

H97-66-29

Mary Brower, Bill Brower

Rusty Huerlin's studio

Ester, Alaska

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Jerry E. Lardy

Mary Brower Stotz was born thirty-nine years ago. There were fourteen children in the family. Bill Brower lives in Portland. Elizabeth Kelly lives in Burbank, CA. Flora Calgough lives in La Mesa, CA. Jennie lives in Daly City, CA. Mary, Tom, David, Robert, Mariah, Sadie, Catherine, Arnold and Harry live in Pt. Barrow, Alaska. Her father was Charlie Brower. Her mother was nicknamed Bones by her father. Her Eskimo name was Asangatuk. Her mother was named by an older brother. Her other Eskimo name was Minorak. Her older siblings were gone from home before she was born. She attended school in Barrow and did not attend high school. She is the supervisor director of the Head Start program in Barrow. She was attending training at the University of Alaska. After attending school she helped to take care of her father. She met her husband, Harry J. Stotz in Barrow. He is the officer in charge of the weather bureau in Barrow. The interviewer asked about any interesting things that she recalls from her childhood. Mary said she remembered a tall man and a lady arriving in an airplane in Barrow. They were Charles and Ann Lindberg. That was in the 1930s. Interviewer thought that was their trip around the world. She also remembered Sir Hubert Wilkins. She remembers his long beard. She remembers the studio of Rusty Herlin. It was located above the classrooms at the old school. He also taught art to some of the students. Mary remembers all the paint in the studio.

The interviewer comments about Charlie Brower's store. Mary said it was a station. It was built by the government to house men who had been shipwrecked in the area. The supplies were kept in warehouses off to the side of the building. There was a small post office at the station. Mary said every Monday night was pool night rotation. After the pool game was over they would come into the kitchen for coffee. This was a time when they would sit and talk about early times. They had a private home. The station was a government building. On the second story there were quarters where the men slept. Her father carved ivory every day. He would inlay ivory into wood frames. A lot of his picture frames came from the wreck of Will Rogers and Wiley Post. The walls were covered with his frames and pictures. Her father carved sled dogs, sleds, animals, sailing ships, and jewelry boxes. Rusty commented about Charlie's carving skills. Mary said Jennie had most of the carvings and frames.

The interviewer commented about the time Mary was growing up being a transition time. Mary thought the late 1940s was a time of change. She said there are still families that dress their children in skins and furs.

Bill Brower and his wife, Vi Hansen Brower arrive and enter the conversation at this time. Bill talks about being brought up with four of his siblings by his Aunt Jennie Clark. He left Barrow in 1908. He went to school in New Jersey and later went out to California after WWI. He taught golf in Portland, Oregon. He was in the air corps during WWII. He talked about seeing Rusty's work Outside.

Mabel Brower was also there. She was thirty-seven years old at the time of the interview. She has five children. Her husband, Sam, works for Wien. She returns to Barrow once or twice a year.

Bill talks about a trip in California. He talks about a trip in California with his father and brothers. He served in the Navy during WWI. Discussion about the Navy.

The last five minutes of the tapes is Thomas B. Brower. Most of the tape is difficult to understand. He talked about serving on a schooner captained by C.T. Peterson. In 1919 they stopped at to service stations on the northern coast and as far east as Banks Island. They collected families that had been trapping for five years. They picked up the furs and the families and took them back to Barrow. They then went out to the northwest to hunt bowhead whales. They were headed for Wrangle Island. That fall they picked up 18 whales. They went to Point Clarence to render the whales. The tape ends with an encounter with a killer whale.