

EL- 7/14/01

**Catherine Kerstetter**  
**November 9, 2001**  
**Ketchikan, Alaska**

**Tape 2 of 2**  
**Side A**  
**000**

**CK:** ... close family to my grandmother ... and how I don't know ... you know?

**EH:** Okay, ... I'll say first, this is Eleanor Hadden. I'm in Ketchikan, Alaska. It's November 9, 2001. And I'm interviewing Catherine Kerstetter. First I need you to give me your English name, ... your English name, where you were born, ... your birthdate ... that sort of information.

**CK:** Start now?

**EH:** Start now ...

**CK:** At first I would say my given name is Catherine Nelice Jones Johnson Kerstetter ... is my legal ... you know? ... and I was born in Kasaan, April 9, 1914 ... yeah ... and my Haida name is ... **Haldaang kiiwaat** ... that means, what it means, I never did find out

...

**EH:** And do you know who gave it to you?

**CK:** Seems to me like it was ... Mae Wallace ... from Hydaburg ... and Mae Wallace was related to ... my Nana ... Nana Emma ... Emma ...

**EH:** And could you give the name of your clan?

**CK:** Raven

**EH:** Raven? Do you know the name of your clan?

**CK:** ... I'll have to get it out somewhere ...

**EH:** Okay. Do you have any other crests besides Raven?

**CK:** No, not that I don't ...

**EH:** Okay. And could you give me the names of your parents, your ... grandparents ...

**CK:** ... Emma Smith ... and ... what was Chinaa's ... well ... Emma Smith was married to ... what was his name? ... George Frank, yeah ... and she had two brothers ... Julius Frank and ... Edward(?) ... and Edward died when he was quite young, that's all I can remember ...

**EH:** And ... your mother was what was her name?

**CK:** Haida name?

**EH:** Haida and English ... if you know it.

**CK:** Oh, Anna ...

**EH:** Did you know her Haida name?

**CK:** Yeah ... I remembered it last night ... do you remember it Willard? What Mother's Haida name was?

**WJ:** **Tawheiwaat.**

**CK:** Yeah, **Tawheiwaat** ...

**EH:** And your father's name?

**CK:** **St'ast** ...

**EH:** **St'ast** .. and what was his English name?

**CK:** Louis ... Louis Lear Jones...

**EH:** And could you tell me the name of your husband ...

**CK:** Well, the first one was named Johnson ... and the second one was James Kerstetter

...

**EH:** Okay, and where did you meet him?

**CK:** At a dance in Sitka ... on November the 11th ... yeah, he was in the Army ... and a lot of people were thinking too much of the Army people ... you know? And I felt sorry for them ... I said, they're up here ... because they were in the Army ... and the Army sent them up here ... and that's where I met him. He came and asked me to dance with him ... so I danced with him ... and that was the beginning (chuckles)

**EH:** That was the beginning.

**CK:** Yeah ...

**EH:** Okay, and the names of your children and your grandchildren.

**CK:** .... well, we had a daughter, she died at birth ... she's buried in Ketchikan ... and since she was alive when she was born ... we told me that she had to have a name ... cause I wanted on the plaque that I wanted Baby Kerstetter ... but the agreement was .... just (unintelligible) James mother ... was my mother's name, Anna ... yeah ... and she was born ... well, it's in there somewhere ...

**EH:** Okay ...and your other children

**CK:** the first was a baby girl, and then there was Bob ... Robert James ... Kerstetter and then Linda Josephine ... Kerstetter is her maiden name but she goes by the name of Linda because wasn't too happy with her name ... I don't know why we're like that ... and all our names are ... in the family ... is legal ... you know, that's the way it goes ...

**EH:** And do you know, do any of your children have or grandchildren have Haida names?

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**CK:** Well, let's see ... Bob's name is **Aawynaag(?)** ... and Linda's Haida name was ... **Gaatwaas** ... I think Mother ... and Nana gave those names ... and another way ... specially Bob remembers ... when ... he *loved* to say his Haida name ... (chuckles) and he was little when he got it you know? But he always remembered it ... and Linda wasn't ... well, she knew her Haida name ...

**EH:** And do your grandchildren have Haida names?

**CK:** No ... no, we ... I didn't give them Haida names ... which I'm going to have to look into when I get home ...

**EH:** Did you speak Haida when you were growing up?

**CK:** Yes, I did. Both Haida and far as ... talking Haida language, I don't remember anybody telling me how to speak it ... but I grew up with it ...

**EH:** Do you remember when you stopped speaking it?

**CK:** Well, when I started living in Washington State, I had nobody to talk to ... cause Linda doesn't understand any neither does Bob ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** The only ones I used to talk Haida to was the Edenso's from Hydaburg whenever, (unintelligible) were there ... and Linda, Frank Edenso ... was the (unintelligible) from Hydaburg ... and I used to Gladys always stayed in Hydaburg but later ... in Seattle and they moved to Woodland ... so we used to talk Haida together ... she was giving Haida lessons for the university there ... and when she didn't know a word ... she used to call me up and we'd talk about it ... as part of the teaching ...

**EH:** So you basically spoke Haida and English at home?

**CK:** Yes.

**EH:** Was there ... one reason that you would speak Haida and not speak English or speak English and not speak Haida? What ... at some places you would have ... in the kitchen you might speak just Haida or you were asking for instructions or was there any reason you spoke one over the other?

**CK:** No, ... oh ... we used to like to talk our language to grandma ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** Yeah. And our grandpa, our step-grandfather ... like (unintelligible) that's the only grandfather we knew ... or had so ... we (unintelligible) ... you know? And dad would speak ... speak our language to both Nana and Chinaa ... and Bill (?)

**EH:** How about your parents?

**CK:** No-o, there was English ...

**EH:** English?

**CK:** Hmm, mmm.

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**CK:** And ... mother didn't know a lot of English so ... but dad ... did he talk Haida at all, my dad, our dad? I don't ... when I began to realize that ... they were speaking Haida, you know? ... Mmm.

**EH:** Now, you have to think about the time but at the time you didn't have to think that it they were speaking Haida or English?

**CK:** No.

**EH:** They were just speaking.

**CK:** They were just the way they spoke ... you know, like ... talking as the old people of Kasaan you had to talk Haida to them ...

**EH:** How about with your brothers and sisters?

**CK:** (pause) Henry understood Haida but he didn't, he didn't talk it, he knew and the same thing with George ...

**EH:** Okay.

**CK:** He understood ... but as far as speaking he didn't ... and I remember like George, Louise ... I don't remember them talking Haida, I don't, we spoke English ... like we were ... we were, we had to talk English because we had to go to school, we had to speak, so that became our language that we spoke ...

**EH:** Was there anyone at school that ... say like at recess or something like that did you speak English or Haida?

**CK:** I'm not sure.

**EH:** only English at school?

**CK:** Yeah.

**EH:** And where did you go to high school?

**CK:** SJS (Sheldon Jackson High School)

**EH:** SJ? And did you speak just English there?

**CK:** Mmm hmm. Because at that time, they were trying to wean us away from our Indian culture ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** You know?

**EH:** Right.

**CK:** And... I ... and then I went to school in the 8th grade ... I don't know how old I was ... when I took care of ... Bob and Eliza Young's ... Betty and Caroline ... and Roberta ... I wonder why I took care of them for awhile ... I was a live-in ... living in to look after them ... and ... far as my dad said if I was going to do that, there was an understanding that I would go to school, they had this very ... much believing that we should ... (unintelligible) ... and get a good education ... because he went as far as the ... what was it? The fifth grade? Do you remember Willard?

**WJ:** I think it was the 4th or 5th grade.

**CK:** I think ... and that was as far as ... he went, you know? And mother didn't have a formal education, that's what dad said ... I shouldn't say ... see, when you're living alone ... you know, I'm talking about my dad ... (unintelligible) ... but when I'm up here, I have to realize that I have to share ...

**EH:** (chuckles) have to share him

**CK:** yeah! Share him, that's what Willard reminded me one time, or was it Raymond that did that to me?

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**EH:** When you were growing up, was there, ... we're going to talk about Kasaan ...

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** Is there ... one, a place that was more, that had special meaning to you? As you grew up and went away, is there something that you remembered about Kasaan? A specific place?

**CK:** Well ... only our beaches ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** And our little creeks ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** Cause we lived with them, the small creek ... was the ... where we made the bath waster was for ... laundry and ... household chores ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** And the big creek water was for drinking and ... I think for I don't remember if they put ... all the big creek water, I don't remember ... but they had to have it for drinking ... for ...

**EH:** So you packed your water into the house?

**CK:** Yeah. ...

**EH:** Did you use rainwater?

**CK:** Oh, that's right ... a *g-r-e-a-t* big rain barrel ... (pause) now, I think about ... the depth was about like that ... and we caught rainwater and ... when I left home, that rain barrel was there, but I think eventually well, when the Young's moved in there, they destroyed a lot of things ...

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**WJ:** Time out.

**WJ:** Did you catch that?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. And I went to ... when I went to ...

**WJ:** Ask that question ... whatever ... wait a minute, let me turn this on ...

**CK:** Okay.

**WJ:** Turn that on, drink your water ... Oh, and don't put your hands up too much ...

**EH:** Oh, me again! There go my hands, again. That's what Freddy said ... if I move my hands you can see it in the camera and then all of a sudden there's hands in the ...

**CK:** Right in front of you ...

**EH:** Yeah ... (chuckles)

**CK:** Yeah, when I ... and I don't remember ...

**WJ:** Wait, wait.

**CK:** Mmm.

**WJ:** Let me turns things on.

**CK:** Okay ...

**EH:** You said you stayed with the Young's and took care of the kids ...

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. The children ... yeah.

**EH:** Where were they?

**CK:** ... in the house ...

**EH:** In Kasaan?

**CK:** Yeah, in Ketchikan ...

**EH:** Oh, in Ketchikan ...

**CK:** Yeah, they were ... they were of at that time, our rich relatives, because Bob Young ... made a lot of money in fishing ... he had a trap ... so there was a lot of money, so they bought their house ... in ... Ketchikan ... and ... so ... Eliza they lived ... in Ketchikan in the winter time ... but *e-e-very* summer ... Eliza came home to be home with her mother ... who was my ... (unintelligible) ... so they came home .. for the summer and they decided when fishing was over ... and school was ... because they looked so like white people, you know, they did ... they were beautiful girls ... Caroline and (?) so, that's ...

**EH:** So, how long did you stay over there?

**CK:** In Ketchikan? ... I don't know how long I stayed there ... and, and ... and I don't know how come ... how long I stayed there, I don't remember ...

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**EH:** I'm going to go back to Kasaan a little bit, since you talked about where you got your water, where did you get your food?

**CK:** Well, at that time, there was two stores there. Joe Jones who was Margaret Olson's father ... yeah, they had a ... store and Dan Nelson had a store ... that had a lot of canned stuff in there ... and in the fall time ... a boat that came down to Washington to get ... their

... fresh fruit, vegetables ... potatoes, of course, they didn't buy a lot of potatoes, cause we always had a potato garden.

EH: Where was the potato garden?

CK: There was one by beside the house ... and our house sat there ... and ... the potato garden was beside it and then in ... back of the, our house was ... was our rhubarb plants there ... and ... where we had our ... blackberries(?) and this just ... (unintelligible) ... gooseberries ... I ... we had red currents, black currents ... and gooseberries ...

EH: Behind your house?

CK: Yeah ...

EH: How about, was there anything else in the garden besides potatoes?

CK: I think we planted mostly potatoes, because that was our staple ... you know?

EH: Did you get fish?

CK: Oh, yeah.

EH: And were did you go for that?

CK: Karta Bay!

EH: Karta Bay?

CK: Yeah. ... and we used to go to Karta Bay when school, when school was out ... we went to Grindell ... to get our seaweed ... and dried them on the rocks ...

EH: (laughs)

CK: I'm never going to forget that.

EH: And did you get halibut there too?

CK: Yeah ... Chinaa used to get ... halibut ... and king salmon. King salmon ... was what we went there to fish ... for ... we had a fish buyer there ...

EH: Oh, okay.

CK: Yeah, and the fish buyer was to ... get the fish and ... the smaller fish, we ... we, used at home, but we the bigger ones got sold ... and the white fish was cheap too. Cause they preferred the red ...

EH: And did you used to go pick the seaweed?

CK: Noo, I was the caretaker for the kids ... the smaller kids

EH: Mmm, hmm.

CK: And ... so I don't know who used get the seaweed ... probably Mother and ... and dad ...

EH: What would they do with it after they got it?

CK: Dried it. And ... when I was growing up ... we'd make cakes ... and we had that box, that bounced around in our house for ever ... and it was a box that was ... oh, it was about like that ... so ... we make the cakes and we used to ... first they put red cedar boughs on the bottom and that was when they put one layer at a time, you know, and I don't remember ... how many ... cakes we made, I don't remember ... I know, when we used to have to peel it off to have a (unintelligible) ... Fresh seaweed was so good ...

EH: Did you put flavors on it of any sort? Or did you just dry it?

CK: Oh, no, they put water from gumboots ...

EH: Okay.

CK: you know, when you're cleaning gumboots, they saved the water and after they dried it and then they had to go through the process ... of getting the seaweed that flavor ...

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EH: Mmm, hmm. Okay ...

CK: ... when he, when Willard said that ... he used to be ... he used to ... George used to tease him ... George just *loved* to tease him ... and he'd get mad ... "two chicken ham on you!" (laughs) Not one, but two ...

EH: Where'd you get the chickens?

CK: See my grandfather ... worked on a sailing vessel between San Francisco ... and ... up ... even he, I don't know how far the sailing vessel would go.

EH: Which grandfather was that?

CK: The only grandfather we had ...

**EH:** Oh, Chinaa Paddy?

**CK:** Yeah.

**EH:** Okay.

**CK:** Did you know him?

**EH:** No.

**CK:** No. ... I know Willard does ...

**EH:** So, he brought back chickens?

**CK:** Yeah. And piglets.

**EH:** Piglets?

**CK:** Yeah.

**EH:** And what did you do with them?

**CK:** He raised them ...

**EH:** Uh, huh.

**CK:** We only had that one ... (chuckles) ... and also, to get back to the chickens ... we had the chickens ... I don't remember if it was just a female or a hen ... or what, I don't remember ... and ... I don't remember what they ever did with it ... because I don't think ... any wanted to eat the chicken ... if they had to kill it ... it was a pet! ... Two chicken ... (chuckles) ... This is so funny when he would get mad at his brother ...

**EH:** So, you got seaweed at Karta Bay ...

**CK:** No, seaweed at --

**EH:** -- Grindell--

**CK:** -- seaweed at Grindell

**EH:** And you got fish at Karta Bay ...

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** Did you smoke it? Where did you smoke it?

**CK:** Yeah, we had a smokehouse ... we lived in our smokehouse ...

**EH:** How big was it?

**CK:** Ohhh ... it was ... comparatively big smokehouse because we lived in there ... and like I said, we had a stove in there ..

**EH:** At Karta Bay?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. And dad ... made beds ... Mother and dad's bed was here ... and ... the rest of us were all crammed into a good sized bed ... of course, Henry was living by Nana and Chinaa then because they took him ... I have no idea and I didn't know he was my brother. It never came up ... it never came up, you know? And so, I found out he was my brother ... and being a big blabber mouth ... I ... told Henry ... that he was my brother ... because we never as far as knowing, ... it never came up ... or was talked about ... and him being our brother ...

**EH:** Uh, huh.

**CK:** And I don't know how I found out ...

**EH:** How long would you stay at Karta Bay?

**CK:** Long enough to smoke our fish ...

**EH:** How long would you stay at Grindell?

**CK:** ... well, when school was out, we went to Grindell ... and put our fresh seaweed(?) out ... salt it down ... the king salmon ... and how long we stayed there ... I don't remember ...

**EH:** Did you have a ... a favorite place in Kasaan? Or Grindell? Or Karta Bay?

**CK:** (pause) ... There was something at Karta Bay that we had out smokehouse there ... and we had a little spring ... yeah ... and a whole big (unintelligible) at our ... and dad made a little box ... you remember that? That was one of the first you ordered ... go over there and clean out the little spring, you know? Like leaves and everything ... that was a real (unintelligible) ...

**EH:** That was at Karta Bay?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. That's where we had our own private water ... like we didn't have it in Grindell ...

**EH:** That's where you had to get your water?

**CK:** Yeah. There was a little spring, in Karta Bay ...

**EH:** When you were in Kasaan, did you go to school?

**CK:** Yeah, at the red schoolhouse ...

**EH:** At the red schoolhouse?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** Through what grade?

**CK:** Oh, dear ... let's see ...

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**EH:** Did you go to high school there?

**CK:** No .. nope ... we went through the eighth grade when we got shipped to SJS ...

**EH:** How did you get to SJ?

**CK:** The 'Princeton' ... the Presbyterian Church boat came in and picked us up ... we didn't have a thing to say about it ...

**EH:** And you stayed there the whole school year? Or did you come home at Christmas time?

**CK:** Nooo ... oh, no! ... Never. Cause we didn't have that much break at Christmas ... we didn't have any break ... (pause) ...

**EH:** How did you, we talked earlier about getting your groceries at the store. How did you get your mail?

**CK:** We had a legal postoffice ... yeah. We used to go to the postoffice ... to pick up our mail.

**EH:** How did the mail get there?

**CK:** Well, before the planes started coming into, the mailboat it used to come into the ... bring our mail ... once a week ... to bring our mail ... and ... we started ... we had to bring our freight to ... for the stores in Kasaan ... clothes ... and (unintelligible) ... the food (unintelligible) ...

**EH:** So would the stores open all year round?

**CK:** They used to be ...

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**EH:** When you were a little girl ... what did you used to do? What were your favorite?

**CK:** Well, we used to play ... *ru-u-un* around and play ...

**EH:** Played what?

**CK:** Tag ... hide and go seek ... and we used to play up at the ... by the town ... they had a baseball field there ... and when we went ... with all the young men were there, we used to have our own baseball field ... play baseball ... Mmm, hmm. And that, that was by ... the little creek ... that we talked about our little creek.

**EH:** So when you ... when you had the potato garden ...

**CK:** Hmm, mmm.

**EH:** How did you ... who planted the potatoes and what was the process that you went through ...

**CK:** Well, we used to, we used to ... the fertilizer we used was ... from the beach ...

**EH:** And who would get the ...

**CK:** Oh, we all did ...

**EH:** Okay. Then what would you do?

**CK:** Well, first you made your row ... of potatoes ... and put them down the fertilizer ... that was seaweed ... and whatever ... then you put dirt on top that and then you planted only one potato ... and the things were cut ... like that ... in about, the size of that, like that and we used to get good potatoes ...

**EH:** Now, was that the garden by the house? Or did you have another place to plant ...

**CK:** Yeah, up by Adam's Point ... we used to have a *big* garden there ...

**EH:** When you went potatoes, who all went to plant the potatoes?

CK: Whoever was home.

EH: Uh, huh.

CK: We all went.

EH: And did you go back every once in awhile and take care of them?

CK: Yeah, we had to go up there with a hoe ... because, first ... first, when you made your row ... for the potatoes ... and then you hilled them just a little bit ... so that when the potatoes were growing, they had to be ... hoed again ... we had to put more dirt on them, and then the last time, we did that ... October, we harvested them ...

EH: And who would go harvest them?

CK: We did.

EH: Everybody would go?

CK: Because even as a family, those of us that had a garden there ... and ... kids were like, when he was a little ... my grandmother used to go with us and look after him on the beach ... cause we came by boat ... rowboat, yeah.

EH: Okay ... and then when you harvested them, where did you store them?

CK: Dad had a ... under the house, he had kind of like a ... oh ... we took them under the house ... in that kind a shed like thing ... by the door ... and we'd grab potatoes from there

...

EH: So, did you ...

CK: And these weren't Indian potatoes ... they were **Yaats Xaadaa** ...

EH: Oh, really?

CK: Yeah,

EH: Did you have a special place for the Indian potatoes?

CK: We ate those as we went along ... we, I don't think the Indian potatoes, in those days kept ... they did ... I don't know ... I think might have been by the house ... maybe ... cause when it came harvest time ... especially ... where the high school, when we would leave before the harvest, when the harvest would come in September ... and we had already ... be gone ...

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EH: Mmm, ... You had different kinds of salmon ... you had king salmon, sockeye, halibut ...

CK: Dog salmon ...

EH: Dog salmon ... go ahead

CK: the dog salmon ... we got at Old Kasaan

EH: Did everybody go again, as a family to go fishing there?

CK: No. Only the men would go there ... cause by that time, it was getting cold ... so ... dad ... take some men ... and there would be enough for ... however wanted them you know? And those were the ones, I don't know how come they made them into what we call the 'corset' style ... no they weren't ... they weren't to go like the sockeye ... yeah, sockeye ... sometime we made them into what we call ... 'suspender' style ... and we had the 'corset' style, like a corset ones were ... up like that ... take the backbone out ... chew(?) it a little bit ... and ... then the ... dog salmon ... they were ... they were, I don't know, how come or why, they were kept open ... to dry to smoke ... with ... that's ... (unintelligible) they were ... I bet they were the size of the fish, depending on the size we had six ... yeah ... we put them up in smoke(?) ...

EH: So, it was done like on a whole?

CK: Yeah ...

EH: Mmm, okay. And did you have a job when they were smoking the fish? What was your job?

CK: Well, it was up to us to ... find the wood ... we didn't get just any kind of wood, you had to get alderwood ... and ... cause we didn't ... through the winter ... when we had the storms ... see the cottonwood came from the mainland ... and we would, there was no cottonwood at home ...

EH: Mmm, hmm.

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**CK:** So we used to have to ... go and look for them, after our storm ... through the winter

...

**EH:** Oh, wow.

**CK:** Yeah ...

**EH:** It was cold.

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** Okay, so you would go look for cotton wood to smoke, so that was your job during the winter time?

**CK:** Yeah.

**EH:** In the summer time, when you were doing the fish, did you have a job?

**CK:** Looking after the kids ...

**EH:** Looking after the kids ... so, like berries, did you go pick berries? And?

**CK:** The whole family would go out, yeah. There was a forest fire in Karta Bay ... and ... that's where we got our blueberries ... and then our huckleberries ... we got from, Mt. Adville(?) ... outside ... we didn't have a lot of berries right in Kasaan proper ... you know?

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EH:** How about salal berries?

**CK:** Oh, salal berries we got all over. We had lots of them on our beach, on our point ...

**EH:** And what would you do with all those berries?

**CK:** I think we dried, I don't remember ... cause I don't remember canning them ... which we did ... we do that to huckleberries ... blueberries ... in the old days ... they dried them

...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** But them out in the sun ... to be dried ...

**EH:** Have you tried that before? I haven't.

**CK:** Well, by the time you came along, we had jars ... at least, you know?

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** Made life easier ... (chuckles)

**EH:** But do you remember drying them?

**CK:** Seems to me like Grandma used to take care of that ...

**EH:** Do you remember ... did they ever talk, did your Nana used to talk about when they moved from Old Kasaan to New Kasaan?

**CK:** Oh, they probably used to ...

**EH:** Do you remember what they said about it?

**CK:** No, not really, they also ... they had smallpox ... there .. so they got severed ... the place was soiled ... you know, on account of the smallpox ... so I think that was the reason why we ... why, cause all this happened of course before Nana was born in Kasaan ... in Old Kasaan ... the rest of us were born in Kasaan ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

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**EH:** Was there anything that you used to do ... at holidays that you remember?

**CK:** Yeah, we just had our holidays ...

**EH:** When you talked earlier about having dinner or something up at the town hall ...

**CK:** Town hall ... we did that at Thanksgiving.

**EH:** Thanksgiving.

**CK:** They made sure that ... see there were quite a few ... bachelors ... both white and Indians ... everybody went there ... and everybody brought something ... that was ...

**EH:** So that was ...

**CK:** It was a community meet ... time to be together ... to have our Thanksgiving ... we didn't do that at Christmas, we just did it at Thanksgiving, I don't know why ...

**EH:** Did you have a gathering up there at Christmas time? Of any sort?

**CK:** Yeah. We had our Christmas program ... see they were very devoted Christians ... and ... we had our Sunday School program ... like when ...

**EH:** The little --

**CK:** -- uh, huh ... from Kindergarten through, I guess through the 8th grade ... cause everybody had a part in it ...

**EH:** And was there anything else that you remember at Christmas time?

**CK:** Just our Christmas tree.

**EH:** The Christmas tree. At the center? I mean at the town hall?

**CK:** Yeah ...

**EH:** What kind of Christmas was it?

**CK:** Ohh ... the same kind of Christmas tree you have now ... we had candles ... for our lights ... yeah and candles ... candles were about that ... and they had holders ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** And it's probably like a clothespin ...

**EH:** Okay, that's how they stay on the tree?

**CK:** Yeah,

**EH:** Huh. (Pause) And did you get, were there presents given at that time?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. Yeah ... and ... Jacob Thomas was *always* the ... Santa Claus person ... and over ... there was a big tree, it was our Christmas tree and then ... right by the Christmas tree there was another bare tree that had ... apples and oranges ... tied to the bushes ... and somebody would have to shake the bare tree with apples and oranges in there ...

**END OF SIDE A**

**TAPE 1**

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**SIDE B**

**000**

**CK:** ... like a regular Christmas stocking that had usually a little gifts in there and an apple ... and always an orange when we were told(?) ... I mean when we ... there was Christmas candy ... nuts ... and ... an apple and an orange ... and a gift and everybody got the Christmas stocking ... because there were, and that way, they made sure that families that didn't have the money to ... to do that ... so each child got a Christmas stocking ...

**EH:** How nice.

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**WJ:** Did they have a choir up at the church?

**CK:** Yeah, they had a choir ... they were meeting at the choir and then when he died ... then dad took over that choir at the church ... he was kind of active in our church, you know?

**WJ:** I heard about baseball ... the baseball field ...

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. Yeah ... Uncle (unintelligible) ... Robert, I guess ... our Uncle ... we used to beat Metlakatla ... Metlakatla was a real powerful team, but Kasaan managed to beat them once in awhile (chuckles) ...

**EH:** Oh, so the team traveled?

**CK:** Just around ... through Ketchikan ... and Saxman and Ketchikan and ... Metlakatla ... we didn't go very far ... on the Prince of Wales Island ... that we almost (unintelligible) you know ... but Metlakatla was on ... on Annette Island ...

**EH:** They had a band also?

**CK:** We used to have a band. Remember? We had which (unintelligible) and they traveled down to ... to Seattle for ... the World's Fair ...

**EH:** Was there a band when you were growing up? Do you remember?

**CK:** Not, I don't remember that ...

**EH:** During your lifetime, from the time you were little until ...

**CK:** I left

**EH:** you left ... what kind of changes did you see, that you noticed?

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**CK:** what kind of changes? ... (pause) ... oh ... when you're growing up, you know, you're not aware that what's happening ... just living there that you ...

**EH:** Okay, like when you went back, when you had children ... what ... did there seem to be something different when you brought your children back and when you were young?

**CK:** No. They didn't have electricity ... and no indoor plumbing ... and we had to get our wood from the beach ... we used to go up to Sonihaat and get our ... get our **tsaalaa**(?) which is driftwood ... and when Perry came into the family, we called him, he had a little boat ... skiff ... he would go around down there and so they called it, they called it '**huuslaa**'? (Chuckles)

(pause)

**044**

**EH:** When you left Kasaan, you went, first to go to school,

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** and then did you return in the summertime?

**CK:** Not ... I think we came home that first year we came back home and then ... see, 'Princeton' being ... pick us up after we started that ... so ... we used to have to come by steamboat ... and the fare was \$9.00 ... I don't know if it was from Sitka to Ketchikan and then ... somebody from Kasaan would come, mostly my dad would come in and pick us up ... whatever, we almost were the only kids that went away to school ...

**EH:** so, when you went to ... SJ ... were there other ... well, how many others were from Kasaan? You said, not many ...

**CK:** well ... I was the only girl ... in Kasaan that graduated ... and there were only 9 of us

...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** And ... Marjorie Baronovich ...

**EH:** Only nine that graduated from SJ?

**CK:** --SJ--

**EH:** Mmm.

**CK:** Then my friend, Julia graduated, there was like a fair size ... you know?

**EH:** Do you have ... any favorite memories of when you were living there, growing up or as you came back as an older person?

**CK:** No

**EH:** No favorite memories?

**CK:** No ...

**EH:** No one time was better than the other?

**CK:** Not that I ... can remember ...

**EH:** They were all good time?

**CK:** Yeah. Just to be able to come back home for awhile, from wherever we went ... it wasn't that we went down and came back ...

**EH:** That was your favorite memory then?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** Coming back and just being home?

**CK:** Yeah ...

**EH:** and did you get to stay very long?

**CK:** No, only through the summer ...

**EH:** Okay. How about when ... did you ever live there with your children?

**CK:** Only in the summer times.

**EH:** In the summer?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. (Pause) We didn't do that every summer ... I think every two years ... or there about ... and we'd come there ... yeah ... usually that ...

**EH:** So, when you were ... during the depression, do you remember the Depression times in Kasaan?

**CK:** We were in school.

**EH:** You were in school? How about World War II?

**CK:** World War II ...

**EH:** 1940 ---

**CK:** One

**EH:** 1941 ...

**CK:** I was in Sitka that time when World War II broke out ... and that's where I met Jim

...

**EH:** Okay ...

**CK:** yeah ...

**EH:** (unintelligible) ... Do you have any questions, dad?

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(pause)

**EH:** I might ask you a couple of short questions ... you can think about them. We can turn off the tape and think about them. It says ... as we start learning more about our Haida culture and our Haida traditions ... trying to remember what part of us is Haida ...

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** What do you think we should be teaching our children, or our grandchildren ... about being a Kasaan Haida?

**CK:** Just let them know where they're from ... who they are ...and who their family is ... and that's what ... what something that I did when Bob and Linda were little ... I made sure they knew they were Haida Indians and ... and they knew their Nana and Chinaa ...

**EH:** How about some of the foods?

**CK:** We, in the summer time when we were there ... we ate our dried fish, our smoked fish ... and ... that's it.

**EH:** So, of all the different things that we're trying to teach our children, what do you think is one of the more important things to teach the next generation?

**CK:** Well, ... that they know who they are ... and what family they came from and ... that's it.

**EH:** Who their families are.

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

(Pause)

**EH:** Is there anything that you would like to add to what we've not talked about ... we talked about a lot last night ...

**CK:** No, I ... can't ...

**EH:** Was your father building boats when you were home?

**CK:** (sigh)

**EH:** When did he start building boats?

(Pause)

**CK:** I think I was ... practically out of high school ... cause we used to go ... go out in the 'Revue' ... when they were logging ... see all our lumber came from the ones that we ... all our fallen trees ... we ... all the trees and season them out ... and that took awhile ... and then they'd have to drag them out of the woods and tow them ... (pause) ...

**EH:** So, do you have any thing else you would like to talk about that we've not talked about?

**CK:** Not that I can think of ... I think we've talked about everything ...

**EH:** We've talked about fish ... we talked about berries ... seaweed, how about Hudson Bay tea?

**CK:** That came from the flats up ... I think we used ... it was kind of a swamp ... there ... where we got our Hudson's Bay tea ... it had to be dried ...

**EH:** Is there, of all the different foods you got to eat?

**CK:** What was my favorite food?

**EH:** What's your favorite one?

**CK:** (Haida word) smoked fish.

**EH:** Where did you used to get grease?

**CK:** That came from Canada ... a boat used to come from Prince Rupert ... and the grease came in 5-gallon cans ... where do you get your fresh grease, now?

Do you have to go there or?

**WJ:** Both ways, someone comes from ... Prince Rupert or we go to Prince Rupert.

**CK:** Yeah, so, it's the same ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm. So, how about ... what else did they used to bring over, do you remember?

**CK:** that's all ... and ...

**EH:** Did you buy it or did you trade?

**CK:** No. We bought it ... \$5.00 for a 5-gallon can ...

**EH:** My goodness ...

**CK:** Yeah ... in fact, they used to ... used to use seal grease for ... **kaow** ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm?

**CK:** Yeah ...

**EH:** Really?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** So, you ate seal grease too?

**CK:** Yeah ... we used the seal oil for ... our **kaow**, I don't remember as far as dipping ... like we do our grease you know, for potatoes and things? I don't remember doing it with seal oil, we did it with our hooligan oil ...

**EH:** Are there foods that you used to eat then that ... we don't eat now?

**CK:** Seal oil is one of them ... and the Tlingits used the seal oil ... only dip the ooligan oil

...

(unintelligible)

**EH:** Time out.

**CK:** And I told you about Jerry bellum(?) his wife ... like the seal meat, they were dried

...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** But as a kid I don't remember us having it, I don't ...

**EH:** Not even seal meat?

**CK:** No ... but we had the seal oil

**EH:** Mmm, hmm. How about ... stink heads or stink eggs? Or how about the one that ... you make it out of the eggs and then smoke it in ...

**CK:** (Haida) ... yeah ...

**EH:** Did you used to make that? Or did you ...

**CK:** No we ate it ... I used to

**EH:** How do you make it?

**CK:** You just ferment it ... you put them in jars ... yeah ...

**EH:** What did you put in jars?

**CK:** The eggs.

**EH:** Uh, huh.

**CK:** And then ...

**Unknown:** (unintelligible)

**EH:** Yeah, but I don't know what she's talking about ... so,

**WJ:** (unintelligible)

**EH:** Round eggs?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. (Haida) ... (chuckles)

**EH:** I've never heard that one before, tell me some more about that one.

**CK:** The long eggs(?) ...

**EH:** Yeah. You ferment them and put them in jars?

**CK:** Yeah ... yeah ... we used to put them in quart jars ... we didn't seal them tight because otherwise they would explode ...

**EH:** (chuckles)

**CK:** (laughs) And then Indian cheese ...

**EH:** Uh, huh.

**CK:** That I knew how to do ... when we were living up (unintelligible) in Karta Bay ... we saved *a-all* the eggs ... and you hung them up in your smokehouse ... I don't remember how long ... but you had to keep them hanging there ... and then ... when we took it down ... (pause) I made a batch by myself ... and I gave it to dad, they were, when we came up for their ... (chuckles) ... he was ... talking about it, he used to get mad ... cause Jacob Thomas was by that time, alone ... Nana Susie was gone ... and ... he didn't have anybody to make his cheese ... and ... that one year, when I made that ...

he was invited Jacob ... and dad was very fussy when he would invite people ... for potatoes, get them ready ... and cut ... cause it is heavy ... you know, put into skunk cabbage, you know? And you put the cord(?) remember, always took that out ... so that you could

**EH:** Fold it?

**CK:** Yeah ... and in the old days ... they ... used to use the cedar ... the cedar ... (unintelligible) ... tie it up ...

**EH:** How about crab or shrimp? Gumboots?

**CK:** Yeah, gumboots ... we got those at Grindell ... and the ladyslippers ... and the lady slippers, the red ones, you know? ... let's see, they were ... I don't remember where we used to get them ... but Bill and Pauline used to get them and Pauline was good at ... getting them cooked ... you know?

**EH:** How about clams and cockles?

**CK:** Cockles ... there's a cockle beach at Karta Bay, down there ... cockles ... come on a sandy ... beaches, yeah ... and ... the clams ... we got from China Point ...

**WJ:** Where did they **Koikaa**(?)?

**CK:** **Koik**? ... at Grindall ... Mmm, hmm. Yeah.

**EH:** What did you do with those?

**CK:** Well, if you had bad colds, you made them up ... and stuffed it up your nose ... yeah, that's all I remember ... it helped whatever it did ... it worked (chuckles)

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**EH:** That would be my next question ... did you use anything special if you got sick or got a cold?

**CK:** Well, the **goikaa** ...

**EH:** Goikaa?

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**EH:** And Devil's club ... yeah, that you ... put them into ... just (unintelligible), you know? ... made it into tea ... (sighs) ... (unintelligible) ... and the other and in order to not to get tuberculosis ... we had to drink that faithfully ... not all year, just in the early fall ... before the bad weather would start coming in. We had to drink ... the **Tliitliinjaow** ...

**Ti'iin** ... **tliin** that's the devil's club ...

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**EH:** If you had like a medical emergency ... who was there to take care of ...

**CK:** When we were little ... I mean, our parents took care of or our grandmother ... yeah ... they would know what to do ...

**EH:** Okay ...

**WJ:** How did you handle big cuts?

**EH:** Big machete cuts.

**CK:** (laughs) ... I think by that time they were getting civilized ... to where they, dad used (unintelligible) when we had boats ... available we would go to Ketchikan ...

**WJ:** After ... second World War ... probably 19... 55 maybe ... during the logging ... Uncle Julius, Dexter ... Uncle Julius cut his foot ... maybe by the big joint ... with (unintelligible) ... they went up into the woods and got spruce pitch ...

**CK:** Mmm.

**WJ:** kind of boiled a little bit, got all of the bark and dirt out of it ...

**CK:** Mmm, hmm.

**WJ:** and put it on his cut ... covered it with (unintelligible) ...

**CK:** Mmm. That one ... in the old days, they used to use moss ... before ... we got 'civilized' ... they other means of (Haida) **K'ink**"

**EH:** What, kind, do you remember what kind of moss? Just the moss in the trees or the moss on the ground?

**CK:** Yeah ... the moss from the ground, I think ... if I remember ... yeah ...  
(pause)

**EH:** anything else?

**WJ:** Where did you wildrice?

**CK:** **Slaamstao**(?) .... in the flats in Grindall ... and in Kasaan ...

**WJ:** On the beach?

**CK:** No ... in the woods ...

**WJ:** Woods?

**EH:** In the woods?

**CK:** Yeah ...

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**EH:** I never found any ... what ... does it look like?

**CK:** I guess we must have picked them all

**EH:** (laughs)

**CK:** We did (laughs) ...

**EH:** And you used all the rocks ...

**CK:** (laughs) ... took home all my big rocks ... oh dear!

**EH:** anything else. That's all the questions I have. Can you think of anything else, you can ...

**CK:** Call and let us know

**EH:** Call and let me know ...

**CK:** Yeah.

**EH:** Write them down ... I have a special thank you ... for you. (Pause) ... Why we went to learn how to do seaweed ...

**CK:** Ooohhh .

**EH:** This is our 'Thank you' ... so we went out and picked the seaweed ... and ... mom and dad taught us how to grind it up and dry it and ... (pause) There's a whole bunch of little ... little .... it's got a special tie on it ... booby-trapped, I think ...

**CK:** Yeah ...

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**EH:** Holy smokes ... enough to make you hungry.

**CK:** yeah.

**EH:** Almost warm? Maybe this will make you warm ... (pause)

**CK:** This is just a scream(?) ... this is you could put with grease

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** Hmm, hmm.

**EH:** I think this is one with the flavors on it or not ...

**CK:** yeah Did you put gumboots ... water on it?

**EH:** clam juice ...

**CK:** Yeah

**EH:** Mmm. We ground it on the deck ... and then we grounded it until it started raining and then we brought it inside ... dried it downstairs ...

**CK:** Oooh.

**EH:** We wanted to learn how to try to make some into cakes ... it got too complicated ...

**CK:** yeah, it's very hard to dry ... because we used to have to ...take it out every good day ... put the sheet down then ... put the cakes out ...

**EH:** So when you had it in ... in the cake form ... it would get a certain kind of dry and then you would take it out? Or would you leave all packed up?

**CK:** (unintelligible) ... dried ... we just kept them in there ...

**EH:** Okay.

**CK:** And cut it ...

**EH:** Mmm, hmm. Well, maybe we'll try that next year ...

**CK:** Because mostly ... that was for fresh eating

**EH:** Oh, okay ...

**CK:** And then the ones like this ... was for ... in the fish ...

**EH:** How about the ones that are long just skinny, you lay them down this way to dry. Did they do that kind?

**CK:** Not that I know.

**EH:** Okay ... long, lay them down along this way ...

**CK:** No.

**EH:** thank you ...

**CK:** Mmm, hmm. Thank you ...

**EH:** Thank you. So if you think of anything else, let us know.

**CK:** I sure will.

**EH:** Okay ...

**END OF INTERVIEW**

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**SIDE B**

**???**

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**WJ:** All \$20 gold pieces?

**CK:** I don't remember ... they had to be ... because it wouldn't be dollars, you know?

**WJ:** No. Mmm. Were you there then? Was this during your time?

**CK:** Hmm, mmm.

**WJ:** maybe what year, do you think? Maybe 1914, you might have been 10 years old?

**CK:** Around there, I can definitely remember ... and we ... we talked ... I don't know who ... who was at home or anything .... and ... we talked into letting us open the can(?) ... how hard those cans were

**WJ:** Was it a little lard can?

**CK:** Yeah, an 8-pound lard can ...

**WJ:** Full of money ...

**EH:** I missed why.

**WJ:** When Brown Jones, his wife, Kitty and dad went to Masset for a gospel team(?)

**EH:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** There was a whole bunch of other people from Kasaan ... went and ... and then those in turn come back to visit us for hallelujah(?) (chuckles) ... see that was things that they did ...

**WJ:** Mmm, hmm.

**CK:** And that's when .... we met our relatives from ... Masset ...

**WJ:** Who else had a trap?

**CK:** That's all

**WJ:** What about Denny?

**CK:** No, Denny died ...

**WJ:** One of the Irvine's didn't have a trap?

**CK:** The Irvine's, yeah ... no, Irving ...

**WJ:** Bill Irving had a trap?

**CK:** Yeah ... and then ... dad helped him build the trap ... and that's when Denny died ... coming home from Ketchikan ... he ... drowned ... probably was drunk ... and Bill Irving, whenever they came from Ketchikan, somehow they managed to get the boat tied up ... and then they'd come up the road, drunk as a skunk  
(doorbell rings)

**LW:** Hello!

**WJ:** Hi ...

**CK:** Sit down and have a cup of tea ...

**LW:** Well, did you pick her brains?

**WJ:** Yeah ... just ... we're getting down to the ...

**CK:** Gossiping --

**WJ:** -- gossiping stuff (chuckles)

**LW:** Oh.

**EH:** Yeah, it is

**WJ:** Oh, it's been recording ...

**Everyone:** shhh

**EH:** Oh, the recorder doesn't work any more

**WJ:** (chuckles)

**LW:** Oh.

**CK:** Did you get everything done?

**LW:** I gave up on the library going through the newspapers ...

**WJ:** What were you looking for?

**LW:** I saw a little girl ...

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**CK:** Not a heck of a lot ... I know he was married to a **Yaats Xaadaa** woman ... that's about all I remember ... cause, like I said, they moved to ... the Baronovich's moved Hydaburg ... ask Erma about it ...

**WJ:** Yeah, we'll do that ...

**CK:** You want some tea, Linda?

**LW:** Well, okay ...

(pause)

**EH:** It's hot ...

**WJ:** What I'm confused about ... is ... Eddy Pat ... said that the first Churchill ... was adopted ... his name is Smith ...

**CK:** Mmm.

**LW:** (chuckles)

**CK:** No, I don't know anything about that ..

**WJ:** You don't know anything about that, huh? So, I was wondering why ... they got her marked down as Emma ...

**CK:** As Emma Smith?

**WJ:** Emma Jones

**EH:** Jones ...

**WJ:** which is Leonard's mother ... and his name was Smith ... when they married, they adopted him and his name is Churchill ...

**CK:** oh.

**WJ:** Yeah.

**CK:** Would that be Eddy Pat's father?

**WJ:** Father, grandfather, something ...

**CK:** Well, I'll be darned, no ...

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**WJ:** We're kind of done ... just gossiping now ...

**EH:** Okay ...

**END OF INTERVIEW**

**SIDE B**

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