

1 **TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO DISC**

2 Oral History Tapes with Seldovia Village Tribe

3 FRED H. ELUSAAS

4 3/16/1989

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10 DISCUSSIONS WITH FRED ELUSAAS:

11 BEGINNING WITH FRED ELUSAAS SPEAKING:

12 FRED ELUSAAS: ---Nick's half brother, he's the one he
13 inherited the stock from. CIRI spent, oh, several years trying to find Hall
14 Bayou's errors, and finally they tracked him down somehow, and it was
15 Harry and Nick, they're half brothers, and they inherited the stock. And
16 plus all the dividends that were accumulated. That was when Nick had
17 more money coming in than he knew what to do with, just before he
18 went to work for me.

19 Four hundred dollars per year depending on fishing
20 season---

21 INTERVIEWER: That would be interesting to know
22 what the total was, and divided over however--how many family
23 members---

24 FRED ELUSAAS: Dick Halverson, his wife Mary, was an
25 Anderson, was her maiden name---

26 INTERVIEWER: From Chignik?

27 FRED ELUSAAS: They're from Westward, I think Sand
28 Point or someplace out there. But she's—Bill Anderson was her
29 brother, he died up around (Kayonic), up that area, several years ago. I
30 don't know of any of her other relatives.

31 Annie is dead, Teddy is dead, Margaret's dead, Maria's
32 alive, Harry's dead, and then there was—Slater—Helen Slater, she was
33 a Halverson. And the girl from Kodiak, Patty—Patsy—Patsy, she had
34 that house right across from Douggie's trailer, that's tore down now.
35 Let's see, there was—oh shoot, the—the girl that was married to Jake
36 Holeman---

37 INTERVIEWER: Edith?

38 FRED ELUSAAS: Edith. Yeah, her daughter is a Chevrolie
39 I think—they should be listed here, it's funny they didn't have her
40 listed, because she was older than Maria or Margaret.

41 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Maybe she wasn't living with
42 her at the time?

43 FRED ELUSAAS: Could have been. That was another
44 thing that---

45 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Because didn't she have a
46 gland problem or something, she was strange, she was real big?

47 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, right, she was real big.

48 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal) : Right, real big.

49 FRED ELUSAAS: Tall, real deep voice.

50 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, really strange.

51 INTERVIEWER: I'm going to insert, you know, ideas
52 that occur, like your questions, then he has these flashbacks to places
53 and events. In fact, there are two ways to approach it, one is to go
54 through and the continuity there and another one is to look at your
55 shareholders now and to go back. Both directions are---

56 FRED ELUSAAS: Shoot, tomorrow I won't remember
57 none of these questions—I've got Alzheimer's disease--(Laughing.)

58 INTERVIEWER: Oh, come on---

59 FRED ELUSAAS: And Gus Holestrum, he lived up the
60 slough right below where Andy Kiko's place--I don't know much about
61 his wife, Dania.

62 Sergay, well Sergay and—he was blind and they lived
63 up right next to where Perry used to lived, where the Beech is, there
64 were two houses built identical, they were two alike and they had a
65 boardwalk between them, they were basic, two of them houses, and
66 Sergay was blind, but he could build little boats with clock engines in
67 them, and he had bird nests he had cut through the wall, because his
68 mother cut these little holes and built these little bird nests in ‘em, had
69 swallows and he had ‘em in cages and all kinds of this stuff.

70 He was really a neat guy when I was a kid, he was
71 probably about, you know, thirty or forty years old—what’s it say here,
72 he was twenty-nine in ‘34, so—

73 INTERVIEWER: That’d be about right.

74 FRED ELUSAAS: So---

75 But one time we got—he has this boat about this big, and me and
76 Dennis Beech and some others, Dennis and I were real close and we
77 got this boat— we weren’t going to do anything with it, but he let us
78 take it, see, and we took it down in the slough and started it up and it
79 went across the slough, well, in those days there was no road, that was
80 out of town, across the slough, we had to—we had to borrow a skiff
81 from a fellow named John Olsen to go over, and he saw the thing
82 across there on the beach and he finally lent it to us and let us go to it

83 and take this skiff of his, which was like taking somebody's car now,
84 you know, a couple little kids, and we got in that thing and just
85 swamped it, because it went on the beach and somehow it got water
86 in the boat and ruined that clock thing, but we didn't know what to
87 say, so we went home and of course my mother found out about it
88 somehow and needless to say we got a spanking for that. And we had
89 to go and spend----it was tough, because he was a nice guy, he was real
90 good to us, and he worked so hard on that boat, and then we went and
91 ruined the damn clock spring.

92 INTERVIEWER: It looks like your places are bad—but
93 we can mark the ones he's talked about, where there are descendants.

94 FRED ELUSAAS: Andy Johnson had this lot right
95 behind here. There's a lot up here with no legal access that belongs to
96 the agreement, and that was Haddie Fox's father---

97 (Phone rings in background.)

98 (Pause.)

99 INTERVIEWER: Well, welcome back.

100 FRED ELUSAAS: Thank you.

101 INTERVIEWER: Well, let's see, isn't this fun though, I
102 think this goes back to 1934, and I think there is continuity---

103 FRED ELUSAAS: See, here's a typical statement---

104 INTERVIEWER: (Reading) "That denies any"---okay,
105 now, that's—shall we start there tomorrow---

106 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay.

107 INTERVIEWER: And—yeah, because when you—and
108 let's start with "That's a typical statement."

109 And if it was that way back in 1934, how has it changed
110 now, and that sort of thing, but that's—whoops, I lost it now---

111 (Break in tape.)

112 (Beginning discussion with Interviewer and Fred
113 Elusaas.)

114 INTERVIEWER: Okay, this is March 17th, 1989, and
115 it's—and we're talking more on the Seldovia Medical Service Family
116 folder records, starting with Andy Johnson, and the reference here is,
117 "Reported to be one-eighth Native, but denies any Native blood," and
118 you were commenting on that one, Fred.

119 And this is Fred Elusaas, Cyrstal and Nancy.

120 And are any descendants of these people here?

121 FRED ELUSAAS: No, the family is—what the heck is her
122 name—Patty Fox, Tom Fox, and they live in Kodiak and I believe
123 outside.

124 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

125 FRED ELUSAAS: They're grandchildren of Andy
126 Johnson.

127 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

128 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I think one of the Foxes are
129 at least related to my grandmother, because she's a Fox.

130 FRED ELUSAAS: She was married to Tom I think—no,
131 Tom was her brother.

132 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, because my grandma's
133 maiden name was Fox.

134 FRED ELUSAAS: Right, yeah, yeah.

135 Tom Fox, who married Haddie Johnson, Andy
136 Johnson's daughter Haddie, but I didn't know this Elsie at all.

137 INTERVIEWER: I didn't get the connection between
138 your grandmother and Tom Fox?

139 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Tom and—yeah, my
140 grandmother must have been brother and sister.

141 FRED ELUSAAS: Her grandmother was---

142 INTERVIEWER: Oh--Tom—and—okay, but---

143 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Catchaberra--- But she was a
144 Fox, anyway.

145 INTERVIEWER: Okay, gottcha. And then married a
146 Catchaberra, and that's where you got your name, two generations
147 later.

148 See, it's beginning to make sense. It's just that
149 mentally I have to diagram it, because I'm so dependent on those
150 charts to physically get the generations—then you begin to get the
151 linkages.

152 FRED ELUSAAS: The Josefsen family, Emma is still alive,
153 she's living up in the Lakeside Terrace. Tina died---

154 INTERVIEWER: Is that Tina—is Emma here then?

155 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, and she's a shareholder.

156 Tina died, Cleo is here. Little Emma's here. Simon
157 died, and Lillian lives in Florida. And she comes up from time to time,
158 she comes up and visits her mother.

159 INTERVIEWER: And that's good, because that's
160 continuity of this family.

161 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, that's—you'd want to talk to--
162 and I think Emma too---

163 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, I'll catch her when
164 she's here---

165 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, she travels—she's an elderly
166 woman, but boy she does a lot of traveling.

167 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): She gets around, she goes to
168 Florida, every winter and---

169 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, she goes at least twice a year.

170 King, I know the King family was here, but I don't
171 know—I don't recall anything about that—there was a Bob King—oh,
172 yeah, Robert King, but he was a lot older---

173 Larsen, Kattie Larsen, she was here but I don't
174 remember much about her.

175 INTERVIEWER: You think she was in here---

176 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, I'm sure she was, yeah.

177 INTERVIEWER: Do you know what her maiden name
178 was?

179 FRED ELUSAAS: I think that was her maiden name.

180 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

181 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, no, it couldn't have been if his
182 wife was Kathy Larsen, hmmm---

183 INTERVIEWER: Maybe your mother-in-law would
184 know.

185 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): How old does it say they are?

186 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, he was forty--she was forty-two
187 in—what was this—'34, so she's long gone now.

188 Oh, the Lund Family, they lived across the road from
189 us—Nina's died-- of course he's dead—John Lund, is he still alive?

190 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): The only one I know is---

191 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): I saw him go over the last---

192 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, he lives over Chachitlek.

193 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): Yeah, the last I've heard, and
194 that was what, four years ago.

195 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Is he goofy like---

196 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, Agnes lives in Chicago---

197 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): Well, let's put it this way---

198 FRED ELUSAAS: ---Because Nina lives in the Robert
199 Groove Center in Anchorage.

200 INTERVIEWER: Who is this, Agnes Lund is in
201 Anchorage?

202 FRED ELUSAAS: No, Virginia.

203 INTERVIEWER: Oh, Virginia, okay.

204 Is she a shareholder?

205 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): Uh, huh.

206 FRED ELUSAAS: Matilda, that was Tillie, she died. Carl
207 lives in Washington someplace with his daughter, I think he's a ward of
208 her's, he's a little off.

209 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I think he moved to Palmer
210 now.

211 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, did he?

212 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Is that the one that was in
213 jail?

214 FRED ELUSAAS: No, no, no, that's Buzzoff, that's
215 Alfred.

216 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): He's probably still there.

217 FRED ELUSAAS: Carlie's the one that---

218 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I think he just got out.

219 FRED ELUSAAS: Carlie was the musician, he played
220 the guitar---

221 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, he was the one that was
222 as nutty as a fruitcake too.

223 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah. (Laughing.)

224 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): Yeah, they all came from the
225 same trees.

226 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, there's a lot of history.

227 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, but incidentally, Emma Josefsen
228 and Nina Lund are sisters. The Eddlemans, their family name was
229 Eddleman.

230 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): There's a little squirrel in that
231 batch too.

232 FRED ELUSAAS: Boy, you got it. (Laughing.)

233 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): I'm going to run out today and
234 drain the boyds and stuff, so Rich Wilson's gonna meet me---

235 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, okay, you got anybody with you?

236 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): No, but I've got everything
237 working fine---

238 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay.

239 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): I'm used to sailing my ship
240 alone.

241 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay---

242 INTERVIEWER: Now, Nina—and who is the sister, of
243 Nina?

244 FRED ELUSAAS: Emma, Josefsen.

245 NINTERVIEWER: Oh, Emma, and she's alive yet, and to
246 be interviewed---

247 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah---

248 Okay, Mildred, she's dead.

249 Jean is alive, she lives up in Palmer someplace.

250 Is she a shareholder? She should be.

251 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): What's her last name now?

252 FRED ELUSAAS: What?

253 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): What's her last name now?

254 FRED ELUSAAS: She's married to Danny Hansen.

255 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Danny Hansen? I've never
256 heard—I don't think I've heard the name.

257 FRED ELUSAAS: No, I guess not.

258 She must be at-large for CIRI.

259 Virginia's a shareholder I guess.

260 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, Virginia and Al?

261 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah, Buzzard, yeah, Al.

262 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, the two crazies.

263 FRED ELUSAAS: Charlie Lund was a real sick man when
264 I was a kid, he was bedridden, and we used to sell milk, and we give
265 milk to him and my mother and Nina just hated each other.

266 INTERVIEWER: Where did you—you sold milk? Did
267 you have a farm, and cows?

268 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, we had a cow and a bull, we
269 lived across the bay, see, there's a picture up there of our place across
270 the bay.

271 INTERVIEWER: And this was your mother or your
272 grandmother?

273 FRED ELUSAAS: My mother.

274 INTERVIEWER: For heaven's sakes. And it was your
275 father from Norway that—across the bay?

276 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, see, we lived over on the spit
277 over there.

278 INTERVIEWER: One thing down the line you might
279 want to consider is having a negative and prints with just family and

280 any descendants of yours, because that's part of your history. Do you
281 still own that or do you have a homestead?

282 FRED ELUSAAS: No, it belongs to S & N.

283 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I think historically—because this
284 picture----

285 FRED ELUSAAS: If we'd-a known about the Allotment
286 Act at the right time we'd of own that damn thing, but instead I took
287 my allotment up the inlet where we fish.

288 INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

289 FRED ELUSAAS: But boy wouldn't that be nice to have
290 that allotment over there, I wouldn't come to town.

291 INTERVIEWER: Oh, can I see the picture?

292 FRED ELUSAAS: I'd let you natives worry about your
293 own---

294 INTERVIEWER: Crystal, you have a lifetime credit over
295 here---

296 (Interviewer and people whispering, shuffling papers
297 and talking in background.)

298 INTERVIEWER: ---isn't that something, and if it was
299 dated---

300 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): And he probably knows
301 what it was for.

302 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, and the more—you know,
303 people have it in their heads and they don't realize its potential
304 significance, legally, if you say it and it has potential significance legally
305 possibly and because it helps people---with native issues. And, you
306 know, it's just an awful lot of knowledge in his head and if you could
307 tap into that and pull it together---

308 FRED ELUSAAS: A picture of my sister.

309 INTERVIEWER: Oh, gosh, that's a classic—do you know
310 about-- the date, how old---

311 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Is that Suzanne?

312 FRED ELUSAAS: No. Katrina.

313 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): The youngest one then?

314 FRED ELUSAAS: She was about four or five years old, so
315 she was—that was about around '39 or so.

316 INTERVIEWER: Could we put in pencil the approximate
317 date—she’s about my age then, because I’m 52, was she born in ’36?

318 FRED ELUSAAS: Huh, I don’t really know—let’s see, I
319 was born in ’33, and she was born in—my brother Herman and then
320 her, so that’s about right, somewheres in there.

321 INTERVIEWER: Okay, I’ll put about 1939.

322 What was her name—oh, Katrina?

323 FRED ELUSAAS: Katrina.

324 INTERVIEWER: Do you mind?

325 FRED ELUSAAS: Go ahead.

326 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

327 Who is this?

328 FRED ELUSAAS: That’s a picture of my mother.

329 Look at the size of that dog. He was a monster.

330 INTERVIEWER: I’ve got to get the kinship out of this—
331 that would help.

332 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Those are wonderful pictures.

333 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): Who’s this?

334 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, Alan at two and a half
335 months. Who is the guy though, is that your dad?

336 Or is that you?

337 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, that's me.

338 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): How could Alan be only three
339 and half months old?

340 FRED ELUSAAS: My boy Alan.

341 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, see, that doesn't look like
342 you, Fred, I would have never guessed.

343 He's a scrawny little kid—have you seen this yourself?

344 See if you can guess that was Fred?

345 INTERVIEWER: The little baby is?

346 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): No, the guy.

347 FRED ELUSAAS: See, here's another one of the same---

348 INTERVIEWER: Is that Fred?

349 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): That's what he says.

350 FRED ELUSAAS: Look at this one and see if you can tell
351 me?

352 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Not really.

353 Oh, I know which one you are in this one.

354 INTERVIEWER: Can you tell?

355 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I've seen this one before,
356 that's Fred right there.

357 INTERVIEWER: That's Agnes, right?

358 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

359 INTERVIEWER: Agnes Ponchene. Do you know about
360 how old she was then, or what year?

361 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Can't you tell?

362 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, that's about the same as that
363 other picture I think.

364 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): That one does look like you.

365 FRED ELUSAAS: Boy, isn't that some bathing beauties
366 there.

367 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yes, who's this baby?

368 FRED ELUSAAS: My boy Alan, he drowned when he
369 was seventeen.

370 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, who are the rest of these,
371 your family?

372 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, that's Hoem, that's Alan, my
373 brother, me, Pete, Tommy Fox, that's Suzanne, because that had to be
374 Katrina again. And I don't see Herman. Herman would have been—no,
375 he wouldn't be that small.

376 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): That's down at the beach.

377 INTERVIEWER: Oh, is that at the beach.

378 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, that's over at Hoem's Lagoon.

379 INTERVIEWER: Oh, is that what it's called---

380 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): It looks like in the back part of
381 this---

382 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): But who are these people?

383 FRED ELUSAAS: This is a pile driver crew, from up the
384 inlet. And that's my dad there.

385 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): You don't look like him.

386 INTERVIEWER: Is that Xerox working at all? Make one
387 copy and put on the back of the copy who these people are.

388 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): No, but hopefully one of the
389 guys is going to show up here soon.

390 FRED ELUSAAS: This is the pile driver crew, see, that's
391 the drop hammer off the—for driving fish traps, this is Salamander
392 Beach in the background.

393 INTERVIEWER: Oh, gosh.

394 FRED ELUSAAS: But look at those boots all those guys
395 wore, see, you had to lace and unlace those every day, and they all
396 wore them.

397 INTERVIEWER: Which one is—is that one your---

398 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, that's my dad.

399 INTERVIEWER: Your dad, okay. Herman.

400 FRED ELUSAAS: But, there was some other pictures
401 my sister wants me to get copies made of—with him—you know—with
402 him sitting, you know, sitting at a table and stuff, and he was from the
403 old school, you know, he—you know, when he got through at the end
404 of the day, through working, he changed clothes and Sunday he wore a
405 suit, and, you know, and Sunday was a day of rest.

406 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Boy, he sure was European.

407 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, yeah, that was the way they did
408 it. But, you know, even when I was a kid, people, you know, they wore
409 suit coats a lot, I don't know whether they were cheaper or what the—
410 it had to be a pretty stormy day for people to wear winter coats, but on
411 the other hand, everybody wore long flannel underwear too, you know,
412 so they didn't need so much outer clothes.

413 FEMALE VOICE (Nancy): Well, that's what I was saying,
414 some of those pictures we had of me---

415 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Everybody has a suit and tie
416 on, and a hat.

417 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, yeah. But---

418 You know, it's a little surprising that in all these
419 discussions about the physical conditions and cleanliness, I don't
420 remember many people being dirty.

421 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Well, I think that they--by
422 then—that was in the early Nineteen Hundreds---

423 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, 1908---

424 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): ---and that by that time, you
425 know, by the time the school teachers and the nurses got through with
426 them, I think they had changed their way of life for them.

427 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, I remember Nicky's dad, you
428 know, people used to comment about how much he washed all the
429 time, he always---

430 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): See, he was probably raised
431 in that school area where they were--had to have clean hands and
432 clean hair to go to school.

433 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

434 INTERVIEWER: How about steam bathing, did they
435 have banyas?

436 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah, you bet, my folks had a big
437 banya, my brother has one yet I think too.

438 Yeah, that was important.

439 INTERVIEWER: Are they bigger?

440 FRED ELUSAAS: The one my folks had was quite large,
441 and---

442 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I bet, from Norway, with the
443 Norwegians.

444 FRED ELUSAAS: ---and it was—you know, all the
445 women, my mother's friends—they'd all, every week they'd come over
446 and visit---

447 (Person entering room.)

448 INTERVIEWER: Hello, Lou.

449 FRED ELUSAAS: Morning, Lou.

450 (LOU) Morning.

451 FRED ELUSAAS: And—but Pete, he's hell on that
452 banya, he's always using it.

453 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

454 FRED ELUSAAS: Well—oh, we got ribs coming up---

455 (LOU) I brought you over that.

456 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, okay.

457 (LOU) I thought you might enjoy that.

458 FRED ELUSAAS: Boy, I've got to remind George that
459 tomorrow night is rib night—no, tonight?

460 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Prime rib.

461 FRED ELUSAAS: Tonight?

462 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Right.

463 INTERVIEWER: Wow.

464 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, I will be there.

465 Bring your little book over there.

466 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, okay. Well, we'll be
467 coming for lunch I think, so---

468 INTERVIEWER: Did you get down the names? Maybe
469 sometime you can get down the names of these people?

470 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, I know all of those.

471 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, you do now, but when you make
472 copies---

473 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, in an hour I'll forget.

474 INTERVIEWER: No, no, it's just fifty years from now---

475 FRED ELUSAAS: I've got several thousand—you know,
476 those old pictures at home—I've got boxes of pictures, old pictures---

477 INTERVIEWER: Part of a historical project is to get
478 these out and then mark on the back who these people are.

479 FRED ELUSAAS: Have you got pictures when you were
480 like—small like that?

481 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Uh, huh.

482 INTERVIEWER: And this is a classic, this---

483 FRED ELUSAAS: It's really—it's really different in
484 that—look at how the kids were, you know, and standing there in the
485 water and just freezing, jeesh---

486 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Well, I know, we have a lot of
487 pictures when I was little, going to that old swimming hole and you all
488 wore bathing suits and stuff and nowadays you wouldn't catch anybody
489 in a bathing suit and freezing their behind off and swimming.

490 FRED ELUSAAS: No. But, you know, to me as I
491 remember over there when the tide came in over the flats, it was
492 warm, and look at us, we're just cold—of course we'd probably been
493 there for a half an hour while they're loading the camera and
494 everything---

495 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Well, sure--And you weren't
496 cold from standing in the water, just from the air, blowing past through
497 the bathing suits---

498 FRED ELUSAAS: "God damn kids, sit still now, I'm
499 trying to get this thing loaded." (Laughing.)

500 INTERVIEWER: Okay, come on now, left to right, that's
501 this side, who's the old man?

502 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay, okay, Fred Hoems.

503 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Is that where Hoems' Spit is
504 named for this---

505 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, he lived over there first.

506 As a matter of fact, where's that---

507 INTERVIEWER: Is it H-O---

508 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): H-O-E-M.

509 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

510 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, see this little house here is
511 Hoem's house, this big house is ours.

512 INTERVIEWER: Oh, for heaven's sakes.

513 FRED ELUSAAS: This is the geese, the chickens and
514 ducks. This is our barn. It was quite a place.

515 INTERVIEWER: It really is—is anything over there now,
516 any remnants of that, any barns?

517 FRED ELSUAAS: See right here now, that steel water
518 tank for catching water runoff and it came on down the trough into
519 that tank, and then there was a stand where we—when we had to pack
520 water we'd fill it by hand and but that's the only thing left over there.

521 The last guy to live there was Jiminy Crickets and he
522 had TB and stuff so bad he was a walking bag of germs, so that after he
523 died they went over and just burned the whole thing down.

524 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): And this was located on this
525 side of the spit?

526 FRED ELUSAAS: Right—well, I'll show you on this thing
527 here---

528 Right here.

529 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, on the "L", yeah.

530 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, we faced down the spit—where
531 it's--see, there's a row of trees right here, see those trees right there,
532 you're looking at---and they're not even---those are pretty big trees
533 right now, they're about thirty feet tall, Hoem planted them.

534 He—you know, things were different—we used to put
535 kelp in the gardens, and we did a lot of fish canning over there because
536 Hoem had the trap out there and—I don't see the picture of the fall
537 trap anymore, but all the fish guts went in the garden and any real
538 garbage—we had a garbage pit and we buried garbage, we didn't just
539 scatter it around and throw it in the bay and stuff, like people did later.

540 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): But then you guys were of
541 different descent, you were Norwegian, you know, the cleaner
542 European people?

543 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, but you know if you really---

544 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): When you moved to town,
545 didn't you throw your garbage in the slough like everybody else?

546 FRED ELUSAAS: No, no.

547 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, really?

548 Everybody used to walk to the bridge and throw their
549 garbage off.

550 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah--see, when I lived by the bridge,
551 that's what I did, I threw it right off the dock, hell, I could stand on my
552 porch and throw it off, you know, but my folks would never allow that,
553 but you know, it was funny, you know, how the ways they were, but

554 beings my mother went to Chemawa Indian School too, they taught
555 them quite a bit of stuff, she knew how to can everything and preserve
556 stuff.

557 We got moose meat, because my dad would bring a
558 moose home, you know, we wanted to—you know they wanted to can
559 as much as they could, because what they didn't can they salted, we
560 just ate that damn salted moose meat—but you could open a jar of
561 moose meat and just—and they made a lot of soup stock in those days,
562 but it was good, in those days you could just open it up and put it on
563 the stove and warm it up and eat it.

564 I've got soup stock at home, and deer meat, and stuff
565 but it was different then because my mother's goal was to can two
566 hundred quarts of salmon every year, and what she did, of course there
567 was my grandmother and my other relatives, but she used to trade
568 some of that stuff off for other stuff, other people's stuff, and then
569 those damn potato gardens—that—those gardens are potato gardens,
570 except the one in front, that was everything, but those others, that's
571 just—I hated hoeing potatoes, I was so happy when I got to go to
572 Homer, me and my brother Alan, we thought we're going to get all of
573 all this work, we went over there to the beach, which had bigger potato
574 gardens---(Laughing.)

575 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, and you had to work
576 harder---

577 FRED ELUSAAS: It was tough.

578 Well, let me see here, you got all the Lunds.

579 INTERVIEWER: Well, let's see if we could get back to
580 these maybe. This would be precious, even—who these men are, that
581 you were working with, or your father—who is this now?

582 FRED ELUSAAS: I don't know.

583 INTERVIEWER: That's Herman. Do you know any of
584 the others?

585 FRED ELUSAAS: No, I really don't.

586 INTERVIEWER: But the fact that it's over on that
587 beach---

588 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah---

589 INTERVIEWER: That's---

590 FRED ELUSAAS: He worked thirty years for Libby---

591 INTERVIEWER: Wow, that's interesting.

592 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, everything, the sun rose and set
593 on it.

594 INTERVIEWER: There was a loyalty to the company in
595 those days---

596 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah. You know, those old square
597 boxes, they'd take a piece of rope, the rope off in the cannery was just
598 loaded with-- they'd never used it but you could never throw it away,
599 because Libby might go broke, you know, jeeese, but you know, I had the
600 damndest time with my dad, I worked one year up there and I couldn't
601 understand----

602 (Crystal and Nancy overspeaking each other in
603 background.)

604 INTERVIEWER: Where was the cannery?

605 FRED ELUSAAS: In Kenai River, it's the first one up the
606 river from town. They call it Ward Cove now, but in those days it was
607 steam driven and in the Spring of each year they'd drive it up to the
608 dock in the river and in the fall they'd pull it up and put it away, but I
609 was a machinist for them and I used to eat lunch in a hurry, because my
610 dad and them ate in what they call a fishermen's mess hall, it's all in
611 one building, but it's separate rooms, and I ate in the machinist's mess

612 hall and I run down and those guys were eating in a hurry—work didn't
613 start until one o'clock, but by twelve-thirty they were working, you
614 know, because they had to get their job done, they weren't worried
615 about time and I went down there and here's all these guys out the
616 drivers, they had ropes around this piling and they were pulling it on
617 the dock with tight rollers and they says come on kid give us a hand
618 here, and I says what the hell for, they says we got to get this piling out
619 on the docks and get it upright, I said Jesus, there's two forklifts there
620 why don't you just tow it, they don't know how to drive them, none of
621 them learned to drive.

622 INTERVIEWER: And they were sitting there with that
623 equipment---

624 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, and I said Jesus I can run that
625 forklift, so I did, and they thought that was wonderful.

626 But then of course the other thing was, well, you
627 know, gasoline doesn't grow on trees and so we're wasting company
628 gas and it made more sense to them to ruin their backs---

629 INTERVIEWER: Than cost the company any---

630 FRED ELUSAAS: ---Yeah, than to waste--than to burn
631 that company gas, for frivolous things like just dragging a piling around.
632 I mean a piling weighs a ton and a half.

633 INTERVIEWER: Such loyalty, that's---

634 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, but in the fall at the end of the
635 year my dad was one of the old hands at this, always in real good with
636 the superintendents and stuff, and all those guys got Libby's groceries,
637 which is in their commissary at half price, but we had tons of stuff like
638 Libby's Vienna sausages and stuff like that, and nobody else had that, I
639 mean that was a luxury in that day—and all the corned beef that you
640 wanted, you know, and this stuff, and there were benefits of being loyal
641 to the company.

642 INTERVIEWER: You had a diversity of food that wasn't
643 available at the store there?

644 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, heck yeah, and they didn't have to
645 pay so much for it, you know, jeeze, a can of corned beef must have
646 been up to fifteen cents back in them days, you know.

647 INTERVIEWER: That would be interesting to
648 compare—food was very precious.

649 FRED ELUSAAS: Because you could really save by---

650 INTERVIEWER: So generally your family was well-to-
651 do?

652 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah.

653 INTERVIEWER: Relatively speaking, because you had---

654 FRED ELUSAAS: You see, because my dad also had
655 worked in the winter when most of the people that turned to fishing
656 wouldn't do nothing in the winter because you couldn't go out to sea,
657 which I have to give them credit for now, again—well with the winter
658 fishery shutting down there isn't a hell of a lot for them, they have to
659 be kind of ingenious, they worked at the dock, they worked for ---
660 Anderson—

661 INTERVIEWER: Wasn't Anderson one of the earliest
662 teachers?

663 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, ahuh.

664 INTERVIEWER: She must have stayed here forever?

665 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah, she's just quit coming here a
666 couple years ago.

667 INTERVIEWER: Is she still alive?

668 FRED ELUSAAS: I'm not sure, I don't think so.

669 INTERVIEWER: Because I think she's the one—
670 probably the one that took that earliest school picture?

671 FRED ELUSAAS: I'll tell you what, she was eighty—
672 eighty-two or eighty-four, her and I were flying from here to Homer
673 with Bob Gruber, and she takes lots of pictures, and she said Bob I want
674 to take your picture, stay at the bow, can I open the door and lean out
675 and Bob, he said no you can't, and she said well, I got a seatbelt on, and
676 she said can't you fly this plane a little steadier, (Laughter) and I looked
677 at Bob---(Laughing.)

678 INTERVIEWER: Now, you just said something very
679 important, you said she took a lot of pictures, now, I wonder, did she
680 have any children, any descendants?

681 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, yeah, she---

682 INTERVIEWER: Because they might—she might have
683 some of the later years---

684 FRED ELUSAAS: Her son Waldo, he's somewheres in
685 San Francisco, but Jack would probably know how to get ahold of him,
686 Jack English.

687 INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

688 FRED ELUSAAS: Waldo is tied up with the Standard Oil
689 Tanker Fleet, I think he runs about fifty tankers, he's very well-to-do.

690 But when Edith's husband built that dock, the original
691 dock, the one that was the Standard Oil's dock in those pictures---

692 INTERVIEWER: Oh, yeah.

693 FRED ELUSAAS: ---and my dad was the pile driver on
694 that, see, he was a driver on that for years.

695 INTERVIEWER: He finally learned how to use the
696 equipment?

697 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, on the drivers, you see, that's a
698 steam engine on there and it just lifts the hammer up and drops, it's a
699 drop hammer.

700 INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

701 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, no, he never drove nothing, no.

702 INTERVIEWER: Well, that might be a source, if you
703 wanted to take an interest in your history---

704 FRED ELUSAAS: But she would—she had that house
705 down their where the---is now, across from the gas station now, you

706 know, that old log house up on the hill, that was her house, and those--
707 -

708 INTERVIEWER: That tiny little one?

709 FRED ELUSAAS: No, it's a pretty good-sized house, and
710 as a matter of fact in the days when I was a kid it was considered a big
711 house---

712 INTERVIEWER: Okay, I guess I didn't see—I didn't
713 know which one you were---

714 FRED ELUSAAS: Our house up the slough was a story
715 and a half, on the road out to the water, and it was considered a real
716 big house because it was three floors, actually it had a basement too,
717 with the cellars—the cold cellar and the food cellars and stuff, and
718 people just were just amazed, you know, that it was three floors, and
719 we had a big drum furnace in the basement that would heat the whole
720 house, through--with the radiation, my dad sanded that pretty well---

721 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, a bit of engineering---

722 FRED ELUSAAS: And then he built an addition on to it
723 in an "L" shape, and then we had about eight floors, which was unheard
724 of in this time.

725 But he was always building something, he built the all
726 new boardwalk up there, our banya and our shop and our outhouses
727 and stuff, but it was kind of built in a courtyard so that we had a sort of
728 central yard, and then there were steps down to the beach underneath
729 this boardwalk, and then he put up mast and a boom so that he could
730 lift up logs right up and then we would saw them. And it was really a
731 pretty clever way of doing things.

732 INTERVIEWER: Well, was it at the same time that you
733 had this place you had this place?

734 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah. See, we summered over
735 there, see we wintered here, see you had to go to school, see, that was
736 our summer home.

737 INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay. Summer home, oh, okay, got
738 ya.

739 FRED ELUSAAS: See, right here—right now---

740 INTERVIEWER: Is it still standing?

741 FRED ELUSAAS: No. And then this is my house here,
742 and I lived right here and my brother lived there, see, you didn't get too
743 far on these roads---

744 INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

745 Is that your brother, Peter?

746 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

747 INTERVIEWER: Well, this is a whole town?

748 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah. My grandmother was a
749 midwife, so she delivered us.

750 INTERVIEWER: Lucy was a midwife?

751 FRED ELUSAAS: Uh, huh.

752 INTERVIEWER: Wow.

753 FRED ELUSAAS: She even delivered my boy, Freddie.

754 INTERVIEWER: Okay, we have Joyce, Brad----and
755 Dexter is your—is Gladys' son?

756 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, Leonard and Dexter and Judy is
757 her---

758 INTERVIEWER: What order are they in, is Judy older?

759 FRED ELUSAAS: Leonard, Dexter and Judy.

760 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

761 Yeah, I'll try to draw this up neat so you'll get an idea
762 of what I'll recommend that she'll do then in terms of the shareholders
763 so you'll get the continuity.

764 FRED ELUSAAS: (Laughing.)

765 INTERVIEWER: What do you see?

766 FRED ELUSAAS: "Fishing, income? None at present."
767 When is this, August—August 20th, he was all done, he had spent it all.

768 INTERVIEWER: Lookit, thirty years old, it's a young
769 family---

770 FRED ELUSAAS: Yep, Alice lives outside, she's a
771 shareholder.

772 INTERVIEWER: Now, this is Meechum---

773 FRED ELUSAAS: Meekum.

774 INTERVIEWER: Meekum—

775 FRED ELUSAAS: Lewis is I think in Kodiak, or outside—
776 he moved to Kodiak several years ago. Hammer lives outside, she lives
777 in the Seattle-Tacoma area someplace.

778 INTERVIEWER: I wonder if they can get this---is this
779 working, Crystal?

780 He's going over this and I don't think---

781 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I forgot we were all talking

782 with the tape running---

783 INTERVIEWER: Because he's going over this—I don't—

784 I don't—can you go in the other room, because—because it'll be really

785 hard to hear—can we get you closer to the mike---

786 FRED ELUSAAS: See, she lives out in the subdivision.

787 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

788 FRED ELUSAAS: She's married to—Bob Garr, so her

789 name's Garr now, Elizabeth Garr, G-A-R-R.

790 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

791 Crystal, do you get that, then a Meekum?

792 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, she knows them.

793 INTERVIEWER: Oh, she knows these people, okay.

794 Oh, you know them?

795 See, this is all new to me.

796 FRED ELUSAAS: Meehans—let's see—she's gone,
797 Flora's gone, Terry died, I don't know what happened to Tessie. Arlene
798 is living in Kirkland, Washington.

799 INTERVIEWER: What's her maiden—I mean, what's
800 her name now, do you know?

801 FRED ELUSAAS: No, she's been married several times
802 and I'm not sure.

803 INTERVIEWER: Do you think she's a shareholder?

804 FRED ELUSAAS: She's either Kodiak or at-large, she's
805 not a shareholder here.

806 She was married to my brother at one time.

807 INTERVIEWER: Peter?

808 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

809 INTERVIEWER: Oh.

810 FRED ELUSAAS: She lives about two blocks from my
811 daughter, up—and my wife's going out, she'll see her next week,
812 they're good friends.

813 Jeesh, I didn't see this on---

814 INTERVIEWER: The vegetable garden?

815 FRED ELUSAAS: “Babies breast-fed?” I didn’t know
816 they worried about that even.

817 INTERVIEWER: Well, they did it—this is 1934, it’s the
818 only record that I could find so far, I might find something in D.C., of the
819 earlier ones.

820 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

821 They lived up on top the hill, Meehans, right up across
822 from where my house is now, and then they had a house on the
823 boardwalk, a big house, down here, at—but I think he sold it, later,
824 before he died.

825 Of course, you know, this is—should be Ted, not Fred,
826 his name is Ted, not Fred.

827 INTERVIEWER: Oh?

828 Okay.

829 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh---

830 INTERVIEWER: Were you waiting for something and
831 we held you up?

832 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah-- I’m sorry.

833 You gotta just holler at me.

834 (Whispering in background.)

835 (Pause.)

836 VOICE: Those are just records---

837 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay---

838 I hope I put them in the right order.

839 VOICE: I'll get copies to you.

840 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay.

841 I haven't even read your report yet, I got it but I
842 haven't read it yet, I'm trying to find it—I mean—I'm trying to find my
843 desk in that mess in there, but---I will get to it.

844 They got a—oh, that's CITC, and that's not—I made a
845 proposal that would combine CITC and---

846 (BREAK IN TAPE.)

847 INTERVIEWER: Okay, sorry---

848 FRED ELUSAAS: That's between here and Homer---

849 (BREAK IN TAPE.)

850 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I just want to make sure I had
851 the right side---

852 INTERVIEWER: You might want to put a date—do you
853 the tape that you just took out from yesterday?

854 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): No, I just put it back in
855 because it wasn't done—I wanted to make sure I had the right side in.

856 INTERVIEWER: Okay, how about yesterday's, was it
857 one of these?

858 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): It was the same tape.

859 INTERVIEWER: Wow, it's a long tape.

860 Oh, that's fantastic.

861 Okay, if there was a chance, I'm trying—I'm pushing
862 back to the turn of the century, if we're talking about Annison---

863 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, he raised a lot of kids—he raised
864 John Kannebeck when he was small---

865 INTERVIEWER: Was he a shareholder?

866 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

867 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): He was the one I told you
868 about that always used to throw his garbage out.

869 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, and---

870 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

871 FRED ELUSAAS: ---and you can't understand him when
872 he talks anymore---

873 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, he's-- something's
874 wrong with him---

875 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, but that's part of the
876 Kannebacks—the Kannebacks had a brother and a father here also, but
877 anyway, when he was real small Meechum took him in, but he did that
878 with a lot of Native kids, he had that—I don't know—I never knew him,
879 but he had Native allotment number four I think it was, somehow or
880 other he knew about the Native Allotment Act, and he got an allotment
881 down at Meechum Point, where he had his place, and he also raised
882 foxes and gardens and so forth, and when he married Mrs. Barnes, he
883 died and she died, when he died, the commissioner—which I think was
884 Chambers at the time, but I'm not sure, one of the commissioners, sold
885 his property, for eight hundred dollars to a fellow named Morris
886 Quarter, and Morris Quarter raised a family for years up there, as a

887 matter of fact I seen in the paper yesterday one of his boys just died in
888 a snow machine accident in Kenai, Quarters lived there, and then about
889 the time of the Claims Act, when they were investigating Indian lands
890 and so forth, it was discovered that the property wasn't probated
891 properly, didn't go to Mrs. Barnes like it should have, it was sold, and
892 there was no authority to sell it, it was sold improperly.

893 To sell a Native allotment, it has to go through the
894 Bureau of Indian Affairs, and it was handled by the Bureau of Indian
895 Affairs.

896 INTERVIEWER: Well, let me just interrupt here for a
897 reference for in the future in terms of land issues like this, that in
898 Juneau just last week, they have acquired four volumes of court
899 records, including probate records starting about 1917, it'll be in my
900 report, that's the one we're going to Xerox as soon as the machine gets
901 fixed. And possibly there will be information in those probate records,
902 court records, that would help strengthen Native cases, when
903 commissioners here made decisions without—anyway, that's just for
904 reference—I wanted you to know that I didn't Xerox any of that
905 material—they won't let me Xerox it, but I can ask them to, if I were---

906 FRED ELUSAAS: In the cases of allotments, since
907 they're trust property, you can't claim—what's the trespass thing when
908 you use property and you acquire it by—adverse possession---

909 INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

910 FRED ELUSAAS: ---and you can't claim that, and so the
911 Barnes family then found out that then they had rights and that
912 Quarter didn't have adverse possession and that sale was illegal and it
913 reached the congressional delegation, and I'm not sure of the
914 settlement terms, but the Barnes family sold their interest to—really to
915 the government, who confirmed the sale to the Quarters, so the
916 Quarters didn't have to pay any more money because if it was a sale by
917 the government to the Quarters—it was really a touchy situation in that
918 the government is a trustee of the land for the heirs on the one hand
919 and yet sold it to somebody else, on the other hand one department
920 not knowing what the other department's doing.

921 INTERVIEWER: That sounds familiar.

922 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah. And they finally resolved it, but
923 it was a tough one—and they wanted us to get involved in it and I kept
924 staying keep away from it because there's no resolution for this.

925 And my wife and Mrs. Quarter was very good friends,
926 on the other hand I worked for a corporation that had shareholders
927 that have an interest in it and so we just stayed away from it as much as
928 possible, but so Meechum was a very active and, you know, well known
929 person, he did a lot. He sold logs to the local sawmill, and certainly he
930 had to have people there to handle it.

931 When dad Ritchie had Yukon Island, and Meechum was
932 already established on the mainland, he was the supplier of dried fish
933 to---

934 (Break in tape from 46:58 to 47:24, blank, no audio
935 present.)

936 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): ---yeah, we see where they
937 coming from the household, but Herman was younger than you—he
938 wasn't born---

939 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, why don't you---

940 FRED ELUSAAS: Was I the youngest then?

941 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, I think you were one---

942 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, no, I was never a baby, I came---
943 (Laughter.)

944 INTERVIEWER: Two-twenty-five---

945 MALE VOICE: Have your boxing gloves on---

946 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

947 INTERVIEWER: Actually some of these kids might have
948 had a different father, did they all have the same mother though?

949 FRED ELUSAAS: My oldest sister has a different
950 father.

951 INTERVIEWER: Okay, there's a way of—is she the first
952 one born?

953 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

954 INTERVIEWER: Okay, then I would put—there's a way
955 of doing this---

956 FRED ELUSAAS: I have no idea who was---

957 INTERVIEWER: Who it was---

958 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

959 That was before my time.

960 INTERVIEWER: Okay, traditionally---

961 FRED ELUSAAS: When I was born they stuck a cold
962 Herring in my mouth and told me to shut up. And once I chewed that
963 up I never shut up.

964 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): It didn't work did it.

965 MALE VOICE: The silence lasted as long as the Herring?

966 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

967 (Laughter.)

968 INTERVIEWER: Now, that's oral tradition.

969 Did your mother really tell you that?

970 FRED ELUSAAS: No.

971 (Laughter.)

972 INTERVIEWER: You're making it up?

973 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): You can't really believe

974 much---

975 INTERVIEWER: Why—this is not going to go well---

976 MALE VOICE: This is going to be exciting.

977 INTERVIEWER: Well, let's just look at those old

978 pictures---

979 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay, my grandmother's name---

980 INTERVIEWER: On your mother's side?

981 FRED ELUSAAS: Yes; was---

982 (Interruption for phone call.)

983 (Break in tape.)

984 FRED ELUSAAS: ---they had this head count of
985 students, and they had all the non-native students in the one---

986 INTERVIEWER: Just a minute, let's get this out—I'd like
987 to go back and—are we using your's?

988 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, you can put your's---

989 INTERVIEWER: Can I use mine too?

990 I'd like to do an introduction first, before we get into
991 this, because this is good stuff, okay?

992 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay.

993 INTERVIEWER: Because important things that have the
994 date and some of this other—so your's is going to go ahead and you've
995 probably done the transcription before, so---

996 (Phone rings in background.)

997 I think I'll wait.

998 FRED ELUSAAS: One of the things I think you'll find is
999 that phone never quits.

1000 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, and how---

1001 FRED ELUSAAS: I guess it's a little---

1002 INTERVIEWER: Some evening maybe we can get you
1003 aside on topics—at this point I'm just gathering data---

1004 FRED ELUSAAS: Uh, huh, sure.

1005 INTERVIEWER: ---but it makes more sense to know the
1006 people, and that's why---

1007 FRED ELUSAAS: And that's what I'm trying to get
1008 across is how people viewed—not only each other, but themselves, you
1009 know, it was a different perspective, you know, you didn't see many of
1010 the real advocates, but on the other hand what could you advocate for,
1011 compared to what, you know, there was no alternative.

1012 So, now that there's a lot of alternatives people go
1013 every direction. But you have to wonder are people advocating things
1014 really in the right direction.

1015 INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

1016 FRED ELUSAAAS: You know?

1017 INTERVIEWER: Well, because that this is sort of a trial
1018 run with somebody that you know, and, you know, that you are
1019 comfortable with, I think that we could proceed, ordinarily I would
1020 suggest that we do the kinship and that we have a, you know, establish
1021 the topics that we're going to discuss and that sort of thing ahead of
1022 time and see whether or not the person would want to talk about these
1023 topics, and sort of maybe even have a list. It depends on your
1024 relationship with the person, if there's topics of whether even if you
1025 have topics they'll be spontaneous topics—other things that will
1026 happen, and to allow those ideas to happen and to maybe if it's an
1027 older person they'll be—they'll be talking about one thing and then get
1028 a flashback, you know, decades before or after, and that's okay, don't
1029 interrupt them, let them follow through.

1030 And, Bob, we can talk about that more.

1031 And also, I guess that one's going—I'm going to get this
1032 one started with the date and the place, and the person and usually
1033 also if it's with an elder—you're not an elder yet---

1034 FRED ELUSAAS: Sure I am, I get the *Mature Outlook*
1035 magazine sent to me. Sure, I've been getting it for about two years
1036 now, and my wife doesn't get it and she's older than me.

1037 (Laughter.)

1038 INTERVIEWER: Okay, that's marvelous.

1039 Well, I'll get started on this, this is not the—you know,
1040 all the—you know, if you go to school and learn all this stuff sometimes
1041 it constrains you, unnecessarily, so a lot of oral histories, and
1042 histories—and Native histories and things it ought to be that way and
1043 but you should be glad if you document as much as you can, on the
1044 date and the place, and actually to—when we go through this, this
1045 might be our agenda, is this Nineteen Forty---Thirty-Four material--but
1046 let me get started here.

1047 It's hard to---

1048 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): And your name in here is
1049 spelled E-L-S-O-S.

1050 FRED ELUSAAS: That's the proper spelling. Yeah.

1051 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): That was easier than the way
1052 it's spelled now?

1053 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, much better.

1054 INTERVIEWER: This is March 16th, 1989, in Seldovia,
1055 Seldovia Native Association office building, it's fifteen to three, and the

1056 following discussion is taking place with Fred Elvsass—E-L-V-S-A-S-S,
1057 and Crystal Collier.

1058 Fred—that's one of his family, his mother is Pohchene
1059 and his grandmother is a Chichenoff and we have not completely done
1060 his kinship, but this does give us an idea, we can go back and get this
1061 later—oh, it's a double A-S—E-L-V-S-A-A-S, while she's doing that
1062 maybe we can get Chichenoff, where was your mother born? Was she
1063 from here?

1064 FRED ELUSAAS: I believe in Kodiak.

1065 INTERVIEWER: Okay. I see that name over in Kodiak.

1066 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, she—she went to Chemawa
1067 Indian School, from Kodiak.

1068 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1069 And your father, where was he born?

1070 FRED ELUSAAS: Norway.

1071 INTERVIEWER: And then your grandmother, Lucy
1072 Chichenoff?

1073 FRED ELUSAAS: I really don't know.

1074 INTERVIEWER: I'll watch for her name---

1075 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, from—Chichenoff—well, I'm
1076 related to all the Chichenoffs wherever they are, somehow, but I don't
1077 know exactly where she was born or---

1078 INTERVIEWER: Okay, the reason I asked—I guess I
1079 could get this—no, I just got it, when I was in Berkley, just--under this
1080 contract, I found a journal where Petroff, who came through here in
1081 1880, he had talked a Zakar Chichenoff in Kodiak and wrote down his
1082 story, and it included coming in this area and right at the end it had a
1083 section about Kassnikoffs, so I asked if I could Xerox this document, it's
1084 about fifty pages long, and they said no, we don't allow it to be
1085 Xeroxed, because it's bound and it's over a hundred years old and they
1086 have a film on this story of Chichenoff who came from Russia and then
1087 he was in Barenoff's house down in Sitka and just his story told by
1088 Petroff—I mean written down by Petroff, he didn't—Chichenoff didn't
1089 do it, so they said well, you can buy the microfilm, so for twenty-five
1090 dollars I bought the microfilm, I haven't transcribed it yet, maybe
1091 Crystal could transcribe it, and knowing that you're a Chichenoff, I
1092 know Tina Chichenoff over there from Afognak, a whole bunch of—Zak
1093 Chichenoff, Zak Chichenoff, that name Zak would be like Zakar, he's the
1094 mayor of Ouzinkie, and there are links from here to Afognak to
1095 Ouzinkie and I'm beginning to see kinship links between Port Graham
1096 and---

1097 FRED ELUSAAS: English Bay?

1098 INTERVIEWER: ---and English Bay, but over into

1099 Kaguyak, do you know Sally Carlof over there?

1100 FRED ELUSAAS: No.

1101 INTERVIEWER: I met her after the earthquake and
1102 she's from Kaguyak, she married a—first a Barristof and then a Carlof,
1103 and she's living at Port Graham.

1104 And there were Alexandroffs in this area, and they
1105 were over in Kaguyak, so the links at this point, it looks to me as if the
1106 links between this area and Kodiak are stronger than links elsewhere.

1107 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah, by far. Because the
1108 people—the names see, were given to people, it's just like in the
1109 interior, you'd see people like Henry George and Peter Roy and stuff
1110 like that and they were given these names, because they were given a
1111 single name and then their kids used that as a family name, well, in
1112 turn, a lot of the people that were located here came from the West,
1113 from Kodiak and from Westward, and in turn those names followed
1114 and-- but the names that were here initially, there's very few of the old
1115 names that people used them, so they picked up these names, or were
1116 given the names, when they went to school they were given names.

1117 But a lot of people in the area have the same name,
1118 and they're not related. And there's some families that have some
1119 relationships and they spell their names a little different or it's been
1120 transcribed differently.

1121 The Ponchene family in Kenai is spelled with an "A"
1122 instead of an "O", but yet they're related.

1123 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, and I wonder if that kind of
1124 knowledge of names and relationships as you look at this 1934
1125 government nurse stopping here in Seldovia, going household by
1126 household, if some of the names won't ring a bell with the connections
1127 or that sort of thing, you haven't seen this list yet, have you?

1128 FRED ELUSAAS: No.

1129 INTERVIEWER: So, it's kind of a blind discussion.

1130 So, what do you think, shall we go through it, because
1131 this is the kind of thing I think that will help documentation---

1132 What was that?

1133 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Well, I didn't know if that was
1134 just one copy or two?

1135 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, what you might want to do, if
1136 you don't know these people, just say that you don't.

1137 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, see, they're Filipino family, and I
1138 don't—but this is in 1934?

1139 INTERVIEWER: Uh, huh, and it's called the Bureau of
1140 Indian Affairs, Alaska Medical Service Family Folder, and this nurse,
1141 Agnes Reece, came through in many parts of this—in villages, and she
1142 was assigned to make this folder, and so she named the persons, what
1143 the occupation was and where they came from, and then percentage
1144 Native or non-Native—but then in this case she doesn't say which, what
1145 level of—but this family Aquino is no longer here?

1146 FRED ELUSAAS: No. And I don't remember the name
1147 at all and apparently he was a cook, so he must have cooked in one of
1148 the canneries.

1149 INTERVIEWER: Uh, huh, and what do you know about
1150 Fred Balishof? Or Petka Balishof?

1151 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Is that some relation to
1152 Mickey?

1153 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, you know-- Petka—I never knew
1154 that he had a last name, he only had a first name, as far as I know,

1155 that's all I ever knew him by was the name Petka, and he lived up the
1156 bay and up on the hill here. And-- but---

1157 INTERVIEWER: But you were too young to know him,
1158 weren't you?

1159 FRED ELUSAAS: No, no, Petka was here when I was a
1160 kid, he was an old man.

1161 And how old is he here?

1162 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): That's seventy.

1163 INTERVIEWER: Seventy. He was seventy.

1164 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, that can't be the same person
1165 then.

1166 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1167 FRED ELUSAAS: See, because if the Petka I knew—but
1168 I'm sure he wasn't seventy, yeah, I didn't know natives lived to be
1169 seventy, that's kind of real old for a---

1170 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Well, the health was
1171 improving in the Thirties, people were living longer.

1172 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

1173 INTERVIEWER: We have some correspondence about
1174 somebody called—Fred Balishof dying in 1936, and so---

1175 FRED ELUSAAS: “Vegetable garden made, no”, now up
1176 by my grandmother’s property, the initial corner up there was known
1177 as Petka’s garden, and that’s kind of unusual in that here they say,
1178 “no,” but maybe at that time he didn’t have a garden at the time she
1179 was teaching.

1180 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Well, I’ve been reading and
1181 maybe he might have ate stuff and even before that they were trying to
1182 teach him to make a garden.

1183 FRED ELUSAAS: Uh, huh, there was a big effort on that,
1184 Wasilli Bayou, Bill Bayou, George Bayou, that Bayou family was---the----
1185 Bayous?

1186 INTERVIEWER: Nope, that’s the main one at that
1187 time---

1188 (Phone interruption.)

1189 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Are you getting flocked by
1190 legislators or what---

1191 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, excuse me a minute.

1192 (Break in tape.)

1193 (Phone interruption.)

1194 INTERVIEWER: Some evening---

1195 FRED ELUSAAS: There was an elderly fellow, but he
1196 wasn't—oh, hi---

1197 (Phone interruption.)

1198 INTERVIEWER: What you put these people through,
1199 the correspondence ---maybe a list, or have a computer list with
1200 questions spontaneously to come, I wonder if, I wonder if he knows,
1201 you know, and because I've worked in Alaska stuff for so long I've seen
1202 in villages, maybe not towns, see, this is not so much towns, which is
1203 different, the role of—the job of janitor was high status and often
1204 competitive, in bringing coal in, I've got some pictures of kids bringing
1205 up coal to the school, and that's about 1922 , '23, and that with the
1206 cost of coal and that was a major-- who got the contract for coal, do
1207 you remember that?

1208 FRED ELUSAAS: Yes, I remember when I was a kid we
1209 had coal for that school and the coal was brought over on a barge, and
1210 it was measured and brought up to the school. But at the time that I
1211 was in the school, there was a fellow by the name of Ed Danielson who

1212 had an old truck, well, I don't know whether it was old but it was the
1213 only vehicle in Seldovia and he hauled coal off the beach up to homes
1214 (Hoems?) and so forth, some people hauled their own, but if you were
1215 a ways from the beach Ed Danielson had his truck and he hauled it up
1216 to the school and people loaded it and off-loaded it.

1217 He was an old man, he never drove, Fred Munson
1218 drove the vehicle for him, and so he was---

1219 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): That's where I've seen
1220 reference to "Chief" at, is buying coal from Chief's, it was Chief.

1221 INTERVIEWER: Right. And watch that and take it,
1222 because every time we come across a reference of an organization, and
1223 here's something that we were talking about Alice Nutbeam and I
1224 found some data down at the NCI and in Juneau---

1225 FRED ELUSAAS: Right.

1226 INTERVIEWER: ---and this is 1934, "Evidence of Native
1227 brotherhood," we have a letter in there that there was a last name in
1228 the brotherhood and here's somebody that was president of Native
1229 Sisterhood, Alice Nutbeam, but did you ever hear anything about the
1230 Alaska Native Brotherhood being organized?

1231 FRED ELUSAAS: I heard of it, I knew of it, but I don't—
1232 I'd never—you know, I was too young to be involved in any of it, but it
1233 was here, there were members.

1234 But the brotherhood and the sisterhood had chapters,
1235 throughout wherever they had organized---

1236 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, the camps.

1237 FRED ELUSAAS: --- but they were very strong in
1238 southeast, and it stayed back there.

1239 INTERVIEWER: But you didn't—during your—during
1240 the Forties, you didn't---

1241 FRED ELUSAAS: No, when I was a kid, I don't---

1242 INTERVIEWER: Do you want to go through this, or do
1243 you have some other ideas about---

1244 FRED ELUSAAS: Sure--well---

1245 INTERVIEWER: ---about what would be important, just
1246 to get a sense---

1247 FRED ELUSAAS: The Bayou family was here---

1248 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Is there any descendants of
1249 them left here?

1250 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, I don't believe so.

1251 Alfred Bayou lived out at Barabbery Creek where the
1252 Ross' are now, in an old log cabin out there, and there were some old
1253 Barabberys there too, but I think they're all gone now. I don't know of
1254 a single Barabbery in the area. But that was—I'm trying to think what
1255 his son's name was—he had a fishing boat here and he died in Kodiak—
1256 the boat burned up—the boat burned up here and one of the
1257 Meganack kids burned up with it—Vacuum Meganack, that was his
1258 name, he was named after a coffee can.

1259 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): What was his name?

1260 FRED ELUSAAS: Vacuum.

1261 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Vacuum?

1262 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

1263 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): That was neat.

1264 INTERVIEWER: Well, you know, another thing you
1265 know---

1266 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, Paul Bayou was his son.

1267 INTERVIEWER: Okay, is he on there?

1268 FRED ELUSAAS: No, this is Wasilli Bayou, this is a
1269 different—I think Wasilli and Paul were brothers.

1270 INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

1271 And Vacuum was the one that died?

1272 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, but he was a Meganack from
1273 Port Graham, he was just up here—they were all drinking together, and
1274 Paul had a seine boat and he traveled around wherever there was
1275 something to drink.

1276 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I see in a lot of the
1277 correspondence on that English Bay thing talking about the Natives
1278 making—only making enough money and then making beer and wine
1279 and everything like that and making their moonshine and drink and
1280 drink and drink and drink and drink until it was all gone and go and
1281 make some more beer---

1282 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah, that's---

1283 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): They still do it today?

1284 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, things haven't changed a heck of
1285 a—well, we were talking the other day though, in the Forties and the
1286 Fifties in the Fall of the year the bars here, the liquor stores stocked up
1287 on hundreds of cases of wine, fortified wine, because it was cheap and

1288 that's what people bought, because they didn't have much money. For
1289 five dollars you could buy a whole gallon of wine.

1290 And now you see the bars, the wine they have is not
1291 the fortified wine, there's a little bit of it I suppose, but basically it's the
1292 cheaper good wines. And but people don't buy it by the gallons and so
1293 forth anymore.

1294 And so the drinking habits have changed for the better.

1295 And the other thing we were talking about, the other
1296 day, was the social life in Seldovia has moved out of the bars, there's—
1297 everything used to happen in the bars, I used to give parties for my
1298 kids—when Dexter came back from Vietnam and when my kids got
1299 married and we gave a dinner for the family, all of it was done in the
1300 bars, the lodge, the “Linwood”, you know, the nightspot, and those
1301 things are not done anymore, now you can have home dinners and it's
1302 acceptable, where before if you didn't have a lot to drink you really
1303 weren't having a good time.

1304 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1305 FRED ELUSAAS: And you look at the church functions
1306 now, the school activities, things have changed just in the last ten or
1307 fifteen years and I think if you see a lot—the bars are crying poverty,

1308 you can go downtown and find hardly anybody out, and I like to play
1309 cards, but—I used to play cards in the bar because that’s where the
1310 card players were and now you find that most of players just don’t have
1311 money, so I don’t care to—I can’t play cards for credit, I just cannot do
1312 it, if I can’t squeeze a dollar out of ‘em, the hell with it.

1313 INTERVIEWER: (Laughing.) That’s just out of tradition?

1314 Do you think it has anything to do with television and
1315 people staying at home rather than going down to a social center?

1316 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, there’s a lot of people that do
1317 that, there used to be pinochle parties and card playing in homes
1318 before, but I think that there’s more social activities—it’s hard to find a
1319 free night for a meeting in this town, it’s a little town, very few people,
1320 but boy it’s tough—our economic development needs, we have to
1321 schedule around everybody else’s needs and, you know, tomorrow
1322 we’re going to have the harbor board meeting and during our noon
1323 hour and keep going until we finish, because we can’t find a time slot.

1324 INTERVIEWER: Okay, there’s been so many different
1325 organizations, that’s one thing that you might want to document, in
1326 1989, the kinds of organizations that are meeting, in contrast to early,
1327 say fifty years ago or thirty years ago, or ten years ago, and that says
1328 something about a community too.

1329 And the changing drinking patterns, that's, you know,
1330 people made their---you know---

1331 FRED ELUSAAS: And see our efforts have made a lot
1332 toward that, but it's also the attitudes and finances of people too,
1333 that's an added difference, we've moved from a credit town to a cash
1334 town, coming back into some credit I notice though, the—but ten years
1335 ago there was no credit at all in Seldovia, which is really different than
1336 the early days like when I was a kid where at the end of fishing season
1337 you paid off all your bills and you started all over again, you know, and--
1338 -

1339 INTERVIEWER: And if you were a good fisherman you
1340 could run up a big bill---

1341 FRED ELUSAAS: That's right.

1342 INTERVIEWER: ---because the cannery knew that you
1343 were going to pay it.

1344 FRED ELUSAAS: That's right.

1345 INTERVIEWER: Yep.

1346 FRED ELUSAAS: And everybody was judged by that
1347 too, you know.

1348 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I've got to interrupt here to ask you
1349 if the higher your credit the higher your status, because you were such
1350 a good fisherman that they knew they were going to get paid, so they—
1351 if you had owed a lot money that was important and by the time a man
1352 was, say thirty, he would be a---

1353 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, I don't think the concept of
1354 being able to owe was a consideration as much as it was a
1355 consideration to be able to buy, see, but you could go into a bar and
1356 order a round for the house and charge it to next summer's fishing, you
1357 know, that was a pretty well-to-do fishermen. Others had wondered if
1358 they just couldn't get a drink for themselves, because they didn't have
1359 that kind of income and that was more the consideration than actually
1360 the amount that you could owe.

1361 INTERVIEWER: Okay, there wasn't a ceiling for it?

1362 FRED ELUSAAS: No—well, like when I lived with my
1363 grandmother, my uncle Morris, he always had good credit, him and
1364 Frank Gravey were personal friends, they used to dig clams together
1365 when they were younger and—and I always had a limit on the amount
1366 of credit I could get because I was just a young kid and who knows if I
1367 was going to stick around or whatever, and you know, it was kind of
1368 funny, because if we went in the store Frank would ask me if I could pay

1369 on my bill, he would never said anything to Morris, Morris would, you
1370 know, he'd buy steaks and charge them and he used to—my
1371 grandmother liked those chocolates, boxes of candy, he used to buy
1372 those for my grandmother and he'd charge them all, and he never—it
1373 was, you know, not too long ago I did a job for Frank when he was
1374 selling the store and my brother Alan, he asked me, Frank asked me, he
1375 said do you think you could get Alan to work with you and I said sure,
1376 Alan always helped me out, and I did, and then when it came time to
1377 settle up Frank told Alan, he said well, he said, you know, I owe you this
1378 money I'll just put it against the store bill and things would be better.

1379 And Alan told him, no, no, Frank, he said, you don't
1380 understand, I've got important bills, he said I can't get into the bar until
1381 I pay my bar bill, and Frank wrote him a check, (Laughter) and I couldn't
1382 believe it, I always remember that, because, you know, you had to have
1383 the perspective of who you owed and Alan said---

1384 INTERVIEWER: And what the---

1385 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, and you could do without food,
1386 but you had to be able to get to that bar, and Frank agreed with him,
1387 he-- and, you know, as bad as Frank was hurting, he paid him.

1388 INTERVIEWER: Oh, my—and who's the Frank, I don't
1389 have him---

1390 FRED ELUSAAS: Frank Gravey, he owned the store.

1391 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Frank Gravey, yeah, I've seen
1392 his name in a lot of correspondence, especially in the school, and in the
1393 hospital area.

1394 INTERVIEWER: Okay, now you mentioned that you
1395 stayed with your grandmother, and that would be Grandmother Lucy,
1396 Chichenoff, here in town, or over at Homer?

1397 FRED ELUSAAS: No, here in town.

1398 INTERVIEWER: Okay, and---

1399 FRED ELUSAAS: She had one of the—and it's still in the
1400 family—the Indian possession trunk, she came over from Kodiak, I don't
1401 know how or what—my mother and my aunt went to Chemawa Indian
1402 School, and when they came back, she came back on a steamer, and it
1403 was just by chance that the steamer stopped in Seldovia before going
1404 to Kodiak because she was going to back to Kodiak, that was the ticket,
1405 and she happened to meet her mother here, she never knew that her
1406 mother was in Seldovia, been here for a few years, so she got off the
1407 boat here.

1408 INTERVIEWER: That's fascinating.

1409 And that's your mother's sisters, what's her name?

1410 FRED ELUSAAS: Annie.

1411 INTERVIEWER: And did she marry and have children?

1412 FRED ELUSAAS: No, no, she was married but she didn't
1413 have any kids.

1414 She died about twenty years ago.

1415 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1416 But, yeah, but god knows what I'd be if she'd went on
1417 to Kodiak, I may not be.

1418 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I see---

1419 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, she met my dad here.

1420 INTERVIEWER: And then stayed?

1421 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, right.

1422 INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

1423 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): And you were born here?

1424 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

1425 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, okay, so she---

1426 FRED ELUSAAS: All of the kids were born in Seldovia
1427 except for Cherry was born in Washington State. She was born in Port
1428 Orchard.

1429 INTERVIEWER: Well, do you think you'll see any of
1430 your relatives on those?

1431 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Well, there were Ponchenes
1432 on there---

1433 INTERVIEWER: There were Ponchenes, maybe we
1434 should look---

1435 FRED ELUSAAS: This Beech family, Zenas Beech, they
1436 were our neighbors up the slough, as a matter of fact they had lived in
1437 that old house that Perry had just tore down and then they moved to
1438 the house that Dorothy Parker had along the slough, and then from
1439 there they went outside and kind of scattered.

1440 INTERVIEWER: Are they shareholders?

1441 FRED ELUSAAS: No, they're CIRI shareholders, but not
1442 Seldovia.

1443 INTERVIEWER: Okay, at large—

1444 FRED ELUSAAS: They're basically Kenaitze.

1445 And Barbara Beech was a Romanoff.

1446 INTERVIEWER: And see, that's another thing---

1447 FRED ELUSAAS: Oh, yeah, and here it says "Romanoff,
1448 Barbara."

1449 INTERVIEWER: Okay, now, if you know whether these
1450 were Indians or Aleuts, that might help also?

1451 FRED ELUSAAS: I believe they're Kenai Indians, but I'm
1452 not positive on that.

1453 INTERVIEWER: Okay, no problem.

1454 FRED ELUSAAS: Huh, "Source of income, fishing. Cash
1455 income, very little this year."

1456 INTERVIEWER: Well, that was a lean year wasn't it?

1457 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah. It was a tough year.

1458 Alec Berestoff---

1459 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, what do you know about the
1460 Berestoff family?

1461 FRED ELUSAAS: Alec Berestoff lived up on the hill in a
1462 tent house and there was—his son was little Alec—the old man was of

1463 the old school and he pretty much tended to himself, his real name was
1464 Alioisha and he was the fireman for the CIT cannery, for years, he spoke
1465 very little English, he was—he didn't have a—he was a great fireman,
1466 he knew how to run boilers and stuff like that and he---

1467 INTERVIEWER: He's got pictures.

1468 FRED ELUSAAS: There used to be a picture on a
1469 postcard---

1470 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): What language did he speak?

1471 FRED ELUSAAS: Huh?

1472 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): What language did he speak?

1473 FRED ELUSAAS: Indian.

1474 INTERVIEWER: Indian, okay.

1475 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, he was Indian. Berestoff was
1476 Indian.

1477 And little Alec was one of the kids that--he was a real
1478 first class wino and he developed an ear disease and the whole side of
1479 his head just got just terrible, just rotted, and he died from it, he
1480 wouldn't take care of himself, but Berestoff was a guy that—old man
1481 Estes who owned a store—like a packing company, set up credit for him

1482 in the stores so that he could get limited credit through the year for
1483 groceries, and that way—he didn't have much money, they gave him
1484 some money, enough to, you know, at the end of the year, but they
1485 took care of him like family in that he never went without food, but he
1486 never had much else, he wasn't, you know, he was happy with his
1487 home up there and, you know, if it was a real cold day he would go cut
1488 wood and if it wasn't the hell with it, and it was his way of living.

1489 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): There's no descendants of his
1490 up there?

1491 FRED ELUSAAS: Huh?

1492 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): No descendants?

1493 FRED ELUSAAS: No, none that I know of, no
1494 Berestoffs—Billy Berestoff who lives in Kodiak is a nephew of Alioisha,
1495 but he—he's as old as I am so he's getting up there in years too.

1496 But I didn't know this Fred Berestoff, but there was a
1497 little Alec and there was another one, but I don't remember what his
1498 name was, probably born after—see, this is '44---

1499 INTERVIEWER: Thirty-four.

1500 FRED ELUSSAS: See, here it says he had a log house,
1501 and up there their house was—it was old planks with a canvas cover

1502 over it, their roof was canvas, the heat loss was terrible in those old
1503 places, but it was also very low, it didn't take a lot of heat to---

1504 When my uncle Morris died we hired Alec to build a
1505 casket for him, and my uncle Alfred says, well, on about the second
1506 day, we'd better go up and see how they're doing and we went up
1507 there and here was little Alec, he had a book of matches, and he'd light
1508 a match in that tent and Alioisha would saw with a hand saw on this
1509 plywood trying to build this casket and we knew they'd never get done
1510 so we took everything and we took it home and we had my uncle,
1511 Morris, was laid out right there in the kitchen, and we built the casket
1512 right alongside of him.

1513 And somebody came up, and I don't remember who,
1514 you know, why are we doing this, because I was sleeping in the
1515 bedroom, my grandmother had moved to Bill Smith's house and Alfred
1516 was sleeping upstairs and here Morris was laid out in the kitchen, we
1517 had no heat, and it was the fourth or fifth of July, and he died the night
1518 of the fourth, or the morning of the fifth, and so Alfred said well, it's the
1519 easiest way to get the measurements right, and jeesh, people heard
1520 that around town and thought we were terrible. But what else could
1521 we do, we had to get him buried. I had to get back to Kenai to my job,
1522 Alfred had to back across to Snug Harbor and my grandmother was

1523 really in bad shape, the effect of Morris dying, she fell off the dock onto
1524 a tugboat.

1525 But it was--I guess, you know, when you think of it, it
1526 must have looked pretty gruesome, building and making this casket
1527 there and fixing it up and they him in a wire basket, especially when
1528 they brought him up to the house and he's got these wire marks on his
1529 face and we've got Mrs. Peterson, who was another old lady, woman,
1530 from Kodiak that come up and she worked alcohol on his face and got it
1531 all smoothed out and Morris had kind of high cheek bones and she took
1532 and pushed his jaw up like that, and then he looked natural.

1533 But the problem was, Morris, all his life his nose was
1534 either broke either this way or this way from fighting, and when he died
1535 it was straight, and they just straightened it out because it was broke,
1536 and but we never said anything to our grandmother about it, because
1537 she wouldn't stand for stuff like that, but we had to, we had to do
1538 something with him and there was no mortuary or nothing here.

1539 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Fred's used to taking care of
1540 dead people, weren't you a mortician or something for awhile?

1541 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, I buried a few, I buried seven—
1542 seven people and I lost seven hundred dollars doing it, so I quit, it's not
1543 a very good—what do you do if they don't pay?

1544 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): You just not bury them---

1545 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, you can't dig them up---

1546 INTERVIEWER: Now, that—you said you were raised
1547 by your grandmother and---

1548 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, I was—I came back from living
1549 with my grandmother, see, I lived at--my folks had a home up on the
1550 slough, and then in '42 when the war was on we went outside, when
1551 they had all this scare of the Japs coming and so forth, and then I went
1552 to school out there and I came right back.

1553 Anna Berestoff, now that one doesn't ring a bell with
1554 me.

1555 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1556 FRED ELUSAAS: "Kind of house, jail,"---

1557 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, those two were in jail—
1558 they didn't have no place to live.

1559 INTERVIEWER: And that would be 1939 census—this
1560 was—because he was just a little baby at this point---

1561 FRED ELUSAAS: Stephanida—I'll be darned---

1562 INTERVIEWER: If you could recognize any descendants
1563 from these families that are now, say potential tribal members or
1564 shareholders, this would help document historic depth to the presence
1565 of these people in Seldovia.

1566 FRED ELUSAAS: Stephanida Christian, I don't know—
1567 that's doesn't---

1568 Roy Clarke, oh, oh, okay—Eva Clarke was Eva Critz, one
1569 of our shareholders today.

1570 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1571 FRED ELUSAAS: And Ivy, Alice, Jeanette and later on
1572 there was another girl named May.

1573 INTERVIEWER: Was that Jeanette Diamond?

1574 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, Jennet Diamond and Alice
1575 Clarke, and let's see, what's her name now---

1576 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Kinsley?

1577 FRED ELUSAAS: Kinsley, yeah, she just called
1578 yesterday.

1579 INTERVIEWER: You should have a copy of this in there
1580 with these notes.

1581 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): But what was her mom's
1582 maiden name?

1583 FRED ELUSAAS: Barnes, Mrs. Barnes.

1584 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, that's what you were
1585 asking about was Barnes?

1586 INTERVIEWER: Yes, I was wondering if the Barnes that
1587 show up say even in the 1920's, like Annie Barnes, if they're related to
1588 the Cordova Barnes, like Cecil Barnes?

1589 FRED ELUSAAS: I don't think so, no.

1590 INTERVIEWER: Okay, so it's a different Barnes?

1591 FRED ELUSAAS: No, it's a different Barnes.

1592 INTERVIEWER: Any descendants of those—of the
1593 Barnes that were here that are either active in the shareholders or
1594 members of the shareholders here?

1595 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): There's no Barnes by names,
1596 but there's descendants by the people you just mentioned.

1597 FRED ELUSAAS: No, see, May Carlo is a granddaughter
1598 of Mrs. Barnes, so her kids---

1599 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Oh, is she.

1600 FRED ELUSAAS: Let's see how many kids they have
1601 here, Joseph's kids, they're great-grandchildren from Mrs. Barnes.

1602 Annie Barnes, I met her last spring in Seattle, she's a
1603 woman about this tall. And her—Gladys was with me, and they
1604 recognized each other the minute they saw each other. They hadn't
1605 seen each other for years and years and years and now they're getting
1606 old and now they're—so anyway, I'm trying to think of—Ingrims is
1607 also—Mrs. Ingrims, what's her---

1608 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Ruben Ingrim.

1609 FRED ELUSAAS: Ruben and his mother—what's this?

1610 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): I don't know what her name
1611 is, I just know---

1612 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, that's Annie—yeah, that's---

1613 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): And Annie is---

1614 FRED ELUSAAS: Ingrim. Let's see—

1615 INTERVIEWER: And these are shareholders?

1616 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, ahuh, they're
1617 shareholders.

1618 FRED ELUSAAS: Ahuh, this is Ruben here and---

1619 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): We don't have those---

1620 FRED ELUSAAS: Well, Agnes---is also a Barnes

1621 daughter and these are her kids. How come you don't have---

1622 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): We only have one Ingrim that

1623 I know of, and that's Ruben.

1624 FRED ELUSAAS: Okay, but then she—oh, she's just a

1625 CIRI's shareholder, Annie.

1626 INTERVIEWER: But Annie knew your wife, Gladys?

1627 FRED ELUSAAS: Uh, huh.

1628 INTERVIEWER: And what was Gladys' maiden name?

1629 FRED ELUSAAS: Chimyonoff.

1630 INTERVIEWER: From where, was she?

1631 FRED ELUSAAS: From Kodiak.

1632 INTERVIEWER: The town of Kodiak, or just the island,
1633 there's a big difference.

1634 FRED ELUSAAS: No, the town.

1635 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1636 FRED ELUSAAS: She was—when Gladys was small, her
1637 father was from Kodiak and her mother was from Kenai, and if you saw
1638 Gladys' real name you wouldn't recognize it, it looks like a mis-type and
1639 it's about this long, and it was shortened to Glafera and then to Gladys,
1640 but her birth certificate is something to---(Laughing.)

1641 Then when her father was killed in a (power craft)
1642 accident in the Kenai River, and I don't know what happened to her
1643 mother, she went to the Baptist Mission in Kodiak and she was raised
1644 there. So---

1645 INTERVIEWER: Oh, that's interesting.

1646 FRED ELUSAAS: ---she wasn't there enough to---she
1647 was a young kid when she left, I would guess probably, you know,
1648 seven, eight years old, but she remembers some of Kodiak, but you
1649 know, like the old homes and all the dog teams and stuff like everybody
1650 had to have, but then when she left Kodiak her sister, Mary, was
1651 married to George Rist from here, and she came here, but she had she
1652 had several brothers too, and two of them drowned up here in the
1653 lagoon, it was a tragedy, and her brother, Freddy, died across the inlet
1654 on a boating accident, they were hauling fuel over to an Army base
1655 over there and the boat, I don't know what happened, but the boat

1656 sank and they—and Freddy Chimyonoff and Freddy Neiman, they both
1657 swam to shore, but they both froze on the beach.

1658 And it took a long time—but Bob Garr can tell you how
1659 he rescued them—he didn't rescue them, they were dead, you know,
1660 he was on the crash boat, he never went there.

1661 Anyway, what---

1662 INTERVIEWER: So, is there another---

1663 FRED ELUSAAS: Jeesh, "Cash income, a hundred and
1664 fifty dollars," my dad must have had a tough time, huh.

1665 INTERVIEWER: See, he's just guessing what—oh, that's
1666 your family?

1667 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah.

1668 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

1669 FRED ELUSAAS: "William Groke."

1670 INTERVIEWER: How's that spelled?

1671 FRED ELUSAAS: Groke, G-R-O-K-E.

1672 He lived up right about where the middle of the airport
1673 is now, and I'm not—was Groke the—hmmm—I think he's the one that
1674 shot the marshal.

1675 Oh, yeah, you know, the reason he was over there was
1676 he had a moonshine still and the vice squad came to town and so they
1677 walked up and-- there was no bridge and they went across the slough
1678 and Groke was there by his cabin and the dog was—I don't know
1679 exactly how it went, but Groke's dog went after the marshal and the
1680 marshal took a pistol out and shot the dog.

1681 First he aimed it and Groke told him don't do that,
1682 that's my dog, and he warned him not to and the marshal shot the dog
1683 anyway, and Groke shot him right between the eyes.

1684 INTERVIEWER: And do you know what year that was?

1685 FRED ELUSAAS: No, I don't, but I remember the story,
1686 SO---

1687 INTERVIEWER: Did your mother tell that story, or did
1688 your grandmother---

1689 FRED ELUSAAS: No, my grandmother---

1690 My grandmother knew everything in this town, she
1691 was a midwife and she knew how to use herbs and stuff and if any girl,

1692 any teenager was knocked up she knew it before they were knocked
1693 up, she said just stay away from that girl, she's going to have a kid, and
1694 jeesh—some of the—and she always was right, and where she lived she
1695 could look out her kitchen window and keep an eye on that hospital,
1696 you know, when the Seven Dayers built the hospital, and she knew
1697 almost why they were going to the hospital.

1698 INTERVIEWER: Now, this is where the location of
1699 households and families ties in, and this sounds to me like a key person,
1700 this is Lucy Chichenoff, and it identifies the fact that some of the stories
1701 before his time then would come from Lucy.

1702 FRED ELUSAAS: But, you know, if anybody did
1703 anything wrong, she knew about it, you know, and if somebody was in
1704 jail-- I could be uptown all day long and I'd go home and she would tell
1705 me what happened in town. And she was just that way, and when I
1706 was going with Gladys, you know, she knew what we did and
1707 everything, before I ever got home.

1708 And Gladys stayed right where the theater is now, at
1709 Ritchie's log house, and I'd go over the hill by church to go home, and
1710 she'd tell me about how she'd go by the main street, go down the
1711 boardwalk and see what's happening in town, because she'd tell me I'd
1712 waste my life if I keep going over that hill. (Laughing.)

1713 INTERVIEWER: The name Ritchie comes up in some of
1714 the correspondence.

1715 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, I see Ritchie in there
1716 too.

1717 FRED ELUSAAS: George—yeah, Dad Ritchie married—
1718 married a—he’s got an interesting story he used to tell us before he
1719 died, he—when he came, he was a Quaker, and he came to Alaska on a
1720 ship and got off in Cauonic, and then he was with a government survey
1721 party and he wound up in the Hope Sunrise Gold Strike, building log
1722 cabins for the miners, of course he made more money than the miners
1723 did, and but he came to Seldovia and he got a government lease on
1724 Yukon Island for the fox hunt and there was a Chinese fellow here that
1725 wanted to sell his daughter to Ritchie, because he looked—Ritchie
1726 knew what he was doing, you know, and of course Ritchie being a
1727 Quaker he wouldn’t think of doing something like that.

1728 And later he married George’s mother, who I think was
1729 from a Chugash Aleut—anyway, when George grew up he used to
1730 always tell George, he said, you know, you could have been a
1731 Chinaman, you know---(Laughing.)

1732 INTERVIEWER: Oh, that’s a great story.

1733 And this is George Ritchie?

1734 FRED ELUSAAS: George Ritchie was the young—
1735 George Ritchie married my wife's sister, that's why Gladys stayed there.

1736 INTERVIEWER: Okay, gotcha, now, you can see why
1737 having a chart, even if it's really rough, you begin to get connections,
1738 but I'll draw this up---

1739 FRED ELUSAAS: But I didn't know Agnes Groke or
1740 George Groke---

1741 INTERVIEWER: You heard about them?

1742 FRED ELUSAAS: ---unless they were—or changed their
1743 names later, see that—and that happened, when somebody would
1744 marry again the kids would all change their names.

1745 And Martin Hoganson—here they spelled it with an
1746 "A" and it's an "O", his son, Nick, just died, what, about two years ago?

1747 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): Yeah, forty-two—or a couple
1748 years ago.

1749 But did Nick or Harry ever have any children?

1750 Nick I know didn't, but Harry didn't either?

1751 FRED ELUSAAS: No, no, no.

1752 FEMALE VOICE (Crystal): And Hoganson's probably not
1753 out there---

1754 FRED ELUSAAS: And his wife, Kattie, her maiden name
1755 was Tonka, Kattie Tonka.

1756 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I've seen that name—where,
1757 Port Graham I think?

1758 FRED ELUSAAS: Yeah, yeah.

1759 They had—well, Kattie was a Bayou I believe, also,
1760 either she married a Bayou or she married a Tonka, I don't know which,
1761 SO---

1762 (End of disc.)

1763 ---oOo---

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