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NOV. 29, 1992

INTERVIEW WITH THELMA JOHNSON
AT KODIAK, ALASKA

ES: WE ARE HERE WITH THELMA JOHNSON AND ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT YOUR LIFE IN KODIAK, OR IN ALASKA. THELMA WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

TJ: RIGHT HERE IN KODIAK

ES: WHERE WAS THE HOSPITAL?

TJ: OH, THERE WASN'T A HOSPITAL, I WAS BORN AT HOME, WE HAD A MIDWIFE. I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE HOME WAS. I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH HOUSE IT WAS. I KNEW IN THE PAST YEARS, BUT KODIAK HAS CHANGED SO MUCH, NOT ONLY SINCE, THAT TIME, BUT ALL THROUGH THE YEARS.

ES: YOU DIDN'T HAVE A DOCTOR, YOU JUST HAD YOUR CHILDREN. HOW MANY WERE IN YOUR FAMILY?

TJ: WELL AT THAT TIME I HAD TWO OLDER SISTERS, AND I CAME ALONG AND I THINK THAT DAD WAS QUIET DISAPPOINTED..BECAUSE .."HERE'S ANOTHER GIRL."

ES: WHO WAS YOUR FATHER?

TJ: CHARLES MADSEN AND MY MOTHER MARY MADSEN WHO WAS ALSO BORN HERE IN ALASKA.

ES: I KNOW ONE OF YOUR BROTHERS, ROY, THAT'S THE ONLY BROTHER THAT I KNOW WHO BECAME A JUDGE HERE.

TJ: WELL HE WAS THE CHILD THAT WAS BORN A YEAR AND A HALF AFTER I WAS AND HE WAS THE BOY THAT DAD HAD BEEN WAITING FOR...THAT WAS AN EXCITING TIME.

ES: YOUR MOM, MARY PASSED AWAY WHEN YOU WERE HOW OLD?

TJ: I WAS SIX, ROY WAS FIVE AND THERE WAS ANOTHER SISTER, AFTER ROY WAS BORN. SHE WAS JUST SIX MONTHS OLD WHEN OUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY. DAD HIRED HOUSE KEEPERS AND IT WAS SEVEN YEARS BEFORE HE RE-MARRIED..SO HE WAS BOTH MOTHER AND FATHER. HE WAS REALLY GREAT, WE HAD GOOD HOUSEKEEPERS AND A REALLY GOOD LIFE I THINK..SOME PEOPLE THAT TOOK CARE OF US WE KNEW, IT WAS A SMALL TOWN, 500 PEOPLE...OF COURSE THEY WERE YOUNG LADIES AND THEY WERE THE ONES, AT THAT TIME, WE DIDN'T HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL..JUST OUT OF SCHOOL AND THEY MADE A JOB OUT OF KEEPING US.

ES: YOU DIDN'T HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL?

TJ: NOT UNTIL A FEW YEARS LATER, BECAUSE I KNOW WHEN MY OLDER SISTERS WENT TO SCHOOL, I KNOW THEY HAD TO START IT.

ES: IS THAT THE LOCATION WHERE THE CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL IS, ON REZANOF ST?

TJ: OH NO, WE WENT TO SCHOOL, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN, WHERE THE MARINE VIEW APARTMENTS ARE, (HARBORVIEW APARTMENTS), IN FACT THE SCHOOL WAS THERE AT THE TIME THE EARTH QUAKE AND TITLE WAVE AND THE SELIEF, BOAT, CAME TEARING THROUGH TOWN AND LANDED RIGHT BESIDE THAT SCHOOL.

ES: SO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS RIGHT WHERE THE HARBORVIEW APARTMENTS ARE LOCATED NOW ON KASHARAVOROFF.

TJ: I WENT TO FIRST AND SECOND GRADE IN THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE AND THEN BY THE TIME I WAS IN THIRD GRADE, THEY HAD BUILT THIS NEW ONE. THEN I WENT FROM THIRD GRADE THROUGH TWELVETH IN THAT BUILDING.

ES: THE TITLE WAVE CAME THROUGH AND THE SELIEF CAME UP BY THE HIGH SCHOOL.

TJ: RIGHT BESIDE THAT HIGH SCHOOL AND THEY USED THE SCHOOL FOR AWHILE BUT IN THE MEANTIME THEY HAD BUILT OR ALREADY STARTED BUILDING SOME OF THE OTHER SCHOOLS BECAUSE MY CHILDREN WENT TO THE NEW SCHOOLS. BUT AT THAT TIME, THAT WAS THE ONLY SCHOOL AND MY GRADUATION CLASS CONSISTED OF SIX PEOPLE.

ES: HOW FUN, DO YOU STILL HAVE REUNIONS?

TJ: WELL, THERE ARE TWO OF US THAT LIVE HERE IN KODIAK, NEAL SARGENT, AND MYSELF. ONE GAL LIVES IN CALIFORNIA AND THE OTHER THREE HAVE PASSED AWAY....SIX OF US....SO WE HAVE REUNIONS WITH SEVERAL CLASSES. I GRADUATED IN '39 SO THEY HAVE EVERYONE FORM 1936, WHICH I THINK WAS THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS, UP THROUGH THE 60'S, BECAUSE THERE WERE SO FEW GRADUATES IN EACH CLASS, THEY JUST COMBINED THEM.

ES: KODIAK HAS CHANGED A LOT SINCE YOU WERE BORN HERE, WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS CHANGED IT THE MOST...PROGRESS...OR THE WAR COMING...

TJ: I THINK IT WAS THE WAR BECAUSE.....AFTER I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I WENT OUT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FOR ONE YEAR AND WHEN I CAME BACK, IT WAS JUST AT THE TIME THAT THE CONTRACTORS STARTED BUILDING THE NAVY BASE...MY FATHER HAD THE BRIGHT IDEA OF OPENING UP A CURIO SHOP. THERE WASN'T ANY PLACE IN TOWN WHERE YOU COULD BUY SOUVENIRS AND MY GOODNESS WITH ALL THESE STRANGE PEOPLE MOVING IN AND LITTLE BY LITTLE

THE MILITARY STARTED COMING IN, SO HE BUILT THIS LITTLE SHOP AND I WORKED FOR HIM.

ES: OH YOU DID, SO YOU WENT TO COLLEGE AND CAME BACK TO KODIAK.

TJ: I WENT TO COLLEGE AND CAME BACK AND WENT TO WORK FOR SEARS. SEARS AND ROEBUCK PUT UP A MAIL ORDER STORE AND WE AND ONE OF THE ONLY HOTELS. THIS FELLOW THAT CAME UP FROM SEATTLE WITH SEARS ASK MY DAD IF HE KNEW OF ANYONE THAT HE COULD HIRE TO WORK FOR HIM AND MY DAD SAID, "YEP, I HAVE THIS GIRL COMING HOME FROM COLLEGE."...SO I STOPPED IN ANCHORAGE AND TOOK TRAINING AND CAME ON OVER TO KODIAK, SEARS HIRED ME. THE THING WAS I WAS TOO YOUNG TO BE THE MANAGER SO THEY HIRED A LADY WHOSE HUSBAND WORKED AT THE NAVY BASE FOR CIVIL SERVICE. SHE WAS THE MANAGER AND THE TWO OF US WORKED TOGETHER. SHE WAS HERE FOR SIX WEEKS AND GOT SICK, WENT BACK TO THE STATES SO I ENDED UP TAKING OVER THE STORE.

ES: WAS THAT CLOSE TO WHERE YOUR FATHERS STORE WAS.

TJ: NO, IT WAS DOWN NEAR, IN FRONT OF KRAFTS, RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE BAKERY.

ES: WHERE THE THEATER IS TODAY, THE ORPHEUM THEATER.

TJ: IN THAT AREA, OF COURSE AFTER SEARS HAD BEEN THERE FOR AWHILE, IN MOVED MONTGOMERY WARDS, THEY WERE RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM US.

ES: I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT BOTH SEARS AND WARDS WAS HERE.

TJ: THERE WAS A GIRL THAT WAS HIRED TO TAKE CARE OF WARDS. SHE WAS HAVING A TERRIBLE TIME SO I WOULD GO OVER THERE. EVERY TIME SHE WAS HAVING A PROBLEM SHE WOULD COME RUNNING OVER TO ME, SO I SAID OK, I'LL BE OVER....AS TIME WENT ON THE BUSINESS AT SEARS WAS TERRIFIC BECAUSE THEY WERE BUILDING A PLACE OUT AT THE BASE CALLED BUSKINVIEW AND IT WAS FOR DEPENDENTS, OF CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS, AND OF COURSE THEY WERE COMING IN AND BUYING KNOCK DOWN FURNITURE, AND SEARS HAD SAID THAT ANY STORE OR MAILING HOUSE THAT SOLD THE MOST SERVICE ORDERS WOULD GET A BONUS AND THEY SENT STACKS OF BROCHURES TO PASS OUT, WE WERE SO BUSY THAT WE DIDN'T GET HAVE TIME TO PASS THEM OUT TO ANYBODY OR HIRE CHILDREN TO TAKE THEM AROUND FOR US BUT WE GOT THE BONUS EVERY QUARTER. THIS WAS SO TERRIFIC DUE TO THE NAVY, PLUS THE BUSKINVIEW.

ES: HOW DID YOU GET THE GIFTS FOR YOUR FATHERS SHOP, ON THE BOAT THAT CAME IN ONCE A MONTH OR....

TJ: WHEN MY FATHER STARTED THE CURIO SHOP?

ES: RIGHT, WAS THAT THE SAME TIME YOU WERE WORKING AT SEARS,

CORRECT...

TJ: HE STARTED THAT STORE WHEN I WAS WORKING AT SEARS AND THEN HE DECIDED HE WANTED TO COME ON DOWN AND GIVE UP YOUR JOB AT SEARS AND WORK FOR ME, WHICH I DID...HE WOULD GO OUT AND BUY A LOT OF THIS STUFF, HE WOULD GO UP NORTH AND GET IVORY AND ALL SORTS OF THINGS, ALSO HE HAD LIVED UP NORTH AND KNEW JUST WHO AND WHERE TO GET IT FROM.....

ES: HE LIVED UP NORTH FOR.....WHERE WAS HE BORN?

TJ: HE WAS BORN IN DENMARK, HE LEFT HOME VERY YOUNG AND SAILED WORLD AND JOINED THE ENGLISH NAVY....I SHOULD ASK MY BROTHERS WE DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE STORIES HE USED TO TELL US, HE HAD A VERY ADVENTUROUS LIFE AND FINALLY ENDED UP IN SAN FRANCISCO AND CAME UP TO ALASKA DURING THE GOAL RUSH DAYS AND DECIDED THAT WASN'T FOR HIM, THE GOAL RUSH. HE WENT UP NORTH AND TRADED UP NORTH AND TRADED WITH THE ESKIMOS INSTEAD.

ES: IN NOME AND BARROW?

TJ: AND THE ISLANDS AND IN FACT HE PUT HIS STORY ON TAPE AND WROTE BOOK CALLED THE ARCTIC TRADER, WHICH I HAVE.

ES: I MUST READ THAT BOOK...THE ARCTIC TRADER.

TJ: IT'S ABOUT HIS LIFE UP NORTH.

ES: HOW FUN.....

TJ: HE ACTUALLY LIVED WITH THE ESKIMOS, LEARNED THE LANGUAGE, MARRIED AN ESKIMO LADY, THE CHIEFS DAUGHTER, LATER THEY WERE DIVORCED AND ENDED UP IN KODIAK AND MET MY MOTHER.

ES: DO YOU KNOW WHAT BROUGHT HIM TO KODIAK FROM UP NORTH, ADVENTUROUS OR...

TJ: NO FOR SOME REASON, I REALLY DON'T KNOW, ROY MADSEN KNOWS SO MUCH MORE ABOUT MY FATHER, TO BAD YOU ARE NOT INTERVIEWING HIM, SOMEBODY ALREADY ASK.

ES: THAT IS INTERESTING, THE ARCTIC TRADER...SO HE HAD CONTACTS OF GETTING ALL THE ITEMS TO SELL IN HIS STORE

TJ: VERY GOOD CONTACTS, OF COURSE HE KNEW WHAT KIND OF ITEMS WOULD SELL BECAUSE HE STARTED BUYING THESE SATIN PILLOW CASES WITH FRINGE AND THEY WERE \$1.50, CAME WITH A MAILING BOX AND WOULD SAY, "TO MY SWEETHEART", "TO MY MOTHER", TO MY SISTER", AND HE BOUGHT THOUSANDS OF THOSE. THEY WOULD COME IN AND WE HAD THIS WAREHOUSE AND WOULD STOCK THEM AND WHEN WE SOLD THEM, ALL THEY HAD TO DO IS PUT IN THIS BOX, AND PUT AN ADDRESS ON THEM AND WE WOULD MAIL THEM...OF COURSE AFTER THE CIVIL

SERVICE CAME IN, THEN IT WAS THE MILITARY, THE MARINES, THE NAVY. THEN AT CHRISTMAS TIME OUR SHOP WAS SO SMALL WE COULD ONLY LET SO MANY PEOPLE IN AT ONE TIME, LOCK THE DOOR UNTIL WE WAITED ON THOSE PEOPLE, LET THEM OUR. IT WAS A TERRIFIC BUSINESS.

ES: HOW LONG DID YOUR FATHER HAVE THIS BUSINESS AND HOW LONG DID YOU WORK THERE?

TJ: I WORKED FOR HIM UNTIL HE DECIDED, THAT IT WAS AFTER THE WAR IN '43, THINGS STARTED SLOWING SOWN, STARTED SENDING THE MEN BACK HOME AND OF COURSE I GOT MARRIED AND TRAVELED WITH OLY.

ES: YOU MET YOUR SWEETHEART UP HERE DURING THE WAR, IN KODIAK, OLY JOHNSON.

TJ: RIGHT..HE WAS FROM MINNESOTA, HE WAS IN THE 15TH ARTILLERY WHEN I FIRST MET HIM, HE WAS A SECOND LIEUTENANT, AND HE GOT OUT OF THE SERVICE AS A MAJOR. WE LEFT HERE AND LIVED IN PLACES LIKE TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA, STATIONED AT FORT WORTH, TEXAS, COLORADO SPRINGS AND REALLY QUIET A LOT OF TRAVELING.

ES: YOU BEING FROM HERE, DID YOU FIND THESE PLACES...INTERESTING TO YOU OR JUST "TO MUCH."

TJ: I TOOK MY FIRST TRIP TO THE STATES WHEN I WAS TWENTY YEARS OLD, THAT WAS THE YEAR THE WAR BROKE OUT, I GOT HOME FROM COLLEGE AND I WAS WORKING AT THE SHOP. 1941, DEC. 7TH. THE WAR BROKE OUT DECEMBER 7, 1941. I HAD A CHANCE TO GO TO THE STATES, IN FACT, I HAD PLANNED THIS TRIP SO I WENT ANYWAY. THAT WAS ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO. THAT TOOK PASSENGERS OUT AND AT THAT TIME THEY WERE SHIPPING OUT ALL OF THE DEPENDENTS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS, SO I WENT OUT ON THAT SAME SHIP, I THINK IT WAS THE COLUMBIA. WE LEFT HERE AND ALL THE WINDOWS WERE PAINTED BLACK, WE LEFT KODIAK AND GOT TO SEWARD AND SOME OF THE PASSENGERS GOT OFF IN SEWARD. I LUCKILY STAYED ON THE SHIP BECAUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, THEY CITED JAPANESE SUBMARINES, SO THE SHIP HAD TO PULL AWAY FROM THE DOCK AND THE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN TOWN GOT LEFT THERE. WE JUST ANCHORED OUT AND CAME BACK IN THE DAYLIGHT THE NEXT MORNING. WE PICKED UP THOSE PASSENGERS. I GUESS THEY ALL HAD TO SIT IN THE TRAIN DEPOT OR WHERE EVER THEY COULD FIND SHELTER.

ES: THAT WAS IN THE WINTER, YOU WENT OUT IN DECEMBER, THEN YOU WENT FROM SEWARD ON TO SAN FRANCISCO, SEATTLE?

TJ: NO WE STOPPED IN SEVERAL PLACES ALONG THE COAST LINE, THEN ON TO SEATTLE AND SPENT MY FIRST VISIT IN THE STATES IN SEATTLE, TWO OR THREE WEEKS AND THEN CAME BACK HOME TO KODIAK.

ES: WHEN DID YOU ACTUALLY COME BACK TO ALASKA TO LIVE.

TJ: IN DECEMBER OF 1946...OLY GOT OUT OF THE SERVICE AND WENT TO ARKANSAS AND SEPARATED THERE..THEN WENT ON TO MINNESOTA AND SPENT SOME TIME THERE, THERE FOR THANKSGIVING AND THEN CAME UP TO KODIAK IN DECEMBER OF 1946.

ES: YOUR FAMILY WAS ALREADY HERE AND HE HAD BEEN STATIONED HERE, SO YOU GUYS WANTED TO COME BACK..BOTH OF YOU?

TJ: HE DID VERY MUCH. HE DECIDED THIS WAS THE PLACE HE WANTED TO SETTLE DOWN.

ES: THAT MADE YOU HAPPY, YOUR FAMILY WAS HERE.

TJ: WE HOPED ONTO JOBS. HE WAS AN ELECTRICIAN BY TRADE BEFORE HE GOT INTO THE SERVICE AND I WORKED AT KRAFTS DEPARTMENT STORE. WE RENTED A LITTLE HOUSE, ACTUALLY STAYED WITH FOLKS FOR WHILE, THEN RENTED A HOUSE ON MISSION ROAD...LATER BOUGHT THE HOUSE UP HERE ON THE HILL. THIS FELLOW THAT LIVED ACROSS THE STREET KNEW OLY AND OLY GOT TO MEET HIM, OLY WAS A HAM OPERATOR. IT WAS HIS HOBBY, ALL OF THE HAMS ALWAYS GOT TOGETHER AND GOT ACQUAINTED, THIS ONE GUY SAID.."OH YOU MUST BUY THIS HOUSE UP ON THE HILL, IT'S THE BEST HAM LOCATION." WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN, THIS ONE BEDROOM HOUSE, SO WE DID BUY IT, LIVED THERE FOR A YEAR, AND REALIZED WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A CHILD.

ES: YOU HAVE THREE CHILDREN..I ONLY KNOW TWO OF THEM.

TJ: MY YOUNGEST SON CHRIS LIVES IN SEATTLE..MY OLDEST RITA STEVENS LIVES HERE IN KODIAK, THEN MARK WHO WORKS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CHRIS HAS HIS OWN COMPUTER BUSINESS IN SEATTLE.

ES: WHEN THE TITLE WAVE HIT, YOU ALL MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD OR WHATEVER.....

TJ: WE HAD JUST GOTTEN HOME FROM MASS, IT WAS GOOD FRIDAY AND WE HAD ALL GONE TO CHURCH. I WAS WORKING FOR THE AIRLINES AT THE TIME...PACIFIC NORTHERN AIRLINES. WE HAD COME HOME FROM MASS AND FINISHED EATING DINNER...WE COULDN'T EAT MEAT IN THOSE DAYS, IT WAS SCRAMBLED EGGS OR WHATEVER AND ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERYTHING STARTED SHAKING AND MY OLDEST SON, CHRIS HAD SAID, "WHAT'S HAPPENING...WHAT'S HAPPENING?" WE SAID, "OH NOTHING CHRIS, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, IT'S JUST A EARTH QUAKE" AND IT WENT ON AND ON AND ON. WE LOOKED OUT AND COULD SEE THE WIRES SLAPPING TOGETHER AND SPARKS FLYING, CHRIS WAS ONLY ABOUT TEN. THE CHILDREN HAD A LITTLE PLAY HOUSE OUTDOORS AND ONE OF THE LITTLE NEIGHBOR CHILDREN, A LITTLE GIRL WAS OUT THERE AND SHE WAS HAMMERING A NAIL IN THE WALL HANGING A PICTURE IN THE PLAY HOUSE...AND ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE CAME CRAWLING OUT AND SAYING.."I DIDN'T DO IT..I DIDN'T DO IT."IN THE MEANTIME THE CHANDELIER WAS HITTING THE CEILING, THE DOORBELL CHIMES WERE

CHIMING, THE PLACE WAS REALLY SHAKING, "I SAID, GET DOWN ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES AND SAY HAIL MARYS, WHICH WE DID." WELL ANNA CAME TO THE DOOR AND WE DARED NOT GO OUT, THE HILLS WERE ROLLING, THE WIRES WERE SLAPPING TOGETHER...FIRE FLYING, THE LIGHTS WENT OUT AND OLY BEING THE MANAGER OF KEA HAD TO GO OUT...HE AND MARK WENT WITH HIM AND THEN CHRIS AND I WERE AT HOME AND WE WERE DOING THE DISHES AND WE WOULD GO TO THE WINDOW AND CHRIS SAID "MOTHER COME AND LOOK OUT THE WINDOW, THE TIDE IS WAY WAY OUT." WE DIDN'T HAVE THE RADIO ON, WE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT AT THAT TIME..MUST HAVE BEEN A HALF AN HOUR AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE HIT WHEN WE TURNED IT ON. MY I SAID "ISN'T THAT STRANGE"... I WONDER WHAT IS GOING ON AND THEN CAME BACK INTO THE KITCHEN THEN CHRIS SAID "MOTHER COME QUICK, THE TIDE IS BACK IN...AND THEN WE SAW MARK, HE LEFT KEA AND HE CAME RUNNING HOME, OF COURSE WE COULD SEE EVERYTHING FROM HERE, HE KEPT RUNNING HOME, HE LOOKED LIKE A LITTLE GINGER BREAD MAN..JUST RUNNING AS FAST AS HE COULD..WE DIDN'T SEE OLY FOR A LONG LONG TIME AND LATER THAT EVENING THE MP'S AND THE POLICE CAME BY AND SAID "GET TO HIGHER GROUND"..I SAID, AS OLY LEFT HE SAID STAY HERE, YOU ARE SAFE HERE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS..SO WHEN THEY CAME THEY SAID GET TO HIGHER GROUND NO GET OUT..I SAID MY HUSBAND SAID TO STAY HERE, THEY SAID GET OUT SO WE HAD TO TAKE OUT BOOTS AND PUT ON COATS ON AND STARTED UP THE HILL..THERE WAS THIS BIG TREE WHERE THE CHILDREN ALWAYS PLAYED AND AS WE GOING UP THE LADY WHO LIVED UP ABOVE US, SHE HAD SEVERAL CHILDREN AND HER HUSBAND WAS IN SEATTLE AT THE TIME WAS PAT BONNIE, HER HUSBAND NAME WAS BIX. SHE HAD A LITTLE BASKET OF PUPPIES, SO WE STOPPED AND HELPED HER WITH HER CHILDREN AND HELPED WITH THE BASKET OF PUPPIES AND ALL OF US WENT UP TO THE BIG TREE AND SAT UNDER THE TREE. ONE OF MY BOYS BROUGHT A RADIO, THEN WE REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING. WE HEARD ABOUT SEWARD AND VALDEZ. WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK, WE STAYED UP THERE QUIET A LONG TIME. OLY MANAGED TO COME HOME FROM KEA, THE HOUSE WAS FULL OF PEOPLE, AND HE WALKED IN AND SAID, WHERE IS MY FAMILY? SOMEONE SAID TO OLY, OH DO YOU LIVE HERE? THEY WERE TAKING PEOPLE FROM LOWER GROUND AND MOVING THEM TO HIGHER GROUND TO WHERE EVER THEY COULD FIND SHELTER. OLY WAS OUT ON THE ROAD YELLING FOR ME..THELMA THELMA, COME ON DOWN. MY NEIGHBORS AND I CAME DOWN AND WE ALL THOUGHT WE WOULD BE SAFE AT HOME.

ES: HOW LONG DURING ALL THIS TIME WERE YOU WITHOUT LIGHTS AND WATER?

TJ: THE FIRST EARTHQUAKE CAME IN AT 6:00 IN THE EVENING, THE LAST ONE CAME IN AT 2:30 IN THE MORNING. WE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING BECAUSE IT WAS SO DARK, BUT IT DID COME UP TO THE POLICE STATION AT THAT TIME. WHEN WE GOT UP THE NEXT MORNING IT WAS JUST A SHAMBLE, BOATS HAD COME UP THROUGH KNOCKING EVERYTHING DOWN.

ES: YOUR COMMUNITY HAD BEEN DEVASTATED OVERNIGHT.

TJ: YES, I THOUGHT THE TOWN WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO BE PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN...SURLY WE WOULD HAVE TO PICK UP AND MOVE. THEN THERE WAS THE PROBLEM OF THE ELECTRICITY, THEY WERE AFRAID THERE WAS LIVE WIRES EVERYWHERE, A LOT OF DISPLACED PEOPLE, A LOT OF THE STAYED UP ON THE HILL, PILLAR MOUNTAIN. THEY SLEPT IN THEIR CARS. THEN THE MP'S HAD PLACES ROPED OFF, THE MARINES WERE, EVEN WAY BACK, AFRAID OF LOOTING, WHICH I DON'T THINK WOULD HAVE HAPPENED BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS SO UPSET TRYING TO HELP EACH OTHER..NO ONE EVER LOCKED THEIR DOORS.

ES: DIFFERENT PARAGRAPH....THE ASH...FROM THE MOUNTAIN KATMAI THAT BLEW.....

TJ: THAT WAS BEFORE MY TIME..1912. I WAS BORN IN 1921. ALL I HAVE EVER SEEN IS PICTURES.

ES: YOUR FATHER....

TJ: HE WASN'T HERE AT THE TIME, HE WAS UP NORTH.

ES: WAS HE UP NORTH WITH THE ESKIMOS.

TJ: YES, MY STEP MOTHER WAS HERE, SHE WAS SO VERY YOUNG, I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD REMEMBER. SHE DIDN'T TELL US VERY MUCH ABOUT IT.

ES: IT'S JUST SO STRANGE, YOU CAN DIG AND DIG AND FIND FEET OF ASH.

TJ: I HOPE KODIAK MUSEUM SELLS THE BOOK ASHES AND WATER. IT'S A LOOK AT THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN THE FIRST HALF AND THE SECOND HALF OF THE BOOK IS ABOUT THE WAVE.

ES: ASHES AND WATER...YOU WORKED IN THE KODIAK MUSEUM.

TJ: YES

ES: IS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE, GROWING UP THAT WAS UNFORGETTABLE?

TJ: THE EARTHQUAKE. I WAS STILL WORKING AT THE AIRLINES AND I WENT BACK TO WORK ON SATURDAY. EVERYONE WAS LINED UP TRYING TO GET PASSAGE TO GET OUT OF KODIAK. THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY THERE WAS A TREMOR THAT WAS ALMOST MORE VIOLENT THAN THE EARTHQUAKE. I HAPPEN TO BE IN THE AIRLINES OFFICE WAITING ON A CUSTOMER. THE LIGHTS UP ON THE CEILING...AND THIS ONE ALL OF A SUDDEN HIT.....WELL ONE OF THE GIRLS I WAS WORKING WITH WENT INTO HYSTERIA. EVERYONE WAS SO NERVED UP, BUT FOR SOME REASON, I REMAINED CALM.

ES: YOUR FATHERS STORE...WAS IT TAKEN?

- TJ: HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN THAT UP..HE ALREADY HAD GONE OUT OF BUSINESS AND WAS BACK IN HIS HUNTING BUSINESS. HE REALIZED THAT THINGS WERE TAPERING OFF.
- ES: WAS THAT RIGHT AFTER THE WAR...46..47?
- TJ: YES.
- ES: HE WENT BACK INTO HUNTING?
- TJ: HE HAD TO GIVE IT UP DURING THE WAR, ALL THE AREAS WERE RESTRICTED...OLY WAS IN CHARGE OF RADAR AND SEARCH LIGHTS.
- ES: HOW DID YOU AND OLY MEET?
- TJ: ONE OF THE GIRLS THAT I WORKED WITH IN THE STORE MET THIS FELLOW. SHE WAS DATING HIM FOR AWHILE, HE SAID TO HER, DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND..SHE SAID I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE HIM TO THELMA. HE BROUGHT HIM IN AND INTRODUCED HIM TO ME AND OLY ASK IF HE COULD TAKE ME TO DINNER. I SAID YES, YOU MUST MEET MY DAD AND HAVE HIS APPROVAL. WE HAD A LITTLE OFFICE IN THE STORE AND I TOOK HIM IN THERE AND SAID, "DAD, THIS IS LT. JOHNSON AND HE WANTS TO TAKE ME TO DINNER." WE SAT DOWN AND HAD A LITTLE CHAT WITH HIM. HE SAID TO OLY..THELMA MUST BE IN AT 11:00 O'CLOCK. I WAS NINETEEN YEARS OLD. I SAID THAT'S NO PROBLEM, WE'RE JUST GOING TO DINNER AND DANCING. WE WENT OUT AND HAD A GOOD TIME AND HE GOT ME HOME BY 11:00PM. THEN I WAS STILL DATING OTHER YOUNG MEN.....PERSONAL CONVERSATION.....THIS ONE GENTLEMEN HAD SO MUCH IN COMMON, HE HAD BEEN IN THE BOY SCOUTS, I HAD GONE THROUGH THE GIRL SCOUTS, WE BOTH LOVED THE OUT DOORS. WHENEVER WE HAD A DATE, HE CAME IN TO PICK ME UP AND I PACKED A PICNIC LUNCH, HE SAID WHAT ARE WE DOING TODAY AND I SAID WE ARE GOING ON A HIKE AND A PICNIC LUNCH. HE SAID OH GREAT, WE WALKED OUT TOWARDS MONASHKA, THERE WAS ONLY A TRAIL OUT THERE, THERE WASN'T A ROAD OUT THERE....IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY, WE SAT DOWN TO HAVE OUR PICNIC LUNCH. I SAID TO HIM WHAT DID YOU DO THIS MORNING? HE SAID I WENT ON A TWENTY MILE HIKE WITH A PACK..LAUGHTER. HE DIDN'T OBJECT THOUGHT.
- ES: FOR YOU, BEING A YOUNG LADY AT THAT TIME WITH ALL OF THESE MEN ON THE ISLAND, IT MUST HAVE BEEN KIND OF EXCITING...IT LIKE..YAHZEE..
- TJ: IT WAS..WE ALL JOINED THIS USO GROUP. WE GOT INVITATIONS ALL THROUGH THE DIFFERENT OUTFITS. THEY WOULD MAKE UP THEIR INVITATIONS TO A DANCE, SOMETIMES WE WOULD HAVE TO GO BY BOAT TO LONG ISLAND. WE'D GO OVER WHEN IT WAS LIGHT, THEY WOULD HAVE THE WHOLE DOCK DECORATED. THEY HAD EXCELLENT MUSIC AS SO MANY OF THE BIG BANDS WOULD BE HERE. WE'D DANCE, BUT WE HAD A LOT OF CHAPERONS, MRS. ERSKINE, FROSTIE JOHNSON. THEY WERE OUR CHAPERONS. WE HAD GROWN UP CHAPERONS. THEY WERE WELL RUN

DANCES, WE HAD OUR REFRESHMENTS AND WE CAME HOME. THAT WAS PRACTICALLY EVERY WEEK-END FOR WEEKS ON END. MET A LOT OF VERY NICE PEOPLE...WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY DATE THE BOYS WE DANCED WITH, BUT WE WOULD MET THEM AND THEN THEY WOULD COME TO THE SHOP AND VISIT A BIT.

ES: IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE A YOUNG GIRLS HEART FLUTTER FOR SURE.

TJ: REALLY EXCITING...EXCITING AND FUN.

ES: WHAT A FUN TIME.

TJ: WE JUST LOVED TO DANCE, THE JIGGERBUG AT THAT TIME, AND THEY WOULD HAVE CONTEST, MY SISTER, WELL ALL THE GIRLS WOULD WIN AND GET A PRIZE OR SOMETHING...JUST PLAIN GOOD FUN..GOOD FUN, GOOD FOR THE MORAL BOOSTERS.

ES: SO OLY WAS STATIONED HERE, YOU CAN SEE THE LEFT OVERS FROM THE WAS, THE BUNKERS, OLE ROADS, WHERE EXACTLY WAS HE LOCATED ON THE ISLAND?

TJ: HE WOULD HAVE TO GO ON THE BOAT...SHAHAFKA, BEACHCOMBERS, HE WOULD HAVE TO GO AROUND THE ISLAND QUIET A BIT, IT WAS SORT OF SECRET SO I NEVER QUESTIONED IT, BUT I LOOK UP AND SEE THE SEARCH LIGHTS AND SAY THAT'S OLY, AND HIS BOYS. IN FACT BEFORE HE CAME UP HERE, IT WAS A HUSH HUSH THING, HE WENT THROUGH RADAR SCHOOL, THEY WERE JUST STARTING THAT. THAT WAS ONE OF THE POSITIONS THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO GO AND CHECK ON HIS MEN AND HE WOULD HAVE TO GO EVERY PAY DAY AND PAY THEM. HE CARRIED ALL OF THIS CURRENCY, PAY THEM ALL.

ES: BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT A BANKS HERE...

TJ: YES WE DID HAVE A BANK HERE.

ES: OH, DURING THE WAR OR BEFORE THE WAR.

TJ: BEFORE THE WAR, IT STARTED JUST BEFORE THE WAR. THE BANK OF KODIAK. MY DAD OPENED A SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR EACH OF US, MINE WAS NUMBER 4. THE BANKERS DAUGHTER HAD NUMBER 1. I KEPT THIS FOR A LONG TIME, WHEN THEY GOT BIGGER THEY GAVE YOU A FIVE DIGIT NUMBERS.

ES: KODIAK HAS CHANGED A LOT.

TJ: IT REALLY HAS, SO MUCH, BUT IN A WAY A LOT FOR THE BETTER AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE AND TITLE WAVE. SO MANY OF THOSE BUILDINGS WERE FRAME BUILDINGS, LINED UP ALL TOGETHER ON ONE STREET...THE DRUG STORE, CITY MARKET, AND IF THEY HAD EVER HAD A FIRE THE WHOLE BLOCK COULD HAVE GONE...THE

WHOLE TOWN.

ES: IS SUTLIFF'S WHERE IT WAS BEFORE OR IS ALL THAT ON SHELIKOF THE SAME?

TJ: ACROSS FORM KODIAK AUTO CENTER, THAT WAS WHERE THE ORIGINAL SUTLIFF'S WAS. THAT IS ALL NEW DOWN THERE SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE AND TITLE WAVE. THAT WHOLE AREA WAS WIPED, THE BOAT HARBOR.

ES: DID A LOT OF THE BOATS LEAVE? DID THEY GO OUT?

TJ: SOME WENT OUT, SOME CAME BACK IN, I DIDN'T SEE ALL OF THE ACTIVITY, ONLY THE ONES THAT LIVED ON THE WATER. OLY SAID HE COULD SEE THINGS GOING BY KEA AND PRETTY SOON THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY BACK. KODIAK AIRWAYS HAD A PLACE DOWN THERE BY KEA AND IT TOOK ALL THE PLANES AND EVERYTHING.

ES: KODIAK AIRWAYS WAS HERE AND THE MAJOR AIRLINES, WHAT DID YOU CALL IT?

TJ: PNA..PACIFIC NORTHERN AIRLINE...WHICH LATER MERGED WITH WESTERN.

ES: THAT AIRPORT WAS WERE IT IS TODAY...NO THAT WAS A RANCH AT ONE POINT, RIGHT.

TJ: YEARS AGO

ES: I SAY A PICTURE OF A RANGE IN FRONT OF BAROMETER..THAT ROAD DIDN'T EXIST.

TJ: WELL, PART OF IT BECAUSE EVEN BEFORE THE BASE, THEY HAD THIS ROAD THAT WENT ALONG THE SLIDE AREA. YOU NEVER KNEW WHEN THE SLIDE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, SOMETIMES IT WOULD JUST COVER THE ROAD AND THE ROAD WOULD BE CLOSED FOR AWHILE UNTIL THEY SHOVELED IT OUT. DRIVING BACK AND FORTH, EVEN BEFORE THE WAR WHEN THEY WERE BUILDING THE NAVY BASE, YOU WOULD BE DRIVING ALONE AND A GREAT BIG ROCK WOULD COME ROLLING DOWN HITTING YOUR CAR, IT WAS REALLY QUIET DANGEROUS.

ES: WAS THAT THE ONLY BURMA ROAD, WAS THAT WHAT THEY CALLED THAT ROAD? THAT WENT ALONG PILLAR MOUNTAIN, DOWN AROUND..

TJ: NO THAT WAS THE MILITARY BUILT...IT WAS THE SHELIKOF HIGHWAY, THAT WAS THE ORIGINAL ROAD FROM HERE TO THE BASE. THEY LATER MOVED IT UP.

ES: WAS THE LAND SLIDE THE ONE DOWN TOWN..THE ONE YOU ARE TAKING ABOUT OR WAS THERE ANOTHER ONE?

TJ: IT'S THE MAIN SLIDE AREA BY SEALAND.

ES: SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN CLOSER TO THE ROAD.

TJ: OH YES, IT WAS MUCH CLOSER TO THE WATER.

ES: THAT MUST HAVE REALLY MOVED OUT, BECAUSE WHEN I GOT UP HERE IN 1972 THEY WERE PILING CARS ON TOP OF EACH OTHER TO FORM A BREAK...FOR A WALL TO KEEP THE ROCKS OFF OF THE ROAD, CRUSHED CARS..

TJ: THEY CHANGED IT TO THE ROCKS THAT THEY HAVE TODAY WHICH LOOKS BETTER.

ES: WELL, THIS HAS REALLY BEEN INTERESTING THELMA.

TJ: I STILL THINK THAT WE HAD...EVERYTHING WORKED OUT AND THEY PUT KODIAK BACK TOGETHER AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE AND TITLE WAVE AND ACTUALLY IN MANY MANY WAYS IT WAS FOR THE BETTER. OF COURSE THE TOWN HAS KEEP GROWING SINCE THEN.

ES: HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE HERE APPROXIMATELY, DO YOU REMEMBER IN YOUR TEENS?

TJ: 500

ES: 500...YOU GOT ALL OF YOUR SUPPLIES BY AIR OR BY BOAT, THE STEAMER THAT CAME IN.

TJ: ONCE A MONTH YOU WOULD GO TO THE STORE AND BUY POTATOES, OR THEY WOULD SAY, " SORRY IT WOULD BE ON THE NEXT BOAT", OR EGGS OR ANYTHING, WE WERE SO ACCUSTOM TO DOING WITHOUT THAT IT DIDN'T BOTHER US. WE KNEW IT WOULD COME ON THE NEXT BOAT. EVEN THE SEATTLE PI, MY DAD USE TO BUY THAT, WE WOULD GET FOUR ISSUES AT ONE TIME AND THERE WERE ENOUGH OF WE KIDS, WE ALL GOT TO READ THE COMICS PAGES. AS FAR AS THE OLD NEWS, IT DIDN'T SEEM TO MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO THE PEOPLE WHO READ THE PAPER, BUT WE DID HAVE RADIO.

ES: YOU DIDN'T HAVE TELEVISION THOUGH.

TJ: NO

ES: I THINK IN THE 60S AND 70S WE HAD ONE CHANNEL..9, THAT WAS IT.

TJ: THERE WAS ONE CHANNEL FOR MANY YEARS.

ES: YOU KNOW TV IN A CHILDS EYES, WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT YOU DIDN'T MISS IT, BUT YOU USED YOU IMAGINATION, WENT ON HIKES, AND PLAYED.

TJ: WE DID, WE HIKED...WE BID ON THIS PIECE OF LAND AT ISLAND LAKE. IT WAS AN AUCTION. HE WENT TO THE AUCTION AND WE HAD \$120.00 IN CASH. HE SAID LETS GO AND BID ON THAT PIECE OF

PROPERTY. I SAID, "DON'T GO OVER \$120.00, THAT WAS ALL WE HAD. HE WENT TO THE AUCTION, SOMEONE OPENED THE BID...OLY OPENED THE BID AT \$100.00. IT WAS AN ACRE AND A QUARTER. OKY CHANDLER BIT \$110.00. OLY BIT \$120.00, THAT WAS IT, THAT WAS ALL OUR MONEY. OKY CHANDLER SAID, "OH LET OLY JOHNSON HAVE IT, HE'S A REAL GOOD GUY. WE GOT THIS PIECE OF PROPERTY AT ISLAND LAKE. WE BUILT A CABIN THERE. OLY STARTED FROM SCRATCH AND TOOK DOWN THREE TREES BECAUSE WE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE MANY TREES DOWN, EVEN IF WE DIDN'T GET A WHOLE BUNCH OF SUNSHINE. WE WOULD GO OUT THERE EVERY WEEK, WE ALL WORKED SO HARD. THERE WAS A CARPENTER THAT ALSO GOT A LOT ACROSS THE LAKE. HE CAME OVER TO SEE WHAT OLY WAS DOING. HE LOOKED AT OLY'S FOUNDATION....WE FINALLY HAD THE FOUNDATION POSTS IN PLACE AND HE SAID MY GOSH, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO....BUILD A TEN STORY BUILDING. NO HE SAID BUT I LIKE A GOOD FOUNDATION. IT WAS, IT WILL BE THERE FOREVER.

ES: WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE PROPERTY, DO YOU STILL HAVE IT?

TJ: WELL WE BUILT A CABIN THERE AND THEN ANOTHER ACRE AND A QUARTER CAME UP FOR SALE....OLY WAS OUT OF TOWN AND I WENT TO THE LAND SALE AND I PUT DOWN THE TEN PERCENT WHICH WAS \$360.00 OR WHATEVER. I CALLED OLY THAT NIGHT AND SAID GUESS WHAT I DID, WE USUALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT TALKING TO EACH OTHER. I SAID THIS PROPERTY CAME UP RIGHT BESIDE OUR CABIN AT ISLAND LAKE AND I BID ON IT, I PUT DOWN A DOWN PAYMENT AND OLY SAID OH GOOD FOR YOU.....SO WE GOT ANOTHER PIECE AND THEN SOME MORE LAND CAME UP FOR SALE AND WE DASHED UP THERE AND WE ENDED UP WITH TEN ACRES. WE BUILT OUR LITTLE CABIN, IT WAS SUCH A LOVELY PLACE..THERE WERE MORE SALMON BERRIES THERE. ISLAND LAKE WAS A REAL RESORT PLACE THEN, PEOPLE DIDN'T LIVE THERE THE YEAR AROUND, IT WAS JUST A QUIET PLACE. NOT JUST SUMMER BECAUSE WE GOT MOST OF OUR BUILDING MATERIAL ACROSS THE LAKE WHEN IT WAS FROZEN. WE COULD DRIVE ACROSS IT THEN. WE WOULD USE IT SUMMER, WINTER, WE WOULD HAVE SKATING PARTIES AND EVERYTHING, IT WAS JUST WONDERFUL. THEN LITTLE BY LITTLE PEOPLE STARTED MOVING IN THERE AND BUYING PLACES UP AND MAKING THEIR RESIDENTS OUT OF THEM. AFTER OLY PASSED AWAY I JUST COULDN'T KEEP IT...WE ALWAYS WENT BY BOAT OR WALKED THIS LITTLE TRAIL. THEN THEY PUTTING IN WATER AND SEWER LINES THEY RUIN MOST OF THE PROPERTY AT ISLAND LAKE SO A FRIEND OF MINE HAD A PLACE IN CHINIAK WHO LOST HER HUSBAND. SHE PUT HER PLACE UP FOR SALE, SO I SOLD THE PROPERTY AT ISLAND LAKE AND BOUGHT HERS.....

ES: SO YOU BOTH CHANGED PLACES SO TO SPEAK...DO YOU GO OUT THERE VERY OFTEN?

TJ: WELL WE DID FOR AWHILE, BUT THEN THE PUMP WENT BAD AND DIDN'T HAVE RUNNING WATER, THEN WE DIDN'T DRAIN THE PIPES EARLY ENOUGH AND THEY ALL FROZE AND BROKE. I GOT A PLUMBER IN

THERE TO RE-DO THEM. FIRST OF ALL WE TURNED THE WATER ON AND ALL OF THE JOINTS CAME APART, WENT UNDER THE LINOLEUM, RUIN THE PLACE, THEN THE OIL STOVE THAT I BURNED ON LOW AND BLEW UP AND WE HAD SORT ALL OVER THE PLACE. I HAD TO HIRE WALT'S CLEANING SERVICE. THERE WASN'T ONE QUARTER OF AN INCH THAT WASN'T BLACK, WE HAD TO THROW OUT THE FURNITURE...PRETTY BAD. TODAY I RAN INTO SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD JUST BEEN VISITING PEOPLE ACROSS THE STREET FROM ME. THEY SAID THAT I HAD BETTER GET OUT THERE, THERE IS A BROKEN WINDOW.....

ES: IT'S KIND OF HARD TO KEEP UP WITH THAT...THE KIDS AND THE VANDALISM, OR WHOMEVER IT IS...I NOT SAYING IT'S KIDS, IT COULD BE ADULTS, BUT IT SUCH A SAD THING.

TJ: IT COULD BE THE LITTLE CHILDREN BECAUSE A FRIEND OF MINE AND I WERE OUT THERE ONE DAY, WE WERE SITTING THERE IN FRONT OF THIS WINDOW THAT FACES THE OCEAN, ALL OF A SUDDEN WE HEAR THIS PING AND IT WAS RIGHT BETWEEN US...RIGHT BETWEEN THE THERMAL PANE WINDOW, THEY SHOT A BB GUN...BEFORE WE KNEW IT THEY SHOT ANOTHER ONE WHICH WAS THE SMALL WINDOW IN THE LOFT....SO SHE RAN OUT THE DOOR BECAUSE SHE'S THE ONE THAT BOUGHT THE CABIN SO SHE RECOGNIZE ONE OF THE BOYS SO WE TOOK MY CAR THEN AND DASHED IN TO THE STATE TROOPERS AND TOLD THEM ALL ABOUT IT, FILLED OUT THIS PAPER, NOTHING EVER HAPPENED. I GOT DALE FROM THE GLASS CACHE' UP THERE, THE WINDOW WAS \$750.00 AND MY INSURANCE WAS \$1000.00 DEDUCTIBLE.

ES: THAT IS ONE PART OF KODIAK THAT HAS REALLY CHANGED THEN, YOU REALLY, AS ANY OF US, DON'T ENJOY IS THE KIDS OR THE YOUNG ADULTS ATTITUDES...THAT WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP YOU HAD FREE WHOLESOME, CLEAN TYPE OF ATMOSPHERE. YOU JUST KEPT EVERYTHING THAT WAY, EVERYBODY DID.

TJ: NOBODY EVER LOCKED THEIR DOORS, WE KNEW EVERYBODY HERE AND WE JUST MADE OUR OWN ENTERTAINMENT. IN THE SUMMER WE WOULD PICK BERRIES AND WE WOULD CLIMB UP BAROMETER, CLIMBED UP PILLAR FOUR OR FIVE TIMES THROUGH THE SUMMER. THE PONDS NOT TO FAR FROM HERE, WE KIDS CALLED IT THE SWIMMING HOLE AND WE WOULD GO SWIMMING, AT BIG LAKE WHICH IS WHERE PIZZA PLACE IS..

ES: LILLY LAKE CALLED TODAY

TJ: YES, IN THE WINTER TIME THAT FROZE AND WE WOULD GO OUT THERE AND HAVE A SKATING PARTIES...WAS JUST MAINLY OUTDOOR FUN AND WHERE WE WENT WE WOULD WALK...ALL EXERCISE AT HEART, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT OVER FOR VANDALISM....

ES: I THINK IMAGINATION IS SOMETHING OUR CHILDREN ARE LACKING IN THE 90'S..IN THE 80'S...BASICALLY THEY ARE PAID AMAZEMENT CHILDREN...GIVE ME GIVE ME..I WANT...

TJ: IT STARTS WITH TV I THINK...WE WERE THE LAST FAMILY ON THIS

HILL, WE LIVED WITH FAMILIES THAT HAD CHILDREN THAT...BUT WE WERE THE LAST ONES TO GET TV. OUR CHILDREN WOULD SAY OH MOM CAN WE GO UP AUNT MAXEEN'S OR UP THERE...NOT UNLESS YOU ARE INVITED, OF COURSE THEY WOULD ALWAYS WORK US, THEY HAD COUSINS UP THERE....THEY SAY COME ON AND WATCH SUCH AND SUCH IS ON. WE FINALLY GOT A TV HOOKED UP, WE JUST HAD THE ONE CHANNEL. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE THAT THE CHILDREN COULD WATCH, WE'D WATCH THE NEWS. I HAVE NEVER BEEN A TV WATCHER. I LOVE TO READ AND KNIT. I MAKE BASKETS, VERY INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEER WORK ESPECIALLY SINCE OLY HAS BEEN GONE.....I KEEP VERY VERY BUSY.

ES: SURE, HE'S BEEN GONE NOW HOW MANY YEAR?

TJ: SINCE 84....EIGHT.....WILL BE NINE YEAR IN JANUARY.....

ES: WELL.... IT IS VERY EXCITING THAT YOU FOUND A MAN THAT WANTED TO COME BACK TO YOUR HOME.

TJ: YES, BUT HIS FRIENDS WOULD SAY, "WHAT IN THE WORLD DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN ALASKA FOR? I WILL SAY ONE THING, IT DOESN'T GET AS HOT IN THE SUMMER AND DOESN'T GET AS COLD IN THE WINTER. HE IS FROM MINNESOTA.

ES: MINNESOTA IS COLD.

TJ: YES WE'D BEEN THERE, WE SPENT THANKSGIVING THERE. WE'VE BEEN THERE IN JULY AND IT WAS HOT. HE WAS AN ALASKAN THROUGH AND THROUGH EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE DIDN'T LIKE SEAFOOD.

ES: HE DIDN'T LIKE SEAFOOD.

TJ: NO HE DIDN'T LIKE SEAFOOD AND HE THOUGHT THE WORST OF IT WAS SALMON AND KING CRAB.

ES: ISN'T THAT SOMETHING, HOW IRONIC, LIVING IN THE KING CRAB CAPITAL AND NOT LIKING IT....THEN HE DIDN'T FISH?

TJ: NO, HE DIDN'T FISH AND HE DIDN'T HUNG. HE DIDN'T LIKE WILD GAME EITHER. HE DIDN'T LIKE KILLING DEAR, HE JUST WASN'T A MONARCH. IN FACT, MY FATHER HAD OFFERED TO TAKE HIM ON A BEAR HUNT AND HE SAID, "OLY, I TAKE YOU ON A BEAR HUNT." OLY SAID, "THANKS A LOT MR. MADSEN. I JUST DON'T LIKE TO KILL ANYTHING."

ES: GOOD FOR HIM.

TJ: ALL OF HIS FRIENDS SAID YOU ARE CRAZY, YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR MIND. CHARLIE MADSEN WANTS TO TAKE YOU ON A BEAR HUNT AND YOU TURN HIM DOWN. YEA, THAT'S ONE OF MY THINGS.

ES: WELL, THIS HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL CHAT AND I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR INFORMATION. YOU'RE A VERY SPECIAL LADY!

TJ: THANK YOU.

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This file is part of the Kodiak History Project.

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