

First draft
warbles

ANS 401
Knowledge of Native Elders
Class Summary, February 23, 1989
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This is Johnson Moses's first day with Knowledge of Native Elders. It's going to be another great five weeks with Johnson, and now Larry and Martha Matfay are home in Kodiak Island. Johnson is from Allakaket, and he was raised mostly by his grandfather, ^{Big William,} in a camp eighty miles away from Allakaket. Johnson's grandfather raised him until he was sixteen years old, and was helping other people after his sixteenth birthday. Johnson was taught by his grandfather to help other people who are having a hard time. When Johnson was a baby he was adopted by his stepmother. After he got married his parents took him back to their family.

Johnson went on by introducing himself before he started his stories. He discussed how to survive in the wild without starving. Johnson is an Elder who knows how to live outdoors, and he is willing to pass his experience to the younger people. Johnson has a lot of experience living in the cold interior. He knows his land area, subsistence is part of his life, and his grandfather passed on his knowledge of how to preserve food for winter. The animals he catches are used for clothing, tools, and food. He has the knowledge and experience to use caribou, moose, and other animals to survive the harsh environment of the interior.

The summer season, Johnson and his grandfather traveled to their camp above Allakaket. They used three dogs to pull their boat up the river, and the trip lasted about three weeks. ~~Johnson's~~ ^{The} dogs ~~are~~ ^{were} trained to pull up river without tangling around trees, and if the dogs make a mistake they ~~are~~ ^{were} whipped. After reaching their camp in July, Johnson fished for salmon to dry and the dried salmon is stored for food and to feed their dogs. The salmon Johnson harvest are usually beaten and colored, and he picks salmon that are not in bad shape. The Yukon salmon going that far up river change their color and their flesh gets soft from the fresh water.

Johnson's favor^{ite} hobbies are spent outdoors and the outdoors is like home to him. He said once or twice a year, Johnson and his grandfather went to Allakaket for Christmas or New Years. One of his favorite times in the village is the Fourth of July, and when the people gather together during the spring before going to their fish camps. The group get togethers are similar to potlach^t, and the people gather their food to have a big feast before they head for their camp grounds. There are more outdoors activities and stories Johnson knows about, and the ones I talked about are parts of the his knowledge.