

ELLA CHABITNOY

Narrator's name: Ella Chabitnoy

Place: Kodiak, Alaska

Interviewers: Ella Mae Warren and Leanna James

A:/EC My maiden name was Dalamotoss.

Q:/LJ Dela?

A:/EC D-A-L-A-M-O-T-O-S-S

Q:/LJ M-O-T...

A:/EC That is the way they spelled it, the Russians.

Q:/LJ You were an orphan?

A:/EC No, uh uh.

Q:/LJ You lived in the Mission at Sand Point?

A:/EC No, on Woody Island.

Q:/LJ Oh, you did?

A:/EC Kodiak Baptist Orphanage.

M. Oh, my goodness. Do you remember when you came?

A:/EC Ah, it was sometime, I can't remember the month. I think it was May, May or June.

Q:/LJ Do you remember the year?

A:/EC 1902.

Q:/LJ 1902?

A:/EC Yeah, I was born in [unintelligible], another commune
[Tape stops.]

Q:/LJ Now, tell us when you were born.

A:/EC 1891.

Q:/LJ 1891?

A:/EC In Sand Point, Alaska.

Q:/LJ You were born in 1891 and you came in 1902...

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A:/EC No. Yeah, just about ten or eleven years old.

Q:/LJ Do you remember what it was like over there then?

A:/EC Over in Sand Point?

Q:/LJ No, over in Woody Island.

A:/EC Oh, it was nice, but I was lonesome to go back.

Q:/LJ To Sand Point? Did they farm over there?

A:/EC No. No, I don't know what they... My brother did. And my mother wasn't home most of the time and my father was, he was gone.

Q:/EMW You mean at Sand Point?

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/EMW Before you came to the Mission. Your father was dead?

A:/EC Yeah. He was one of the Captains that sailed the boats to Siberia.

Q:/LJ Oh, the trading boats, you mean?

A:/EC Yeah. Well, the boats they used, the steamboats or whatever, the sailing boats. He was and, ah, his brothers, two of them, were pilots on the boat. One stayed back and lived with Father Herman, the Saint.

Q:/LJ Your father's brothers lived with Father Herman?

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/LJ My goodness. Here on Spruce Island?

A:/EC Yeah. And he used to come here to the Russian Mission that was in Kodiak. And he'd teach the kids Russian.

Q:/LJ This would be your uncle.

A:/EC Yeah, my uncle.

Q:/EMW What were their names, Ellie, your parents names?

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A:/EC My parents names were Simeon Dalamotoss was my father.

Q:/LJ What was your mother's name?

A:/EC And my mother's name was Natalia.

Q:/LJ Was your father Russian?

A:/EC Oh, yes, he was Russian.

Q:/LJ Was he born in Russia?

A:/EC I don't know where he was born.

Q:/LJ Was your mother...

A:/EC She was Russian, too.

Q:/LJ They were both Russian.

A:/EC She was a priest's daughter. Gulivan. The priest at Unalaska. A priest's daughter was her mother. That is,...

Q:/LJ Your grandmother was a priest's daughter?

A:/EC Yes. Gulivan.

Q:/LJ How did you happen to come to the Mission?

A:/EC My brother brought, no, he sent me to the Mission. He was father, mother, everything.

Q:/LJ Oh, he was your guardian, sort of.

A:/EC Yeah, yeah, well, I hung on to him. I didn't have... My sisters were all gone, married and what have you and I had one brother, Andrew, who was just a little bit older than me, but Oscar, though he was a fisherman and was out cod fishing most of the time, when he'd come home he was it.

Q:/EMW He was the older brother that saw that you got to the Mission?

A:/EC Yeah. I don't know how he found out about the Mission, but...

Q:/EMW How did you travel to the Mission from Sand Point?

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A:/EC On the Newport.

Q:/LJ Oh, on a steamer.

A:/EC On a steamer. I never...

Q:/EMW Was that your first time on a steamer when you traveled to here?

A:/EC Oh, yeah.

Q:/EMW Did you travel alone?

A:/EC Ah, the purser and his wife, what's his name now?
[Pause.] I was in care of them.

Q:/EMW They looked after you?

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/EMW And they brought you to the Mission on Woody Island?

A:/EC They brought me here to Kodiak and the superintendent came late at night. I don't know who it was packed me up to the Museum up here.

Q:/EMW You stayed in that house?

A:/EC I slept there that one night and I woke up [unintelligible].

Q:/LJ The Erskines lived there then?

Q:/EMW Who lived there in that house at that time?

A:/EC Gosses.

Q:/EMW Gosses. That's the name I've been trying.... There was somebody that lived there and you knew. How do you spell that?

A:/EC Goss.

Q:/LJ Now they lived there before Erskines?

Q:/EMW Right.

A:/EC Oh, yeah, Erskines weren't even around.

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Q:/EMW Do you remember what their first names were? What did they do in Kodiak? Did they have a store here?

A:/EC Yes, they had that...

Q:/EMW What was later the Erskines.

A:/EC ...was the manager of that...

Q:/EMW Uh hmmm.

Q:/LJ Ella, at the time when Gosses lived in that house, was that Alaska Commercial Company? Is that what he was manager of?

A:/EC No, Alaska Commercial Company Manager lived on Woody Island. Greenwood.

Q:/EMW Greenwood was Alaska Commercial Company. What did the people who lived in that house... Was it just a home?

A:/EC I didn't stay there. Just that one night. I don't know what they were, whether they lived there or not.

Q:/EMW Was it a house like it is today?

A:/EC Changed quite a bit.

Q:/EMW The house already had the two extra floors at that time, didn't it?

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/LJ It was already a home, it wasn't a storehouse, was it?

A:/EC No, the Russians built it. And it was mostly... They mostly lived over on Woody...

Q:/LJ The Russians?

Q:/EMW The Russians did. She had told me that before that not too many of them were in Kodiak.

A:/EC Mostly the military were in Kodiak.

Q:/EMW The military were in Kodiak.

Q:/LJ Russian military?

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When you came to Kodiak, what was in Kodiak at that time?

A:/EC I don't know. I don't remember, but the Russians were gone. They weren't around except those that had stayed back in Afognak, Ouzinkie, here, of course. Some stayed back. And on Woody.

Q:/LJ What was Woody Island like when you first came to it? Were there a lot of people over there?

A:/EC Quite a few. They were mostly Natives.

Q:/EMW Can you remember some of the Native families that lived there at that time? In 1902 when you came?

A:/EC No, not when I came, except the [unintelligible]. 'Cause I remember then, but we were never allowed to go out.

Q:/EMW At the Mission, you mean?

Q:/LJ Do you remember the names of the people at the Mission or what it was like at the Mission?

A:/EC Well, to me it was nice. Mr. Coe was the superintendant.

Q:/LJ Coe?

A:/EC Coe. We called him Papa Coe and Mrs. Coe. And they tried to make it as much like a family as they could.

Q:/EMW About how many children were there then? Do you remember that?

A:/EC Well, it varied, never could tell how many, sixty, seventy. The girls, then there were the boys.

Q:/EMW There were other people. The Coes were superintendent.

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/EMW But there were other people helping them.

A:/EC There were matrons there. And there was a Grandma Camp-

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bell, our friend Campbell.

Q:/LJ Were there other families? Was there a village over there at that time or was it mainly the Russians?

A:/EC Oh, yes. There was a village there. It was a big one. There must have been... At least I can remember about five hundred.

W, On Woody? Native people?

A:/EC Native people. Russians and Native people.

Q:/LJ What did they live in?

Q:/EMW Yes, what did they live in?

Q:/LJ Did they have houses?

A:/EC They had houses.

Q:/LJ I mean, regular frame houses like we have?

A:/EC Sure.

Q:/EMW Frame or log, that's what we meant. Were they frame or log?

A:/EC Well, some of them were log and then when the North American Commercial Company came they built them like they built my house over there. I don't know just how many. I think we counted about fifteen houses they built.

Q:/LJ And they headquartered out of Woody rather than Kodiak, right?

A:/EC I don't know, I really don't know about that.

Q:/EMW Getting back to the houses, Ella, I've asked you about this before, being interested in bararbaras. There were no bararbaras on Woody, were there?

A:/EC No.

Q:/EMW Did you ever know of any around Kodiak, bararbaras?

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A:/EC Well, when the people would go summers they'd go in the spring and summer to put up their fish for winter and of course, they didn't have canneries then and all that. They dried their fish and they salted it then they'd, as temporary shelters they'd use barabararas which we...

Q:/EMW But those were temporary for the summer.

A:/EC Just for the summer.

Q:/EMW You mentioned to me that you remembered that out at the end of where the Pillar Creek dam is now in that area, you know out at the end of the road where we drive. That used to be a summer fishing site out in that part, out beyond Monashka.

A:/EC Further, Monashka Bay...

Q:/EMW Right, further out.

A:/EC I mean further on in the Bay where we called it Devil's Bay.

Q:/EMW At Devil's Bay, right?

Q:/LJ Did you ever go with them on these trips?

A:/EC Well, after I was married. I was married at the Mission, lived on Woody and then the men folks would cut hay for the Mission and dry it and they'd tie two big skiffs together and pile it on and row back, no engines there weren't then.

Q:/LJ They cut the hay on Kodiak?

A:/EC No, around the Base.

Q:/LJ Right, then took it back to Woody Island.

A:/EC Yeah. We'd rake. 'cause I learned to rake. And turn the hay over to dry.

Q:/LJ All by hand?

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A:/EC Yeah. We had rakes. They didn't have engines at that time.

Q:/EMW And you did this in what kind of boats, skiffs?

A:/EC Dorys, we called them.

Q:/EMW Dorys. But frame boats. You weren't using skin boats or anything.

A:/EC No, they didn't have any skin boats around here except there was somebody that had a bidarka. But where I came from they did.

I remember my brother put me in a bidarka to take me across to Unga when we moved there. He hauled all his... He tore the house down in Sand Point and took it to Unga...

Q:/LJ Tore the house apart?

Q:/EMW In other words, you moved one time. You were born in Sand Point and moved to Unga and lived there for a while before you came to Kodiak..

A:/EC Oh, yes.

Q:/EMW How long did you live at Unga?

A:/EC I don't know. I can't remember.

Q:/EMW But he tore the house down at Sand Point and rebuilt it on Unga?

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/LJ Do you remember what it was like in the bidarka?

A:/EC No, except I guess I fell asleep. I don't remember much. You could see through the skin. You could see the water and looking at that I fell asleep. It wasn't a very long ride.

Q:/EMW Not a very long ride.

Q:/LJ But out there that was what they used?

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A:/EC Not everybody. They had their dorys, what they called dorys. Mostly they were cod fishermen that went off on these big cod fishing boats. And my brother, he was a cod fisherman and he did everything else.

Q:/LJ Did you remember gathering the hay here in Kodiak? You loaded it and everything?

A:/EC Well, that part I didn't help with. I had this one little one of mine to look after. I'd leave her with somebody to watch and go and help them rake the hay. By then Mr. Learn was superintendent. Superintendents had changed and he was the superintendent and he'd come in with the boys and they'd rake the hay up and pile it on the boats.

Q:/EMW Ella, there's one thing. You were married at the Mission and your husband's name was?

A:/EC Mick Fedaya, my first husband.

Q:/LJ Fedare.

EMW and EC Fedaya.

Q:/EMW And your first child's name?

A:/EC Edson.

Q:/EMW No, no, that can't be right.

A:/EC Ne...

Q:/EMW Natalie!

A:/EC Neddle, Neddle.

Q:/EMW Neddle is oldest and she's still living.

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/LJ Neddle at the...

Q:/EMW No, that's not the same Neddle.

[Tape stops and starts again.]

Q:/LJ Where were most of the houses and things over there?

A:/EC All over.

Q:/LJ They were all over the island?

A:/EC That was the main community that you see there when you go over.

Q:/EMW On the dock side, Ell'?

Q:/LJ You mean where the camp is?

A:/EC Yeah, where the Mission camp is. Right there was where the Mission was, where the camp is.

Q:/LJ And most of the houses were in that area?

A:/EC Well, down on the flats. There was about twenty, twenty-five houses there, maybe more that the Russians, the North American Commercial Company, built for people.

They used to go sea otter hunting with a net, way out. They'd go in the spring and they'd get sea otters and, of course, they'd got to pay for them and they paid for those houses.

Q:/LJ With their...

A:/EC With their money, yeah.

Q:/LJ Do you remember what they hunted in?

A:/EC In their bidarkas, I guess. Out west they use those bidarka skin boats. In fact, the Eskimos use skin boats.

Q:/LJ The men from Woody Island would go with the...

A:/EC Well, I don't know quite what... there was some boat that would come and get the men to go sea otter hunting like they do for fishing, you know.

Q:/LJ Just like they take fishermen out now, they'd take them hunting?

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A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/LJ Then did they take the pelts back in? Did you see any?

A:/EC No, they bought the pelts right there. They brought the men back, but they bought the pelts right there and then paid them right off.

Q:/LJ For Heaven's sakes. And then the men would come back with the money.

A:/EC Yeah. And so they paid the.... When the North American Commercial Company wanted to build those houses, they had a store there, Greenwood was the manager or the boss and he lived there. When I first got married I had a little house over there, as we called it, a cottage. North American Commercial Company's boss lived there. I don't remember the year they left, the North American Commercial Company. They had a store there.

Q:/LJ Was Woody, at that time, bigger than Kodiak?

A:/EC Oh, yes. Kodiak, the people mostly lived out in the Base.

Q:/LJ Oh, you mean there wasn't much in the town.

A:/EC No. Uh uh.

Q:/LJ It was mostly military in town?

A:/EC Russian. Russian military. So, I don't remember much about that part because I never was over here. And then I was too small to remember. Things like that didn't settle in my head.

Q:/LJ Yeah. You didn't really remember that. But Woody was the main...

A:/EC That was the main place, that is, for the people that lived over there. And then the people, of course, from the Base.

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Q:/LJ People would come over from Kodiak to go to the store there?

A:/EC No, they had a store over here. They had a store of their own. Woody Island had a store, too. That is, while the North American Commercial Company was there.

Q:/LJ Then after they left, it just took everything with it, I mean, nothing came and replaced it?

A:/EC No, they moved to, I don't know where it was. It wasn't Anchorage. Valdez or somewhere around there. Anchorage was nothing then, just a place with a few little huts. [Laughter.]

Q:/LJ Do you remember when Katmai erupted?

A:/EC Oh, sure, we didn't sleep all night listening to that [Makes noise to imitate eruption].

Q:/LJ Can you kind of tell me what it was like?

A:/EC Well, I don't know if I can tell you what it was like to see this cloud of dust coming over the sky.

Q:/LJ It looked just like dust like we get on the road?

A:/EC Yeah, it was dust and it came down thick. There was no daylight for a whole day and night, if I'm not mistaken and I remember right.

Q:/LJ What did you do?

A:/EC We stayed home. [Laughs.] ...The men had gone fishing then. They used to go fish in different places like they still do. Most of us were women over there beside the Mission. And [unintelligible], a few of them didn't go. It was like great huge guns going off all night.

Q:/LJ You could hear the thunder of the volcano?

A:/EC It was terrific--lightning flashing all around. The first

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radio station on Woody Island burned from lightning.

Q:/LJ Lightning hit it.

A:/EC Lightning.

Q:/LJ Do you remember how long the dust came down?

A:/EC Oh, I don't know, couple of days, I think, nights and days.

Q:/LJ You stayed right in your house?

A:/EC I just had my one little Neddle. She was about a year old. I didn't want to stay way off by myself so I stayed with, oh, what was her name? We called her Babushka, Grandma. My Grandma Irina. I think she still has grandsons here, Andersons or something. When the ash came down eighteen inches deep we had to wade through it until it rained and it settled down.

Q:/LJ It was just like sand?

A:/EC It wasn't heavy like sand. It was light like a powder.

Q:/LJ Was it hard to breathe?

A:/EC Well, we didn't go outside.

Q:/LJ Did you know what was happening?

A:/EC Yes, there was a Native doctor. He was blind but he used to go with the sea otter hunters and they knew what that was because they'd seen volcanos erupting down the Chain.

Q:/LJ And he was there at the time?

A:/EC He was [unintelligible].

Q:/LJ Do you remember what his name was?

A:/EC Lademar. I can't remember his last name.

Q:/LJ Vladimir?

A:/EC L-A-D-E-M-A-R.

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Q:/LJ That was his first name?

A:/EC That was his first name. I can't remember his last name. Kashuk. Kashuk. K-A-S-H-U-K.

Q:/LJ And he was a Native?

A:/EC He was part Russian. He must have had Native parents, but he was a sea otter hunter before then and he told us what was happening.

Q:/LJ But at this time he was a doctor?

A:/EC He was a Native doctor, herb doctor.

Q:/LJ And he'd go with the hunters, huh?

A:/EC Yeah, he was one of those that went with the hunters. They'd get crews to go, men to go hunting.

Q:/LJ So it didn't really frighten you as much as it would have had you not known.

A:/EC No, it didn't. I guess we were pretty young then, so things like that didn't bother.

Q:/LJ Didn't really frighten you.

A:/EC Uh uh. Some of the people really got scared. This one woman, I don't remember her name, she lived on the hill. She said, "This is just like powder, this dust. Here we've been having lightning and it didn't explode. If the fire hits that, it's going to, whew, it's going to explode." Well, so there was nothing but women, no men where we were staying and she had us all dress ourselves and go across that, it's quite a ways from here. No one thought of taking water or food. What for?

Q:/LJ Now, how did you go?

A:/EC Walked.

Q:/LJ You walked through all that dust.

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A:/EC Yeah. Waded through. Finally, Grandma Irina says, "It's no use for us to stay here. We might as well go home. We have nothing here but somebody's empty house [unintelligible]". So we went back. We walked back. There were no cars around then so everything was shank's mare. [Laughter.] Walked wherever you want to go.

Q:/LJ You don't know why she had you go down there.

A:/EC Well, she thought it would be exploded, the dust, and it was all over. And she said, "That's going to explode and everything will burn."

Q:/LJ There was lots of lightning, but no rain?

A:/EC No rain. In a few days it rained. I don't remember. I think it was the same week, by the end of the week it rained a little, enough to settle the dust.

Q:/LJ How long was it before thing would grow again? Didn't it kill things?

A:/EC Mr. Learn's garden was growing. They planted it and everything was coming up. They dug all that ash out of the patch.

Q:/LJ Oh, my goodness.

A:/EC He and the boys. He was quite a gardener, Mr. Learn was. They dug all that ash out and a nice crop grew: potatos and carrots and... He raised everything. He was a tailor, he was a minister, he canned salmon and meat; he was just a farmer, I guess.

Q:/LJ He raised things for the Mission?

A:/EC Yes.

Q:/LJ Do you remember when they moved the Mission and why?

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A:/EC '39.

Q:/LJ 1939?

A:/EC It was Chamberlain, I think, was the superintendent then. They had a boat to haul the Mission freight and stuff then. A power boat. This World War Two was threatening then, so they moved to Kodiak.

Q:/LJ All the time that you were there and the Mission was there did supplies come in to Kodiak and then they haul them over there?

A:/EC Yeah. They'd buy all their stuff over here because the store in Woody wasn't used anymore. The Home Mission Society would send a lot of the stuff for the Mission.

Q:/LJ How did your first husband die, Ella?

A:/EC I don't know what happened to him, whether somebody killed him or what. I know they found him dead one time. He used to drink a lot. Quite a bit, I guess.

Q:/LJ They just found him?

A:/EC They found him. I didn't know. They found him somewhere. He might have fell overboard and drifted ashore. I really don't know. I had three boys: Edson, Matt, and James...

Q:/LJ Edson?

A:/EC Um hmmm.

[Tape stops and starts in the middle of a sentence.]

A:/EC Yeah, but now [unintelligible] just have two: Micky and Cecil.

Q:/LJ All together you have nine?

A:/EC There was eleven with the two that passed away, a little girl and a little boy.

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Q:/LJ What did Nick Fedaya do? Was he a fisherman?

A:/EC Fisherman. Anything he could do, which wasn't very often he worked.

Q:/LJ What about Mike Chabitnoy?

A:/EC Well, he did everything. He was raised in the Mission, too. Born in Sand Point. He was Mr. Learn's right hand man, mostly manager for him, took care of the cattle with the boys working. They always kept about four or five big boys until they were of age to leave to do the work.

Q:/LJ They had a lot of livestock?

A:/EC Oh, yes. Now they let them run loose. They never did in those days. They pastured them. They were never running around loose in people's yards or anything.

Q:/LJ Were they self-supporting? Did they feed themselves from what they grew over there?

A:/EC Who?

Q:/LJ The Mission. I mean did they raise their own beef and their own vegetables?

A:/EC They raised their own vegetables but they had over one hundred and fifty children, boys and girls, and then they had the staff.

Q:/LJ Did they live in cottages the same as they do now?

A:/EC No, they had a girls dormitory where the matron lived with them.

At one time, they had a doctor there called Mary Caldwell.

Q:/LJ Caldwell.

A:/EC Yes. But then she got married. Her name wasn't Caldwell.

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at first. She got married to Mr. Caldwell who was assistant superintendent to Mr. Coe. And then they left. They didn't have a doctor there anymore. They come over here for the doctor. But Mr. Learn was doctor and everything else.

Q:/LJ He was quite a man.

A:/EC He was.

Q:/LJ Do you remember Mrs. Learn?

A:/EC I have pictures.

[Tape stops and starts again.]

Q:/LJ Mrs. Learn was a tiny woman?

A:/EC Yeah.

Q:/LJ Were they an older couple when they were there?

A:/EC Quite elderly. I mean, they must have been in their fifties. Forties or something like that. I never did know that. Mr. Learn seemed like he was never old.

Q:/LJ What did Mrs. Learn do?

A:/EC She wasn't made to do anything. She was just Mr. Learn's wife. [Laughter.] They called her Mama Learn. They tried to make the Mission as much like a home for the kids. So many kids came that were really orphans and didn't have anybody.

Q:/LJ Do you know why they took you there? Your mother was still living, was she?

A:/EC But she was never home. I guess I was getting too old for my brother to take care of me.

Q:/LJ So, really, essentially, you were really an orphan too, except for your brother.

A:/EC I guess so. He wanted me to go to school. I don't know where he heard it from that there was a Mission in Kodiak. I

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didn't know it was on an island. And I went out to see him in 1918. I went out to visit him. He was married and had his own kids.

Q:/LJ He was still in Sand Point?

A:/EC No, he was in Unga. No, he wasn't in Unga. He had moved to Bilkofsky and was living there near King Cove. King Cove with the cannery. They were there.

Q:/LJ Did you go out on a steamer?

A:/EC Yeah, went out on the Old Dora. It took us a week to go. That was in March.

Q:/LJ It took you a week to go from [unintelligible] to here?

A:/EC Yeah, from Kodiak to King Cove.

Q:/LJ What was your brother doing there then?

A:/EC He was something in the cannery. It was a great big cannery owned by Germans. [Phone rings. Tape stops and starts again in mid-sentence.]

A:/EC Oh, you're the only one.

Q:/LJ But I've never heard of it used to flavor.

A:/EC The leaves are just like all open like.

Q:/LJ Yeah. Do you speak Russian, Ella?

A:/EC Some.

Q:/LJ You don't speak Aleut do you? Or do you?

A:/EC Well, when I got married I had to speak something outside of English.

Q:/LJ Which husband?

A:/EC My second one didn't speak Russian or Aleut. He was raised the modern...

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END SIDE 1

BEGIN SIDE 2 in the middle of conversation

A:/EC His father took care of the Russian cattle out...

Q:/LJ The Russian's had cattle at Chiniak?

A:/EC Well, they had everything, the Russian's did.

Q:/LJ And this is what your first husband's father did?

A:/EC Yeah. And then I guess he died and his mother was alone or something and the Chief of Woody Island adopted him.

Q:/LJ Oh. And he didn't speak English?

A:/EC Oh, yeah, he did speak English, but he did speak Aleut, being among the people.

Q:/LJ Did you learn Aleut then?

A:/EC I had to learn Aleut because when I got married we used sign language when the people would come in to visit.

Q:/LJ Do you remember?

A:/EC Some.

Q:/LJ Could you say something?

A:/EC No, no.

Q:/LJ Could you say, "Hello. How are you?" or something like that?

A:/EC Chamai.

Q:/LJ Chamai?

A:/EC Uh huh.

Q:/LJ Is that "Hello"?

A:/EC That's "Hello."

Q:/LJ How would you say, "How are you?"

A:/EC I have to think first. [Pause.] Nobody speaks Aleut around here. Once in a while I meet somebody who speaks it. I

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have to think hard. [Pause.] I can't think of how you say it.

Q:/LJ Can you think of anything else?

A:/EC [Pause.]

Q:/LJ Like, can you say, "What is your name?"

A:/EC [Pause.]

Q:/LJ You can probably think of it in every language but Aleut.

A:/EC Yeah. My folks spoke nothing but Russian. My mother did, anyway. My brother, he spoke English.

Q:/LJ What happened to your brother?

A:/EC He passed away. He was eighty-six years old when he passed away.

Q:/LJ Where was he?

A:/EC In King Cove. He had moved to King Cove. His wife is still alive. Yeah. The cannery was still there. It wasn't as big as it used to be. He was the game warden for a while, I don't know how long. Out there they have these big herds of caribou. And he had to watch those when the white man started going out there to work and they'd shoot caribou and just leave them there, shooting mostly for which one has the biggest horns. I don't know how long ago he was born. When he was foreman at the cannery, they weren't fishing cod anymore.

Q:/LJ What is your ring?

A:/EC It's Alaska. It's a war knot.

Q:/LJ Did somebody make that for you?

A:/EC No. My husband bought it. there weren't many of these made. He bought this in a [unintelligible] that was made in Alaska. They didn't have very many. But they're named Alaska's.

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War Knot. On our eighteenth anniversary.

Q:/LJ Fedaya was born at Chiniak?

A:/EC Yeah. And the Chief on Woody Island adopted him until he was old enough to be put in the Home. The Natives that had children and couldn't support them put them in the Home so that they'd learn.

Q:/LJ Was there another school there besides the Mission school?

A:/EC Uh huh. Oh, yes, there was, there was. Around in 1905 or 6 they had got a school. And we went to that school. At first we went to the school in the Mission, their own school.

Q:/LJ Where did the teachers come from?

A:/EC States. They'd send 'em up.

Q:/LJ They sent teachers up.

A:/EC Like they do now.

Q:/LJ So there was a separate school on Woody. How long was it there?

A:/EC I think during World War Two it was taken over and then they had the school over on the other side where the Station is now.

Q:/LJ The Air Station?

A:/EC At the Air Station. Then it was called Sea A. They had a school house over there. The kids went to school over there.

Q:/LJ Well, did most of the people leave during the war?

A:/EC No, they left before the war...

Q:/LJ Was there a reason why they left?

A:/EC No, I guess they just wanted to go some other place.

Q:/LJ They mostly came to town, did they?

A:/EC No, some went to Old Harbor, some to Karluk, some to

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Ouzinkie, some to Afognak, some out to Seldovia and around there.

Q:/LJ Was there a plague on Woody Island, do you remember?

A:/EC I never heard of any plague in Alaska.

Q:/LJ Or cholera or something like that?

A:/EC At the end of World War One, they had this Asian Flu. Quite a few people died. I had it.

Q:/LJ Were you aware that there was a war going on during World War One?

A:/EC Very much. My second husband was in the armed forces. And it stopped just before they were to go across to Europe.

Q:/LJ It affected life up here even that early? That would have been 1916?

A:/EC '17.

:/LJ It didn't affect you as much as World War Two did?

A:/EC World War Two didn't affect us either except there was a lot more going on. World War One we just read about it. But we weren't married yet, my second husband.

Q:/LJ Do you remember during World War Two anything about the Japanese bombers coming over Kodiak?

A:/EC They never came this far.... Dutch Harbor they did.

[Tape stops and interview ends.]