days and days to tell them; those stories are long. My grandpas and my grandmas, they end it. Then the education came, and then they all got left behind; a lot of change, quite a bit. You know, nowadays most of them don't want to listen to it, but I think mine was almost the best. It was tough, you know. Actually, I lived in the woods mostly like an animal 'cause there was no food, and no such thing as going to the store. You try to get enough [food] to last all winter; we always had enough ammunition, and meat all the time, but we used to go out. Especially like now, we'd go out and wouldn't come back until the salmon comes; stay out in the woods. I remember one time there was almost 30 people, when I was a kid, I just stayed where I was; that's how I grew up. Like, I was in Lonesome Bay and I stayed there until I was 18 or 19 years old, then I went to Bristol Bay.

Interviewer: *Did you hunt moose in Lonesome Bay?*

Respondent: Moose just start to come in in my days, just start getting a few moose, and then we got a lot of them. In those days there as a lot of rabbits, and spruce hens, and porcupines; a lot of little animals you could eat, and birds, which we don't have anymore. [We used to have] ducks and geese, and one time we got a lot of ptarmigan and spruce hens. Nowadays we don't have any ptarmigan; there were two out there this morning, but that's all we've seen all winter. They went back to ptarmigan land!

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

Respondent: Stories are too long, and too much to think about if you had to try to remember them. You have to go home and lay down and think for about a week! That's the only way they used to put us to sleep; a lot of it was in their language, you know? Well, my language.