

ANS 401  
Knowledge of Native Elders  
Class Summary, March 21, 1989  
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NO TAPE

Larry and Martha Matfey have returned home. But they left some memories and stories of their life in Kodiak Island. Today in class was a chance for the students to tell what they thought about Larry and Martha's visit.

After listening to my fellow classmates I noticed that they pointed out their pros and cons of class time and individual visits with the Matfeys. At the end it seemed that the individual visits were more enjoyable. There was room to be more relaxed and open, rather than in a classroom setting.

Each student talked about what they learned and thought was interesting about the talks with the Matfeys. Here are a few examples.

Some students brought up that Larry and Martha had excellent memories. They were amazed at how they remembered the tidal wave that hit Kodiak. They were very descriptive, down to the spices on the shelf.

Another interesting subject that was pointed out was how home remedies were used to cure colds and sores. In this case they used high bush cranberries. Another one that amazed some people was how blood was sucked out of certain areas of the body. In this example was how it stopped a headache. Then there came up a topic about midwives. This showed how Martha was not comfortable talking

about some topics in front of certain people. But when she was in an individual interview she was more open on the subject.

The last example was how a student pointed out how Larry and Martha's speaking had an influence of western culture. This probably happened because Kodiak and any other settlements down in southern Alaska had been influenced very early.

Everyone seemed pleased with the visit from Larry and Martha Matfey. They reflected a good view of how it was like to grow up on Kodiak Island. It seemed a lot was learned.