

1. Eva Tcheripanoff

June 3, 2004

Ray Hudson: Okay, ah, It's June 3rd. June, June 3rd. This is too loud. This is June 3, 2004, with Eva Tcheripanoff. Eva, just say something on that mike and see if that—You don't have to pick it up, just say, see if it, ah—

Eva Tcheripanoff: Do I have to prepare it, what I say in Aleut in English?

RH: No, no, no.

ET: Just talk in Aleut?

RH: Ah, just talk in English first, okay?

ET: Okay.

RH: All right. With Eva Tcheripanoff. June 3, 2004. Eva, when were you born in Kashega?

ET: 1928.

RH: 1928. And who were your parents?

ET: My mother was Sophie. It was Borenin before and she got married and it was Kudrin. She was married to one of those Kudrins brothers. My dad was Alec Kudrin.

RH: Ah, Alec Kudrin.

ET: Yeah. My grandma was Olga Borenin. I don't know where my grandma's from. Must be from Kashega. But my mama [was] born in Chernofski.

RH: In Chernofski, ah.

ET: But my dad was from Kashega and I'm from Kashega. Olga Kudrin was my auntie. And Dora was my auntie, my mother's sister. I have Olga Kudrin for auntie because my mom was married to her brother, oldest brother. Yeah. And Dora was married to Mike Kudrin, one of them, step-brother or something.

I don't know my dad. I [was] born after my dad passed away. My dad went out to go hunting or either gettin' the wood. Long time people used to get wood, you know,

in a dory out the bay. And he was with my uncle, my other uncle, Willie Borenin, was 14 years old. He was oaring, you know.

RH: Yeah, oaring.

ET: And my dad was chopping wood. It was nice day, sunshine. All of a sudden blood coming out. And he couldn't stand up no more so he was down on the rocks and my uncle come up to him, sort of walk him down to the dory and took him home. And everybody comes to the bank and brought him home. He died that night. And he told my mom that if I was a boy he told her to name him after [him], but I was girl. I don't know who they named after me.

RH: So you don't have any sisters or brothers.

ET: No, by myself, no brothers, no sisters. I didn't want to have my sisters when my mother was sick. Cause I didn't have no help. I could be mad with her [a sister]. Fight with her to take care of my mom. You know.

RH: Um hmm

ET: Even I was married I was taking care of my mom. I used to stay with 'em, you know, night and day. Taking care of 'em. Once and awhile my husband used to come up here in Unalaska, [pronounced Uu-na-laska] used to come up and visit me like. [Laughs] She was pretty sick. Got cancer, had a cancer, you know.

RH: She was an amazing person.

ET: She used to make baskets and mukluks.

RH: And wonderful dolls. What's your earliest memory of Kashega? Or, let me ask you this: how old were you when you left Kashega?

ET: Ten.

RH: Ten, all right.

ET: When the war start I left from Kashega.

RH: Okay.

ET: My mom was cooking in Chernofski that time.

RH: For the sheep ranch.

ET: There was only me and my auntie, Olga Kudrin, and Mike Kudrin and her mom. She had a hard name, Efersinnia, something like that. Them Kudrin's mom, she was pretty sick. And Olga wanted to stay back so my mama left me with her. And there was

George Borenin, used to hold the church, used to be there. And we didn't even have no radio or nothing, you know, in Kashega. And after we had dinner, we went—Olga and I went down the bank to dump the garbage and I saw, we saw a kind of boat coming in, but we wasn't sure, you know. It's way down there. And her brother Mike was walking down to the bank and we passed him. We told him, "Looks like boat coming in but we're not sure." And we're walking up. I was staying at Olga's house. I was walking up. All of a sudden those five planes was coming. Good thing they didn't bomb us!

RH: Yeah.

ET: We was looking, standing there, looking at them—they went down that way. And the boat came in and a skiff came ashore and they told us to hurry up and pack up and go. And we didn't have no time. When Mike told them there was five planes went down that way, they said we can't take anything right now as long as we got on the boat.

RH: What kind of boat was it?

ET: Ah, tug boat.

RH: Oh.

ET: And it took a long time to get that Olga's mother on aboard, you know. So I didn't take anything, no clothes or nothing. Just the way I'm wearing, I got on the boat. There was no time to take anything because they can't wait for those planes to come back. They might bomb us, you know. That was terrible. They took us to Chernofski. The tug boat. From Chernofski they brought us here and we got on a big boat.

RH: You picked up your mother in Chernofski?

ET: . . . Yeah, to pick up my mom and George, my cousin George Gordieff. He lives in Anchorage. We picked him up. He was working in Chernofski.

RH: He was from where?

ET: Who?

RH: George Gordieff.

ET: He was from Kashega.

RH: From Kashega.

ET: Yeah. Her mom was my mom's sister.

RH: Okay. Okay. Now, when you were living in Kashega as a child, what did you do?

ET: Oh, just play around!

RH: Was it a good place to be a kid? Probably.

ET: And I used to have wood, no, rocks for doll. Rock, light rock for doll. I think my uncle got tired of me, seeing me with a rock for doll, wrapping it up. And she made a wood doll for me. And my mama made a clothes for 'em and I think about it after we got here, you know. I should of grabbed hold of that. You know, rubber band inside.

RH: Oh, yeah. So the arms would move?

ET: Yeah, legs, you know. And some kind of yarn for hair. Yeah, she glued it on there.

RH: Ah, wow. But it got left behind?

ET: Yeah. And before that, I used to have a cat for pet, a little puppy. I used to have it, take it around like a person, you know. And he died! And I buried him by the creek. Every morning I'd go down there and pray by it! [Laughs] I'd pray by it. Yeah. I think that helps me for my health. [Laughs]

RH: Now were there other kids your age?

ET: No. There was only one of my friend. She moved to Kashega from Atka, named Tatianna Kudrin. She was married to Peter Kudrin. That was the only one I used to hang around with her. But she was older than me, so she got married and I was just a kid. I never used to care. I'd play with her outside. All day long and come home.

RH: Now when you were there, did they have a store in Kashega?

ET: Yeah, they had a store there. Its owner was Harry Jacobson.

RH: Okay, I've heard of him.

ET: He owned that. And they had a school there, too. All those Kudrin's family and my aunty Dora went to school.

RH: I think I've read about that.

ET: Yeah, and it was and all the grades were all up, you know, and they quit. They couldn't get more childrens to have school there. There was only just me and Dora's daughter, Polly. And, ah—

RH: Now, Polly wasn't in Kashega at the time of the war? She had already come to Unalaska?

ET: Dora brought her here after that school stop in Kashega. They had a school here. But she hardly went to school because her eyes bothered her. She had TB in her eyes or something like that.

RH: That's right—I remember.

ET: And [Alice] Moller moved here. She moved here after she got married to Charlie Moller. So her Mary had school here. So I was the only child and they couldn't find no teacher there. So my aunty brought me in to have school here. But my mom didn't keep me here too long. Yeah. That was it.

RH: Now, at Kashega they had a, ah, like a sheep ranch, right? or something? Did they have sheep at Kashega?

ET: Yeah. I have a picture of it. I called Pat last night to bring that picture down but she didn't. I have Kashega picture.

RH: These are a couple of pictures . . . that I think Alice Moller had. [In *Cuttlefish Two: Four Villages*, pages 40 – 41]

ET: This is Kashega.

RH: Yeah, I think they're all Kashega. They're not very sharp pictures.

ET: It's hard to tell, uh? This is the church house, right here. [Photograph A: top left photograph on page 41]

RH: Okay.

ET: And this is my uncle's house, right by the church.

RH: Right next to the church. Which uncle.

ET: William Borenin. He used to be *starosta* [church warden]. Take care of church. George Borenin's right there.

RH: Okay. Right next to it.

ET: And from there, going up, is my grandma's house. And Cornelius's house is right there.

RH: So your grandma's house is number 3. Cornelius' is number 4.

ET: This is George Borenin's.

RH: George Borenin's is number 2. And your uncle's is number 1.

ET: This is George Borenin's, from the house, clothes line, right here. And this is bath house. And this is not all. 'Cause the school's on this side.

RH: Now what's over here?

ET: That's same one, church house.

RH: Church house, okay.

ET: This is my grandma's house. You can see it better here, right here. [Photograph B: top right photograph, page 40]

RH: That's number 1 in the other photo.

ET: This is me, Tatianna, and my Krustna-mom Eva Borenin. [Photograph C: top left photograph, page 40]

RH: Is that who it says? I'm not sure. Let's see what—It says Sophie Kudrin, Oleta Borenin, Eva Kudrin, Tatianna Kudrin. That might not be right.

ET: Must be. Must be this is my mom. This one. [Left] And this is Oleta. [Center]

RH: Oleta, okay.

ET: And this is Tatianna. [Right] And this is me! [Standing in front]

RH: Ah. Ah! Neat.

ET: This is staring people: Sergie Borenin, George Borenin's nephew, niece or something. [Photograph D, center left photograph page 40]

RH: How many stars did they have in Kashega?

ET: Just the one.

RH: And it belonged to the church or to—

ET: Yeah, it belongs to the church-house. This is Pete Kudrin, holding that star. Tatianna up there. Olga's mother, Olga's mother, Olga Kudrin. My grandma. And John—I forgot the last name. Mrs. Moller's uncle.

RH: Ah, Denisoff?

ET: Denisoff, yeah. This is horses. I don't know what this is. What does it say? This is whole thing, uh?

RH: I think so.

ET: This is all?

RH: Ah, there's one other page. Ah— [page 42]

ET: That's the same staring. [Photograph E, photograph page 42]

RH: Yeah. And it's not a very good picture.

ET: Tatianna, Peter, Dora, my mom. Barely can see 'em, blurry, huh?

RH: Yeah, yeah.

ET: Polly right there. Vassa.

RH: So Vassa I'm going to make 1. Polly is 2. And who is over here?

ET: Dora right there.

RH: Right here?

ET: Right here.

RH: Dora is 3.

ET: Peter Yatchmenoff.

RH: Peter Yatchmenoff is 4.

ET: Tatianna.

RH: Tatianna is 5.

ET: My mother right there.

RH: And Sophie is 6.

ET: I can't tell this one. It's hard to tell.

RH: Yeah, yeah, it's a very washed out photo. Wow, neat. Now one time, ah—

ET: This is George Borenin. [Photograph F, photograph on page 39]

RH: Yeah, George Borenin, yeah. That was after the war.

ET: After the war?

RH: Yeah, because that was taken by Ted Banks after the war.

ET: Yeah, because they had a radio then.

RH: Ah, I think—well, maybe it's not in here.

ET: What isn't?

RH: One time I had—Polly Lekanoff drew a map of the houses in Kashega—

ET: Oh.

RH: —But it's not in here now. I thought maybe it was. Here's a picture of the inside of the church. [Photograph G, photograph on page 36]

ET: I have this.

RH: Do you remember the name of the church?

ET: Ah—

RH: Was it the, ah, the, ah—

ET: Berries' holiday!

RH: Yeah, Ascension? Not Ascension. Resurrection? No.

ET: I can't think of it. [Laughs]

RH: I think there was an icon that—

ET: *Preobrazhenie*—something like that.] [Transfiguration]

RH: Yeah. Yeah.

ET: I have them pictures here, too. [Showing me photographs.] This is my uncle, William, Bill. And that's me right there.

RH: Ah. My goodness, Eva. That's a wonderful photo.

ET: That's by her house. They used to live close to the church. This is my gram.

RH: So this is in Kashega?

ET: Uh-huh.

RH: This picture. It's a good picture of the church, too. Oh, and this is—

ET: My gram.

RH: Oleta?

ET: My gram, Olga.

RH: Olga, Olga.

ET: Borenin. There's writing on the back.

RH: Oh, yeah.

ET: These are three sisters.

RH: Look at that!

ET: They have names on the back.

RH: Oleta, Dora, and Sophie. Wow! It looks like Sophie, yeah. That is neat. And they have, ah, fur collars on of some kind, you know. Those are great photos.

ET: I have that Kashega picture. Pat has it. But that's not all of it there. That school used to be up there, you know. Where is it? This is the church house. It starts from here, from my uncle's house and George Borenin's house, my grandma's, and Cornelius Kudrin. And that store. And from there going down that way, Harry Jacobson's house, and Kudrin's, school. Then down this way is Peter Yatchmenoff's and the water pump house right there. And go back down, ah, you were just telling me a little while ago, that Moller's ah—

RH: Yes, uh, uh,

ET: Nikfour —Denisoff.

RH: Denisoff. Yeah.

ET: And from there, there's a bridge going to that sheep ranch.

RH: Okay. Now Harry Jacobson didn't run the sheep ranch, right?

ET: No, no, no. Just the store, just that store.

RH: Let me ask you another question about Kashega. What did people do if they got sick? Did you have, was there a midwife? Was there—

ET: No. No. I seen them used to get something off the ground. You know, they used to have a kind of Aleut medicine. Get 'em off the ground and soak 'em in the water. Then you rub it all over you. And there's green stuff they call 'em *sixsiqan*, those green ones [wormwood, *Artemisia unalaskensis*]. They use them in the bath house, put soap on 'em, and you rub it on you. That's the way it used to be.

RH: Yeah. Who was the chief there in Kashega when you were a child? Do you remember?

ET: Oh, Peter Yatchmenoff, I think.

RH: Ah, ah. Now, ah, so you were taken from Kashega and you stopped in Chernofski to pick up your mother.

ET: Yeah.

RH: And then you came to Unalaska?

ET: Yeah. They brought us here.

RH: And waited here.

ET: Waited to pick up those Unalaska people. There were some, ah, Makushin—

RH: Probably maybe Umnak, or Nikolski—

ET: Umnak people, they were on there. They were already on there. They had some of the Unalaskans on there, you know, but not all of them. They were waiting for them. And we left from here.

RH: When you were in Southeastern, did you expect to go back to Kashega?

ET: We were going to, but we weren't enough people to go back. Because some, like people from Kashega, they died in Southeast Alaska. We were just me and my mom and Olga and her brother was just [all]. We weren't enough to go back so I think they picked a place to go. All of them would get off in Akutan.

RH: Ah, in Akutan, ah.

ET: Yeah. And my— And when I came over [to Unalaska] to get married, my mom came over with me. And she looked for a job. And she got a job. And I went back with my husband—

RH: To Akutan.

ET: Yeah—and I stayed in Akutan for one year and I came back.

RH: So when were you and John married.

ET: 19—something. I forgot that.

RH: Ah, '45.

ET: Same year we came over.ⁱ

RH: Which I think was '45. I think was '45.

ET: I met John down in South. [laughs] He didn't come back home with us. He was on Adak, on a tug. . . .

RH: Okay. Now, I know that after the war George Borenin and Cornelius Kudrin went back to Kashega?

ET: No.

RH: No?

ET: I think Cornelius Kudrin came here, cause Polly, you know. He used to like her, Polly. She had a, you know where that Nick had that old house down there, where their new house is, that's where they all lived. He lived with 'em, you know.

RH: But I thought this one picture . . . with George was after the war.

ET: But George used to go in and out of Kashega from here.

RH: Oh, I see. After the war.

ET: Yeah. He was in and out of Kashega after the war.

RH: . . . why did he go there?

ET: Oh, he was just checking on there, I think.

RH: And probably on the church.

ET: Yeah.

RH: He was a reader in the church.

ET: We didn't have time to take anything from the church. So after the war he went back to check on it, but hardly anything. So he wrecked the church down and made that little thing. [A small roofed structure protecting the consecrated site of the altar.]

RH: Oh, right, right.

ET: And he stayed with my mom, till he's gone.

RH: I remember meeting him the first year I was here [1964], I think. He lived in that little tiny house.

ET: Yeah. Yeah.

RH: Yeah. He was quite a tall, tall person, I think.

ET: What?

RH: He was a fairly tall person, as I remember.

ET: Yeah, tall. Skinny.

RH: Was he ever married?

ET: Yeah. He was married to Oleta, my mother's sister.

RH: Oh, yeah.

ET: Yeah, Oleta. That's why she's Borenin.

RH: Oh, sure.

ET: They were all Kudrins, I think. [Pause] Yeah. I was wishing I could see my dad or else a picture of him, you know.

RH: Yeah.

ET: Never had a camera at that time.

RH: Right, right. Did a priest ever visit Kashega?

ET: I don't know. Yeah, yeah, I remember I seen one, a long time ago. I remember that.

[Laughs]

RH: Oh, I know what I wanted to ask you. At your house, your house in Kashega, ah, what was it like?

ET: There was no one. We lived with my uncle. It was a big house. It had an upstairs.

RH: Oh, it had an upstairs?

ET: Yeah. A living room, kitchen. He made a sink himself. He made a sink out of tin.

RH: Really?

ET: Yeah. Nobody had no running water except us.

RH: You had like a tank outside to bring the water in?

ET: Yeah, yeah. Flushing toilet.

RH: Wow. And this was. . . who did this?

ET: Who?

RH: Yeah, you said it was your uncle.

ET: My uncle and my mom and me.

RH: Okay.

ET: He wasn't even married. Got sick.

RH: Ah.

ET: And he died.

RH: Did he die in Southeastern or in—

ET: No, in Kashega.

RH: And, excuse me, Eva, but what was his name again? Your uncle's name?

ET: William.

RH: William, yes. All right, thank you, thank you.

ET: And like, he hunts for foxes.

RH: Oh, yeah.

ET: And there was one fox that was only 50 cents that time.

RH: My goodness. Wow.

ET: And he makes a lot of foxes and they send them out. Sends their foxes out. And he gets groceries on it, buy cases.

RH: Okay. Here at Unalaska?

ET: Yeah?

RH: They would send them here to Unalaska.

ET: Yeah. So in the winter we used to run out of food.

RH: They would trap in the wintertime?

ET: Yeah. I go out hunting with him one time. Couple times, I think. More than that! I didn't know you were supposed to hide away from the fox. And I was just standing and talking to him, you know. I seen him. He was kind of waiving to me or something, you know. "I thought you told me to come." Here he told me to go down on the ground. I chased his fox away! [laughs] Maybe he was mad at me, but he didn't tell me. [Laughs]

RH: Now your mother, I think I remember her saying, that she learned to weave baskets by herself.

ET: Ah-hah.

RH: Were there other basket weavers in Kashega?

ET: Who?

RH: Did other ladies weave baskets?

ET: Just my mother I know, as far as I know. She just learned by herself.

RH: That's what I remember her saying, yes.

ET: I think my grandma did, but I'm not sure. I think that was where she learned. But I never seen my grandma doing it.

RH: Right. Neat.

ET: You know that fish basket?

RH: Yeah.

ET: I know my grandma made one. That fish basket.

RH: That's right. I've seen a photograph of that with Anfesia [Shapsnikoff] holding it, I think, or something like that. It's in a museum in [Okland,] California.

ET: We used to use that for going out picking sea eggs. We never used bucket. No. Fish basket.

RH: Was Kashega a good place to get things like clams and sea eggs and— ?

ET: Everything. Lot of fish there. Lot of fish. I use to pack that fish with a fish basket on my back. And wood! My woods are like this! [Raises her hand above her head and laughs]

RH: Did you have to go far to get wood?

ET: Yeah, yeah, had to go to camp to get that.

RH: Where was the camp at?

ET: Way down that way, I don't know what's the name was.

RH: Toward Chernofski?

ET: Yeah.

RH: South.

ET: Sometime we stayed there overnight. It was hard to get wood. Really hard.

RH: So the house you stayed in, you burned wood? You had a wood stove?

ET: Yeah. Everybody burned wood.

RH: I'm going to stop this and then we can play the tape from Sophie, okay, and I'll turn this back on. Woops. I wanted to ask you another question. In Aleut, what did the people in Kashega call themselves? Ah, You know, like Unangan or Qawalangin or—

ET: We're Qawalangin. Like Nikolski's and Kashega's and—

RH: Chernofski or Makushin?

ET: Makushin. These Unalaska people, they're not Qawalangin. They're Tayagⁱⁿ. They call themselves Qawalangin; they're not.

RH: But Makushin people were?

ET: All the Chain should be, Qawalangin. Tayagⁱⁿ—ah—

RH: Akutan?

ET: Yeah. So John and I hardly talk Aleut. Our words, you know. We used to talk mostly English. 'cause John's words were different than mine. Like, ah, "two" we call 'em "*aalax*," you know.

RH: "Aalax," yeah.

ET: "Two"—"*aalix*." And on John's word is "*aatuukin*."

RH: "*Aatuukin*."

ET: Yeah. *Aatuukin*. It's different so I don't understand his words so she usually talked English with me. [Laughs]

¹ John Tcheripanoff was born November 1, 1921, in Akutan. He and Eva met at the Ward Lake Camp during the internment. They were married, according to an article in *The Aleutian Current* (December 2000), by Father Baranof of St. Paul Island and later remarried in 1945 by a judge. Records date this wedding on August 29, 1945. However, it is probable that the civil wedding took place first as the priest only visited Unalaska periodically. John died on July 26, 2000.

2. Eva Tcheripanoff

June 3, 2004

Glosses on an Interview with Sophia Pletnikoff

Conducted by Platonida Gromoff on February 3, 1978

Sophie Pletnikoff was Eva's mother. A noted basket weaver and doll maker, she was born Sophia Olga Borenin on September 14, 1907, at Chernofski. She moved to Kashega as a child. She married Alec Kudrin. He died, as noted in Eva's interview, shortly before Eva was born in 1928. Following World War Two, Sophie settled at Unalaska. On December 18, 1949, she married Simeon Pletnikoff. Although the marriage soon dissolved, she kept the name Pletnikoff. Sophie taught doll-making and basketry at the Unalaska City School and at the Anchorage Community College. She died on July 27, 1982. For additional information about her see:

Aleut Basket Weaving. Kathy Lynch. Adult Literacy Laboratory. Anchorage Community College. 1974.

"Sophia Pletnikoff's Cloth Made of Grass." Ann Chandonnet. *Alaska Journal*. 1975, 5(1): 55-58

Cuttlefish One. Unalaska High School. Unalaska City School District. 1977

Cuttlefish Two: Four Villages. Unalaska High School. Unalaska City School District. 1978

Unugulux tunusangin: Oldtime Stories, edited by Ray Hudson. Unalaska City School District. Unalaska, Alaska 1992

Ray Hudson: We're playing a tape with Sophie Plentikoff, February 3, 1978.

Sohie Pletnikoff: [Speaking in Aleut with Mother Platonida Gromoff]

Platonida Gromoff: Said the reason they used to get a lot of fish was because they kept it [the river at Kashega] clean. They used to clean it all the time. After that, the church reader used to, ah, put holy water and incense in it.

Eva Tcheripanoff: Who's that?

RH: Mother Gromoff.

PG: That's the reason she said there was a lot of fish all the time. Now she's going to explain how they used to smoke it.

SP: [In Aleut with Platonida Gromoff]

PG: How they used to smoke salmon was they used to catch it, clean it, then soak it in brine overnight. How they used to make brine was they put salt in the water. If they didn't have potato or—they'd use a fish head until it starts floating and then they'd know this was the right amount of salt they put in. Then they would keep the fish there, salt them overnight. If the weather permits, they'd hang them outside for two or three days before they put them in the smoke house and that's how they used to make salt fish.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

PG: Said the only kind of wood they used to use was cottonwood. They were careful not to use any other kind of wood. Said they had smoke houses like anywhere else here.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: She really can talk Aleut.

RH: Yeah.

SP: [Continuing in Aleut]

ET: They were alone?

RH: What?

ET: They were alone talking?

RH: Yes. [I stop and start the recording again.]

ET: [Laughs] That's good.

RH: Is it? Should I keep playing?

ET: Um hmm. [I start playing the recording again.]

PG: That same thing they used to call "little house" at the time, she said they didn't call them *saraayax*^ which means shed or where you keep your groceries or dried fish and smoked salmon. Said they used to really take good care of them. She said she used to

smoke salmon here, too, after she came back—I mean, when she first moved here, in that bomb shelter which she had behind her house. She said she would cook them, I mean, smoke them for a couple of two or three days because they were fat and they weren't that wet or anything. And now, she said, there's hardly any fish so she doesn't bother to smoke any fish any more.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

PG: How they used to make salt salmons: clean them up and just put dry salt on them after they cleaned them out and said she never showed anybody, saw anybody that ate salted red salmon. But they used to just soak it, soak it overnight and use it for cooking. Make paddies out of it. [She asks Sophie a question in Aleut.] They used to make fish pie out of it. Paddies, soup, whatever you can out of it. But they used to make pickled salmon out of —[Aleut]—silver. She said they used humpies and silvers. They used to pickle it and eat it raw.

SP: [In Aleut]

PG: She said they didn't have pickling at the time, so they used to just soak it overnight and eat it the way it was. And dry salmon, okay?

SP: [In Aleut]

PG: She said they used to make dry fish, pick 'em, clean them up, same thing as you do with smoked salmon and salt salmon. After that they would put the skin side out for overnight. And the next day they would turn them around again, turn them over on the meaty side. And then there was a lot of flies around so they'd have to keep an eye on it so they don't have too much maggots. But every day, she said, people were not lazy in Kashega. They used to clean them every day, sit by their shed or warehouse where they're drying the fish and clean them up all day long. That's how they had a good dry fish.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

PG: Ah, that's interesting.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

PG: Said the women used to make mats-like out of grass, weave it and put it, use it on the side of the, piece of, I mean, stick where they dried their fish, if it's raining. If it's

beautiful out, she said, they used to take it off, take it down and then when it started blowing they'd use it again. [Aleut]

RH [on the 1978 tape]: I just need to borrow something, some of this stuff.

RH: I think I came into the room here to get something.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

PG: She said when the Coast Guard used to come around that was just rarely, I guess, she said. Once in a blue moon they would come in. Said if they seen a Coast Guard ship coming in, the men used to hide their fish pots, take them out of the creek and hide them in among the grass. She said maybe the Coast Guard knew, but at least they knew it wasn't allowed to do but they did it anyhow.

RH: [Stopping the tape] Now, I think this next part is just in Aleut and so if you want to stop it anytime and tell me what they are talking about—

ET: Next one is just—

RH: In Aleut, I think.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: What part is it just in Aleut?

RH: This part here.

ET: You want to rewind it, to that Aleut?

RH: Sure, sure. [Rewinds the tape.]

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

RH: What was that about?

ET: She was talking about a seal. She was talking [about] a seal gut, they dry them outside. Then, a couple days dry them outside, then they cut it up to make it wider, then they wrap it up and put it away. They were using it for raincoat, Aleut raincoat. That's what she's talking about.

SP [In Aleut with PG]

ET: You know that seal gut?

RH: Yeah.

ET: They have them on, ah, something like a table like this and scrape it up

RH: Ah, scrape off all the inside part?

ET: Yeah. And sometimes they use it for a baidarky.

RH: Oh, okay.

ET: For patched-up or something. When I got to St. Paul, that's the kind they have it for a dory.

RH: Oh, yeah, the big baidars, yeah.

ET: Baidarkies. The first time I went up to St. Paul, I didn't want to go ashore in it!

[Laughs] And there was Timmy, ah, Anfesia's boy—

RH: Tutiakoff.

ET: Yeah.

RH: Tim Tutiakoff.

ET: Was on there and I asked her, "Where's my husband." And he said, "He's workin'." I said, "I'm not going to go ashore until she comes and picks me up!" [Laughs] I can see water in that!

RH: Oh, through the skin?

ET: Yeah. I didn't want to go in there. I didn't know they used that.

RH: They had a— I've heard that in the kayak, baidarkies, you could see the water through the skin.

ET: Yeah, but I used to ride one, in the baidarkies.

RH: Did you? In Kashega?

ET: I tipped over one time.

RH: Really?

ET: In the lake, up in Kashega. In the lake. I was riding—some people used to leave their baidarkies on the ground there, you know, upside down. Sometimes they tie 'em, sometimes they don't. And I was playing outside and I said, "Why they did that?" Just, maybe I just liked to do it. I turned it over and pushed it down to the water. Then I jumped on it and I was just playing around. It was pretty far. O my goodness, I turned up!

RH: Wow.

ET: And I can't get hold of it, you know, so I can stay on it. And I was just hollering, hollering, you know. Finally somebody must have heard me. Must have been Kudrin family heard me. Yeah, somebody came up. They took a baidarky down and picked me up.

RH: Oh, they picked you up in another baidarky?

ET: Yeah. They picked me up.

RH: Wow. Did they have skiffs in, ah—

ET: Yeah, but they were down in the village.

RH: Oh, okay, but they kept baidarkies up in the lake?

ET: Yeah. Up the lake.

RH: Now there was one that was brought here after the war. Do you remember that?

ET: Unh unh.

RH: I thought there was one that Ted Banks or somebody brought from Kashega here.

ET: No, I never seen it. I don't know. Maybe Pat [Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory] knows something about it.

RH: I don't know. This was like in the early 1950s or so.

ET: Oh.

RH: Yeah. [Resumes playing the recording.]

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: How come Mother didn't repeat that [in English]?

RH: I don't know. I don't know.

ET: [Laughs]

RH: What were they talking about there?

ET: That seal skin. They're still talking about the seal skin.

RH: Talking about that.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: I don't understand this part.

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: Did you ever, you ever seen that gut, that thread?

RH: Oh, the sinew from, yeah—

ET: Yeah, yeah.

RH: I have seen that. In fact, one time your mother showed, she had some, I think it was whale, whale muscle.

ET: Yeah, that's what she said it's from. I thought it was from seal! But she said it's from a—

RH: From a whale?

ET: Yeah. She said it's from a whale.

RH: And somehow she was able, she twisted it in different directions.

ET: Ah huh.

RH: And the skinny pieces became a thicker piece.

ET: Yeah, I seen that one time, huh? Just like a thread. She was using it for sewing a seal skin or something like that. They make mukluks, something like that.

RH: Did anybody wear any Aleut clothes when you were in Kashega? The kamlaika?

ET: I used to wear one.

RH: Yeah, oh, yeah?

ET: My mom made one for me, a little one.

RH: A little kamlaika?

ET: Yeah.

RH: Yeah.

ET: A little one. And she made me mukluks down south one time, you know. And I didn't know nothing about it. I went outside in the rain and I came inside and I took it off and put it under my stove. O my goodness! You couldn't wear next day! [Laughs]

RH: It was really hard?

ET: Oh, and I hid it away from my mom. I didn't have nerve to tell her, you know, and she asked me. And I brought it from the bedroom and [Laughs] maybe she was mad at me but she didn't say nothing to me. [Laughs] I know she remembers she told me not to put it by the--round the stove, huh, but I put it *under* the stove. [Laughs] Aye-ya-ya! And I used to wear those boots, too.

RH: Oh, the boots, too. Yeah.

ET: Up to my knees.

RH: Oh, wow. In Kashega.

ET: Hmm. Just fooling around. I want to be like my uncle, I think, going out hunting with her. Yeah, yeah. But it's hard, when you walk on the rocks. On the bottom.

RH: Uh huh.

ET: The bottom's pretty hard.

RH: Because it's slippery or because you can feel the rocks?

ET: You can feel the rocks.

RH: Ah.

ET: You have grass in it.

RH: Inside the shoe.

ET: Yeah, inside of it. Doesn't help, though.

RH: On some of them they would make the sole out of sea lion flippers, I think, so they would have traction on the rocks so you wouldn't slip around.

ET: Um hmm. [Tape resumes]

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: That sea lion stomach—you ever seen sea lion stomach?

RH: No, I haven't.

ET: You never?

RH: I've seen pictures of it.

ET: Yeah. They used to scrape that up and dry 'em out, inside out or something. They put it back out again and then they used it for dry fish. They put dry fish in there for winter. Boy, I like that. Really crazy for it.

RH: Did they put oil in with it?

ET: No, no.

RH: Just the fish.

ET: You just put the fish in there, after you clean the fish up, you know. Fill it up full for winter.

RH: Wow. Wow.

ET: And they used to have a small one, too, small little sea lion stomach. And they put seal blubber in there. It just melts itself in there.

RH: It turns into oil.

ET: Yeah, you'd save it for oil for winter time.

RH: Where would they store it?

ET: In the warehouse.

RH: In the warehouse.

ET: Yeah. And some of them I used to see put those, uh, sea eggs, urchins, in the sack, too, and stink 'em.

RH: Wow.

ET: I never eat that. No, I never eat that.

RH: Like fermented—

ET: Too much, too strong.

RH: Would they take the sea eggs out and—

ET: Fish eggs.

RH: Oh, fish eggs.

ET: Just put them in a sack. After you clean the blood off of them, just put them in there. Stink them up. I never ate that. Just like a stinky cheese! [Laughs]

RH: Right.

ET: My uncle tried it for me. No, no. I couldn't. [Tape resumes playing.]

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: Okay. You ever seen that, ah, seal's, I think it's seal's skin. They put them, dry them, that long in a stick, two sticks together. And dry them and then you paint them whatever you want. White or green or blue. And you use it on that raincoat when you sew 'em. You ever seen them?

RH: Oh, oh, yes.

ET: Those stripes.

RH: Oh, little decorations.

ET: Yeah.

RH: On the seams.

ET: Yeah. She was talking about that. [Tape resumes.]

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: I didn't know they could use that sea gull's throat, too.

RH: Sea gull's throat?

ET: Hm hmm. Yeah.

RH: Sea gull's throat. For what?

ET: For that decoration thing, too. I didn't know that. She said they stretch when you have them, didn't dry them in those sticks. Yeah. She said they used that, too. [Tape resumes.]

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: She said they washed that seal gut with piss.

RH: Oh, sure. Yeah, yeah. In order, because it's acid and it cleans it.

ET: Then they dry them and grease them up with seal gut, sea lion grease, so they wouldn't get hard. [Tape resumes.]

SP: [In Aleut with PG]

ET: Sea lion stomach is big and hair seal's is small.

RH: Ah. The hair seal used for the same thing?

ET: Um hmm. Same thing that they used for. How long that will take?

RH: Well, we can stop and, uh, because it's sort of hard to do. Let me stop this. But I mean, Eva, I could come back. Like, you know, next Monday or Tuesday.

ET: Tuesday.

RH: Tuesday? Oh, that's because on Monday you have lunch and some things. Yeah. Would that work?

Et: It will be on same?

RH: Yeah, yeah.

ET: Okay.

RH: Okay. Good, good. I'll stop this then here.

3. Eva Tcheripanoff

June 8, 2004

Ray Hudson: This is June 8, 2004, with Eva Tcheripanoff. Eva, here's this photograph that I was telling you about. [A group of seven people outside a building.] It's supposed to be Kashega about 1932 or '33.

Eva Tcheripanoff: This is Olga's mother.

RH: Olga's mother?

ET: Yeah. Olga Kudrin's mother.

RH: Ahh. That's number 3.

ET: And this is Eva Borenin.

RH: Eva Borenin, number 2. OK.

ET: With her son.

RH: Ah. So 2 is Eva Borenin.

ET: I forgot her name. This is Kudrin's, too.

RH: The number 4 is a Kudrin?

ET: Yeah.

RH: You don't know his first name, though, uh?

ET: Looks like it's George. I don't know this one, though.

RH: Number 5 we don't know. I thought this sort of looked like Sophie, a little bit, but I don't know. It's hard to—the hand is over the head so it's hard to tell.

ET: It's right here. It's not!

RH: No, no. I meant this person over here, on the very edge. Hard to tell.

ET: Hard to tell, yeah.

RH: Yeah. You can keep that if you want it.

ET: OK. I don't know this guy either.

RH: No. He would be a Coast Guard person.

ET: What I supposed to say?

RH: Ah. [laughs]. How about, do you want me to play a little more of the tape from Sophie?

ET: I can't—I mean, it's hard.

RH: I know it.

ET: She's saying the things over and over. Same things.

RH: Oh. Okay. We don't have to do it.

ET: Okay.

RH: I'll just ask you a couple questions. Okay? One thing I heard about Kashega was that the lake by Kashega—

ET: Ah-ha.

RH: had a rock in it that, rocks in it, that glowed in the dark.

ET: I never heard that.

RH: No? I thought Polly told me that one time that, uh, there was some kind of rock in Kashega, in the lake.

ET: I don't know.

RH: Doesn't ring a bell. Okay. All right. Ah. Did, ah— George Borenin, you know after the war, ah, he was, he was a person who had a lot of ability. He was a reader in the church.

ET: Yes.

RH: And, ah, but he really wanted to reestablish Kashega Village, uh?

ET: Um hmm

RH: I sort of wondered why he didn't—was he a reader in this church, too? or not?

ET: No. Hmm um.

RH: Did they have enough readers already, or—

ET: Before they used to have here John Golodoff,

RH: Yeah.

ET: Anfesia.

RH: Um-hmm.

ET: Phil Tutiakoff.

RH: Yeah. Andrew Makarin?

ET: Andrew Makarin.

RH: Yeah. So that—

ET: And right now they have—Julia's head, after her dad. And, ah, AJ, John Bereskin's wife, and Larsea. Jenny was good but she hardly goes now, Lekanoff?

RH: Oh, yeah.

ET: And that guy from Atka.

RH: Oh, Moses?

ET: Moses, yeah. Quite a bit here.

RH: Yeah, that's good. I heard them sing at the Corporation dinner. They sang the Lord's Prayer in Slovonik, Aleut and English.

ET: Well, Julia, she never went to church school. But she was learning herself, just like her dad.

RH: Ahh. That's how John learned it, by himself?

ET: By herself. By herself in a house. He never went to school here.

RH: Now who were John's parents?

ET: Her dad was named John, too. John's not John, but they called him John. That's why. Everybody called him John. Ah, I forgot her name, ah.

RH: Was it like in Russian?

ET: No, no, no. I can't think of it.

RH: What about his mom?

ET: His mom's name was Marie.

RH: And they were from?

ET: They were from that island down there, in Akutan before.

RH: Oh, Akun?

ET: Yeah, Akun. Around Akun. That island. They were used to live there, down there. But it's too rough so they moved to the village of Akutan. Yeah. That's where they moved to.

RH: Now, was he related to Bill Tcheripanoff?

ET: John? Yeah.

RH: That was probably his uncle then?

ET: Must be. When his mom died, his dad was married second time, with George Bereskin's wife. George Bereskin. You don't know him, huh?

RH: No.

ET: That was his second stepmother. Yeah. He had fourteen family, I think.

RH: Wow, wow.

ET: He was the only one left. His brothers and sisters. Matthew was the last one. He gone before his brother. Had a problem. So. . . .

RH: When you were growing up in Kashega, you told me you had a doll carved out of wood—

ET: Yeah.

RH: And, ah, did you have any other toys that you played with?

ET: No.

RH: No, yeah. I've been trying to figure out— or trying to just understand a little bit about Kashega and Biorka and Makushin, and I get the. . . .

ET: Is this on? [Referring to the tape recorder.]

RH: Yeah. It's on. [Checks the recorder] Yeah, it's on. I got the feeling that, that Kashega was a pretty prosperous town for a time.

ET: Did you talk with Irene?

RH: With Irene? Yeah. Yeah, I did talk with Irene about Biorka. Is that what you mean? Yeah.

ET: Oh.

RH: Yeah. Ah—You don't know who ran the sheep ranch at Kashega?

ET: No.

RH: Yeah. Yeah. I've seen pictures of it but I don't—I'm not sure who ran it either.

Ah. But Harry Jacobson had the store there?

ET: He had the store.

RH: Yeah. Yeah. And did he give people credit in the store? Is that—?

ET: I don't remember that.

RH: Yeah, you were pretty young.

ET: They must of because when they sell her their fox they used to pay him back.

RH: Yeah, right.

ET: Yeah. Of course, they never had money.

RH: Right, right. Yeah. Were there any basket weavers in Kashega when you were a girl?

ET: All I know is my mom and my grandma.

RH: Okay.

ET: I think my mom learned from my gram.

RH: And you told me, I don't know if we got it on the tape or not, about going in a baidarki, a baidarka, on the lake.

ET: Yeah.

RH: Could you tell that story again?

ET: Ah, turn that off.

RH: Just a second.

[I turned off the recorder and Eva said she would speak in Aleut and translate into English. She had me turn the recorder back on.]

RH: Good. Okay, we're going.

ET: Okay. I born in Kashega and I was little girl— [Laughs because she was speaking in English instead of Aleut.]

RH: You want to talk in Aleut first? [Laughs]

ET: [ALEUT] I born in Kashega and I used to play, play around. I had a rock, what they call it? Rock—[ALEUT] My uncle made a doll for me out of wood, when I used to play dolls, have a doll, rock doll. And uh, and [ALEUT] sea-eggs like, Unangam basket [ALEUT] Me and my grandma used to go out getting sea eggs, using that basket, bucket basket—

RH: Fish basket?

ET: Um-hmm. And [ALEUT] There was no wood. I used to pack wood, coming from that camp. [ALEUT] There was a cross on my back. [ALEUT] I used to get tired. Yeah, and uh. [ALEUT] I used to come home with my grandma and we'd start drinking tea and uh cooking that gray-haired mutton. [ALEUT] Used to have gray hair with—that

long, and I used to like ‘em. I’d braid ‘em for her. Yeah, *kiichxin*, *kiichxin*, they call ‘em braiding, *kiichxin*. [The meaning here is unclear.]

[ALEUT] Then I’d go outside to play. And all day I’m outside! [ALEUT] All day long I’m out, I’d play outside. And I don’t even know what time I come home. [ALEUT] My gram used to get mad at me. [ALEUT] She’d have a whole dinner ready for me. [ALEUT] Fixing dinner for me and wait for me. Get mad at me! [Laughs] Playing outside. Having fun, maybe.

[ALEUT] I used to cut putshky leaves from outside, put them in the water. I’m monkeying those people drinking. And I was with Tatiana, that lady I told you was married with Peter.

RH: Yeah.

ET: [ALEUT] Then I called them, she was my sister-in-law, you know. It’s not really, you know, but we were monkeying the people. I’d call ‘em. [ALEUT] “Sister-in-law, come over. Let’s have a drink!” [laughs] We were playing with George Kudrin and my cousin George. [ALEUT] I had George Kudrin for husband and she had my cousin for husband. We were playing outside, behind the church-house, warehouse down there. [ALEUT] Drunk! [Laughs]

And some [ALEUT] little house outside, rug. Box. I kinda used it for a rug, I think, on the top of the ground, you know. We’re cleaning up. [ALEUT] Mud! Bring the mud, put ‘em in the frying pan. Making cake! Then I call ‘em for tea, you know. Not for home-brew, but call ‘em for tea. Then we start walking. [ALEUT] We’re taking a walk up towards the school side and coming back, go back down again. We’re all dirty! from the mud playing, mud. My mom. I go inside my uncle’s house, wash my hands. [ALEUT] My mom asks me what I’m doing. And I said, “I’m playing.” “Christ! you’re dirty!” [ALEUT] That’s Okay! Poor thing, I must have made a hard time for her, when she wash on her hands, you know.

RH: Yeah, yeah.

ET: Scrubbing board. Yeah. Every other day I used to change clothes. [ALEUT] Sometimes my mom get mad at me. She say to me, Don’t wearing kind of good clothes when you’re going to play outside.

ET and RH: [Laugh]

ET: And George Borenin made cans out of the mess cans. [ALEUT] He made a radio for them.

RH: Ah, pretend radio?

ET: Yeah. And jiggle them and I talk to him, you know. I talk myself, I trying to be like a radio [operator]. [ALEUT] That was my radio, George made. Talk in it, you know. And my—one time in the evening there was nothing to do. I was playing with my cans, radio, and my uncle asked me, “What you doing?” “I’m playing radio.” He just looked at me and laugh at me, and took it away from me, you know. The he told my mamma, in Aleut, [ALEUT] “Poor thing.” [Laughs] And he said, told my mom, “I wish I could buy a radio for him.” You know, but he’s got no place to buy radio from.

RH: Right, yeah.

ET: Then he buys me shoes, lot of time. [ALEUT, about trapping fox] You send them over here, to Unalaska, [ALEUT] Some of them he’d send them down to Seattle, cause she’d get grubs on them [purchase food with them]. Sometimes they can’t get anything like here. They had kind of hard time here, too, you know.

RH: Right.

ET: Every time I’m going outside, when I’m outside, I take a little knife, cut my shoes a little bit. And I’m trying to let my uncle see my shoes, you know. Finally he seen my shoes. “Looks like your shoes have hole in them.” [ALEUT] It’s got a hole in it. I said, “You should go to store and buy me some!”

RH: Eva, you were bad!

ET: Yeah! I don’t want to wear them when they get a little bit old. I’d make hole in them! Let him buy shoes for me. I know Harry Jacobson’s store had a lot of shoes. Lot of kid’s shoes, you know. And raincoats and pants, too, you know. And George Borenin used to tease me because, I don’t know what you call that—I was my uncle’s, ah, anaaqidax^ Like Mother Gromoff used to tell you Father Gromoff was your aachax^?

RH: Yeah.

ET: Yeah, yeah. And George Borenin used to tease me. He said, “You don’t stand up and pee!” My uncle got mad, you know. He put that salt shaker inside [my pants]! [Laughs] And he let me go outside and stand by the water. My mom get mad at me! Get

mad at my uncle, you know. She told my uncle, [ALEUT] “Don’t let him do that. You’re making laundry for me!” Ai-ya-yaa. I was bad.

[ALEUT] I was too quiet, you know. I used to be—used to be playing outside and after I move here [Unalaska, after the war] and I used to get some, you know those wheel barrows? I used to use that. [ALEUT] I’d go by the beach and pick up woods. [ALEUT] I’d pick up wood up and take it to the bath house. Then I’d cook steam-bath. Where was it? Round—downtown someplace.

RH: Yeah. Yeah.

ET: Behind that Gussie’s house there was some. Peter made one there. Yeah. [ALEUT] Then when my bath get ready I called people for bath. My Auntie Dora, my mom, Myria, her mom, Martha. And I used to be last, after the bath, you know. Before they start having bath, I’d clean my bath house, Pinesol and things like that. Then after bath I took that blind lady home, Andrew’s wife. I’d take ‘em home. [ALEUT]

When I was a little girl in Kashega, Denisoff’s wife was older than my grandma. I used to wash her clothes for her. [ALEUT] I brushed the floor, you know. And I made a bread one time. I didn’t know how to make a bread, but I made a bread on my own. They used to have some kind of dough, have it in a jar. [ALEUT] For yeast.

RH: Ah, like sourdough.

ET: For yeast, yeah. They used that. I forgot that when I made a bread! I made a bread. Christ, I was waiting for it to come up, to come up. Then my grandma said, [ALEUT]. I looked at my dough. I said, “Nothing wrong with it. It will come up after a while.” Then I wanted to play outside, that’s why. Then I’d go outside. Then I heard she holler at me, so I come. My bread dough is still the same. Then we find out I didn’t put that yeast in! Poor thing, she make it over again. Yeah. And we made, you know, alladickses. Fried bread. I don’t know why I didn’t. I forgot about it, I think.

RH: Did you use, ah, Crisco or seal oil or, ah, what kind of oil did you use?

ET: Seal oil.

RH: Yeah.

ET: Not the stinky one, no, but fresh one. Yeah, we use it for lard, you know.

RH: Yeah, yeah.

ET: *Chugatha*, for lard, you know.

RH: How do you make it?

ET: What?

RH: Seal oil?

ET: You know, seal blubber? You cut ‘em up and put ‘em in a pan and put it in the oven and let ‘em melt. [ALEUT] You keep watching it, you know. [ALEUT] Then you dump it.

RH: Ah.

ET: Little by little.

RH: As it melts.

ET: When it’s melted, yeah. Otherwise, that way it can’t get stinky. Otherwise, you just cut it up and put it in jar and put it in the dark. That’s, that’s stinky oil.

RH: Ah, okay.

ET: This fresh one is this way. Sometimes, I mean, we cook alladick on it. Try to make fried bread on it. I like it, but some person mixed it up with that kind of stinky oil. I couldn’t eat that. No, I couldn’t eat that. I don’t know who did it. Somebody in Akutan. Some house.

[ALEUT] Down in south Alaska, Ketchikan. I met John down in south Alaska. And we been together a year. [ALEUT] Then when it was time to come home, he asked me if I can get married with him. [ALEUT] I couldn’t say no. . . . So, after we came back, we came to Unalaska. [ALEUT] I was with my mom. So, mom, [ALEUT] She find a job and we got married here, from judge. [ALEUT] And I used Nick Shaishnikoff and Mrs. Moller for witness. . . . [ALEUT] Then I stayed with my momma awhile. Then John came back from—ah—

RH: Adak?

ET: Adak. Yeah. That’s the time we came over. And he have to go back again for a couple weeks so I just stayed here for awhile. [ALEUT] And he came back, so we went back to Akutan. And he started making a house over there. [ALEUT]. All by himself. [ALEUT] All by himself he made that house over there. No helper, nothing. He always used to get tired. And I kept back and forth, from Akutan to here, because my momma was sick. Back and forth. And I asked my husband, “Could we move over here?” Because I don’t want to go back and forth no more, cause I had a kids. It was hard. So

we moved over here. And we stayed at my mom's. And I didn't want the kids to bother her so much so I was looking for the house. But I rent a house for awhile, till I got hold of that house, down there. [ALEUT] And we got that.

RH: Who did that house belong to?

ET: Ah, I forgot!

RH: Yeah.

ET: Andersons!

RH: Oh, yeah.

ET: I don't know which Anderson, though.

RH: So when did you move then, when did John come and move here to Unalaska?

ET: What do you mean?

RH: When did he say yes and come over here?

ET: After the war. She came back and went back out again for a couple weeks. To Adak. And then he came back and that's the time. So.

RH: Very good. Very good.

ET: Ah, let me see. [ALEUT] It's hard for me. [ALEUT] I have hard time with talking Aleut because I don't have anybody to talk Aleut with. I used to talk Aleut mostly with Mother Gromoff.

RH: Ah.

ET: [ALEUT] I try and talk Aleut with my husband but her words are different for me. It was kind of hard for me, so we just talked *Amalaiya*, English. I'm sorry that I never learned one of my kids. [ALEUT] I was trying to, too, but sounds so different, too.

RH: Yeah, when they would speak it yeah.

ET: Yeah, when they were little, growing up, huh. I should have.

RH: It's easier when they're children, when they're children.

ET: I wanted to. But Julia, she understands because she was growed up by gramma.

[ALEUT] My mom wanted [her], so we let her have it, you know. Didn't adopt him though. She just stayed because she was lonesome. But she went to school at, ah—

RH: Mount Edgecomb?

ET: Yeah. She went to school. After she came back, she used to be with gramma.

That's why she understand it but she's trying to speak it now but it's kinda hard for her.

Yeah, she understand what they say in Aleut, because grandma talked Aleut to her, you know. But first she had a hard time with it. [ALEUT] She let me told her gram that, you know, my mom could speak English good, you know. She told me to tell my mom, she said one time she told me, “Gramma talk Aleut to me. Maybe she wanted something but I couldn’t understand it. I want her to point the thing for me.” So I did and grandma does it that way; from there she understands it. Yeah, yeah. So, she sings Slavonics in church. She’s just teaching her, she’s just teaching herself.

RH: Wonderful.

ET: Yeah. Kind of Russian language.

RH: Right, right. The church, the church language, yeah.

ET: I was surprised. I asked him after church when I visit him, “Where you learn that?” She said. “I just teach myself, over and over, in the house.” And she has her daddy’s tape. . .

RH: Ah.

ET: Of singing. That’s what she puts him on and listens to him.

RH: Good, good.

ET: So, I have Ray Hudson here. [ALEUT] I said, I have you here and I’m talking to you and I’m so happy to see you.

RH: Happy to see you, Eva. Thank you very much.

ET: *Qagaasaqung!* [Thank you!]

RH: *Qagaasaqung.*