

Transcript Summary

UAF Oral History Call No: 2016-16-66

Date of Recording: October 19, 2010

Length of Recording: 00:59:11

Narrator: Olempiada Langlois (Basargin)

Interviewer: Dina Moskaleno

Others Present: The recording appears to be damaged. The actual and logical beginning starts at 00:29:37. While the recording begins at 00:00:00 and runs to 00:02:41, the section between 00:02:41 and 00:29:37 seems to be a completely unrelated recording. It features two male door-to-door salesmen visiting a man and a woman, apparently attempting to sell various electrical appliances. Given the proximity of the voices to the microphone and the background noise, it seems the recorder was left running when a knock came to the door, or it was made secretly. The conversation is entirely in Russian, and no names are mentioned.

Recording Location: Alaska

Transcriber: Aglaia Gulakova

Translator: Aglaia Gulakova

Transcription Date: June 1, 2025

Keywords: Old Believers, education, Oregon, Nikolaevsk, traditions, Russian language

Transcriber's Notes: As Russian is my native language and I am familiar with Slavic surnames, I suspect there might be a typo in the interviewer's name. It is likely Moskalenko, not Moskaleno. However, this is not confirmed, as I was unable to find any information about the interviewer online.
The segments in Russian are of rather poor quality, which is why this transcript contains numerous "inaudible" notations.

00:00:00

DINA MOSKALENO

What major events do you recall having a tremendous influence on your life?

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

As I say, it wasn't in my day, but it affected us later on. [Russian: Как я говорю, это не в мое время было, но оно потом повлияло на нас]. So, when my parents were living in China, even before they had children, when they were about 20 years old, they went through some really hard times. There was hardly anything to eat at some point, so for many years, my mum had to be really... it was really hard for her when she had nothing to eat, so she largely saved whatever food they had. So that hasn't influenced me. Even when I was born, they had food. But they didn't throw the things out, they ate leftovers, all of that. I think that somehow influenced how I was raised, and I am raising my kids: don't waste food. Because my mum used to tell us how hard it was on them. She had twelve kids born in China, not much food.

00:01:05

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

...otherwise, I don't have anything because I didn't live through the depression or any of your wars, really, not even the Vietnam War. I was too young. That was ... in 1960, what year was it? Anyway, that was waiting for my true story. That really doesn't have any influence on me, except for what my mum [inaudible]

00:01:34

DINA MOSKALENO

What message would you leave for the youth of today?

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

[inaudible]. Because I teach Russian at school. I think, and I was told more of this message all the time. Anyway. I'm telling it to you: learn to speak Russian. Speak Russian with your children when you have children. So then, your children can still communicate with their grandparents. There are still a lot of older parents, however, who don't speak English. And then, their grandchildren can't even communicate with them. But that's how I would say: don't [inaudible] because then, the day they lose the Russian language, they lose their culture, they lose their traditions, and it's just not the same if you don't have a language that would go with it. Don't you agree?

DINA MOSKALENO

Thank you

(00:02:41)

The recording was paused. Given the proximity of the voices to the microphone and the background noise, it seems the recorder is left running when a knock comes to the door, or it is made secretly. Two male door-to-door salesmen are visiting a family consisting of a man and a woman, attempting to persuade them to purchase various electrical appliances. The conversation is entirely in Russian, and no names are mentioned.

SALESMAN 1

I already gifted it to you. Thank you so much for your time... What is the most important thing to a person? Religion. Right? Holy faith in God... From these two things, what is the most essential thing that flows? Food, water and air.

Now let's look at something even more specific. Without food, you can live for 40 days. Without water you can live for three days. Without air, a person cannot live. The air has to be clean.
[inaudible]

[... Я уже Вам подарил. Спасибо Вам большое за уделенное время... Что самое главное для человека? Религия. Правильно же? Святая вера в Бога... Из этих двух вещей что самое необходимое течет? Еда, вода и воздух.
Теперь смотрим на то, еще что более определенное. Без еды Вы можете прожить 40 дней. Без воды три дня можете прожить. Без воздуха человек не может прожить. Нужно, чтобы воздух был чистый...]

[The host is talking but incomprehensively.]

SALESMAN 1

Exactly, exactly. The food, to test if we're doing it right. [Тем более, тем более. Еду, чтобы протестировать, правильно ли мы ее...]

[The female host is laughing]

It means that, in principle, we do not pay proper attention to the air. But it turns out that air – also water and food – we consume [inaudible]. If, let's say, in 2014, [inaudible], then air, respectively, 35%. [inaudible] In a day, you swallow two tablespoons of air. [inaudible] This leads to various diseases: pulmonary, [inaudible], blood diseases. [inaudible] Dust goes first to the lungs and finally comes to the brain, heart [inaudible]. So if you swallow dust, it already goes throughout the body. Right?

[То есть, в принципе, воздуху мы не уделяем должного внимания. Но оказывается, что воздух – что воды и еды – мы употребляем... Если, допустим, в 2014 году, ..., то воздуха, соответственно, 35%. ... В день вы глотаете две столовые ложки воздуха. ... Это ведет к различным заболеваниям: легочным, ..., кровеносным. Пыль идет сначала в легкие и окончательно приходит в мозг, сердце... То есть если вы глотаете пыль, то она уже идет по всему организму. Правильно?]

[A brief discussion between salesman 1 and the woman. Inaudible]

00:05:50

SALESMAN 1

[inaudible]

So if you look at a ray of sunshine, that's how much dust you have here. Just see what is basically happening. The dust that you have.

[То есть если Вы посмотрите на лучик солнца, вот сколько у Вас тут пыли. Просто посмотрим, что у Вас в принципе делается. Та пыль, которая у Вас есть.]

[inaudible]

00:07:49

SALESMAN 1

Let's look further. If you come home from work and you're tired, after a twenty-hour week, you're tired, what do you do? [inaudible] You go outside and you breathe. [inaudible] And it turns out that the air outside is cleaner than the air indoors. It's cleaner there. Why does that happen? Why is that? Can't you guess? It happens because nature constantly washes itself: by rain, by snow, by dew, by fog [inaudible]. And when you go outside, you feel better immediately. And you know, the Germans thought for a long time and came up with a machine called the Dolphin. It's really because it's connected with water. The only thing is that they changed the process a bit: if in nature air – water passes through air – here air passes through water. So that's the machine. What is remarkable about it is that it has a case in which the motor and the container itself are located. In order for it to start working, you just need to pour water into it, and that's it. What is remarkable about it is that it is made [inaudible] of the strongest plastic that exists in the world. It's not recycled primary plastic. [Now, he is speaking about the material's advantage against impact].

[Давайте посмотрим дальше. Если Вы пришли с работы и устали, после двадцатичасовой недели Вы устали, что Вы делаете? ... Вы выходите на улицу и дышите... И вот оказывается, что воздух на улице чище, чем воздух в помещении. Там он чистый. Почему это происходит? Почему это так? Не догадываетесь? Это происходит потому, что природа постоянно омывает себя: с помощью дождя, с помощью снега, с помощью росы, с помощью тумана И когда Вы выходите на улицу, то сразу становится легче. И Вы знаете, немцы долго думали и придумали такую машинку, которая называется Дельфин. Связано это действительно с тем, что связана с водой. Единственное только, что они немного изменили процесс: если в природе воздух – вода проходит через воздух – то здесь воздух проходит через воду. Вот такая вот машинка. Что в ней примечательно, то что у нее есть корпус, в котором располагается мотор и сама емкость. Для того, чтобы она начала работать, в нее нужно просто залить воду и все. Что в ней примечательно, это то, что она сделана из самого прочного пластика, который существует в мире. Это не переработанный первичный пластик.]

THE FEMALE HOST

What's the difference? [А в чем разница?]

SALESMAN 1

[inaudible] While this one is the most durable material. [inaudible] This one is made of plastic. [... При том, что это самый прочный материал... Этот сделан из пластмассы...] [inaudible]

THE MALE HOST

The strongest and tightest. [inaudible] The wings are made for airplanes. [Самый прочный и тугой.... Крылья делают для самолетов...] [inaudible]

SALESMAN 1

Well, you know, I'm not going to say what they make on a Boeing. I don't know if it's the same plastic there or not, but what I'm talking about is this plastic that's in Dolphin. [inaudible] If you compare it to the regular plastic, that's [inaudible] It's a whole different thing.

[Ну, Вы знаете, я не буду говорить, что там на боинге делают. Я не знаю, там такой же пластик или нет, но я говорю про то, что этот пластик, который в Дельфине Если сравнить с обычным пластиком, который Это совсем другая вещь.]

[The conversation is muted by the sound of the machine]

00:12:00

SALESMAN 2

Were you visited, or did you visit? [К Вам приходили, или Вы были?]

THE MALE HOST

I was at [inaudible]. [Я у ... был.]

SALESMAN 2

And your friend bought a *Rainbow*? [И друг купил Rainbow?]

THE MALE HOST

Yes. [Да]

SALESMAN 2

And you? [А Вы?]

THE MALE HOST

I didn't buy. [Я не купил.]

SALESMAN 2

Why? Why didn't you buy a *Rainbow*? [Почему? Почему не купили Rainbow?]

THE MALE HOST

I bought it once before - I bought a *Big Power*. The plastic was very tight. It was an Italian novelty: *Big Power*. [Когда-то я уже один раз купил – купил *Big Power*. У него оказался очень тугим пластик. Итальянский такой новодел: *Big Power*.]

SALESMAN 2

The company announced that it had gone bankrupt. [Компания объявила о банкротстве.]

THE MALE HOST

Then all that plastic burst after two years. [Тогда тот пластик весь то лопнул через два года.]

THE FEMALE HOST

It cost 140 dollars. [Стоит 140 долларов.]

SALESMAN 2

Big Power is a very bad... Excuse me. *Big Power* is a very bad company. The cars they produced are actually very unreliable. And the idea that they developed never really paid off. And those pots that are inserted into each other inside that supposedly create swirls: in fact, all the dirt is smeared on these pots, and that's where it ends.

[BigPower – очень плохая ... Вы меня извините, конечно. BigPower – очень плохая компания. Машины, которые они выпускали, на самом деле, очень нестойкие. И идею, которую они разработали, так себя и не оправдала. И вот кастрюли, которые одна в другую вставляются там внутри, которые якобы создают завихрения. На самом деле вся грязь по эти кастрюлям размазывается, и на этом то и заканчивается.]

[unclear comments from the two hosts]

SALESMAN 2

The dirt stays, but is smeared on the sides. And when you finish cleaning, the dirt is dry for some reason, right? So, if the dirt is dry, it means that the water is not there at that moment. [Грязь остается, но размазанная по стенкам. И вы когда заканчиваете уборку, грязь почему-то сухая, правда? Так если грязь сухая, значит, воды там нет в этот момент.]

THE MALE HOST

It gets in there and it sticks. [Она туда попадает и прикипает.]

SALESMAN 2

Right. And above that, everything is dry. [Правильно. А выше все сухое.]

THE MALE HOST

And above that, dirt crumbles. [А выше эта грязь осыпается.]

SALESMAN 2

So, the air goes through this dirt, which is why there are filters behind everything else. [Значит, через эту грязь воздух идет, поэтому и фильтры стоят после всего прочего]

THE MALE HOST

The filter gets clogged. [Фильтр забивается]

SALESMAN 2

And if there is a filter, what's the point of water? [А раз фильтр стоит, какой смысл от воды?]

THE MALE HOST

None. [Никакого.]

SALESMAN 2

Where there are filters, it means the water doesn't work. Where there is no filter, then water must work. [indistinct voice in the background]. We'll talk about filters a bit later. [Там, где есть фильтры, значит, не работает вода. Там, где нет фильтра, значит, должна работать вода. Про фильтры мы поговорим чуть позже.]

00:14:25

SALESMAN 1

Let's look at your water that you brought from the tap. So it is absolutely pure water? [Давайте посмотрим на вашу водичку, которую вы принесли из крана. То есть это абсолютно чистая вода.]

THE MALE HOST

Who knows? We don't test it, we don't drink it. [Кто ж его знает? Мы ж ее не проверяем, мы ее не пьем.]

SALESMAN 1

You don't drink it, but you make soup, right? You make tea, coffee. [Вы ее не пьете, но вы делаете суп, правильно? Вы делаете чай, кофе.]

THE FEMALE HOST

We make it all with different water. [Мы все это делаем из другой воды]

SALESMAN 1

With different water? All right. Is it pure water? [Из другой воды? Ну хорошо. Это чистая вода?]

THE MALE HOST

It is. [Чистая]

SALESMAN 1

If you had no other water, would you drink this water? [Если бы у вас не было другой воды, вы бы пили эту воду?]

THE MALE HOST

We would. We used to drink it before. [Пили бы. Мы ее раньше пили.]

SALESMAN 1

"We used to drink it", so it's absolutely pure water, right? Let's have some more now. [inaudible] What else do we have in there? What is this monster? It's a separator that separates the good water from the bad water. The separator revolves at 14,000 revolutions per minute. And it processes about [inaudible]. How does this system work? Simply: you turn on the machine and [inaudible].

[«Мы раньше пили», то есть это абсолютно чистая вода, да? Давайте теперь еще немного... Что у нас еще существует? Что это за чудовище? Это сепаратор, который отделяет воду от плохой. Оборачивается сепаратор 14 тысяч оборотов в минуту. И перерабатывает около... Как эта системка работает? Просто: включаете машинку и...

[The hosts are laughing]

SALESMAN 1

So, you directly pour this water in here and it becomes clean, washed water. [Итак, непосредственно вливаете эту воду сюда, и она становится чистой, промытой водой.]

THE FEMALE HOST

And the water will be dirty? [А вода будет грязная?]

SALESMAN 1

Let's see, I don't know. [He is turning on the machine.] Do you feel the air coming? The air has a smell of ozone, like after rain. Can you feel how refreshing your air is? [Посмотрим, я не знаю. Чувствуете какой воздух идет? У воздуха запах озона как после дождя. Чувствуете, как освежается Ваш воздух?]

[inaudible]

SALESMAN 1

Can't you feel your air? Cold, clean air coming in. [He is turning off the machine] So, this one here... that we've already cleaned. [Вы не чувствуете своего воздуха? Холодный чистый воздух идет. Итак, вот эту... которую мы уже почистили.]

THE FEMALE HOST

When did you clean it? Now? [Где Вы ее почистили? Сейчас?]

[Everyone is arguing.]

SALESMAN 2

Show them the water, don't argue with people. [Покажи ты воду, чего ты споришь с людьми.]

SALESMAN 1

I'm not arguing, I'll show now... Let's look at the water. Do you see how clean our water was? Let's look at the water now. [Я не спорю, я сейчас покажу... Давайте посмотрим на водичку. Видите, какая у нас чистая водичка была? Давайте посмотрим на воду сейчас.]

THE FEMALE HOST

Well, there's a little change. [Ну немножко есть что-то.]

SALESMAN 1

To clean your room, you need two.... This is your dust. Do you think it has been cleaned in your room? Чтобы почистить Вашу комнату, нужно два.... Это Ваша пыль. Как Вы думаете, очистилась она у Вас?]

THE FEMALE HOST

I'm not sure it has cleaned everything. [Я не уверена, что все она почистила.]

SALESMAN 1

Well, it hasn't cleaned everything. [Ну все она не почистила.]

THE FEMALE HOST

It has absorbed a little bit, yes. [Ну немножко потянула, да.]

SALESMAN 1

So you can smell ozone. That means the water - you can do something different with it. It makes the scent that we want to smell. We have different scents here - the odor fresheners: orange scent and morning dew, mountains, eucalyptus – all the best health resorts are located in eucalyptus groves – it's a natural purifier.

[Итак, Вы почувствовали запах озона. Это значит, водичка – с ней можно делать что-то другое. Делает запах, который мы хотим чувствовать. У нас тут есть разные запахи – освежители запаха: апельсиновый запах и утренней росы, гор, эвкалипт – все самые хорошие санатории располагаются в эвкалиптовых рощах – естественный очиститель.]

THE FEMALE HOST

We have eucalyptus too. [У нас тоже есть эвкалипт.]

SALESMAN 1

There's eucalyptus and mint. It is better in that mint is, first of all, a very good, natural anti-allergic component. [inaudible] Grandmothers from the village. These two or three drops, and we already have air that smells not just like after rain, but we can smell this odor of eucalyptus grove [He is turning on the machine again and speaking in the background]. This is how nature blows your house [inaudible]. Then, let's say you are sick. You come home from work, you bring a virus and inflammation with you, right? To avoid that, we have a special disinfectant called *Splash*. And what's important about this *Splash* is that it kills germs, viruses, bacteria, and so on and so forth. We add just a little bit here, and we already have a little bit of botanical scent [He is turning on the machine again and speaking in the background]. You turn on the machine for 15-20 minutes until the air is processed. And now your house is already clean of microorganisms that live in you [inaudible]. Also, [inaudible]. In the bedroom, it runs, and you sleep at the same time. You go to bed, and you sleep in that eucalyptus smell [inaudible]. You don't sneeze, you don't cough, and so on and so forth. That's about it.

Besides, you know, a man built a house and filled it with different things, furniture. And this furniture is collecting dust. It is, of course, somehow cleaned. And there are various means of cleaning. They are a broom, a dustpan, rags, a vacuum cleaner, and the most convenient, the most common [inaudible].

[Есть эвкалипт с мятой. Он лучше тем, что мята – это прежде всего очень хороший, натуральный противоаллергический компонент... Бабушки из деревни. Такие две-три капельки, и у нас уже воздух не просто этот запах как после дождя, а мы можем почувствовать этот запах эвкалиптовой рощи (снова включил машинку и говорит на фоне). Вот таким вот образом природа продувает Ваш дом... Дальше, допустим, Вы заболели. Вы пришли с работы, принесли с собой вирус и воспаление, правильно? Чтобы этого не происходило, у нас есть специальное дезинфицирующее средство, которое называется *Splash*. И что в этом *Splash* важно, это что он убивает микробы, вирусы, бактерии и так далее и тому подобное. Мы добавляем совсем немножко сюда, и получается то, что у нас уже запах немножко такой ботанический (снова включил машинку и говорит на фоне) Вы включаете машинку на 15–20 минут, пока воздух не переработается. И вот уже Ваш дом чист от микроорганизмов, которые в Вас живут... Кроме того,... в спальне она работает, Вы спите в это время. Вы ложитесь спать и спите в этом запахе эвкалипта... Вы не чихаете, не кашляете и так далее и тому подобное. Это касательно этого.

Кроме того, знаете, вот человек построил дом и заполнил его различными вещами, мебелью. И эта мебель пылится. Она каким-то образом, конечно, убирается. И есть различные средства уборки. Это метелка, совочек, тряпочки, пылесос и самый удобный, самый распространенный...]

00:22:27

SALESMAN 2

What do you dislike the most? It's clumsy, isn't it? [Что больше всего Вам не нравится? То, что он неуклюжий, да?]

THE MALE HOST

It's clunky, it breaks all the time. [Он неуклюжий, все время ломается.]

THE FEMALE HOST

That you have to clean it, and there's no one to clean it afterwards. [Что его надо чистить, а после уборки некому чистить.]

[inaudible]

THE FEMALE HOST

We got 140 dollars a few months ago. [Это мы 140 долларов получили несколько месяцев назад.]

[Salesman 2 and the male host are discussing something]

SALESMAN 2

These are the pieces of plastic that go into recycling, they're brown. [inaudible] Then there's air pollution due to these pots right here. [Вот пластики, которые попадают в recycle, они коричневые... Потом за счет вот этих вот кастрюль происходит загрязнение воздуха.]

THE MALE HOST

I tried [inaudible]. It came off with the actual live plastic, and that was it. [Я начал ... оно с живым пластиком оторвалось и все.]

SALESMAN 2

What is different [inaudible] that if there is a filter placed behind the water [inaudible]. When we showed you this machine, you said that [inaudible]. He said that this is water, everything is very good, everything is wonderful. [Чем отличается... тем, что, если стоит фильтр после воды... Когда мы Вам показывали эту машину, Вы сказали о том, что... он говорил о том, что вот это вода, все очень хорошо, все замечательно.]

THE MALE HOST

Well, the reservoir here is just as small. I didn't measure the filters. [Ну тут такой же бачок маленький. Фильтры я не мерил.]

SALESMAN 2

So is your system. The filter that's in here is this bag. Dust gets in, it gets clogged. What's smaller than the pores goes out; what's bigger gets blocked. If the filter doesn't work, the air doesn't get through. It's like this vacuum cleaner: just because it's humming doesn't mean it's [inaudible], and this is the brand-new *Rainbow*.

[Так и Ваша система. Фильтры, которые тут стоят, это вот этот мешок. Пыли попадает – он забивается. То, что меньше пор, выходит наружу; то, что больше, задерживается. Если фильтр не работает, воздух не проходит. Такой вот пылесос: если он гудит, это еще не значит, что он... а это абсолютно новейший *Rainbow*.]

THE FEMALE HOST

It will. We can see that the water's black, that it's sucking everything up. [Будет. Мы же видим, что вода черная, что он все собирает.]

SALESMAN 2

You need water to dilute your black water. [Вода нужна, чтобы воду Вашу черную развести.]

THE MALE HOST

It collects trash. [Мусор собирает.]

THE FEMALE HOST

It's spinning well. [Хорошо вращается.]

[inaudible]

SALESMAN 2

You know: when you bought this Big Power of yours, what had you had before that? [Вы понимаете, какая вещь: когда Вы покупали этот Ваш Big Power, у Вас до этого было что?]

THE MALE HOST

We just moved in here. [Мы только приехали.]

[inaudible]

SALESMAN 2

Now, there's no water left. All that dirt you see here on this pot. [Вот, воды не осталось. Вся та грязь, которую Вы здесь видите на этой кастрюле.]

The recorder is turned off, and the initial interview resumes. For the most part, Dina Moskaleno remains silent while Olempiada reads the questions.

00:29:37

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

My grandparents... My parents' names were Ivan and Anna Basargin. And their parents' names were Grigory and Ksenia Martushev, and Abraham and Lukia Basargin. My parents were born in Russia, in Khabarovsk, I don't know where... Anyway, they were born there and they travelled with their friends to China, where they lived for two years or so. That's where my parents grew up and got married. And they moved to Brazil... Departed to America, which was in Oregon... And now we're here.

Anyway, I have many brothers and sisters: nine sisters and four brothers. [She is laughing] Yes, all the names – you don't know all the names, do you? What are their names, and when and where were they born? All my brothers and sisters were born in China, except for me – I was born in Brazil.

00:30:49

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Do you have special relations with your sisters and brothers? Yeah, I see my brothers and sisters as often as I can. We see each other, we go to the various...

Do you have memories of special births, weddings, gifts, and traditions surrounding events?

Special births? Oh, I guess special births have been my four daughters. And, what else...

weddings... We have big weddings here. Girls love to go to weddings, right? Yeah, we don't have any weddings in this village because it's so small. We usually have to go to Voznesenka or Nikolaevsk, which are in the Homer area. Are you aware of these villages there? [inaudible] to the bigger villages when there's a wedding. That's what happens. Big weddings, big parties. [Russian: Большие свадьбы, гулянки.] Gifts and traditions surrounding these events... Well, all my parents... have died already, so we buried them in Voznesenka. And, their special traditions: you have to go to church, and then, [inaudible], and you have a big feast. That will be the special tradition.

Births – I can say something about the traditions of births. We have our children baptized. We take them to church and give them a name, the Christian giving of a name. And then, we invite a few people around, and then, we have a kind of small feast, celebrating the birth of a child.

Do you understand everything I'm saying? [Russian: Вы все понимаете, что я говорю?]

CHILDREN

Yes. [Russian: Да]

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Good. [Russian: Хорошо]

00:32:36

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Where were you born? I was born in Brazil, and I spent almost three years there. Then, we settled in America in the south. Then, we moved to Oregon, and we spent seven more years in Oregon. I do remember those. What I remember most about those years is spending my time in the berry field because that was the form my parents made their money. Picking berries – that's how they got their money.

What do you call a typical day for you as a child? Well, that's my typical day in the summer. All summer long in the berry fields. And then, in Wilshire, I went to school.

00:33:21

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

When you were a teenager, what was the typical day like? School, and more school...

DINA MOSKALENO

And homework after school

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

And homework after school – that's the same as what it was for me. But I had a lot more fun than they did because in these evenings after school, we, girls, got together and we went to somebody's house, and did what we called *vechiorki*. We took our embroidery along – you know, embroidery [Russian: вышивку] – and so we would embroider: different pictures and shirts for dad, our brothers, and things like that. And we sat around and embroidered, laughed, and talked. And then, boys would come over, of course, the teenage boys, to torture you, keep

us from doing our work. And then, we came home, and we were in trouble because we didn't do it back then. [She is laughing] So, that's what we should do in the evenings: we have to do some handwork.

00:34:21

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

When you were a young adult, what was your typical day? I went to work when I was 16 or 17 years old. That was my typical day: I went to work every day. But after work... Some school, and to work, and then, [inaudible]. That really wasn't different when I was a young adult from when I was a teenager.

Then, I left my parents when I was 21 and went to Oregon from Alaska. I went to college. That was a different thing that I did, I guess.

Responsibilities? Yes, my responsibilities: when I went to college, I had to make my own money, pay for my own college, pay for my apartment. When I lived at home, it was totally different. My mum cooked, I ate, went to work, and I didn't have to do much. [inaudible]

00:35:31

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What were the names of the schools you attended? Well, the first school was in Oregon. It was in Gervais, it was a Gervais Elementary School. And then, when we moved to Alaska, to Nikolaevsk, and so it was a Nikolaevsk school. And then, college in Chemeketa in Oregon.

Who was your best childhood friend? Well, I have to say that would be Anna – my cousin Anna, Anna Kuzmin. And then she got married and became Anna Wootah [?], and she moved to Canada. That's where her husband was from. So I missed her a lot when she got married and moved away. And I never got to see her, except for once and in a few years. I went to Canada last summer, and I got to see her and stay at her place and meet her kids, and that was very nice. We went to a wedding in Canada. You know, there's a Russian community there.

00:36:40

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What did you do to pass the time? What kind of games did you enjoy in your childhood? Well, depends on where I was. In my first years in Oregon, our school was our backyard. Our house was right next to the school yard. They had all these swings and everything else, and we spent all our time in the school yard, after school, playing all those slides and swings, and teeter-totters, whatever you call them. So that's how we did pass our time away.

But in Alaska, there was not really that much to do. We skated. And we had skating in the winter, ice skates. In the summer, we walked up into the woods. You know, as kids, we played in the woods a lot. We walked miles and miles. Do you know that in Alaska, the road goes all the way up right into the hills? [inaudible] We were all over the place. We just explored everywhere. That's what we used to do as kids. We were so far from town, there was nothing to do. So we just explored.

What kind of games did we play? There was one game, my kid [name] got to play now, *shariki*. They are a kind of Russian game – I think they came from Russia. Or maybe they came from China. Therefore, four marbles and a [inaudible], like American jacks, except you don't bounce a ball. So anyway, we put all these marbles. We used to play this game a lot. Whenever it was too cold to play outside, it's an indoor game.

00:38:22

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What do you remember about your expectations from all these years? When I was a teenager, what did I expect from life? These are hard questions!

I want to... I don't have much to say about that. It was so long ago. Well, our girls get married pretty young. Obviously, it was a public... pretty close to a marriageable age by now. So, that's what was expected of me. But I didn't like that idea. I wanted to do something else. I wanted to have a job and have my own place, and things like that. I did and am doing that for a while. A good college – I did that for a couple of years. I guess I did what I wanted to do, and did not get married when I was 15. I got married when I was 24.

00:39:32

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

In what ways of dating and courtesy were similar? I don't know... It's changed that much for me because... have and just ask these kids how much dating and courtship go about In my parents' days, of course, it was lots different. But when I was growing up, we used to hold a bunch of girls and boys together... because when you grow up in a village, and you don't have any place to go. And the young men could get together. What we used to do was we played ball – *lopta*, we called it. We played ball and did different things together like that, and when they finally were able to have cars, when they were finally able to buy cars, then they would go to the movies or something. But I'm not sure we would do more. [inaudible] It was not where we settled down, it wasn't in the old days when my grandmother – she didn't even know her husband. He just came from another village in searching a wife. So, how my mum used to say, he walked in the door because there was meant to be an eligible girl in that house. When he walked in the door, he was going to know her. She noticed a strange man walking into her house, into her parents' house, and she wasn't there; she didn't look at him because she knew what he came for. And that was the courtship, and they got married. And they had my parents: my mum, her brothers and sisters. And my mum and dad were dating each other because they were in the same village in China. But I don't think they went to town... They didn't do stuff like that when we would go out in more recent days, and as Americans do now. So, that's the difference – from my day, it's not much different from their days.

00:41:45

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Who did you admire when you were growing up? I guess I admired and respected my mum. She had all these kids, and she did all these things, and she didn't think that she had a bad life. She did what she had to do as a kind of [inaudible]. I also admired my teacher, Mr. Moore. A very good teacher. When I went to school in Nikolaevsk, we had a building kind of like this. Only a few students and one teacher among all the students. He taught me a lot.

What were your expectations regarding attending school? Well, the parents don't really expect too much from school. They wanted us to learn English. I came from a Russian speaking house. They wanted us to learn English. And they didn't really expect us to go to high school. They just figured we go to school, we learn enough English, and when we are all enough, we go back and go to work, and support families because families were pretty big. Boys would go fishing. Girls would either get married pretty young or they would get out of home. Or, like in Oregon, a lot of young girls would go to work in the solar camp. They didn't really expect... There are not many graduates, in fact. These schools only have 5 graduates so far.

00:43:22

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What do you remember most about the schools you attended? What were your favorite and least favorite subjects? Well, my favorite subject was probably the English language and spelling. And my least favorite subject was math. [She is laughing] I was very good at the English language and spelling, but I was not good at math. That's what my favorites and not favorites are.

What was the highest level you attended at school? Well, I did not graduate from high school. I would have liked to, but we didn't have a high school in Nikolaevsk. We only had nine grades. So when I finished the ninth grade, I went to work. And I worked for a couple of years. And I went to night school and got my GED. You know what that is, right? So then I got a GED, and then I quit work and moved to Oregon and went to college for two years.

Did you receive any technical chain? No

00:44:27

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What was the first job you had? Well, the first job I had when I was 16 or 17, I'm not quite sure how old I was when I finished the ninth grade. I went to work at school, but I wanted to work at that kindergarten A, because all the students would come into school and they would not know any English. And the teacher only spoke English, and the kids only spoke Russian. So then I was there as the aid to help them learn English, and so there was someone who understood what they needed – their wants and needs. That was my first job.

And how much money did I make on that job? I think I made about 700 dollars a month... [She is counting]

Describe your work career. Which [inaudible] satisfying? Well, I enjoyed working with the kindergartners in kindergarten A, but that didn't work very well. Actually, I worked there for a year. I still worked at a school, but I had a different job. I had a [inaudible]. I worked in an office. What did I do there? I worked with the teachers, I should say. I worked with the Russian teachers who teach Russian, and I helped them make their work for reading books. And that was my office for. I enjoyed doing that. Now, I'm doing this. Do I enjoy, Douglas? [She is laughing] Oh yeah, I do.

00:46:15

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What do you think it cost you to live at that time? When I was first working, I still lived at home. Then, I didn't have to pay for an apartment. I still would eat food that my mum prepared. I didn't have to pay for that. I did help out when some of them... with the electricity bills and just things like that. So I don't really know how much it would have cost me to live on my own. But when I moved to Oregon and went to college, I went to my apartment, which was about 250 dollars a month, and I had to buy my own food. And that paper chaos... And that was pretty expensive, so I had loans, plus I worked in the evenings. I don't know how much it cost.

When did you decide to get married? I decided to get married because you get a lot of laughs from everybody around you saying, "Why didn't you get married yet?". So you decide, "Well, I guess it's time to get married." So you find somebody. [She is laughing] I was 24. But I did something different from what everybody else was doing here. I did not marry a Russian. So that was a big "no no". So, when we got married, he had to kind of move to our village, so he had to convert and become a Russian Orthodox.

00:48:00

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What do you remember about that special day?

A special day of marriage... our marriages... I remember it when I go to Nikolaevsk, and I go to church, then I remember. It's a very small church. I remember going to that church. And my brother, who was a preacher at that time [inaudible]. I think that's pretty special. That's what I remember about that day.

Were there any family traditions that you followed in your wedding? Well, every wedding is kind of like run by tradition. You have certain things to follow. The first part of the wedding is what we call the bachelorette party [Russian: девичник]. That's a lot of single girls and young men. They get together with the young groom and the bride and sing songs. So that was one of the things that we do. And, of course, the bride wears pretty flowers or something. But after that [inaudible] during that week, the bachelorette party [Russian: девичник]: that's when all the preparations for the wedding are made. And they go to a wedding [Russian: свадьба] (that was just a bachelorette party [Russian: девичник]). So when the bride and groom are taken to church to be bound together – that's when you exchange the rings and everything else like that, and you exchange words "I do" or "I do not" in some cases. [She is laughing] Anyway, then, the wedding [Russian: свадьба] begins. And you have a feast, which will cover the whole [inaudible]. And all the guests come in: all the married people come in. And you have that feast and eat lots of good food. So that's our traditions. And a lot of things are passed around, and everyone gets a little bit: funny towards the end. But what I remember the most is the gift receiving line. The bride and groom receive gifts, and everybody who wants to give gifts comes in, sits down, gives advice, and gives gifts. That takes a long time when you are receiving gifts from everybody and advice from everybody... I don't even remember any advice they gave me. It was just too much. [She is laughing]

DINA MOSKALENO

Well, did somebody write it down?

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

I wish that we could write it all down: tape recorder – that's what they needed to do. Because I don't remember what anybody said. I don't even remember what my parents said [She is laughing]. So that's all traditional. [DINA MOSKALENO is saying something, but unclearly.] Yes, exactly, I remember how to do it. How to live in a marriage.

00:50:56

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Where did you live after your marriage? Here in Alaska, not the house I'm living in now, but there used to be a house that was not too far from where we live.

Describe a home... It's not a very pretty home. [She is laughing] It doesn't even exist anymore. It was kind of big for the two of us. It was built in a really moist area. And it was just chewy, wet, and moist inside. The walls were all moldy whenever you pushed anything against the wall, like a table, a chair, then the wall would get all moldy. And I couldn't keep my clothes inside the dresser because they would get moldy. I had to hang them up for sure in an old closet, to be hung up, and have the air circulating. It was a nasty house. We lived there for one year and then moved on to Portland. That was much nicer.

What was your spouse's job? He was a mechanic, a boat mechanic. He fixed boats: boats that people have fun on, not fishing boats. Boats that they take on a lake. So he worked on that for years, for about fourteen years. But the last two years, he's done construction.

What do you think it cost to live at that time? It didn't cost very much the first year, even though we lived in that nasty house. We didn't have to pay for the electricity – there was no electricity here in the first place. We ran the generator whenever we needed something. And an electrical appliance. So, we didn't use that very much. We had propane lights that we used, and we didn't spend a lot of money on that. [inaudible] I don't even know how much we paid at that time. I have to figure that up. If you still want to know that, I have to figure that up.

00:53:03

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Next question. As students, did you have children? I did. My four daughters. Here's one, Sebastiana, and there is another one, Taisia. The other one is in the fifth grade, her name is Ksenia, and then the second grade, Iglalia [?]. Four daughters. They were all born in Alaska. All were born in the same hospital in Homer. The eldest is 14. The second eldest is 12. And there are a nine-year-old and a seven-year-old.

What things did you carry from your childhood to bring up your children? Well, the way I was raised. I guess I'm still raising them up in the same way. They dressed up in the same way we used to dress, they ate the same food I used to eat, and they pretty much do the things that I was raised to do. [inaudible] because I went to camp. They are learning not to turn back to me, but that's really hard. Pretty much I was raised pretty much in the same way my parents were raising me, except they think I am letting them do a few more things my mother would have never allowed me to do, probably. My mother didn't allow me to wear short-sleeved dresses, which I do. And my mother didn't really allow me to go to the movies, which we did anyway, but...

00:54:50

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Don't step on the car or you'll break it. [Russian: Не наступи на машину, а то сломаешь.] [She is addressing her children.]

I don't know. What do your children do now? They go to school. They haven't left my house yet, although I'm waiting. [She is laughing] Still here.

Where do your children live? In Alaska with me. We don't have to answer that question. And in Washington. So now we spend summers in Washington.

Do you have any grandchildren? Not yet, no grandchildren yet, Sebastiana is not quite there.

These questions are general questions for all individuals being interviewed.

What types of community activities do you participate in throughout your life? Community activities: church. Church is a community... and the others, I don't know which ones... One, one, one, two... I don't remember, I should read about it. [Russian: а другие – не знаю, какие... Раз, раз, раз, два... Я не помню, надо почитать.]

00:56:12

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

Interest groups. None of that. Can you think about anything? I think social community organisations... Where were we? [Russian: На чем мы остановились?]

DINA MOSKALENO

Just checked, it's recording. [Russian: Сейчас только проверили, она записывает.]

...did something that was out of this community... No, but not within the community because we don't have certain things, and I don't want to be in a book club, so I never joined the whole community book club. But not here, in this village. And like I said, when I was growing up, we used to gather together and do the handwork: embroidery, sawing, things like that, at somebody's house, and then we changed the house. Every day, we went to somebody else's house. I do it here sometimes, but not inside... not within this community. The whole community also has a group they call a *Stitching Bitch*. So we go there, and when some people do some meetings, some sharings, some embroidery, sit around and talk....

00:57:23

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What did you find most rewarding, satisfying about the activities in the church you participate in? I enjoy the activities that I did, all the activities that I did. I think the most important thing is to get together who are doing the same thing you are doing, and people who have maybe the same interests, or they can learn, or if not, you can learn something from them. I think that's why I love getting together with other people. That's the most rewarding experience for me. And it doesn't matter whether you're doing a book club or a stitching club, it's because you get together with other people and you can share.

00:58:13

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

What sort of activities did you participate in after your children left home? Well, they haven't yet... I would like to travel if I can afford it [inaudible].
Type of travel that is for kids. You can't take them everywhere.

THE CHILDREN

We did go around.

OLEMPIADA LANGLOIS

We did some travelling. When they were young, we travelled through lots of different states. We travelled a lot before the kids showed up. That's something we would like to do – to go to other countries. They would travel, but with [inaudible] we would travel like ten thousand miles – that's one thing, but to fly to Europe or something, I can't take everybody.
What major events do you recall having a tremendous influence on your life: the Depression, wars? Well, I don't know, but the Depression and the wars....

[end of recording]