

**Erma Lawrence  
Kasaan, Alaska  
July 14, 2001**

**Tape 1 of 1  
Side A  
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**JB:** Am I talking? ... Today is July 14, 2001. I'm sitting here with Erma Lawrence in her daughter's home in Kasaan, Alaska. And my name is Jeane Breinig. And the first thing that I'm going to ask Erma is to please give your English name, your birth date, and where you were born.

**EL:** Okay ... Jeane, I'm glad to be here with you. You know, to do some recording. My name is Erma Lawrence, I was a Baronovich ... I was ... not born in Kasaan, but I was born on the west coast because in August, everybody was over there seining, you know. And, but I was raised in here in Kasaan. And my parents were ... Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Baronovich ...

**JB:** And what's your birth date?

**EL:** My birth date is .. 8/2/12

**JB:** Oh. August 2nd.

**EL:** Almost a century ...

**JB:** Yeah, oh, my goodness. That's wonderful. So you were born in 1912?

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** Yeah. Wonderful. And, do you have a Haida name? And if so, could you tell us what that is, please.

**EL:** Yes, I do have a Haida name. I'm named after my grandma Baronovich that lived here all of her life. And the name is ... **Ulgutl** ... Ul ... gutl, it's kind of hard to say, and, and it means, One who Stands Above ... and it also ... indicates beauty ... beauty. It's hard to explain but, I understand that word ... Ulgutl, one who stands above, ... and ... I though you'd like to know the meaning of it.

**JB:** yeah. Yeah. It's a beautiful name and it fits you very well.

**EL:** That's what everybody says. --

**JB:** -- It does, yeah. --

**EL:** --(unintelligible) --

**JB:** -- it does --

**EL:** -- all the linguists that I worked with --

**JB:** -- you have such a good spirit and that's such a good name for you. You clan? Do you know your clan name and the name of it?

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**EL:** Let's see, I'm ... a Double-head Eagle ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and I belong to the ... **Tleth** laanaas ... Tlethlaanaas of Kasaan, yeah.

**JB:** yeah. Okay, yeah. Thank you. You said, this name you have is the same as your, given to you by your grandmother? And who was your grandmother?

**EL:** Mary Baronovich.

**JB:** Mary Baronovich? Do you know, did she have a name before she had Baronovich? A maiden name or was it just an Indian name?

**EL:** ... She had a ... she had a full name, I have it written somewhere ... But it sounds French because my grandma was 1/2 Haida and 1/2 French.

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** So my dad had only 1/4 of Haida ... the rest 1/4 French and the rest was Austrian.

**JB:** Oh, my. Yes.

**EL:** Yeah, pretty good combination. They were beautiful people, too. They look Italian. They were never considered to be a Native ...

**JB:** Yeah, okay.

**EL:** In Ketchikan.

**JB:** ... could you give, so could you give the names of your parents and full names of your parents, grandparents, and ...

**EL:** Let's see ... of course, in those days ... people were picked for each other ... you know, they were of equal status ... and mother was raised on the west coast ... in a little village of Klinkwan ... yeah. And her father's name was ... Edwin Scott ... my brother, Edwin carries that full name, Edwin Scott Baronovich Young ...

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**EL:** They were picked for ... for each other ... Grandma Baronovich ... did the proposal ... in a letter and my sister, Marge carried, had the letter for a *long* time, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And ... I don't know if Edwin will be able to find it, but ... I remember reading it ... but dad was older than mother ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And he brought my mother ... over to Kasaan here ... as a young bride and she was only 19 at that time ... but she was well-trained in everything and I heard that the little old ladies here in Kasaan just marveled at how ... she, you know, she could ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** How she prepared food ... and planting and stuff like that.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** They were just amazed.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** She was well-trained. (Laughs)

**JB:** Yeah. ... So, go ahead.

**EL:** And we lived here until 1930.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And dad got sick and ... grandma invited us over to Hydaburg you know, she said, we would get along better there ... so that's what they did. While we were in Sheldon Jackson School.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Thank you. How about the names of your ... spouse, and your children and grandchildren.

**EL:** It says the names of the parents?

**JB:** Oh, yeah. That question ...

**EL:** We answered that one.

**JB:** that one, mmm, hmm. But spouse and children, and grandchildren.

**EL:** Oh, I see. Okay.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** My parents, ... on my dad's side ... was ... Charles Vincent Baronovich and they were not picked for each other ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Baronovich saw my grandmother in Victoria ... she was *real* beautiful ... we have pictures to show you ... and he and I don't know how it happened that Baronovich was in .. in Victoria you know. That's where he was buried and he was a free mason ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and had a big Masonic funeral there. In Victoria ... so ... so he came up here, it seemed like he came from a very aristocratic family .. I have a picture of a cousin ... he's about ... he's got his whole armor on ... I was showing it to my grandson, when he was here ... I'd like to have somebody to tell me what all his uniform means ... the saber and on the table is sort of a German hat...

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**EL:** I don't know if it's mother's side or father's side ... but I plan to ... you know get a ... print of it so ...

**JB:** Oh, yeah.

**EL:** It's an *old* original (chuckles)

**JB:** Yeah, right.

**EL:** Yeah. That I got ... and the ... let's see what else did you want?

**JB:** Tell me your mother's name, again. I ...

**EL:** Oh, my mother's name was Nelly Scott ...

**JB:** Nellie Scott.

**EL:** I think she had a middle name, Helen, I'm not too sure.

**JB:** Okay, yeah. Yeah. How many children were there in your family, like brothers and sisters?

**EL:** In mine?

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** There were just four of us.

**JB:** Four

**EL:** Two girls and two boys. Now, just Edwin and I are left.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. So there was .. yourself ...

**EL:** My sister, Marge, and then my dear brother, Vincent ...

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** He and I were very close.

**JB:** Yeah, yeah.

**EL:** Uh, huh.

**JB:** Okay, so ... do you have like aunts and or you know, brother, like who would you consider your aunts and uncles? That have passed on, I'm guessing, but ... do you remember aunts and uncles?

**EL:** Oh, yeah. On mother's side ... there was Josephine, Nancy ... my .. and Catherine ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And my and Josephine was the first Native ... nurse, graduate...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Very first.

**JB:** Oh. (Unintelligible)

**EL:** She was the very first.

**JB:** Wow.

**EL:** And then on my dad's side. They had a big family, the Baronovich did ... there was about 10 of them ... of course I didn't know some of them but I knew of them. Yeah.

**JB:** And what are the names of your children?

**EL:** Oh, my children, immediate?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm, yeah.

**EL:** Yeah, the oldest is Herb,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... and then, the second is Al ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** .. Albert .. better known as 'Godo' ... yeah.

**JB:** (chuckles)

**EL:** And then there's MaryAnn and then there's David, and ... better known as 'Pudge' ... Marge and the youngest is Johnny, who is now in his 50s ... they're all living and doing well in the Seattle area.

**JB:** Yeah, that's nice.

**EL:** Two girls are in Alaska.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. That's good to have your daughters close, yeah.

**EL:** It's sure nice to be out here again.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** After all these years ... I have such a wonderful memories ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I had the most wonderful childhood ... here, you know.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And ... and when I come back here it ... doesn't sadden me but ... it's just wonderful to be back you know?

**JB:** Yeah.

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**EL:** And to know my daughter ... is living here ... and even my great grandchildren have been here.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know? So ...

**JB:** Yeah,

**EL:** I just ... have the happiest memories of my childhood.

**JB:** What are some of those memories that just come to your mind when you think of the good times?

**EL:** I always think of the *l-o-n-g* summer days we used to have here. There was very little rain, raining every day now.

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** Very little rain ... the *l-o-n-g* summers ... that ... we just you know, played ... and played and ... we played, went swimming and picked berries and eat berries ... there was no restrictions ... (laughs)

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And of course, my mother would be working in the cannery here ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And dad would be seining on his little boat, ... he had the boat built in Hydaburg by Jim Edenso ...

**JB:** Mmm.

**EL:** And Dad never left Kasaan Bay to go fishing. He stayed in Karta Bay, the sockeye ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And then the fall fishing, he didn't go very far ... very sheltered

**JB:** Yeah

**EL:** And we spent a lot of time in Karta Bay ... now those were my *happiest* memories. Dad would fish right in front of us. We'd see him you know?

**JB:** What the name of the boat?

**EL:** It had an odd name, I never knew what it meant, it was 'Private' ... and I found out why. Dad didn't name it, Jim Edenso did himself.

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** Because ... for the simple reason that ... dad ... used his own money to build that boat, he didn't borrow. There was no where to borrow anyway.

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**EL:** And so Mr. Edenso, named it 'Private,' we never knew what private meant (laughs)

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** Seems so natural, private.

**JB:** (laughs) Yeah. Good heavens. So who all went to Karta Bay with you? Did the whole family go? And did you have a camp out there?

**EL:** Oh, the whole family went including Grandma. Grandma was always with us.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Very close. And I remember your mother's family, too. Lived out in Grindall in sort of a ... little peninsula like ... that

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and the big tides it would become an island. Now the tide would come up --

**JB:** -- Right, right --

**EL:** -- so far ...

**JB:** Right

**EL:** I remember your grandparents living there.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. In Grindall? Or Karta Bay? Which one?

**EL:** Oh, I, I am mixed up, I meant Grindall.

**JB:** Yeah, yeah.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** I don't remember them in Karta Bay,

**JB:** Yeah, I think they just ...

**EL:** The Brown Joneses ...

**JB:** Right..

**EL:** would do Karta Bay ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And the Williamses ... Bill Williams and his wife and family lived close to us.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EL:** Yeah, so those were wonderful days. And in front of us ... were always ... a ship that sunk with a lot of iron or ore in it?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know, and they towed it there and that was always in front of us ... you know, just the bow and the mast was still up. And one thing used to really excite us ... was swallows would build their nests in the bow of that boat. (Laughs)

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** We used to think that was so wonderful ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And there was *plenty* of crab, right there.

**JB:** Oh, my goodness.

**EL:** In the river,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** In the mouth of the river ...

**JB:** So you would have, did you have a little house there? In?

**EL:** Yeah, we did. Uh, huh.

**JB:** Uh, huh.

**EL:** It was half tent and the other, the kitchen area was a little wooden frame ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Where we cooked. And then the smokehouse was *so* big, it was as big as a house ... big one

**JB:** A lot of people cooking ...

**EL:** Yeah, and Mother would ... most of the time she would put up about 200 sockeye ...

**JB:** Wow.

**EL:** That's a lot, but it had to last, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** No other fish, just sockeye. --

**JB:** -- Right, just sockeye. Was it, ... did you guys put them in cans? And canned them there or jar them?

**EL:** No, it was dry smoke, what we ca --

**JB:** -- hard smoke ---

**EL:** -- call, 'newspaper' ... you know,

**JB:** Ohh..

**EL:** open it wide ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EL:** That's what Mother put up.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And she would also ... take the backbone out ... we call those suspenders ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know? Ohh, those were good ...

**JB:** Yeah, mom's talked about that and she talked about newspaper style ... --

**EL:** -- yeah --

**JB:** -- and the --

**EL:** -- I can still do newspaper ...

**JB:** Wow.

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** She said, she never learned ...

**EL:** In smaller fish ... you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** If it's too big, it's kind of hard to handle especially dog salmon ... which is what I like ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Pudgy won't handle it (chuckles)

**JB:** They're too much ... They're harder to work with ...

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** probably cause they're littler... yeah

**EL:** Yeah, heavy ... you know? Got to have a bigger smokehouse than what she has ...

**JB:** So how old were you about then when you were remembering going to Karta Bay?

**EL:** From the time I was 8 years old.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Wow.

**EL:** Past those two wonderful ... we'd spend the spring in Grindall, two months ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And then move back to Kasaan here ... I can still feel that feeling I used to have because everything was so green when we came back ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And the birds, robins ... singing and, ohhh ... it was a lot of work moving all your, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Bedding and ...

**JB:** Yes.

**EL:** Everything else ...(chuckles) ...but they were wonderful ... had the most wonderful --

**JB:** -- yes --

**EL:** -- life, you know?

**JB:** Did you ... have chores that you had to do related to the fishing? And the --

**EL:** -- Yes, I sure did. I was the workhorse ... my sister wasn't allowed to do anything ... cause she was not too well.

**JB:** Oh.

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**EL:** That was the reason, you know. Packing all that up to the beach, and up to the house ... mattresses ... feather mattresses (laughs)

**JB:** (laughs) Wow.

**EL:** And we even had a little store in Grindall ... grocery store?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And the Joneses did too... what's his, Pauline's father's name? ... and Pauline is the only one still living and she's 97 or 98 ... the only person left as of this year in the year 2001.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Yeah.

**EL:** And I have pictures ... where ... she's in the Kasaan choir ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I showed her, she recognized, I said, what is this group of people?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Oh, that's the choir. She said.

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** And then I have another one of the Kasaan band.

**JB:** Oh, yeah.

**EL:** So they did *real* well.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** They built their own big townhall here ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And all the seiners ... put the money together ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** to buy the lumber for that beautiful hall. The floors were ... really, it looked like hardwood to me ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm, yeah.

**EL:** And we were *not* allowed to ever step in there ... we used to like, you know, basketball, they'd hoist the stairs up, and there's a big rope, you know, hanging, we used to want to ... we used to like to swing on that rope and there was one certain man just for social duties ...

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**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** They were never incorporated ... but they were so well organized. There was a man for every thing, the social, you know? The choir like your grandfather was the choir leader

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And they always practiced in our house ... I remember listening, you know?

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** The most wonderful ... singers ... Mother had a little old organ ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** that she brought from Klinkwan ... over here ... and Grandpa actually got that for her 18th birthday ...

**JB:** Wow.

**EL:** Imagine in a little Indian village ... and grandma said it came from Montgomery Ward

**JB:** Wow.

**EL:** What a price(?) but Mother kept that organ so long, and she even left it when they moved suddenly, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Very suddenly ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** She, that's what I ... and then, by the time I came home from Sheldon Jackson, Mother even had a piano waiting for me.

**JB:** Oh, my

**EL:** All the sheet music ... on it, you know? They bought it second hand in Ketchikan and ... like I said, Harriet McAllister is another old-timer. We lived right across from them.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** She said, to this day, she could still hear me playing and even the song, she mentioned where our door was open you know, beautiful summer days or whatever.

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** She said, she'll never forget that. Right across ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... the ... the ways from us ...

**JB:** That's why your so talented musically, huh? Because you grew up singing and playing music and hearing it all the time.

**EL:** Mmm. Yeah, I lived with music ... and my children lived the same way

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I had a nice piano in Hydaburg.

**JB:** Yeah. That's good.

**EL:** So, singing is what keeps families together.

**JB:** It's nice ...

**EL:** It's wonderful. John played the guitar ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And one of the children played the ukulele ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And then we all sang and ... we never knew we had an audience outside ... people were listening to us ...

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**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So ... we had a nice little home in Hydaburg. We built with our own little hands, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I think I handed my husband every nail that he drove (laughs)

**JB:** (Laughs)

**EL:** I was so involved ...

**JB:** Yeah, gosh.

**EL:** Those were happy years in Hydaburg too.

**JB:** I'm sure they were ... Saw both communities grow and fade and grow.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Lots of different things ...

**EL:** Kasaan, I'm glad it's ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... is sort of reborn ... you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And I can come back here...

**JB:** Yes. I'm so glad mom moved back too, because now I come to see her here ...

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** It's nice.

**EL:** It's just wonderful, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Yeah. I want to just back up a little bit and ... you mention, you talked about Karta Bay alot. And a little bit about Grindall, but maybe a little more about Grindall..

**EL:** Oh, yeah.

**JB:** Yeah. And what you did there and how you did the seaweed and maybe what chores you had to do to help or just a little bit more about what you remember about Grindall ...

**EL:** Yeah, oh, those are my fondest memories. Right now, when I come in on the plane ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... I relive that stretch of land between Kasaan and Grindall. How many times dad went back and forth and sometimes he'd tow some people to Grindall, you know? And ... we never left until the school was out ... school was important, you know? And ... I don't know how many houses we lived in. You can choose any house you wanted, except Joneses.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Oh, let's see, Joe Jones was ... they had a little store, too

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** so there were two little stores out there ... and ... then of course, everybody trolled by hand or we always had that little boat, you know, to troll on and prices were very low ... I can remember 5 cents a pound.

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**JB:** Wow. (Laughs)

**EL:** (laughs) white king salmon ... or (unintelligible) and yet dad would make enough money, you know, trolling ... and we were always on the boat, you know, three of us ... they never left us any place ...

**EL:** Soon as dad would make enough, we'd go back ... to Kasaan and open our little ice cream parlor, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** It was on the beach side ... and your grandparents had a store next to us, it was called the "Yellow Store," because it was it was yellow,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... painted yellow. And dad used to spend a *lot* of evenings down there, you know, how men are?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** they just spend the evenings there and but out at Grindall, yeah, the main thing was ... picking seaweed, you know and in those days, they had no grinders, you know. So you know, they'd make little cakes.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Press them together ... and put it in the cedar box about the same size, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And in between the layers, they put cedar boughs

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** to flavor it, oh, you could cut a chunk off, you know, like you would cheese ... (laughs)

**JB:** Oh, yummy. (Laughs) sounds good, yeah...

**EL:** It was wonderful.

**JB:** It was fun, yeah.

**EL:** Some of us kids would go trolling. I used to be scared ... I just, I was so scared to catch a fish, I just, I didn't *want* to catch any, it was too scary ... (laughs) I can remember going out trolling ... real close you know

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** There was a nice little sheltered inlet

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EL:** Where the boats, I can see *every* boat yet. And then in another cove, over here ... the people who owned the traps out there, they were set traps, big ones, they'd tie up in there, you know. And they had a trap right outside where we call that long island, that long stretch, either it's called 'Straits Island,' or it's called 'Ship Island,'

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Remember that Ship Island, it looks just like a battleship, you know? I was looking at it ... (chuckles)

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Him and I came out ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Holds a lot of memories ...

**JB:** Yeah. How many people had homes over there, cabins.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Or places. Do you remember how many houses?

**EL:** I remember every one and I have it all ... drawn out you know.

**JB:** Oh, good.

**EL:** There was 14 houses .. yeah. The last house on this end was by a Filipino, all by himself, he was not friendly. He never talked to anybody.

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** And the last one over here was the ... Yeltatzie's

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Uh, huh. And then I have it all sketched out, I knew who lived in every one of those, and there was three community houses there. We stayed in there too. We moved around quite a bit. Whatever house was vacant,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** we were welcome to use it ... so those old community houses showed how *long* Grindall was used by our ancestors ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And now of course, the Forest Service, I think they own it, they did away with every house that's there.

**JB:** Yeah, mmm, hmm. Put a new different one but yeah ...

**EL:** No, there's *nothing* ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Cause I went there ... not too long ago

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** When Bobby was still living, we stopped there, you know. There's ... all over-grown now ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm, yeah.

**EL:** But the memories will never fade.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** They were happy memories. Clean water running there ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Had a, they built a little trough for it, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So it ran down a little trough ... I don't remember anyone ever getting sick from the water (Laughs)

**JB:** (Laughs)

**EL:** Pretty tough, I guess.

**JB:** Yeah.

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**JB:** Did you get things like gumboots and ...

**EL:** Oh, yeah.

**JB:** Gumboots and ...

**EL:** We just lived on it.

**JB:** Lady slippers ...

**EL:** Mother knew just where to go for

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and the seaweed, you know, mother would dry out on this little point I was talking about?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** She took a picture with Vincent when he was just a little guy, Marge has the picture, right out there ... where she dried seaweed. (Chuckles) Doing all the natural things, living off the land, you know. And I just had an abundance of everything ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. A lot of food, good food

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Did you remember getting the Hudson's Bay Tea? Too, did you guys gather Hudson's Bay tea?

**EL:** I think we did ... I think we did because we drank it a lot. But I don't remember where we picked it

**JB:** Mmm, hmmm.

**EL:** ... it's the only thing.

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** There was a lot of salal berries.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know, on the, on the side of Clarence Straits there's a little point there too

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** A lot of salal berries, yeah. But it wasn't ripe by the time, you know, we were there ... but the leaves were there anyway.

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** Yeah, so ... it was a great, that's all I can say.

**JB:** Sounds wonderful. Did your family have a garden? That you tended somewhere? And had to ...

**EL:** right here in Kasaan.

**JB:** Oh, okay.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** We lived right, right where the schoolhouse is, now,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** about in that area.

**JB:** Right, right.

**EL:** And the townhall was up here ... and the little old church was here and so ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** It was very convenient.

**JB:** What kind of things did you grow in your garden?

**EL:** Oh, mother most of it, was potatoes...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** She had three varieties ... and the one was that the best, and I heard it came from Germany, your mother has it, the lady fingers, they call it?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** They're long and ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** .. and then she'd have ... another plain white one and then another, red one, red round one. She used to *love* to look at her garden from the backdoor in the kitchen ... she'd stand there and look at it. Mother *loved* to plant. That's what they admired about her when she first came here.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** She knew how to do everything ... (chuckles)

**JB:** That's great.

**EL:** She was only 19.

**JB:** Wow, yeah.

**EL:** Dad was 11 years older ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** than her.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** but they got along pretty good. laughs)

**JB:** (Laughs) Yeah.

**EL:** And the church was the center of *everything*. They did away with Indian culture, Indian custom, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Altogether!

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Altogether, and everything was ... everything was the church ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** In our social life ... you know..

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** That was wonderful ...

**JB:** Do you remember some of the preachers, their names or who they were?

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**EL:** Oh, yes. Most of my childhood ... we had one ordained ... Haida minister ... there wasn't any more, the others were layworkers ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know, but ... this was Samuel G. Davis, Sam Davis ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** They called him Chin.aa Davis ... and his wife Naanaa Davis ... they were so *close* to us like *relatives* ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** *My*, I loved her, like I did my grandma Baronovich ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know?

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** She was so gentle and everybody was gentle ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm... kind

**EL:** when I think about how wonderful the people were.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** As a child I thought ... everybody was so ... you know, it's just like one big family

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Now, the only one living is Pauline and I went to see her ... she now resides in the, in the Pioneer Home ... yeah. I went to visit her.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** She goes to see her husband every day. Bill Blacksted.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** I remember when they were courting, in 19, 1928 or '27, you know?

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**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Just think, they're still living.

**JB:** I know. She looks ...

**EL:** I remember ..

**JB:** Young, like you. (Chuckles)

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Yeah. Really, it must have that good food we would,

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** Ate all your life.

**EL:** Everybody wants to know what my secret is, for longevity. And I have no secret.

**JB:** (Laughs)

**EL:** It's my Indian food ...

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** I ate fish every day.

**JB:** Yeah. Now they're finding out that ... --

**EL:** -- I always knew ... --

**JB:** -- it's good. --

**EL:** -- good, yeah, seaweed and the fish.

**JB:** yeah.

**EL:** Mmm, hmm. And the venison.

**JB:** Yeah. All that stuff growing up ..

**EL:** Uh, huh.

**JB:** I know that I ... didn't, I wanted to talk a little bit about more about your Haida, you had Haida names in your family and what they were. Like do you had Haida names for ...

**EL:** Dad did not have a Haida name ... I don't know why. In fact, I don't think any of them did. But Mother's Haida name, she never told us for some reason,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I don't know why.

**JB:** That's okay. Yeah, yeah.

**EL:** Ohh. Cousin Walter told me, I got a lot of history from Cousin Walter ... Young. You

know, he passed it on to me, it was passed onto him ...

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** at his, at his mother's knee. They knew for some reason, Cousin Walter was going to live a *long* time. They *knew* it.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So, they passed all the history onto, but anyway, he told me Mother's Haida name. And it is, Jaat **Keingaas**... Jaat is short for Jaadaa ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Wherever you hear Jaat ... it's sort for jaadaa ... Jaat Keingaas, it means as far as I can ... I can understand it, it means One, a Woman who is Visible ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EL:** Jaat Keingaas ...

**JB:** Keingaas, yeah.

**EL:** She didn't like her name. (Laughs)

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** So, we never knew. You know?

**JB:** Yeah. How about your sisters? Did they have Haida?

**EL:** No. Huh, uh.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** For some reason ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** and brothers?

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** that's interesting.

**EL:** Marge was ... Grandma's pet ... you know

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** She spent *all* her time with grandma.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And grandma's house is still here in existence.

**JB:** Ohh.

**EL:** It's a hundred years old.

**JB:** Which one is that?

**EL:** the one with the red roof. Where ..

**JB:** Ohh.

**EL:** Juanita says.

**JB:** Ohh. My

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** goodness

**EL:** I get that, I can't believe it's still standing. I've gone inside ... what used to look so big to me ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Is so small. (Chuckles)

**JB:** Yeah. Yeah.

**EL:** And then the little red schoolhouse was close to her, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And every recess we'd run over there

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and she'd have the bread and jelly ready for us ...

**JB:** yes. Nice.

**EL:** Yeah, she was quite ... quite a woman in her time ... she was really, she had Indian royalty which I don't mention at all you know, except for people like you

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**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And she had European royalty too.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** Oh, she married into European royalty.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Because the name Baronovich is ... translated into 'Baron of Vich' ... and it's quite a big ... you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Quite a big name ... I often wish I could ... go to the Austrian Embassy and see if there's any relatives living ... because during the ... second World War ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I guess, Germany took over ... invaded Austria ...

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** That beautiful country where they filmed this ... the 'Sound of Music' ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** and my sister and I always talked about going to Vienna, you know.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And we never did, of course,

**JB:** That's a long way.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Long way, lot of work. How about Haida names for your kids, did you give your children Haida names?

**EL:** No, they didn't have any, at all.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** So you carry the Haida name pretty much.

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** Yeah. Yeah.

**EL:** Nobody thought of ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** ... giving Haida names.

**JB:** (laughs) ... Did you, I know you, you're one of the last people, you know, that have such good fluency in Haida, did you speak the language when you were growing up or did

**EL:** Mmm, hmm. Both were very familiar ..

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Haida and I talked Haida to some of my girlfriends, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And, and most of it was English ..too,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Mother and dad talked quite, you know, often at home?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** It was so natural ... and I feel comfortable on both sides of the fence ...

**JB:** yeah.

**EL:** I have such wonderful ... white friends ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EL:** That's it's just ...

**JB:** yeah.

**EL:** really something.

**JB:** Did your parents primarily speak Haida in the home? Or was it a little of both?

**EL:** Little of both.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Mmm, hmm. There was a lot of singing, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** In English, and dad also translated a gospel songs like I've done ...

**JB:** Yeah, right,

**EL:** I remember them too ...

**JB:** Uh, huh. Yeah.

**EL:** And when they'd sing it in church the little old ladies would be *so* happy.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** We had the cutest little old ladies, when I was growing up.

**JB:** (laughs) Do you remember when people stopped using Haida so much around the home or in the village or, do you remember exactly how that happened or ...

**EL:** I really ... well ... when they moved from Old Kasaan they left all that behind ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** the culture ... because they were ... made to think it was evil ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** the missionaries, they meant well, I give them a lot of credit ... they meant well ... and Grandpa ... Edwin Scott took it *real* seriously ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** .. he physically put away all the ... and he had the Chilkat blankets about three of them you know,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Yeah, he actually put them away physically, never to use it again, because the missionaries told him it was ... sinful, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EL:** So, Grandpa took it serious and he sent, he sent his children to Chemawa ... and Sheldon Jackson ... and, and then the Baronoviches went to Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania ... my Aunt Cecilia which is the youngest in the Baronovich family, she chaperoned ... the Alaska Indian students clear across ... on a train, to go to Carlisle

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I have all kinds of pictures ..

**JB:** Oh, my.

**EL:** Of what they took there ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** especially Aunty Cecilia.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And she ... she married a great baseball player, in the major leagues?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And the name is Ballenti ...

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** Let's see, ... Michael Ballenti,

**JB:** Sound familiar

**EL:** ... he played shortstop in either, I've got it mixed up Red Soxes or the Cincinnati Reds, either one, so ... my Aunt Cecilia was a *great* baseball fan, you know ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Gosh.

**EL:** And they settled in Oklahoma.

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** Altus or Altus, how do you pronounce Altus? She raised all her children there in Oklahoma. That's where he was from.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Do you remember ... any your parents, or maybe grandparents, maybe parents, ... talking about the move from Old Kasaan to New Kasaan?

**EL:** Oh, yeah.

**JB:** What did they tell you? Do you remember?

**EL:** they told them, if the moved to Kasaan, they promised them, a lot of good things. We'll build the sidewalk, we'll cut the lumber, we'll have a school, ... and a church, all those good things ... so, that was the reason for moving.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** But, from Old Kasaan.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I've never been to Old Kasaan, mind you.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** That's where our chief lived. You know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** They said he was huge ... (chuckles)

**JB:** (chuckles)

**EL:** He weighed 300 pounds ...

**JB:** Yeah. Do you want to take a break for a minute? Okay. ... My next question is about where you went to school and how you got there and just any experiences you had in school.

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**EL:** Mmm, hmm. Yeah, the little Red, I always refer to it as the Little Red Schoolhouse, that's just it was, you know. And it went only as far as the 5th grade ... so Mother said, it's time for you folks to leave ... and she went to Sheldon Jackson too. My mother did,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... my dad did and my grandmother ... Emma Tom also, so our family represents five generations ... consecutively ... a hundred years ...

**JB:** At Sheldon Jackson?

**EL:** Uh, huh. Because our parents went there they were very familiar with the school, and it was the most formal schooling you could have. You know, is to go to Sheldon Jackson school in Sitka which is named after its founder, you know, Sheldon Jackson ... himself ... the first missionary that landed on the shores of Alaska. And ... he came from England ... and ... it was the most wonderful school. It covered everything ... from the Bible study to ... parliamentary law ... you know, that it covered everything. And ... so that's where my sister and I left. It was the first time we were away from home. It was hard ... and my sister took it better than I did. She never once cried ... I cried all the time (laughs) And my, and my, our matron was a little Scotch woman, a little old lady, and she'd called me, "Erma" (rolled r) ... Erma, what is wrong with you? (accented voice) ...

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** I couldn't explain it to her. I was just homesick, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So there we were, we could have just as well been in China ... you know, so far ... I heard it was hard for my mother especially. I heard about it afterwards, she cried ... tears would fall into the washtub when she was washing the clothes ... we left behind. So .. in time, then I got used to, I got involved in *everything* that was musical ... *everything* ... Glee Club, you name it. The orchestra ... piano playing ... and ... and ... Bible was the main ... one of the, you had to take the Bible Study ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** We had to memorize chapters and chapters which I still remember to this day. After I don't know how many years, 70? 70 years now? It comes in handy a lot of times ... you

know. Where there's no Bible, I just use because I ... I've always made it a ... part of life to visit the sick. I've done that for so long, many years ...

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**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And towards the, you know the end, I've been there ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So there we stayed from 19, we left September of 1925...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and we went on an old steamer, (laughs) ... and ...landed in Sitka ... and there we landed both my sister and I landed in they call small girls' building. (Laughs) You know, it was Stevenson's Hall was the name all the buildings were named after somebody. And we enjoyed being there and ... after I got used to everything, boy there was no place like Sheldon Jackson, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And yeah.

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**EL:** And I graduated there in 1933 from '25-'33 ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. So you took that steamer, did you pick that steamer up here in Kasaan or did you have

**EL:** Oh, in Ketchikan.

**JB:** Ketchikan.

**EL:** The name of it was, "SS Rogers," the name of the boat.

**JB:** Yeah. Then would you come home in the summer? And, and ...

**EL:** I didn't ... couldn't afford to go home, so I'd stay ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** After have 16 tables in the dining room it would go down to 4, quite a drastic change. It was a little bit hard the first week and then too, I'd get use to that ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and my children, my boys, often asked me, "Mom how could you *do* that, stay behind?"

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And my boyfriends are leaving, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** (laughs)

**JB:** Yeah. So you worked. Mom said she worked, everybody that went to Sheldon Jackson had jobs.

**EL:** Oh, yes.

**JB:** And yours was in the dining hall, was that it?

**EL:** Yeah. Uh, huh.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah, you went to school a half a day, and you worked half a day ... you know,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Like laundry,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Bakery

**JB:** Mmm, hmm

**EL:** And we had home economics

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Cooking and sewing ...

**JB:** So you stayed every summer though?

**EL:** I did.

**JB:** Pretty much.

**EL:** Uh, huh.

**JB:** You didn't come home to work in the cannery like some ...

**EL:** Yeah, we used to go to ... Skowl Arm to work in the cannery ...

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** Skowl Arm? Yeah, there was a cannery there ....

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Mmm, hmm. Did you work in the cannery here at all? At the Kasaan cannery?

**EL:** Huh, uh. No, I was too, I was only like 12 ... yeah.

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**JB:** When that came ...

**EL:** So, my sister did though

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah, she was 14, so (laughs)

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** Little bit older

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. I'm trying to think if I'm missing anything. ... What was the depression era like for you and your family? Do you remember that?

**EL:** World War II?

**JB:** Well, World War II and then ...

**EL:** I remember World War I!

**JB:** yeah.

**EL:** It didn't bother us very much

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** here in Kasaan. I can remember mother rationing only the sugar. That's all. I can barely remember, you know.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** I didn't know why. A lot of the boys, some of the boys from here went

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... to just training camps ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And ... Healy Jones ... went to Texas and when he came back, they just called him, "Tex" (laughs) just because he went to .. I remember the boys coming home,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... with that, you know, that funny hat ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** they wore in World War I?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And that brown khaki

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Cloth

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** There was quite a few, some of my cousins ... you know,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** The Youngs went .. I remember

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Who were all your cousins that lived here? And who are they, I guess?

**540**

**EL:** Oh,

**JB:** And how are you related?

**EL:** Yeah, the cousins ... Like lately so many of my cousins have died, you know, and I always tell the people, when I talk, we all come from Grandma Baronovich ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** *Every* one of my cousins ... and her daughter ... Caroline Baronovich was the first child.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And then she was, her marriage was arranged, too. She picked ... they picked somebody ... famous, a high caste from Skidegat ... Paul Young, the very first Paul Young came from Skidegat. And that marriage was arranged, Aunty Cary was of the same equal ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And she had five boys ... and one girl, her name was Agnes ... and so, cousin Agnes was named after her.

**JB:** Oh.

**EL:** Yeah,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So you can imagine how many cousins I have ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** ... from that group!

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I also have, I have a large sheet this big with, you know, the genealogy, I did long ago ... you know at the very top of course is our chief, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Then grandma,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Baronovich ... and then Aunty Cary Young and ...

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**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** all the boys and then ... Rosemarie and them ... and Caroline they come from that group of brothers ....

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So, I got that all

**JB:** yeah.

**EL:** Now onto ...

**JB:** Now, you say at the top is your chief. Who is ...

**EL:** Chief Skow-al was at the very top. Uh, huh, yeah. So, as it goes down to Val and them and then Val's

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... daughter, Rita ... and then those other little ones

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** that ...

**JB:** Right

**EL:** They can fill in themselves.

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** Right.

**JB:** Do you, were you here when they did redid the community house? The Whale House? When they did the CCC?

**EL:** Oh, that community house?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** No, huh, uh. They did after we, the CCC camp?

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** We left in the '30s.

**JB:** Right. Okay

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Okay

**EL:** Oh, people missed my mother and dad so much.

**JB:** I bet.

**EL:** Is that all?

**JB:** Yes.

**EL:** Forget about

**JB:** Yeah, I know, it's easy to ...

**EL:** It's better ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Yeah, it's better

**JB:** to be always aware of it, you know, following around ...

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** ... were you raised a Christian. I know you're very

**EL:** I sure was. Yeah. It's all I knew.

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**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** My parents were so involved in the church.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Of course, mother had to be there. She was the *only* one who learned to play the piano in Sitka ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** It was called, I think it was called Sitka Training, then,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So she was .. you know, very ... very much needed and they were so missed when they left.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I even heard one of her best friends almost got sick ..

**JB:** Mmm.

**EL:** She missed mother so much.

**JB:** Yeah. ... yeah ... so you, do you remember any ... Haida spiritual practices before Christianity, or remember hearing anything?

**EL:** No, huh, uh.

**JB:** Yeah. Pretty much gone.

**EL:** Mother was raised in the culture, in Klinkwan on --

**JB:** --Right--

**EL:** ... the westcoast of prince of Wales Island

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** But it stopped there.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Right

**EL:** And then ... we all we knew was ... Christianity ...

**JB:** Right, right.

**EL:** It was ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** was the main thing, and it seems as though the next big important thing was the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

**JB:** Oh, yeah.

**EL:** They believed in it so, Dad wore his little ANB pin ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** ... everyday, sort of ... he always wore a navy blue, they called it, serge, you know ..

**606**

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Yeah

**EL:** They wore that every day ...

**JB:** So they were both, your parents, ANB and ANS?

**EL:** Oh, yes. Uh, huh

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** And for a long time, we've lost record of ... the camp number ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** But Bill and Pauline, think it was 16. Number 16

**JB:** Ohh. Yeah.

**EL:** Yeah, so ... that's the way we were raised in ... I thought our home was a palace ... really .. Mother liked to paint.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** It was a good thing. She *always* painted. Beautiful pastel green

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** in the lower part was ... stained and varnished ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** .. you know, some kind of ... wood material ..

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** *Ohh.* It was so pretty.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Nice big kitchen, the length of the house.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** and she would put up some kind of shiny ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** paper, that you can, you know,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Wash out ...

**JB:** Sure ...

**EL:** Gosh, to me it was like a palace.

**JB:** Now, you said, that was your grandma's house, the one that Juanita's living in? Did you live down there too?

**EL:** Oh, yeah.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Always lived with Grandma.

**JB:** that was where you lived?

**EL:** Man!

**JB:** Yeah. (Laughs)

**EL:** And Marge had a picture that taken in 1904

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and they were celebrating 4th of July ... because they had the red, white and blue ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** you know, I don't know they call that, cheesecloth ... like ..

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** :... around the whole porch

**JB:** Mmm, hmm..

**EL:** And the family took a picture on the porch there.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I think I might have it. Edwin said take all the pictures you want--

**JB:** --Yeah.--

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**EL:**-- after Aunt Marge died.

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** His sister ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** I did. Real valuable pictures ... I brought home.

**JB:** yeah. Oh, good that's wonderful to have pictures like that.

**EL:** So Kasaan was the ... most wonderful little village ... that I've ever known.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Mmm, hmm. Do you remember celebrating holidays here?

**EL:** Oh, yeah.

**JB:** How were they? What did you do ... that was ..

**EL:** Oh, that was .. so well organized ... the men would get the biggest ... trees, spruce

E.Lawrence

tree, you know, it was *huge* ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and they'd actually had ... candles burning ... and never had an accident ... you know.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** and ... that was the greatest ... greatest holiday was Christmas.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** It was in the nice big hall and then the men would .... get a crab apple trees ... and then tie real apples on it, you know and ... then when everything was over, they'd shake it and you'd just grab all the apples that fell to the floor (laughs)

**JB:** (laughs)

**EL:** It was wonderful.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Really wonderful

**JB:** ... fun ...

**EL:** I remember hanging stockings too.

**JB:** Oh, my goodness.

**EL:** Yeah.

**660**

**JB:** ... the last couple of questions, I'm going to ask you are some of the more difficult ones. But, you know ... take a little bit of thinking. But you've probably thought about these already, in your life. And the one that I'm thinking about here is, number 9 ... on your sheet ... if you look at it ... as we're learning more about our traditions,...

**EL:** Ohh.

**JB:** What should we be teaching our children about being a Kasaan Haida? What do you think is important?

**EL:** Is that number 10?

**JB:** Nine and ten, are kind of together ... what's important to pass on?

**EL:** Oh the groceries?

**JB:** Oh...

**EL:** Is this the groceries?

**JB:** Oh, on the first page? I kind of ... moved back here.

**EL:** Oh, you did?

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Oh.

**JB:** these here, this one ... as we are learning about our traditions, what should we be teaching our children about being a Kasaan Haida?

**EL:** Yeah, that is a ...

**JB:** And what is important to pass on. Yeah.

**EL:** yeah. I imagine ... for many years ... you know, .....

**End of side A**

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**Side B**

**Tape 1 of 1**

**010**

**EL:** ... the privilege of changing one alphabet ... like I told you, the combination of 'h' and '1' ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** for the sound of '1'

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** it's close to 'th' but not quite.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So there we were, inside of two weeks, we took one letter at a time to learn it ... and ... but it was easier because we spoke Haida ... it's hardest thing to teach someone who can't speak ... and yet, I did it in school, I was involved in the school system ... and ... and then we'd illustrate it like I did for your mother ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** the sounds that, no equivalency to it in English ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** But she knew because ... we had the word,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** like for instance, you know, when you speak Haida it's really, so she ... she is, she and Pauline ... and I, I can count them on finger how many fluent speakers but out in the Queen Charlotte Islands, there's more ... and younger people can talk Haida, but now, you have to be late 70s or early 80s ...

**023**

**EL:** To be able to talk Haida ... So that was ... the beginning of some wonderful beginnings,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know?

**JB:** Yeah, and you worked on the dictionary too?

**EL:** Oh, yeah.

**JB:** A lot of work I bet.

**EL:** yeah. The first we tackled ... the noun dictionary ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And then on my own I was still getting paid from the Haida Society, you know, very small pay ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I wanted, I got curious, I wonder how verbs act in Haida. I was so curious ... so, I started collecting verbs. I collected 800 verbs ... I quit because I was kind of repeating myself.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** However, Jeff told me I could have gotten 1500. I could, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I could have done that.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** However, I stopped at 800. And I start ... trying to find out a grammatical pattern that it follows ... it was perfect. I never saw anything like it. Grammatical patterns.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Man, it was interesting ... so, then I thought well, I'm going to take it into ... I'm going to take it into census, you know. See what ... past tense, tenses I meant, did I say,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I took it into the past tense, present tense and future tense ... and then from another linguist, Jeff Leer told me, there is two past tenses. Now, this is really advanced Haida, if you

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Very difficult. And he called, I forgot, a linguistic term ... oh, and a simple word, for that, second ... past tense was realization.

**JB:** Ohh.

**EL:** That's the word ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Yeah. I won't going into trying to explain it, you know.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** But, that's what I did in the verb dictionary.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And then I would take that, use the word ... verb and have an English illustration, then underneath it, I had the Haida illustration ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So, those Haida ... tenses were really something.

**JB:** Yeah. I know, I've looked at your dictionary and I wish I knew more.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** About linguistics ... to understand some of the ...

**EL:** I wouldn't even at my age, I still wish I could take linguistics, so I'd know the terms, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** The only one I know is that guttural and maybe one more

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** but I'm thankful for the wonderful experience I've had with four linguistics, I feel privileged. I learned a lot.

**051**

**EL:** You know. And was able to put it into use ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** yeah, producing the books ...

**JB:** Right. Those are valuable.

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** Now we need to ...

**EL:** And on my very own, not with the Haida Society, I decided well, I'll do the Bible, too. You know, so I took the whole book of John, translated, I started in '76 and I got through in '81.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And it's been laying around in a briefcase since '81. I can't get the Bible societies to ... to help me, you know, They said, who's going to read it? Are they still talking Haida, the American Society ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And Weymouth Bible Society ... there's others, four different

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I still have their answers. I saved their envelopes, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I still have that. But wherever I can, I'm no longer working ... I no longer teach but I do it on my own.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Wherever I can a plant a little seed. Even if you learn one Haida word and you, it's like planting seeds, some of it will grow. And some will fall in rocky, like the Bible says, you know? Fall on rocky ground and ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** It will just die.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** but that's the ... the experiences I've had.

**JB:** Yeah, you've done lots of translations then.

**EL:** Lot of it. Lots.

**JB:** What kind of things do you think about have to think about when you're translating? Cause the languages are very different. I mean, I'm guessing, aren't they? I mean is it hard sometimes to find an exact translations?

**EL:** Oh, yes.

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**JB:** Ohh.

**EL:** When you, when you ... like I do the Lord's Prayer alot, you know. It's a request ... I sang it .. I sang twice at cousin Hank's you know, funeral. They wanted me to sing it at both ... its seems more powerful ... in your own language. I don't know what it is ... I get

overcome ... I get ... some emotion, I know what it is, you know, and some people don't believe in ... I ... always have to have assistance to ... you know, take me off the stage,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** But that is ... been very, very valuable. ... as , you know, late as only a month ago ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. I've heard you sing 'Amazing Grace,' too. And that's powerful, I think in Haida.

**EL:** I might do that for you.

**JB:** Oh, that would be lovely.

**EL:** (unintelligible)

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Before.

**JB:** You want to take a break?

**EL:** There after 57 years, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Because I can't practice too long, my voice gives out ... I play for our little Bible study at the church and play the piano for them and they *really* like it but my voice gives *out*, altogether. But that's why I retired from the choir.

**JB:** Sure.

**EL:** Starting with, I started singing here in Kasaan when I was 8 years old.

**JB:** Wow.

**EL:** In the church.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Mother played for me ... and then I do the same, did the same thing with Pudge, I played for her and she'd sing at Christmas time, you know.

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**EL:** She was three, well I was eight when I started.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** To us, music was just so much a part of us.

**JB:** Yeah, that's great. That's wonderful.

**EL:** But I would like to do one of the gospel songs that I ... translated myself ... and have used it a lot. Before my voice gives out, I'll try to do that.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Okay.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Yeah. That's nice.

**EL:** And the ... the ...

**JB:** Happy, and everyone will be happy to hear it, which ever is best for you.'

**EL:** Yeah, I would like to do a few songs that I transcribed ... in Haida and have used it quite a bit, you know, people request it because there's no one else to do it. But the one that I do the most is ... "How Great Thou Art" and also "Amazing Grace." So, I'll try to, try to do them.

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***How Great Thou Art. Sung in Haida - need to have the words written - does she have them?***

Ohh, salan dii ko a geinin kogungowl keingung

Gein waduluwan slagung .... klaa aa yaan

Gi k

-----  
**JB:** Beautiful. Brings tears to my eyes.

**ER:** Mine too.

**JB:** How.aa dagwang.

**ER:** And then I'll do "Amazing Grace." I'll do the first verse twice ... because I don't have the translation in front of me -

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**“Amazing Grace” words in Haida -**

***Haans laas***  
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**JB:** How.aa dagwang. Thank you so much. Oh, that was wonderful. I'm so privileged to hear that from you today.

**EL:** thank you folks.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm. Cause, I'd like to really, what you want to add.

**EL:** Mmm, hmm. The only thing I can say is, I'm so glad that you and Willard and the rest are carrying on this work where, where ... I wasn't able to do that ... you know, carry it on, I, I can feed you. I can do anything in Haida for you, but I'm glad you folks are taking that ... responsibility over ... you know and, and so ... I'm glad to be able to be apart of it ... you know, and I think it's just wonderful ... so .... I thank you

**JB:** Thank you.

**EL:** for this little interview--

**JB:** -- Yeah --

**EL:** -- that worked out you know, just the way it was supposed to be.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I missed it in Ketchikan

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** where I live, you know,

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** I've been in Ketchikan 41 years, now and I, I've seen a lot of changes for the best, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** As far as ... material things.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** You know, and see the improvements there and ... I'm always thankful that I moved ... to Ketchikan. I had such *wonderful* opportunities and after the crisis in my life, in '58, and by 1960, I felt that I need to fill that vacancy. And even in my ... deep sorrow, I ... I thought of why not go to, go to school, you know?

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Go back to college and that filled ... that vacancy, you know.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And I don't know how I did it. I don't know how I studied. But I did, and it felt good.

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**EL:** First I attended the community college where they had a clerical practices course, you know, I have my certificate for that. I got a wall full of certificates and diplomas from my 8th grade on now (chuckles)

**JB:** (Laughs)

**EL:** And ... and ... and then I took regular college course at Sheldon Jackson ... that offered ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And here, what a ... what a change in the ... in Sheldon Jackson the way they forbade us to speak our own languages, I didn't miss it at all,

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** I was so used to English, you know, it didn't bother me at all. And here the same school was having these ... class, I mean, studies you know, for the languages ... it was Tlingit and Haida ... they did not, they did not ... work with the Tsimshians for some reason.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** So it was quite a ... quite a turn around ...

**JB:** Well, we're certainly grateful that you did that because I don't where we would be

now without that, you know.

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** We wouldn't have anything ...

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** if you hadn't ..

**EL:** Yeah, I'm more than glad to do it, when the circumstances are, you know, right, here I am back in Kasaan ... after 70 years or something. (Chuckles)

**JB:** Yeah. Yeah.

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**EL:** And ... it's very emotional ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** But I don't get carried away, I ... just grateful.

**JB:** Feels good, yeah. It's good to have you here.

**EL:** I look forward to working with your mother, too. You know.

**JB:** Oh, yeah.

**EL:** I *love* working with her.

**JB:** Yeah, she loves to work with you ...

**EL:** I was that way with someone else, Lorena John ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** fluent speaker ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** And she was my assistant when we taught at Valley Park [Elementary School] and we used to laugh so much that kids would ask, "What are you folks laughing about?" Oh, we couldn't help ourselves. She had a sense of humor that I just loved.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** you know, it's just up my alley ...

**JB:** Oh, yeah. That would be so good to have you and mom ... on video show ...

**EL:** Conversation ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** We could do that.

**JB:** yeah.

**EL:** and ...

**JB:** People could see how that looks ... you know

**EL:** Mmm, hmm.

**JB:** (unintelligible)

**EL:** We could kind of ... (pause) pronounce them ... you know, ... very slowly and ... and clearly ...

**JB:** Yes.

**EL:** When you ... teach a .... until they can ... you work from your ... lips first ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** and then the front ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** the teeth ... and then the middle sounds

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Then the back sounds ... and then the guttural

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** Yeah, did I ever draw you a picture?

**JB:** No, but I saw the one mom ...

**EL:** Oh, good, good.

**JB:** Yeah, yeah.

**EL:** Get reprints of that ...

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Have your own.

**JB:** Yes.

E.Lawrence

**EL:** The alphabet, too.

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** Do the best you can with it.

**JB:** Right.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** (unintelligible)

**EL:** So, I thank you, for ...

**JB:** Yes, and ...

**EL:** and I'm glad you had the time and you must be ...

**JB:** Yeah, how.aa

**EL:** You'll be leaving ... soon ..

**JB:** I want to give you your seaweed. And have you say, sgiw ...

**EL:** Ohh. Uh, huh.

**JB:** Maybe you could say, 'sgiw' ... I don't pronounce it right, well this is from Grindall ... and this is for you

**EL:** Ohh, ohh ...

**JB:** For your participation

**EL:** Oh, how nice! I like the different flavors.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** Oh, thank you.

**JB:** How do you say, 'sgiw'

**EL:** the pronunciation .. for seaweed is, sgiw .. see you're not familiar with that ... it's a lower sound ... (makes lower sound) ... it sounds like a middle

**JB:** yeah.

**EL:** (makes sound again) sgiw ...

**JB:** Good ... How.aa

**EL:** Any other word you might ...

**JB:** Gumboot.

**EL:** Gumboot? Oh, it's a short little word ... one syllable word ... and it starts with a pinched sound ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** pinched T ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** (makes sound) T'

**JB:** repeats sound twice

**EL:** just one

**JB:** Okay, so ... gumboot, now is, there must be a different word for the lady slipper ... red gumboot ... right ... oh, the same?

**EL:** not that I know of ...

**JB:** Okay.

**EL:** Yeah.

**JB:** Yeah.

**EL:** I really don't ...

**JB:** yeah. How about Hudson's Bay Tea?

**EL:** Yeah ... that one is two words ... it means, a medicine that saves ...

**JB:** Mmm.

**EL:** **xill kagaan** ...

**JB:** **Hill kagaan**

**EL:** **Hill kagaan**

**JB:** **Hill kagaan**

**EL:** Say it three times, **hill** kagaan, the medicine that saves ... and people believed in it ...

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.

**EL:** They *really* believed in it.

**JB:** Mmm, hmm.