

# **Anton Larsen**

**Alaska History  
Oral History Project  
on  
Anton Larsen  
May 4, 1995**

**Interviewer: Brenda Schwantes (BS)  
Interviewee: Laura M. Olsen (LO)**

by  
**Brenda L. Schwantes**

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- BS: Where was Anton Larsen born?
- LO: Trondheim, I don't know, he's born in Trondheim, Norway.
- BS: Can you tell me a little bit about his family?
- LO: His mother was from, from North, uh, she was a Laplander from North Norway, Martha. His mother was Martha a Laplander from North Norway.
- BS: How about his father, do you know anything about his father?
- LO: Lila knows about that, his father was, I don't know where he was born, some other place, not in Trondheim. She (Lila) knows where he was born.
- BS: Did he have a lot of brothers and sisters?
- LO: Oh yea, he was the youngest one out of sixteen in their family. My grandpa had sixteen children, eight girls and eight boys. Anton was the youngest. Well anyway, he came up here when was working on, some kind of Captain in some kind of, he was working on a boat, his brother Martin Larsen came here in 1884. He got married to a lady from Karluk. Dad (Anton) wanted to go, so dad came up here in 1887 to be with his brother too. And then he wanted to get married and he got married in Ouzinkie.
- BS: Who did he marry?
- LO: Jenny Pestrikoff, Johnny Larsen's .....(interrupted but Johnny Larsen is the son of Jenny Pestrikoff and the son of Anton Larsen. Johnny was grandmas half brother who passed away a couple of years ago).
- BS: What did he do for a living when he was here?
- LO: He was Captain on the boats?
- BS: That was when he first came up? (to Alaska)
- LO: Yea, he was always a Captain on the boats.
- BS: He married Jenny Pestrikoff?
- LO: Uh, huh, and then he built a house in Ouzinkie, and a barn, and had cattle there, and his father in law traded him for the island, for his house and barn and everything in Ouzinkie, so he could put his cattle there without fencing or bothering the neighbors.
- BS: So he got to bring his cattle to the island?
- LO: Everything, everything he moved to there, with his father-in-law he traded with.
- BS: What year was that?
- LO: I don't know what year it was, anyway the early years before I was born. Jenny had four children with him.
- BS: What were their names?
- LO: They were Lawrence, Martha, the two died and Johnny and Sarah. Sarah drowned by Mill Bay in 1916, February 9, 1916 on the mail boat. She was going to be a

bridesmaid for Ben Kraft at Kraft's first store here in 1904 they got Kraft's store built in Kodiak. I could give you the picture of the Kraft's store.

BS: Do you have a picture of that?

LO: Um hum, I could get it.

BS: You can get it later.

LO: Dad was running the boats between California and Kodiak during the fur trading. Wherever a man was needed that's where he was going. But when he first came to Kodiak, was on the boat with a whole bunch of pioneers. The boat's name 76.

BS: Is there a book about that?

LO: Do you have the book of the boat?

BS: Did you say there was a book about that?

LO: There's a book, there's some kind of book about that, 76, do you have it Lila?

Lila: I don't have it.

LO: You don't? He landed because Mrs. Chris Anderson told me when she used to come to visit me, she told me that your father came on the boat named 76, and all these old pioneers Otmeloi and all those, Albert Torsen and all these pioneers they came on the boat of 76. Well, he worked on the boat but then he had his home in Ouzinkie. It took him quite a few years to build a house on the island.

BS: Did he build the house in Ouzinkie?

LO: Oh, he had a house and barn and everything and cattle and gardens and everything that's why, ....

BS: Did he build the house in Ouzinkie?

LO: Yea, he had, David Pestrikoff was born in that house?

BS: Is it still there?

LO: I don't know, I don't know if tidal wave took it out or not.

BS: So he moved over to Ouzinkie with Jenny Pestrikoff and the kids?

LO: No, he was when he got married he lived there.

BS: Right, and the whole family moved?

LO: To the island after Johnny was born, I don't know if he was born on the island or Ouzinkie but anyway, he had four kids with his wife. Then I was born on the island in 1905.

BS: What happened to Jenny Pestrikoff?

LO: She died.

BS: What happened to the kids?

LO: Well, he had them and grandma and grandpa were there, his grandma and grandpa back and forth you know Pestrikoff, they help us just like they were our grandparents too.

BS: So you were born in...

LO: On the island.

BS: In 1905?

LO: uh huh, but he got married in 1904 to mamma.

BS: What was her name?

LO: To Olga Larsen, to Olga Naumoff uh huh, 1904 and they had, mamma and papa had four kids.

BS: What were their names?

LO: Me, Laura, Martha, Lawrence and Mary.

BS: What did he do, was he still sailing, Anton was he still sailing ships?  
LO: He was always going back and forth, he worked wherever he worked, wherever there was, it was hard to find jobs in the olden days. He either worked in Valdez, I think in 1907 he worked in Panama Canal. Mamma had her second baby, Martha and he was working in Panama Canal in 1907 when the yellow fever struck, then they closed the Panama Canal up. That's where dad was working.

BS: What was he doing down there:  
LO: I don't know what they were doing, whatever they were, that was his job I was too young to know, anyway, that was in 1907. And then he used to work wherever they had the road commission or stuff whatever job was open they would go to work. Uncle Martin and him and they worked for fisheries for all the canneries a few canneries. They had to go and work in the winter time, pilings for driving, pilings and working for the company and they had jobs and ...he was away from home all the time. Mamma left because he never was home.

BS: When did she leave?  
LO: 1912, when the volcanic ash fell.  
BS: And did she take the kids with her?  
LO: He took our kids with daddy, ...he left in February or April to go to work in Uyak running boats for the canneries and he didn't come home until October, and we were living with grandma and grandma in Afognak in Derevnia.

BS: So she took you and the kids to Afognak.  
LO: We stayed with grandma. And uh, she didn't want papa to come to the house, told him that the gun is loaded, not going home, she's not going to the island she's going to stay in Afognak. Take the kids and go, don't come near me...all of us we went sailing home and the door was open. Chickens were in the house in the island and papa's white shirts were hanging behind the door and big trunk, the door was open. Chickens been staying in the house...and we were gone and that was in 1912....I was 6 going on 7. I would be 7 in November.

BS: What happened after Olga left? You were there on the farm.  
LO: Oh yea, then the Pestrikoff's used to come back and forth to us...Sonja, (Lila said Sonja's parents used to help them). They came back and forth, they were just like a mother and dad to us the Pestrikoff's. And dad had people coming cutting haystack, making haystack, the barn was built before the house, 60 foot barn, see that picture (grandma points to a picture of the old place).

BS: Tell me a little bit about the farm you had, tell me what kinds of buildings you had, and animals and what you did.  
LO: Well, when dad started he told us that when he first started, was to build a barn first and old man Pestrikoff built the barn...with all the people from Ouzinkie...they came over, there was no house big house then at that time, but dad had a small house afterwards. Anyway, this old man Pestrikoff loved dad you know, and anything he could help his sons and everything, and all his friends they all helped dad. While dad was working on the boat he never was hardly home, but always had somebody at the island, always was somebody there. They were all doing hard work there was no tools or anything like chainsaws or anything you use them file saws and cut wood. The beaches were so full of wood in those days you didn't have to cut very much wood you could just pick it up. Gunny sack fill up your wood box...some good ones you

had to cut up. There was plenty of wood around, you didn't have to worry about wood. We always had to go down to the beach and get a bucket of kindlings or stuff, small stuff...I don't know about wintertime, too small to know that stuff, but they have to make their shavings by the stove to light the stove you know, everything was shaving. They call it Rostopki, rostopki...anyway

BS: Tell me about the farm you guys raised what kind of animals?

LO: Well after, dad had some cows and chickens, geese,...we had lots of cows, anyway, we had lots of cows and we butchered them.

BS: What did you do with the cows?

LO: Sold them, sold everything you raised you could sell. You could sell your meat, you could sell your chickens, and you could sell everything you could raise, vegetables 5 cents a pound.

BS: What kinds of vegetables did you grow?

LO: We raised onions, carrots, potatoes, rutabagas, kale, and cabbages, all kinds of vegetables, and all the in-laws were working there just passing the time away on the island, coming hunting and walk. The island had no trees it had cranberries, in the summertime they came and picked berries, and they shot seal and hung them up on the high post to get the oil out of the sun on a hot day, save their seal oil to cook stuff with. Because everything was expensive them days. But dad always had plenty of food for us, a cellar full of groceries everything, every time he came home he brought all kinds of stuff. And he ever, we bought slabs of bacon like smoked salmon. We didn't have to keep it frozen or anything, just hang it up and it'd stay there good for, so did ham just hung it on the wall. My uncle Martin's house we used that for a store house. The little house that's on that picture. ..He had that when his first was...see this was Uncle Martin's house here (pointing to a picture).

BS: That's the little house, oh he lived right next to you.

LO: Right here.

BS: Did he live there or did you just use it as a storehouse?

LO: He used to live there, and that old man Pestrikoff, his father-in law, built the cellar and the barn first. I don't know how they built the house afterward, they didn't tell us about that. Anyway, the house is built by the Pestrikoffs helping dad. And it was funny, when old man Pestrikoff died, dad was home for a while and said, he says, "Gosh, I haven't seen anyone for a long time. I think I'll take a dinghy and stroll around the island and see if anybody's in the barabara." He had a barabara, hunting at the end of the island where I want my Native land, remember where I told you I wanted, that's where his barabara was, where you found that burnt piece of wood. That's where his barabara was. And when the old man Pestrikoff had been dead I guess, and dad didn't know anything about it, but he said, " I'm going to take a stroll around the island and see if I could see anybody, I haven't seen anybody for a long time." So he drove around the island, I couldn't go along because I was baking bread that day and I couldn't go along. So dad came home with a real white pale face. I said, " What's the matter with you, are you sick?" He said, " I've got something to tell you. We're not here alone, it's something very strange happened to me." But he said, "Old man came to say goodbye to me, that's why I had to go there." Something told him that he had to take a trip to see if anybody was by the barabara. "When I got in front of the barabara I heard somebody chopping wood. Kindling,

calm, hear the kindling falling down, and boy was I happy I was going to see somebody. The kindling sounded so good, and calm nice day, and boy I was anxious to go to see what's up there. I went up to the barabara not a soul there, it was cold nothing was there." And he said, " I looked around and nobody was around, so I went back to the dory and started pulling again. Then I heard somebody up chopping wood way up in the woods. Then I went up there, and I hollered and hollered and I thought somebody's making dory (niece/inaudible)." And he said," It was strange, not a soul was around," and he said, " Well if I hear about it then again there must be something going on, so I went to the dory and start pulling by Rubber Boot point. Towards Rubber Boot point I saw a dory coming form over there." He said it was his brother in law, he was sent to McNeils Island for good. For being in jail, and confessed to the priest that he had done a bad thing. "And I asked him how the old man was, his father. He said, "that they buried him yesterday." " Is that what said goodbye to me, and I told him my story about chopping wood story and dory (niece/inaudible) on the island. The old man must have come to say goodbye to me, he died. " George Pestrikoff changed his name to George Evans. See somebody killed another man, and he was involved so he confessed to the priest and the priest sent him to McNeil's island. He couldn't give him communion because he had killed somebody. So he was in there in for life. "I asked him how did you get out of jail." "He said because of a good behavior and I wasn't old enough to know." He was pardoned. Wasn't that a great surprise for papa. Wasn't that a great surprise for papa?

BS: Yea

LO: So, the old man must have come to say goodbye to, says that's why we are not here alone there is somebody guarding us.

BS: Your dad said that?

LO: Um huh.

BS: Was he religious?

LO: Oh yea, sort of religious, he was Lutheran, but anyway that's what happened old man Pestrikoff.

BS: How did he die?

LO: I don't know, but he liked dad, well he built a cellar with a drain on it to and dug a well, there's a big well right by the house. Water was real close by. After volcanic ash everything changed. We had to dig another well somewhere else where the water springs are.

BS: I want to know something about Anton, what was he like, what type of person was he, was he clean, what were his hobbies?

LO: His hobby was sewing and making rugs, and making wine for his girlfriends. A bottle of wine for them. Summertime he picked berries, all kinds of berries and had a big oak barrel in the barn covered up, and he used to make wine. He made rugs and shawls for the ladies, and he always, that was his fancy job whenever he had nothing else to do. He brought a monkey from California, and he was sewing a sail for his sailboat, and a cow had a calf so he had to leave his sail work alone to take care of the cow. And when came back the monkey had cut up his sail, and that's the end of the monkey.

BS: Do you remember the monkey?

LO: I don't know, I was too young to know, I didn't know nothing about that but he told us

about it.

BS: So he liked to sew and make wine...

LO: Uh huh, and he was a good farmer. His hobby was reading. I guess he had every newspaper in the world that he could buy. He read everything that he could read. There was no telephones or anything but he liked trapping. He got a lot of foxes and he went and caught them in traps. He used to take a big coal oil can, we had these big coal oil cans, five gallon coal oil cans...

BS: A coal oil what?

LO: Lamp oil, and he used to take that top off and he would fill it up with water and put spruce, any kind of spruce if he could find, spruce to boil in there and boil his traps. Everything so, and his gloves everything in that water so he never touched nothing with his hands, so the foxes won't smell. And he had it all scented with spruce and he had to boil his traps, everything. He put bait, so when he caught foxes he had a little fox island in the back of you know Anchor Island, he put the live foxes there when they caught them alive, put them there and in the Fall when the fur was good, then he shot them, skinned their hides. He got silver gray, he had \$275 for a silver gray, 2\$ for a weasel, and then sea otters, not sea otters but land otters \$15, and then creole foxes and red foxes, he caught a lot of stuff and he sold all the vegetables for five cents a pound. One time we went to Kodiak with forty-five sacks of potatoes we raised. They were five dollars a sack, a hundred pound sack for five cents a pound. We sold them all. Everything in the stores bought because they couldn't order stuff... (phone rang).

BS: Grandma, I wanted to ask you about the cows you raised, and how many you had and what you did with the meat, and how you got them to the market and sold them?

LO: Well when the weather, we had to watch the glass, the weather thermometer glass. If that went high then he butchered. He take a trip to Afognak to have Uncle Martin or somebody to come, he never shot the cow, he had somebody else shooting.

BS: How come?

LO: Because he couldn't. And then they get the legs and their heads and liver and hearts and all that kidneys and stuff. Everybody got something for helping him butcher. Then he sailed into town where he sold, there was a store, three stores in Afognak, the Sheele store, the Petellin store, and the Pajoman store. And they all bought meat. In Ouzinkie it was Oral Grimes the storekeeper. In Kodiak was Erskines and Krafts. That's the only stores there were. So we could sell anything, they bought all our fur, they bought anything dad had to sell. They bought it all. They sell all the fur was high, vegetables was five cents a pound.

BS: How about the meat, how did he get it into Kodiak?

LO: We sailed with his boat by Mill Bay, there was no road and had to take a boat watch the weather and go through Mill Bay and sail in to Kodiak. That's why he put in for the road for Anton Larsen road. Because if you didn't get your meat in time to be sold, then it will get spoiled and you have to salt it with 100% pickle.

BS: So he asked that a road be built?

LO: 1913 he walked the bear trail where Anton Larsen Road is. That was a bear trail. And he had a 45 revolver, and Sara has a 12 gauge shot gun in case they met the bear. So they said they didn't see no bear but on their way. They walked to Abbott's ranch, where the base is now. That was Abbott's ranch, had a big ranch out there and his

father in law gave him all the money to build a beautiful place. Mrs Abbott, she was a school teacher and she used to cook a beautiful dinner for us whenever we went. Anyway, dad was friends, he bought some sheep from Abbott in 1913, were black face sheep. We raised them and we sold our wool, we sold all the meat we could sell. No problem selling it.

BS: Did you work hard?

LO: Yea, well I wasn't working there were older people. Johnny and Sarah were working hard, I was small. We had brothers and ...Mary was a baby.

BS: How was the road finally built?

LO: Well, he put in for the road, he talked to this Wickersham. He wrote him a letter. He put in to get a road there. He told him that it would be good to get a horse and buggy to deliver instead of going by Mill Bay, because the weather was so bad and rough. It was hard to go around Mill Bay with the beef and if the weather, we had a lot of pigs too you know, and salt pork and all that stuff. Well 1913 he put in for the road. One night I dreamt and told papa that I dreamt it was their house in the narrows and that there was a road. And he told me that, I don't think you will see the road there, because it takes the Federal Government 20 years before anything happens. He says, "I don't think you'll ever see it, but maybe the grandchildren or somebody will see it, but that's what I put in for but I don't think you'll see it." I did see it. Papa died in January ...1933 when he was 71 years old.

BS: How old were you?

LO: I don't know, I was in Kodiak and I was married and had...I was living in Kodiak and my husband Ole... My father died from, coming in he had a heart attack by Spruce Cape with a boat...I was home in Kodiak. The road opened that same Fall... of 33. Papa never got to see the road. That's how Anton Larsen's road was built for the Anton Larsen homestead. We got the homestead patent August 2, 1932...And he said, "Now I'm glad I can leave the place, I can stay there, I worked hard for this piece of land." But it's really the best place on Kodiak Island, which it is, I think it's a pretty place. In 1935 (Martha said she was born in 1933) I was pregnant with Martha. Martha was born in August. Papa died in January, and my sister Martha died May 12 that same year. (1933 is the correct year) My father died, my sister died, pregnant with Martha. Ole was working for Kraft's store.

BS: How about when you were older. What do you remember about your father when you were 12, 13, 14, 15.

LO: He was always gone, we never saw him at all. We was always at the babysitters, either Kodiak or Ouzinkie. We raised in Ouzinkie, by the Pestrikoffs. The Pestrikoff's raised us. Sonja Anderson, and she was just like a mother to me, Johnny Anderson and Ouzinkie people. Got used to them, they were nice to us. Then in 1917 dad took us to, Johnny ran away from home when he was 16 years old, my older brother, and he went to his grandma in Ouzinkie cause he was getting to be a teenager, and dad wanted to take him home, he ran away again. So he says, "I'll fix him, he's not going to have his way, I'll send him to school until he's old enough to take care of himself." He left rowing, they didn't have no motors, somebody told, there was a hunting dory came by our place cod fishing, by the end of the island, big island there. Dad rowed over to him and told him that he lost his son Johnny Larsen and found his boat, and that he's drowned or something, can't find he's awfully sad

that he lost Sarah last February 9, 1916. Now 1917 March 8, now I lost Johnny. The guy just laughed at him and said, " Johnny is in Ouzinkie running all around doing mischief." So dad said, well, he rolled up his sleeves and was all worked up...he wasn't mad but he said he's going to find out, anyway he's not dead. "I'll fix him, he'll be old enough, young boy just like the rest of us." Anyway, he rolled up his sleeves, made a cup of coffee he's going to pull over to Ouzinkie in tiny little skiff, he pulled over there, was 2:00 in the afternoon, came back about 4 I guess and then he said, "Johnny won't come but I'm going to, I'll fix him, I'll take care of him. He's not going to have his way." So, we came home and took care of the barn and took care of the stuff in the barn. He's all excited working his left hand and swinging his left hand...

BS: Was he left handed?

LO: Yea, left handed, swinging his hand back and forth, "What am I going to do with a little son of a gun like him, and played a trick like that on me." He found his dory, and we were looking for his body all over, and every night we were dragging, and we were all dressed up in warm clothes for a whole week. I think it was first of April dad took us all into Kodiak, we stayed with Johnny Ponchene's aunt, Mrs. Phoene (fee-ne) , she took care of us in Kodiak. Clara Helgason was also taken care of by her dad by Mrs. Phoene (fee-ne). But she wasn't there then, Phoene was still alive her husband, and he died and they buried them 17th of May. The first time I seen a coffin, and I cried, that coffin has no windows. I was so, you know, I didn't realize what a coffin was, I never seen a coffin before. It should have windows. Poor guy, laying in the front room in the Phoene's house, he had mustache and lice was walking all over mustache, must have been licey. But anyway, we stayed there and she took care of us, they had running water, cold water in the house. She was a clean lady, everything was nice, she had white nice sheets for us and it was a nice place. (F.F.) Phoene they stayed not too far away from Kraft's store, we knew every house in Kodiak at that time and everybody was our friends you know at that time, you know Kodiak's changed now. But anyway, we stayed there until one day, we used to put a bed, a big feather bed on the floor. And she put white sheets, double sheets on the floor to let us sleep on them. And we used to get bit up by bed bugs, their house was so full of bed bugs. They had felt paper on the wall. And one day they went out, and we the kids, you know mischievous kids, we went and we took a stove lifter and hit it...to make a hole in the thing and poke where the bed bugs were, to kill them. And we tore up her whole house, felt paper all around. She was gone out of the house, you know. Boy, when she came back she was mad, because everything she said..."I'm going to write a letter to Captain Larsen on the Minnie B, that he's got to take his kids away from here, they tore up my whole house." So she wrote. She said to call Tina Chernoff, her name Mrs. Sholl now. And she said to call her and write a letter to Captain Larsen on the Minnie B, take his kids away they tore up her whole house. She had our bags all packed by the door. That letter was in the evening, he came the next day. When he landed to the cannery, he was a Captain on the Minnie B, to deliver fish and tender and, so he got the news, somebody walked out and saw the Minnie B to tell Captain Larsen he's wanted to see his kids. So he came right away and the bags were packed. We were glad we were going home, to get away from the bed bugs.

BS: Where did he take you?  
LO: Ouzinkie, Corlia and Feozwa Pestrikoff, that was his brother-in-law too, she was a Pestrikoff.  
BS: So you stayed with them a while?  
LO: We stayed there.  
BS: Did you get in trouble?  
LO: I'll tell you a story. Those people were not the cleanest, ...they had lice. And they had lice, everybody had lice, everybody, and I guess people had bed bugs, and lice all around. Anyway, we didn't, no bed bugs so, and they were neat and they were poor too. And dad had to bring groceries because they didn't have no money and it was hard, so he had to furnish all the food for us...he bought case lots and brought stuff over there. So, when he came over on the Minnie B to Ouzinkie we cried, we wanted to go home. They had lice, our hair was full of nits. There was lice so much, we had nits all over our head. We told papa to look at our hair. "Well," he says, " I'm going to the Woody Island and bring Emilian Wasbrikoff, and you go back to the island and he'll take care of you there." Anyway, he said to the people that he's going to bring Emilian Wasbrikoff to the island next week when he gets a chance to go deliver all the fish and stuff he got to tender stuff. As soon as he is able to, he'll take him over to the island, oh we were glad we were going to the island, back home again. After that we never babysat nowhere else. We stayed home.  
BS: Did Emilian stay with you?  
LO: Oh yea, he shaved our hair and cut our hair, wash our clothes and boil everything in a big, top of the stove...after that never left the island.  
BS: What did you do on the island?  
LO: We cut grass, took care of the gardens, gardens were all done, and they had to go back and forth, the Pestrikoffs took care of dad's place.  
BS: What kind of fun did you have?  
LO: Same old thing, we had to go up on the hill and play with the ptarmigan, little birds, the island was covered with ptarmigan, with cranberries, people used to come over with picking berries, low bush cranberries, and sheeksha, that's crowberries, they put them in water and keep them for food in the winter, and the wineberries used to smell good and the cloud berries, and oh it was nice. All the time we were outdoors either playing with chicken or pigs or going back and forth to the barn and having fun that way.  
BS: And your father still worked on the boats?  
LO: Yea, he quit in 1922 for retired from the Minnie B. It's in Kodiak today. He give his job to George Magnuson's dad, Chris Magnuson.  
BS: Did he ever marry again after Olga?  
LO: No, he said that, one day he said in 1918, that he wasn't going to get married but that he saw Irene Sargent, he had a date with her, 1918 and saw her in the movies, they had silent pictures movie, and he saw her and had a date with her to see her. Said she was dead the next day with the Spanish influenza flu. He had a lot of women he said he had so many dates he was afraid to go to the drug store that he'd meet his date, had too many girlfriends.  
BS: Was he handsome?  
LO: Yea, they all liked the Captain.

BS: Did they call him the Captain?  
LO: Yea, Captain Larsen. He would have been decorated when the base came out here but he wasn't that...decorate himself.  
BS: What was his personality like?  
LO: Oh he was, if he wanted something done he was really grouchy about it. He wanted to get it done, grouchy, wanted to be getting it done. It had to be done, like Lila is. That's the type he was. He was particular.  
BS: Was he a perfectionist?  
LO: Yea, clean, ...and had to raise the flag sunrise and sunset.  
BS: Did he, everyday?  
LO: Yea, ...  
BS: What happened to his journal?  
LO: I don't know, everything burnt in the house, all kinds of stuff. House burnt down from the stove pipe. Johnny was there 1946...we had a power dory, my sister Martha and I did, we did cod fishing. We had four skates of cod fish gear with 200 hooks on them...after 1919. We had a tender there, the Mary G. Dad took off from work, he went cod fishing.  
BS: Did you go with him?  
LO: No, he stayed home the tender came to our place.  
LO: We had to split the fish, first Martha and I had to row we didn't have no engines there.  
BS: So you and your sister fished, codfish?  
LO: Uh huh, with 4 skates of codfish gear...in 1919. The boat Sitka came over to our place to see dad. Some of his first cousins from Norway, (a name) Ingwal and Sverrie (Stamnis) they came to see dad, they heard he was in Alaska, so they gave dad some, four skates of cod fish gear, from the fishing boat. Dad gave them rhubarb and all kinds of vegetables from the gardens. They exchanged, you know. They were glad to see dad, was 60 years old then. But they were thinking that he was a real old man by that time, they were surprised. Ingwal and Sverrie Stamnis, papa's first cousin on his mother's side...Dad gave them all kinds of stuff, we had lots of good stuff, chicken eggs...  
BS: So you guys cod fished?  
LO: Yea, we got seven cents a pound for cured cod fish, we had to have them in bundles. And they used to be the fishing boat, they used to be coming over, the Pilgrim and some other boat, used to come over and anchor in our bay, those people are in Old Harbor now...  
BS: Haakanson?  
LO: Uh huh, they were fishing too. They used to go ashore in our place and we used to have Edison's phonograph, and play the phonograph and dance with the music and play cards, Martha and I, all those fisherman come in. Nine O'clock we told them they had to leave. Can't have them coming after 9:00.  
BS: Whose rule was that?  
LO: Dad told us to tell the people. They were nice to us and they all respected us because we were nice to them. And I had to take care of the barn, the doctor Parker from Whale Island used to come over he was, whenever dad butchered he had to come and grade our meat. We had A-1 grade beef and we had A-1 grade rutabagas all our

vegetables are A grade. Doctor Parker used to be the veterinarian. He told me how to take care of the cattle. I could take the gas out of a cow if she's bloated up with gas by feeling a certain little spot by her ribs, you stick a knife and get the gas out. Otherwise you lose the cow. We lost one cow, she ate some... if the cow eat ladyslippers, she'll be bloated up with gas. That's poison. Ladyslippers used to grow right where Gordon Jensen has his little house there. There used to be tidelands you know, we'd walk over the cattle, that's where they got the ladyslippers. We lost one of our Holstein, nice big milk cows. I used to milk 9 cows morning and evening. Maybe that's why I had TB glands on my neck. I had so many operations on my glands and when I was having children, I think I worked too hard.

BS: I think so.

LO: I think so too.

BS: What do you remember the most about Anton?

LO: Well, he was gone most of the time, we had to have Emilian Wasbrikoff and Pestrikoff's come to the island. Make haystacks. We got bounty for eagles for 50 cents a claws because if the sheep had a lamb outside they pick up the lamb. There was a bounty. Judge Wickersham was a territorial, delegate...

BS: Well , thank you I think we'll end the interview now unless there's anything else you can...

LO: Brenda, you're quite a girl, so I think you'll have the best wishes for you and I wish you good luck in your life.

#### Additional information/stories

BS: Grandma you said there's a story about grandpa's teeth.

LO: He used to pull his teeth, he loosened his teeth by hand for a while then after he got the tooth loose he tied it up real strong so that it would hold, support for the weight that, he tied a big rock at the end of the line that he fastened his tooth up. And he climbed up on top of a barn, on the barn that didn't have a roof on it, (she tries to find the barn in the picture), anyway, he threw the big rock at the end of the line and he climbed up the building and threw the rock down and out went his tooth...And then one time I went over by the barn, and I saw it in the corner of the barn, lots of ropes and lots of teeth on it. He said, "Leave them alone, that's my teeth over there." We never touched them we always walked by them. So he had a whole pile, he never went to the dentist, he pulled his own teeth. He didn't pull any of ours just his own. Anyway, one day he decided he was going to go and get some false teeth. There was a dentist there so he went up there and asked him what he charged for his teeth, you know. And he wanted a hundred dollars down and a hundred dollars afterwards. So he charged him two hundred dollars for his teeth. So he went he got his teeth. They didn't fit him right. Left handed, rocking the floor back and forth, shaking his left hand, lots on his mind, he cheated him with all that money that he paid for his teeth, looks like a horse teeth. I'm going to go back and get my money. He's not going to fool me around like that charging me so much. Ole said (Laura's husband Ole Olsen), "Come on and have some sourdough hotcakes and bacon here and put your grinders on," teasing him. Oh he got mad and madder and said." I'll go get my money back."

So he went up told the dentist he wanted his money back. They're horse teeth, he didn't want to get used to something like that. The dentist gave him his money back. After the dentist got through with him and dad went home, then he (the dentist) ran over to the lawyer next door, lawyer at Belmont hotel in Kodiak here. And they ran over to coffee and said, "What you know about that old man, that he actually wanted to fight."

BS: The dentist said that to the attorney?

LO: Uh huh, "Oh you run up against Antonio you may as well run up against a buzz saw, he'll throw you out of the window"...And he got his money back and then he got a ride on the Pilgrim, Arthur Haakanson and Oscar Nelson, I don't know how many was on the boat. He threwed the anchor and he hollered and his false teeth went overboard. He could see them, where the ashes was on the end of the low tide there. It wasn't that deep of water where he could get them. So, I guess somebody put it in the newspaper that Anton diving in six fathoms of water for his false teeth. And it was in every newspaper he could ever, he got lots of newspapers, and everybody, his sister from Norway, and his sister from Wisconsin sent him clippings of Anton diving for his teeth, six fathoms of water. And he had all these newspapers given to him. That's the story about his teeth...

There was some additional conversation after this story that is on the tape but not recorded on these transcripts

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