

Biographical Information on Effie Kokrine

Effie was Elder-In-Residence at the University of Alaska from September 22 through October 23, 1987.

Effie Kokrine is originally from Tanana, Alaska. Her parents were John and Selina Folger. Her mother was an Athabaskan and her father was White. She was born in 1919 in Tanana. She is the eldest of 14 brothers and sisters.

She attended Eklutna School for 4 years. She left when she was 12 years old and returned when she was 16. The same year that she returned her stepfather arranged for her to marry Andrew Kokrine.

She and her husband had 11 children. Life was hard when they were raising their children, but they enjoyed their subsistence life style. They had to work very hard. They moved to Fairbanks in 1949 because her husband got a job in town. Effie herself worked as a seamstress for many local stores. They brought their dogs with them when they moved to town. They have been active in dog mushing ever since. She also won the Women's North American Dog Race about three times. Her children and grandchildren are still active in Dog Racing.

They moved back to Tanana for a few years after her husband retired. He husband died in 1978. She now make Fairbanks her home. She is very active in Native affairs and she is also the president of American Legion this year.

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