

# ORAL HISTORY

ALEX "SONNIE" CHICHINOFF

INTERVIEWED BY

PATRICK M. BODENSHOT

APRIL 11, 1993

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P.B. MY NAME IS PATRICK BODENSHOT TODAY IS APRIL 11, 1993 IT IS TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON, I AM HERE WITH ALEX CHICHINOFF. WE ARE GOING TO START THIS INTERVIEW BY SAYING THAT YOU ARE CALLED "SONNIE" RIGHT?

A.C. RIGHT.

P.B. YOUR BIRTH DATE IS.

A.C. OCTOBER 7, 1937 ON AFOGNAK ISLAND, ALASKA.

P.B. HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE IN YOUR FAMILY?

A.C. SEVEN, THAT WAS MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS, THERE'S ONLY THREE OF US LEFT.

P.B. YOUR PARENTS OCCUPATION (DAD)?

A.C. HE WAS A FISHERMAN AND CANNERY WORKER IN VARIOUS CANNERIES AROUND THE ISLAND, MOSTLY PORT BAILEY AND PORT WAKEFIELD. HERING AND SALMON, HE DID MORE HERING THAN SALMON. HIS LATER YEARS HE MOSTLY WORKED IN THE CANNERIES.

P.B. AND YOUR MOTHER?

A.C. SHE WAS A HOME MAKER. SHE HAD HER HANDS FULL WITH SEVEN KIDS.

P.B. HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

A.C. THERE WAS FIVE GIRLS AND TWO BOYS. THERE IS JUST TWO GIRLS AND ME LEFT.

P.B. THE OCCUPATIONS OF YOUR SIBLINGS?

A.C. THE SISTERS ARE HOME MAKERS, AND THE REST OF THEM DIED AT YOUNG AGES.

P.B. HOW WAS THE LIFE YOU HAD WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

A.C. OH, I THOUGHT IT WAS NICE. IT WAS VERY FREE YOU KNOW, CLEAN LIVING. TODAY MONEY IS SUCH A BIG FACTOR. BACK THEN YOU

COULD PRETTY MUCH LIVE ON THE LAND. WHEN MY DAD WORKED IT WAS JUST SEASONAL, SO HE MADE PLENTY FOR THE STAPLES WE DID NEED, OUTSIDE OUR WILD GAME. THE HUNTING WOULD BE DUCKS, AND ELK HAD BEEN ON AFOGNAK FOR QUITE SOME TIME. THE DEER CAME A LOT LATER. THEY WERE TRANSPLANTED HERE. HE DIDN'T HUNT ANY OF THAT. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE HAD CATTLE SO WE HAD ACCESS TO BEEF ALL THE TIME.

P.B. SO YOU LEARNED TO DO A LOT OF HUNTING AND FISHING WHEN YOU WERE VERY YOUNG.

A.C. OH YEA.

P.B. SO YOU HAD A PRETTY GOOD CHILDHOOD THEN.

A.C. OH YEA, I THINK SO. I THINK THE ONLY BAD PART IN GROWING UP IN A VILLAGE BACK THEN WAS THE PROBLEM OF FURTHERING YOUR EDUCATION. YOU HAD TO TRAVEL AWAY FROM HOME AND A LOT OF CHILDREN JUST COULDN'T DO IT. THEY COULDN'T STAY AWAY FROM HOME THAT LONG.

P.B. WOULD YOUR FATHER HAVE ENCOURAGED YOU TO GO OFF TO SCHOOL TO LEARN OR WAS HE MORE RESERVED AND WANTED YOU TO STAY CLOSER TO HOME AND FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS?

A.C. NO, NO NOT NECESSARILY. HE WANTED ME TO GO TO SCHOOL. I DID LEAVE AND GO TO SITKA, ALASKA. BUT I.....WHEN WE GOT THERE IT WAS A LOT DIFFERENT FROM THE REAL VILLAGE LIFE. WE GOT AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE AND MONEY BECAME A FACTOR IN YOUR LIFE. IT JUST WASN'T... I MEAN YOU DIDN'T NEEDED MONEY FOR THE ACTUAL STUDYING AND THE EXPENSES THAT WENT WITH IT. BUT MONEY WAS A BIG FACTOR. I WENT FOR A WHILE THEN I RAN AWAY FOR A WHILE FROM SCHOOL. I KIND OF GOT OFF ON MY OWN.

P.B. YOU ARE AN ALASKAN INDIAN NATIVE RIGHT?

A.C. YES, OF THE ALUET INDIANS

P.B. DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER NATIVE INDIAN GROUPS?

A.C. OH YEA. THE SCHOOL IN SITKA WAS A SCHOOL FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS OPERATED SCHOOL, AND THERE WAS ALL KINDS OF INDIANS OF ALASKA THERE. AND I DIDN'T, BUT A LOT OF CHILDREN HERE ALSO WHEN TO <sup>CHAMOLA</sup> CHAMOLA, OREGON. WHICH WAS AN INDIAN SCHOOL ALSO. SO WE GOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE INDIANS FROM THE LOWER FORTY EIGHT. NOT SO MUCH DID THEY HAVE A STUDENT EXCHANGE BACK THEN, BUT THERE WOULD BE TIMES THAT SOME OF THE STUDENT FROM THE LOWER FORTY EIGHT WOULD TRAVEL TO MAINLY SITKA.

P.B. DID YOU FIND ANY SIMILARITIES WITH IN YOUR CULTURES?

A.C. OH SOME WHAT SO, BUT MAINLY IN YOUR STYLE OF EATING AND LIVING, MONEY WASN'T A BIG FACTOR. I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW ALL THE INDIANS OF THE LOWER FORTY EIGHT REALLY GOT BY BUT, UP HERE

MONEY WASN'T THAT LARGE A FACTOR. LIKE MY DAD WHETHER HE WAS WORKING IN THE CANNERY OR FISHING HE WOULD BUY ENOUGH SUPPLIES AND FOOD TO LAST US THROUGH THE WINTER TILL HIS NEXT SEASON CAME AND THE REST OF THE STUFF WAS WHAT EVER HE HUNTED. IN ALASKA THEY SAY THAT WHEN THE TIDES OUT THE TABLE IS SET. SO WE HAD A LOT OF SEA FOOD FOR THE WINTER. SO I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE WHAT EXACTLY THE DIFFERENCES WERE BETWEEN THE LOWER FORTY EIGHT INDIANS AND THE ALASKAN INDIANS.

P.B. HOW HAS THE LIFE FOR THE ALASKAN NATIVE CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

A.C. OH THERE HAS BEEN QUITE A BIT OF CHANGE. THE ALASKAN NATIVE LANDS CLAIMS THAT CAME INTO EFFECT IN 1971, WAS CHANGED IT A WHOLE LOT. AFTER THE LAND CLAIM, IN EACH VILLAGE THE H.U.D. HOUSING CAME IN AND GAVE EVERY ONE NEW HOMES AND SO FORTH. BEFORE ALL THIS YOUR SOCIAL LIFE IN THE VILLAGES WAS BASICALLY VISITING ONE ANOTHER. NOW THEY DON'T HARDLY VISIT EACH OTHER. IT'S JUST TOO MODERNIZED. THERE IS T.V. AND TELEPHONES AND IT'S LIKE LIVING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A LARGE CITY.

P.B. SO THE VISITING WAS A FORM OF RECREATION?

A.C. YEA. ABSOLUTELY SO. THE ONLY OTHER THING THEY HAD, STARTING IN THE FORTIES WAS RADIO. AND THAT WAS STRICTLY BY BATTERY. WELL A DRY PACK BATTERY. BACK THEN IT WAS VERY HARD FOR THE STORES AND THE VILLAGES TO GET THEIR FREIGHT SHIPPED IN AND A LOT OF TIMES YOU GO SEVERAL MONTHS IN THE WINTER WITH OUT BEING ABLE TO OBTAIN ANOTHER BATTERY FOR YOUR RADIO TO KEEP UP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

P.B. WERE YOU HERE DURING THE WAR (WW II)?

A.C. I VAGUELY REMEMBER THE WAR IN THE FORTIES.

P.B. DID IT AFFECT YOU AT ALL?

A.C. OH I ENJOYED IT. EVERYBODY WOULD BE SCRAMBLING, I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE ON AFOGNAK HAD TENTS PITCHED FOR THAT PURPOSE IN THE FOREST. WHERE THE ACTUAL VILLAGE AND THE HOUSES ARE WAS VERY VISIBLE FROM THE OCEAN. THERE WERE PLANE BACK THEN, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY WERE SUCH A BIG FACTOR AS THE SHIPS WERE. BUT I DON'T EVER RECALL SEEING ANY, BUT I DO REMEMBER SEVERAL TIMES THEY WOULD HAVE WHAT THEY CALLED THE AIR RAID. THEY WOULD COME OVER THE SHORT WAVE RADIO AND TELL PEOPLE TO TAKE COVER AND PUT YOUR SHUTTERS ON YOU WINDOWS SO NO LIGHT WAS VISIBLE. (BLACK OUT) I KIND OF ENJOYED IT. IT WAS KIND OF LIKE GOING OUT AND CAMPING. IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME A BIT.

P.B. DID THEY HAVE THE BLACKOUTS QUITE A BIT?

A.C. YEA... THE ONE YEAR THERE THAT I CAN REMEMBER THERE WAS QUITE A FEW. IT WAS QUITE A LOT DIFFERENT IN THE SUMMER TIME WHEN THE MEN FOLK WERE GONE, SEVERAL FAMILIES WOULD GET TOGETHER

BECAUSE IT WAS BASICALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT WAS WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS A LOT MORE FUN BECAUSE YOU WERE WITH YOUR BUDDIES AND STUFF AND ABLE TO SPEND THE NIGHT OUT.

P.B. HAD YOU BEEN TO THE CITY OF KODIAK?

A.C. WE HAD BEEN BACK AND FORTH A FEW TIMES. AFTER I GOT IN MY TEENS, I WOULD TRAVEL BETWEEN KODIAK AND AFOGNAK QUITE A BIT. BUT AS A CHILD, NO. THE ONLY TIME THAT OUR PARENTS WOULD COME IN WOULD BE FOR SICKNESS OR GROCERIES AND A LOT OF TIMES MY DAD IN THE FALL WHEN HE WOULD CHANGE FROM A WOOD BURNING STOVE TO AN OIL BURNING STOVE, IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER WOULD BE THE TIME WHEN HE WOULD BUY THE BULK OF HIS OIL FOR THE WINTER MONTHS. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS A BIG TREAT TO US TO COME TO KODIAK BECAUSE WE GOT A LOT OF STUFF THAT WASN'T AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGES, YOU KNOW FRESH FRUIT AND THEN THERE WAS ALWAYS A BAG OR TWO OF CANDY FOR US KIDS. SO IT MADE IT QUITE NICE.

P.B. YOU CAME OVER BY BOAT AND HOW FAR WAS IT?

A.C. IT IS ABOUT THREE HOURS.

P.B. YOUR OCCUPATION IS?

A.C. I AM A FISHERMAN, WE OWN OUR OWN BOAT.

P.B. YOU STARTED FISHING PROFESSIONALLY WHEN?

A.C. WELL THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER DONE. I FISHED ON DECK FROM THE TIME I WAS THIRTEEN, THEN I STARTED MASTERING MY OWN BOAT WHEN I WAS TWENTY YEARS OLD. I'VE BEEN DOING IT EVER SINCE THEN.

P.B. THAT IS THE ONLY JOB THAT YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN?

A.C. YES.

P.B. HOW LONG HAVE YOU OWNED YOUR OWN BOAT?

A.C. WELL THE PRESENT ONE THAT WE OWN RIGHT NOW IS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD IN FEBRUARY.

P.B. DID YOU FIND FISHING, THROUGH ALL THE YEARS TO BE PROFITABLE?

A.C. OH ABSOLUTELY SO. I DON'T SALMON FISH ANY MORE, BUT WHEN I QUIT SALMON FISHING, WE WEREN'T SELLING BY THE POUND. IT WAS BY THE FISH, SO MUCH FOR THE SALMON. AND DIFFERENT SPECIES WERE DIFFERENT PRICES. THE BULK OF IT WAS THE PINK SALMON HERE IN KODIAK. LIFE SIXTEEN YEARS AGO WAS A LOT BETTER THEN IT IS TODAY. AT TWELVE CENTS A POUND, I BELIEVE THAT IS WHAT IT WAS LAST YEAR, OR FIFTEEN CENTS A POUND, AT A HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS, THAT IS ONLY FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. I BELIEVE THAT THE LAST YEAR I FISHED IT WAS FORTY FIVE CENTS A FISH, THAT WAS FOR PINKS ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. BUT IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES

THEY WERE GETTING A FAIR PRICE, ABOUT FORTY FIVE CENTS A POUND. YOU WOULD GET OVER A DOLLAR A SALMON. THE PINK SALMON RUNS PROBABLY ABOUT THREE AND A HALF POUNDS AVERAGE.

P.B. WERE YOU DESTINE TO BE A FISHERMAN?

A.C. WELL IT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO ALL NATIVE CHILDREN, SOME OF THEM WANTED TO BE SOMETHING ELSE. I, MYSELF JUST LOVED IT FROM THE VERY FIRST TIME I DID IT. THAT WAS MY LIFE'S DREAM TO GET MY OWN BOAT. LIKE MY DAD HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS OWN FISHING BOAT, AND HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO DO IT WHEN I DID START, BUT IT WAS MY LIFE'S DREAM AND ONCE I GOT IN THERE AT TWENTY YEARS OLD, I JUST TOOK OFF AND DID REAL WELL FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

P.B. YOUR DAD DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DO IT BECAUSE OF THE DANGER?

A.C. WELL YEA, IT IS QUITE A DANGEROUS OCCUPATION.

P.B. I THINK THEY CLASSIFY IT AS THE MOST DANGEROUS OCCUPATION.

A.C. I WAS YOUNG THEN AND OF COURSE GUNG-HO TO GO. WEATHER WASN'T MUCH OF A PROBLEM FOR ME, I WORKED IN QUITE ROUGH WEATHER. BEING THE ONLY BOY IN THE FAMILY, HE WAS VERY, VERY NERVOUS ABOUT IT.

P.B. HOW WAS YOUR LIFE AS A FISHERMAN PROVIDED FOR YOUR FAMILY?

A.C. WELL IT IS PROBABLY LIKE FARMING, IT HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS. BUT OVERALL IT WAS GOOD. BUT THE LAST PAST FEW YEARS WE LOST OUR KING CRAB FISHERIES. THAT WAS ALWAYS REAL GOOD TO US BUT HERE IN THE LATE EIGHTIES AND NOW THE NINETIES IT IS REALLY HARD TO MAKE A LIVING ON A SMALLER BOAT. MINE IS A FIFTY ONE FOOTER. IT WAS.. YOU ARE REALLY HAMPERED BUT THE SEASONS BEING SO SHORT AND WEATHER, YOU KNOW IS YOUR MAJOR FACTOR. OUR HALIBUT OPENINGS HAVE BEEN TWENTY FOUR HOURS AND WHEN YOU HAVE AN OPENING LIKE THAT YOU ARE FORCED TO GO REGARDLESS WHAT THE WEATHER IS LIKE. IT JUST MAKES YOUR OCCUPATION THAT MUCH MORE DANGEROUS ESPECIALLY YOUR EARLY OPENINGS. WHEN I SAY EARLY, I MEAN APRIL OR MAY. OUR WEATHER DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER IN JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST BUT IT GETS SOME WHAT BETTER.

P.B. YOUR WIFE'S NAME IS?

A.C. KATHRINE

P.B. AND SHE TOO IS A NATIVE?

A.C. YES.

P.B. OF THE ALUETS?

A.C. YES, YES WE ARE BOTH OF THE SAME TRIBE.

P.B. NOW WHERE IS SHE FROM?

A.C. SHE IS FROM KARLUK VILLAGE. HER DAD WAS A READER IN THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND WAS ASKED TO RELOCATE TO THE VILLAGE OF OUZINKI. THAT IS WHERE I MET HER.

P.B. HOW FAR IS OUZINKI FROM AFOGNAK?

A.C. OH... IN MILES, PROBABLY TWELVE NAUTICAL MILES, JUST NORTH OF OUZINKI. IT TAKES A LITTLE OVER AN HOUR FOR A BOAT TO GO FROM AFOGNAK TO OUZINKI.

P.B. AND YOU HAVE HOW MANY KIDS?

A.C. WE HAVE SEVEN ALSO. WE HAVE FOUR GIRLS AND THREE BOYS.

P.B. ARE SOME OF YOUR BOYS FISHERMEN?

A.C. TWO OF THEM, THE OLDEST AND THE YOUNGEST. THE MIDDLE ONE IS A BUTCHER, A MEAT BUTCHER WORKING FOR KRAFTS NOW.

P.B. THE ONES THAT ARE FISHERMEN FOLLOWED IN YOU TRACKS?

A.C. YES BOTH OF THEM ARE, THEY DON'T HAVE THEIR OWN BOATS OR ANYTHING, BUT THEY WORK ON DECK FOR SEVERAL DIFFERENT BOATS.

P.B. ANY OF THEM WORK WITH YOU?

A.C. NO. WELL ON SOME OCCASIONS YES. THE OLDER ONE WAS WITH ME FOR A WHILE DURING THE COD SEASON, WHICH IS CLOSED MARCH. AND THE YOUNGER ONE USUALLY GOES WITH ME ON HALIBUT OPENERS OR TANNER BUT HE DIDN'T DO THE TANNERS WITH ME THIS YEAR.

P.B. ANY SIMILARITIES BETWEEN YOUR CHILDHOOD AND YOUR CHILDRENS' CHILDHOODS?

A.C. THE ONLY SIMILARITIES IS MAYBE THE BOYS DID TAKE TO FISHING AT ONE TIME. THE MIDDLE ONE IS MARRIED AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN NOW. AND HE IS QUITE A FAMILY MAN, REALLY INVOLVED WITH SPORTS AND ALSO COACHES FOR THEM AT THE SCHOOL. THE ONLY OTHER SIMILARITY IS THAT THEY TOOK TO THE FISHING THE REST WAS PRETTY DIFFERENT THEN MINE.

P.B. WERE THEY ALL BORN IN KODIAK?

A.C. YES.

P.B. SO THEY ALL GREW UP HERE AND WENT TO THE HIGH SCHOOL HERE?

A.C. ALL OF THEM FINISHED SCHOOL HE IN KODIAK. THE OLDEST ONE WAS BORN WHEN WE WERE STILL LIVING IN AFOGNAK. BUT WE MOVED HERE IN 1960. HE WAS JUST A TYKE AND HE WENT TO SCHOOL AFTER WE MOVED TO KODIAK.

P.B. MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUR CHILDHOODS?

A.C. OH, SO THERE WERE AUTOMOBILES HERE GROWING UP IN KODIAK, AND SPORTS WAS A BIG THING. THEY HAD ACCESS TO IT WHILE IN THE VILLAGE SPORTS WAS AT A MINIMUM. IT JUST WASN'T PART OF THE SCHOOLS.

P.B. DID YOUR BOYS TAKE TO SPORTS PRETTY GOOD?

A.C. YEA. THE YOUNGEST ONE DIDN'T BUT THE TWO OLDEST ONES WERE HEAVY INTO SPORTS. THE YOUNGEST ONE WASN'T SO MUCH.

P.B. WERE YOU HESITANT IN LETTING THEM PLAY SPORTS?

A.C. OH NO. I THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD FOR THEM. YEA EVEN NOW, I HAVE GRAND CHILDREN AND THEY ARE BECOMING QUITE INVOLVED IN IT. I ENCOURAGED IT. ON THE MIDDLE BOY HE IS SO INVOLVED I THINK THAT IS ALL HE BREEDS IS SPORTS.

P.B. WRESTLING?

A.C. WRESLING AND BASKETBALL. BASKETBALL BASICALLY AND LITTLE LEAGUE, SOFTBALL I GUESS YOU CALL IT.

P.B. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NATIVE LAND CLAIMS?

A.C. IT HAD IT'S GOOD POINTS, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM PROUD THAT I AM OF NATIVE DESCENT, BUT TO HAVE EVERYTHING GIVEN TO US... I THINK THAT WE SHOULD LABOR FOR SOME OF OUR STUFF IN LIFE. FIRST THEY GAVE US NINE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS AND THEN WE HAD "X" NUMBER OF LAND. THEN PRETTY SOON THEY STARTED TO COME AND BUILD HOUSES IN THE VILLAGES. I GUESS THAT WOULD BE FINE BUT I THINK WHEN YOU DO THAT STUFF TO PEOPLE YOU TAKE AWAY I GUESS THEIR INITIATIVE TO WORK FOR THEM SELVES. I WOULD LIKE TO BE BUYING MY HOUSE WHEN I BOUGHT IT FOR EIGHTY DOLLARS A MONTH. THAT WAS BRAND NEW AND MINE WASN'T. THAT'S PRETTY HARD TO BEAT. IN TODAY'S DAY AND AGE, I SEE THAT... NOT SO MUCH IN THE NATIVE LAND CLAIMS BUT AS ANOTHER, I GUESS YOU CALL IT A GIFT TO THEM. I JUST THINK THAT SOME OF THE PEOPLE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT AND ARE STILL SUFFERING.

P.B. YOU SEE IT AS STILL GOING ON TODAY?

A.C. YES ABSOLUTELY SO. AFTER THE ALASKAN NATIVE LAND CLAIMS, WITH ALL THAT MONEY BEING DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE THIRTEEN REGIONS AND NUMEROUS VILLAGES WAY, I WOULD SAY THAT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THEM ARE ALMOST DEFUNCT NOW...POOR MANAGEMENT. THE GROUP THAT I BELONG TO IS PROSPERING QUITE WELL.

P.B. WHICH GROUP IS THAT?

A.C. I BELONG TO THE NATIVES OF KODIAK.

P.B. SO, LIFE FOR MOST NATIVES NOWADAYS IS GOOD OR BAD?

A.C. I WOULD SAY GOOD.



P.B. BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU JUST STATED RIGHT?

A.C. YES.

P.B. HOW HAS THE FISHING INDUSTRY CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

A.C. IT IS BASICALLY THE SEASONS, I GUESS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY IS BECAUSE IT IS SUCH A FREE ENTERPRISE IN THE UNITED STATES. AND I PROBLEM WITH ANYBODY GETTING INTO IT, BUT IT JUST GOT OVER CROWDED SO IF YOU SET TEN PEOPLE DOWN FOR ONE PIE, THE MORE PEOPLE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO FEED OUT OF THERE IS GOING TO BE SMALLER AND SMALLER. AND THAT HAPPENED IN OUR FISHERIES. OVER WORKED ANYMORE. I KIND OF HATE TO SAY IT THIS WAY BUT, WITH THE TRAWLING COMING IN AND THEY'RE ALL ON REALLY LARGE SHIPS A LOT OF THEM ARE FROM THE EAST COAST OR FROM THE LOWER FORTY EIGHT OR WEST COAST AND THE ONLY REASON THEY ARE UP IN ALASKA IS BECAUSE THEY TOTALLY DEPLETED THEM AREAS. THIS IS THE LAST PLACE ON THE GLOBE TO DO IT. AND THE WAY I SEE IT IS THAT IT IS GOING TO CONTINUE UNTIL IT'S GONE. ALONG WITH THE OVER ABUNDANCE OR FISHERMEN, I JUST DON'T SEE HOW IT COULD HOLD UP.

P.B. YOU WERE HERE IN KODIAK FOR THE EARTH QUAKE OF 1964?

A.C. YEA, I WAS LIVING HERE WITH MY FAMILY AT THE TIME. AND I DON'T THINK I WOULD WISH ONE LIKE THAT ON ANYONE. IT WAS A VERY SCARY EXPERIENCE, I'VE ALWAYS HEARD MY PARENTS TALK ABOUT FEELING EARTH QUAKES. I HAD NEVER FELT ONE UNTIL THE 1964 ONE. BELIEVE ME IT WAS STRONG! I JUST HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS GOING ON.

P.B. WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

A.C. I WAS IN ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT STORES WHEN IT STRUCK. THE STORE IS NO LONGER IN USE BUT THE BUILDING IS HOSING THE AMERICAN LEGION AND I BELIEVE THERE IS A CHILDRENS ARCADE IN THERE OF SOME THING. IT WAS SO INTENSE, THE WAVES ON THE GROUND, IT WAS LIKE WAVES ON THE OCEAN ROLLING THROUGH THE GROUND HERE. PROBABLY THREE FEET HIGH. I CAME OUT OF THAT STORE AND I TRIED RUNNING UP TO HOME. I LIVED RIGHT ABOVE WHERE THE WESTMARK IS NOW. YOU COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO RUN. IT WAS JUST IMPOSSIBLE.

A.C. I'VE FELT SEVERAL SINCE THE 1964 ONE BUT NOTHING LIKE THAT. BUT THAT ONE WAS SO STRONG, I BELIEVED IT CAUSED THE TSUNAMI IN EUREKA OR CRESCENT CITY IN CALIFORNIA.

P.B. DID THEY WARN YOU ABOUT THE TSUNAMI?

A.C. YEA THEY DID. BUT NOT A WHOLE LOT OF TIME BUT WE HAD PROBABLY FORTY MINUTES OR SO OF WARNING. THIRTY MINUTES MAYBE, IT WASN'T VERY LONG.

P.B. AND HOW WAS YOUR HOUSE ABOVE THE WESTMARK?

A.C. THE HOUSE WE HAD AT THE TIME WASN'T NO WHERE NEAR THE WATER LINE. OR THE TIDAL WAVE DIDN'T GET NO WHERE NEAR IT. AND WE

HAVE HAD, SINCE WE HAVE BEEN HERE IN THIS HOUSE WE HAVE AND SEVERAL TIMES TIDAL WAVE WARNINGS, BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE AFFECTED US AFTER THE 1964 QUAKE. THE TIDES WERE GOOFED-UP BUT IT NEVER ACTUALLY CAME IN AS A WAVE.

P.B. DO YOU REMEMBER IT COMING IN AS A WAVE?

A.C. NO, I DIDN'T SEE IT. WE WERE ADVISED TO GO TO HIGHER GROUND AND NOT KNOWING, I WAS SCARED TO BEGIN WITH. THEY TOLD US TO GET TO HIGHER GROUND AND I GOT MY FAMILY AND ACTUALLY ENDED UP AT THE LIGHT ALICE STATION UP ON PILLER MOUNTAIN

P.B. WAS YOUR WIFE HOME WITH THE KIDS?

A.C. YEA, THAT WAS ANOTHER BAD THING. SHE HAD JUST GOTTEN OUT OF THE HOSPITAL WITH ONE OF OUR CHILDREN THAT DAY. SHE HAD JUST GIVEN BIRTH THREE DAYS BEFORE. AND IT WAS RATHER HARD MOVING HER AND A NEW BABY LIKE THAT.

P.B. ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOUR HOUSE?

A.C. NO. WE DIDN'T HAVE FORCED AIR HEAT WE JUST HAD BASE BOARD HEAT. AND A OIL COOK STOVE FOR HEAT. WHEN WE GOT BACK HOME THERE WAS NO ELECTRICITY. YOU DIDN'T NEED ANY ELECTRICITY TO BURN. WHEN WE CAME DOWN THE FOLLOWING DAY OUR HOUSE WAS JUST AS COOSY AS COULD BE. THE ONLY THING WE DIDN'T HAVE WAS ELECTRICITY.

P.B. HOW HAS KODIAK CHANGED SINCE YOU CAME HERE?

A.C. THE OBVIOUS WOULD BE THAT IT HAS GROWN A LOT. I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER CHANGES REALLY EXCEPT CANNERIES MORE, MORE SHOPPING FACILITIES. NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT IS STILL A LITTLE FISHING COMMUNITY.