

*Interviewer:* Urdy, what is your last name?

*Interviewee 1:* Pete.

*Interviewer:* Pete. And what is your date of birth?

*Interviewee 1:* two, four, nineteen thirty four.

*Interviewer:* Two, four, nineteen thirty four? And where were your born?

*Interviewee 1:* Around – our....

*Interviewee 2:* \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewee 1:* \_\_\_\_\_ we grew up in – outside of Black River and Scammon Bay, between Black River, they callit \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* Between Black River and Scammon Bay?

*Interviewee 1:* Um hmm.

*Interviewer:* How long have you lived here in Stebbins?

*Interviewee 1:* Maybe –

*Interviewee 2:* Since '62.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah since then.

*Interviewee 2:* I was eight years old when we moved here.

*Interviewer:* Oh wow. And what is your first language?

*Interviewee 1:* Yupik.

*Interviewer:* You are single, married, divorced, widowed.

*Interviewee 2:* Widowed.

*Interviewee 1:* \_\_\_\_\_? I am widowed long time

*Interviewer:* Widowed. Okay. And what's the highest level of school you went to?

*Interviewee 1:* Maybe first grade.

*Interviewer:* First grade? How many people including you live in your home?

*Interviewee 1:* My daughter, her husband, three kids and one of my grandsons.

*Interviewer:* Okay so seven total with you. And where would you like to live your remaining years?

*Interviewee 1:* In my home.

*Interviewer:* Stay here? All right. And what's your box number?

*Interviewee 2:* 71073.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah.

*Interviewer:* Okay. So how did you become an elder? What was – what has your life been like leading up to now?

*Interviewee 1:* What's that?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* It's good.

*Interviewer:* It's good?

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. I like it.

*Interviewer:* What has it been like? You –

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* It's good to me. When my husband alive, we go camp and go – sometimes we go to mountain up there. We always have fun.

*Interviewer:* Um hmm. So you lived near Black River and Scammon Bay at first?

*Interviewee 1:* 'Cause my mom from Scammon Bay and we grew up right \_\_\_\_\_ and we always go fishing in Black River. We always liked that.

*Interviewer:* How did you get to live here in Stebbins? What was your –

*Interviewee 1:* Huh?

*Interviewer:* How did you move here? Like what was your – did you meet your husband and move here or –

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah.

*Interviewer:* Okay. So he was from here?

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah, he's from here. Yeah. Yeah.

*Interviewer:* How does it feel to be seen as an elder?

*Interviewee 1:* What's that?

*Interviewer:* How does it – how do you feel about people in your community thinking of you as an elder?

*Interviewee 1:* What?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* They love me. They like me here. Everybody love me.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. It feel good?

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah.

*Interviewee 2:* \_\_\_\_\_ happy I'm here.

*Interviewer:* I know. Thank you. How do you think a person can age well?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

They're happy \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewee 2:* She say people who have a good place to stay and there's plenty of – every spring, you will start – we start to gather off of the land and that's what keeps her elders healthy, that they're save here, they're safe in the community and nobody bothers. That's what you're asking about? Yeah?

*Interviewer:* Yep. Yep. So it's – you age well by having a good place to stay, having access to the foods you like to eat.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. I like my daughters cook sometimes. I help her. Yeah.

*Interviewer:* How did you learn about life and how to age?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

Yeah. I grew up, my mom, I watch her. I learned to do something and my dad talk to me how I'm going to live. I never forget them, even **I missed it**. When I think about it, I go around. I'd follow my dad. Yeah, that's what I – and I translated to my kids what I learned from the elders. I saw my grandma, little bit and he \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* Do you like being able to share with your kids and grandkids?

*Interviewee 1:* Um hmm.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee 1:* \_\_\_\_\_. I teach them how to share each others. Because long ago when I grew up. People always sharing each other, helping each other. They are good like that. Yeah.

*Interviewer:* What helps you as you get older? You have help from your kids and grandkids?

*Interviewee 1:* You mean telling my –

*Interviewee 2:* What was the question?

*Interviewer:* What helps to age well, like do you guys help out and how?

*Interviewee 2:* [Speaks Yupik]

*Interviewee 1:* [Speaks Yupik]

*Interviewee 2:* We can all kids always help her...

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah, even little kids.

*Interviewee 2:* and we help each other \_\_\_\_\_ that's how they get \_\_\_\_\_ they grow old well and there's always hope. especially \_\_\_\_\_ kids and the grandkids, like me, I'm her son, I always come over and be with her listen to stories and help when I need – when help is needed. It's what she's saying, that's how she gets help, grow well.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, so from kids and grandkids.

*Interviewee 1:* Um hmm.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. Why do you think some elders have a hard time as they get older?

*Interviewee 1:* I used to see when I was younger there's elders, they'll stay with them daughter or son in laws and those what I used to see and sometimes the granddaughter in law or someone, they feed them just leftovers. I used to – [Speaks Yupik]

*Interviewee 2:* [Speaks Yupik]

*Interviewee 1:* [Speaks Yupik]

We never took care of them and cooked like that.

[Speaks Yupik]

*Interviewee 2:* The elders that have – some elders that have a hard time aging is because either their children is not helping them or their in-laws and probably even though they cannot babysit, they let them babysit and that's hard on them, especially when they can't walk

too much or do too much, too much work and when their kids or grandkids ask them to babysit, you know, it shouldn't be like that, but that happens. That's how come some elders, they, you know –

*Interviewer:* Have a harder time.

*Interviewee 1:* Right. *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 2:* And feeding their kids with leftovers

*Interviewee 1:* I used to see that. I used to see that kinda \_\_\_\_.

*Interviewee 2:* Maybe sometimes too, financially and you know, in the older days, the young men used to always help the elders. But nowadays, they keep to themselves and they just – when an elder is walking by carrying something, the young will just pass them by without helping them. That's how it is nowadays. The older days, the younger people used to always help the elders, chopping wood, getting water, you know, doing stuff that they cannot do. But nowadays, it's too much TV.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah, they don't do that no more.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. Yeah. So it used to be a lot different years ago and now it's elders can age well only if their family members pretty much take care of them and help out.

*Interviewee 1:* My family loves me.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, you're lucky huh.

*Interviewee 1:* My daughter loves me and her husband loves me sometimes tease me. And they always. Yeah. But one, his younger sister is living in Anchorage. But I am glad he always be living here. and kids, lots grandkids.

*Interviewer:* Happy to be near them?

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah.

*Interviewer:* Um hmm. How do you think someone becomes an elder?

*Interviewee 1:* Becomes? *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

When I was on my fifties, I was quick and sixty, getting weaker, seventy, eighty, weaker, getting weaker. And some of them, some

of them start forgetting, forget, but I'm glad I'm not yet. Maybe I'll be. Sometimes I always easy to forget. Yeah.

*Interviewer:* So as you get older, you kind of get weaker and some people forget?

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah.

*Interviewer:* But you're doing okay so far, huh?

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. My mom, living – I don't know how old she is when I see \_\_\_\_.

*Interviewee 2:* Eighty-nine.

*Interviewee 1:* Oh, eighty-nine, but two years, she never recognized people no more, even –

*Interviewee 2:* Like, you know, Alzheimer's. Yeah. She had Alzheimer's, her mom, my grandma.

*Interviewer:* That can be hard.

*Interviewee 1:* Um hmm.

*Interviewee 2:* And she would, you know, people like that, they go out and they wander off somewhere and they don't know where they're going. So those people always, the children would always have to watch and make sure they don't fall off the cliff.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, no kidding.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah, some old ladies, even Annie, she start to walk around and he's son and daughter in law, always go look for him. Soon, they put him in a home in Anchorage.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. Why do you think some elders have to move?

*Interviewee 1:* I don't want to go.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee 1:* I want to die in my house.

*Interviewer:* You want to stay here. Yeah. Why do you think some elders do?

*Interviewee 1:* I don't know.

*Interviewee 2:* You know, because of their health. I know an elder from Mountain Ridge is staying in Anchorage and has to stay near the hospital 'cause he had a stroke twice. And that's why it's up to the doctors,

you know, to place them near where they'll be close to a hospital. In the past, we don't have no hospitals, you know, in our villages just so they have to travel and when they get medivac, you know, that's the big expense there, medivacs. So the doctors would decide to keep them there, keep them in Anchorage where there's a hospital and they can easily take that elder to the hospital if something goes wrong.

*Interviewee 1:* To me, sometimes this elder can't help herself no more and their family puts them in a home in somewhere. They really, to me, they really cry inside, don't want to go. That's why they die really fast. I don't want to do that.

I always to me, I always sorry for that.

*Interviewer:* It feels like it's not their choice?

*Interviewee 1:* Um hmm.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. Do you have advice for people here who want to age well?

*Interviewee 1:* What's that?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 2:* They ask, they, she could give advice how to age well.

*Interviewer:* What kind of things should someone do?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

It's easy to be hurt. We have to be – you know, our ,whoever takes care of us, they have to be nice people. When we get old, when I was younger, people do me something I nevermind. When I get older, start hurting me.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, feelings?

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. Feeling hurt. It's no good. I don't like it.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee 2:* I think if I had to be as old as her, I think good advice for elders would be to live in a good home where there would be – they would have no hardship and they would be cared for and loved all the time rather than you know ignoring that elder and say, "Oh, she's getting old," or "He's getting old. Let him go." But that's not how I – how I want my mom to go. I want to be with her until she

goes. So that's how we grow up. And they always advise us how to live, always be good to people. That's how we grew up.

*Interviewer:* And so like you were saying earlier, you share. You share with people and then people will share with you.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. I grew up like that. We share with each other. Like now, just like there's lots of houses around, it's like sometimes it's just like nobody in Stebbins., nothing, no people outside. When I see, we got lots of kids only a few of them play out. Right now, it's really changed.

*Interviewee 2:* They're either stuck on TV or playing games. But that's not our culture. Our culture is out there.

*Interviewer:* Getting together and going out in the country.

*Male:* We got some snow geese yesterday. Kellen.

*Interviewee 2:* Oh? Where?

*Male:* In the flats.

*Interviewee 2:* Ah, someplace out there, huh? Yeah, I know a person went out, I don't know how they did. Yeah, this time of the year, it's the hunting season.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, we heard birds.

*Interviewee 1:* \_\_\_\_\_ yeah. They just \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday or the day before. finally getting birds . And you want to ask me something too.

*Interviewer:* I will.

*Interviewee 2:* Sometimes these elders, they all visit it's understood. You know, company. "come and have tea"

*Interviewer:* Uh huh. So visiting is real important and getting together?

*Interviewee 1:* They used to visit me all the time. All of them gone. I miss them

*Interviewer:* Yeah, get lonely.

What do you think is most important for youth to know? What do you want kids to know?

*Interviewee 1:* They always tell me I see good ones, but I grew up, I learned, I want them to learn the – what I –

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*



*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. Some kids, I used to tell them what I used to hear and I like supposed to be like that. And I tell other mothers when we used to get together in the house, when I hear what they say and what I tell them, you always watch the kids, its like the never listen, even they like that, we have to tell them \_\_\_\_\_ what I had. They always keep them in their mind, even they grow up and they mistake, I remember and I go mistake. It's just that, like that. We have to use that, what our elders say.

*Interviewer:* So, remember what your elders say and even if you make a mistake, you still remember it.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah, kids always like when I was growing up, my mom and dad tell me what to do and I hear them when I grow up, sometimes when I mistake, I remember. If I follow that my mom and dad say, I'll go home.

*Interviewee 2:* I remember an elder telling me that , you know, with my kids, everyday they would tell me, "Don't scold your kids too much. You scold them too much, they won't listen anymore." And that's how we grew up, talking to our kids in a good way, not scolding them.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. When we holler at them, they not like it. Talk to them holler at them they won't.. Only the way we talk, the way we talk, they'll be go in their mind and they grow up and they have mistake they know, in there \_\_\_\_\_. Yeah.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee 1:* We don't have to hit them 'cause they are they are mischief, we have to love.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, they learn when you love them.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. Yeah.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee 1:* You have to love all the kids no matter what they do. I learn it when I was working at kids in school. Some kids really mischief and all the people scold them and when they saw me, I smile at them. Big smile. \_\_\_\_\_ boys \_\_\_\_\_.

*Male:* \_\_\_\_\_ Frances \_\_\_\_\_ about 20 years ago when she worked at the school, I still remember her smile.

*Interviewee 1:* Then one buy, his grandma bring him to school. He run and take, throw his jacket. jump, jump on a table and run around. Grandma say really mischief boy, that grandma look like you must be like that when you were small. She laughed.

*Interviewer:* Is there anything about aging or being an elder that you want to share with us that I haven't asked?

*Interviewee 1:* Like what you ask me really\_?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

Yeah.

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewer:* Just if there's anything else she'd like to share with us about aging or about being an elder that we didn't ask about?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. *[Speaks Yupik]*

Yeah.

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 2:* \_Through the love of her children and even me and myself as her only son now, just keeping her happy they grow older better, keeping them happy, not letting them have hard time as old as she is, she can't do too much and the elders who make it that old, they become very fragile and they can't be hollered at. They can't be, you know, treated badly. They need, all they need is the love of their children, their grandchildren and keeping them happy. That's how they grow old. That's how I want to grow old.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah, it's not good when we get old. Easy to get hurt.

*Interviewer:* Easy to get hurt.

*Interviewee 1:* Like little kids. Yeah.

*Interviewer:* Sensitive.

*Interviewee 1:* Um hmm.

*Interviewer:* Do you have any questions for us?

*Interviewee 2:* *[Speaks Yupik]*

*Interviewee 1:* No.

*Interviewee 2:* No.

*Interviewer:* Okay.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah.

*Interviewer:* That was it.

*Interviewee 1:* Yeah. Quyana.

*Interviewer:* Quyana, thank you very much for sharing with us.

*[End of Audio]*