

**TRANSCRIPTION  
OF  
INTERVIEW  
8.7.21.I15H20 Pt1**

**Interviewer**

Okay, perfect. And then, can you tell me what it was like to grow up in your childhood home or homes here in Unalakleet?

**Interviewee**

What's that?

**Interviewer**

Can you tell me what it was like to grow up in your childhood homes here in Unalakleet?

**Interviewee**

It was nice.

**Interviewer**

Yeah?

**Interviewee**

Yeah. We lived in a house where the church is now.

**Interviewer**

Oh, you did?

**Interviewee**

Yeah. When they built [place], and my mom and dad moved there.

**Interviewer**

So you as a kid, you moved over to [place]?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay. Gotcha. So then they got one of those, like, newer houses then?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Nice.

**Interviewee**

They built those first, and then they had these all shipped in.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. I know all of those ones look like they're the exact same and everything.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Do you - can you tell me about the favorite part of the home that you spent a lot of time in growing up?

**Interviewee**

It was nice it was four bedrooms. We all had our own room.

**Interviewer**

Nice. All the kids had their own room?

**Interviewee**

Yeah. For me and my brother shared a room and my sister shared a bedroom too and my mom and dad had their own bed.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, that's nice. Sounds like everyone had their space. Yeah. And then were there any other parts of the house that you remember being something that you really enjoyed about it?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, we had two bathrooms. Just like here we have two but one is down right now.

**Interviewer**

Okay got you.

**Interviewee**

It's okay.

**Interviewer**

Yeah.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And why was the bath like having two bathrooms memorable for you?

**Interviewee**

Because my mom and dad; this was their other house. We stayed in Anchorage. We had two, two bathrooms there. One downstairs, one upstairs.

**Interviewer**

Yeah

**Interviewee**

And that was good because all the kids showered upstairs and mom and dad down.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, yeah. And the house here when you move to [place], how old were you for that one?

**Interviewee**

14

**Interviewer**

14 Okay, gotcha. Okay. And then that one had you had your own room in that one as well?

**Interviewee**

No, I shared it with my brother.

**Interviewer**

Okay, got you.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Are there any other aspects of the house that you enjoyed growing up?

**Interviewee**

No it was good to have a new house because that one wear thin before they built the new church.

**Interviewer**

So you enjoyed the house when you move to [place]?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah.

**Interviewee**

It was pretty old and falling apart.

**Interviewer**

Yeah.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. And what were some challenging aspects of the old house that you lived in?

**Interviewee**

It was real poor plumbing with the whole water because they didn't have their water hooked up? But then they finally got it hooked up. That helped the problem.

**Interviewer**

Oh, that's good.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Eventually like after some time.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And was there anything else about that house that you didn't like growing up?

**Interviewee**

Yeah. The old, they didn't have a roof over it. They only had heating and middle heating and when the winter came it would frost up and in springtime it would melt and it'd just drip all over the house. We'd have bucket and towel to catch the water.

**Interviewer**

That's really hard.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah so you say the house in Happy Valley didn't have any of these issues?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, it didn't have. It was a brand new house and it was good. Yeah

**Interviewer**

Yeah okay. Yeah, that's hard. That would be hard to not have plumbing and then to have a leaking roof

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

And then were there other houses you spent a lot of time in growing up besides your family home?

**Interviewee**

Oh, no.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Yeah. You spent most of your time at home. And then for this home, where you currently live, let's see, can you tell me how your current house is different from the houses you grew up in?

**Interviewee**

Oh, a lot more space. We have grid covered grid plumbing.

**Interviewer**

Yeah

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And how do the covers like make a difference in your day to day?

**Interviewee**

From the old house we just had very few grocery shelves that my dad made himself but this is a lot better.

**Interviewer**

Okay and then you said so the plumbing is different and the cabinets Is there anything else that's different between the houses?

**Interviewee**

Oh no not really. Better build.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Yeah. No leaky roof.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And, and then for this house, can you walk me through sort of each room in the house? Like how do you use each room throughout the day?

**Interviewee**

What's that?

**Interviewer**

Can you walk me through how you use each room in your house?

**Interviewee**

Living room first, we cook over here. The living room minus the couch. We just got rid of that. We're waiting for a new one.

**Interviewer**

Oh, nice.

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

That'll be good.

**Interviewee**

My granddaughter and daughter stay in here at night.

**Interviewer**

Awesome.

**Interviewee**

My son and my older son but he is away right now they share a bedroom here.

**Interviewer**

Nice, so they have their own space. They can definitely do their own thing.

**Interviewee**

Then we have a porch plus the freezer to keep our meats in there.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, that's awesome.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

That's where you store like all the fish and everything for the winter.

**Interviewee**

Me and my wife's bedroom and second bathroom.

**Interviewer**

Nice.

**Interviewee**

Got a shower.

**Interviewer**

Great.

**Interviewee**

Yeah. Oh the cupboards, when they moved this house, the foundation, the doors don't shut properly, they're gonna try and fix that and same with the porch. It shifted and the door just rub against the floor.

**Interviewer**

Okay

**Interviewee**

You've probably seen that for its scraping against the floor.

**Interviewer**

Yeah

**Interviewee**

That's what happened when they moved it. But when we first moved in, when they, you know, they had to put new gravel pad, then when it settled down, that's when the shifting happened.

**Interviewer**

Okay

**Interviewee**

So they make a lot of noise. They're going to be working on that some time.

**Interviewer**

Okay, yeah. And who did you talk to about that?

**Interviewee**

NVU, housing manager yeah.



**Interviewer**

Yeah, Okay. Did they... Does the house come with, like maintenance where they'll fix things for you? Or do you have to pay for that?

**Interviewee**

No, they said the first five years they do any repairs that they have to do because they're moving the house

**Interviewer**

Yeah. would create [inaudible 12:08].

**Interviewee**

Yeah. So they're going to replace them so they can shut they say.

**Interviewer**

Okay, good. Good. I'm glad to hear that. And then I saw you have a laundry room back there.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And then the kitchen. Through the winter time, do you guys do any like activities? Like, do you use the living room space or other spaces for different kinds of activities?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, we have a table here for puzzles during Christmas and not much.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, normal life stuff.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay and then. So let's start with the your bedroom and bathroom in there. Is there anything about it that you would change or adjust?

**Interviewee**

No, it works good.

**Interviewer**

Good?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And the only thing for there would be the doors.

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

Yeah. And what about this bathroom? Is there anything that you would change or adjust?

**Interviewee**

No its good too

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Good. How about the living room and dining room space?

**Interviewee**

No, we like it

**Interviewer**

What about the other two bedrooms, everything good there? It's all good.

**Interviewee**

Yeah. Only thing we need changed is the windows because during the shifting, they don't wanna shut properly some times. So that the only other thing.

**Interviewer**

And how do you notice that shifting is it...?

**Interviewee**

They're hard to close, like before they'd just close out, you know, regularly, but now we got to really push them in. Like, yeah, it takes a while to finally get him shot properly.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Okay. Gotcha. Yeah. So through the winter, do you feel the..?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, the cold coming in? And we told them about that and they said they'd replace the windows. Yeah. Oh, I wish it was bigger, but it works fine. We had the heat man come in and fix it. We had a problem with the heater at just three years after but there was no cost for him to redo it and fix it. It works perfectly now.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Glad it's all fixed. Yeah. Makes sense. Is there anything that you would adjust about your laundry room? And why would you want more space in the laundry room?

**Interviewee**

It's this little small for parts, for us to put our boots in there and stuff

**Interviewer**

Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewee**

Other than that it's okay.

**Interviewer**

Okay got you. And then what about your kitchen? Is there anything you'd adjust in your kitchen?

**Interviewee**

No. Good.

**Interviewer**

Okay, and. Okay, I'm gonna ask you some questions just about housing concerns in Unalakleet. Do you have any questions before I start that - those questions?

**Interviewee**

Those what?

**Interviewer**

I'm gonna ask you some questions on housing concerns in Unalakleet

**Interviewee**

Oh, yeah.

**Interviewer**

Do you have any questions before I start?

**Interviewee**

No

**Interviewer**

No? Okay. Do you have any concerns with electricity in your house?

**Interviewee**

No. Electricity is good

**Interviewer**

Awesome and do you ever have any concerns with how much electricity you use?

**Interviewee**

No, it was good with the, with the power cost equation going reactive, we have to pay more. So that's the only problem now.

**Interviewer**

Is that a program? or What is that?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, it's the state program that helps reduce the cost of electricity they take care of part of it. But now that it's not funded this year, we're gonna have to pay the whole thing.

**Interviewer**

Have you already seen that increase in cost from that?

**Interviewee**

No, it just ended last month, so we haven't really seen it yet.

**Interviewer**

Okay, I didn't know that.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, I think I was here in May talking to people and everyone said they used it so yeah, I didn't know what didn't get funded. Are there other cost share programs for electricity or oil that people use that are still around?

**Interviewee**

They had the oil help with the oil, but I didn't need that because this is really fuel efficient.

**Interviewer**

Good good that's awesome.

**Interviewee**

Yeah. We don't have to burn that much fuel like some other people with housing. They have to buy a lot more oil than we do because their house is poorly insulated. So we notice that.

**Interviewer**

How much oil do you normally buy, like in the wintertime?

**Interviewee**

Oh, we got a 100 gallon tank, but it only burns like 50 gallons a month.

**Interviewer**

Oh, good!

**Interviewee**

So it's really, really different than from my old house that used to burn over 150 gallons a month.

**Interviewer**

Oh my goodness

**Interviewee**

Yeah. Big difference because the poorly insulated old house would really burn oil.

**Interviewer**

What did they do with the old house that you lived in?

**Interviewee**

They tore it down out of the way

**Interviewer**

Yeah must have been pretty old.

**Interviewee**

Yeah. Yeah. It was built in the 1940s

**Interviewer**

Wow. Yeah. Did it have those thick logs, or was it...?

**Interviewee**

Yeah in the foundation.

**Interviewer**

Yeah?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay, so you weren't you said that you weren't really as concerned with the electricity costs before but now that that state program doesn't get funded you're more concerned?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Okay, and then do you have concerns about the power quality? Say for example, electricity surges or, like power outages in your home only or things like that?

**Interviewee**

Oh, no, we don't have any of the problems like some other people they have electricity problems with power surges and stuff, but they fixed that, our neighbors, that was fixed real quick. So I'm happy with the electricity company now.

**Interviewer**

Glad to hear that. And you just said that you feel like your house is very energy efficient.

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

you see that through the oil usage.

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

Okay. And what do you think about your home makes it energy efficient?

**Interviewee**

The insulation that they put in is a lot better than the insulation that was in it before because when it was, I remember when it was over there, the family that lived in here before had to buy a lot more oil than we do now.

**Interviewer**

Okay, yeah and do you remember what kind of insulation that had before?

**Interviewee**

Fiber insulation, you know, the regular roll up into?

**Interviewer**

Yeah, pink stuff?

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

Okay. And so when they moved it here, they put in new....

**Interviewee**

The foam insulation in it. Really big difference. Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Is there anything else that you feel like it makes it energy efficient in addition to the insulation?

**Interviewee**

We use the wood stove and that really helps on saving fuel too because it doesn't have to keep burning oil for lights going on. Yeah, so it really helps during the winter.

**Interviewer**

Good okay. Do you use your wood stove most of the winter time?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, we use it. Not all the time, but only when it starts to get like 30 - 40 below it really

**Interviewer**

Yeah really cold.

**Interviewee**

Yeah, really helps.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Okay. Got you. And then is there anything that you think could improve the energy efficiency of your home?

**Interviewee**

Not right now. Just the oil bill that was a good state funded thing that's the only concern I have right now.

**Interviewer**

So okay, so your sources of heating are wood and oil and then and electricity? Or is it just oil?

**Interviewee**

No, we don't use electricity heaters or anything.

**Interviewer**

And then do you know how many quarts of oil you go through in the winter time?

**Interviewee**

Probably about three.

**Interviewer**

Okay. And then how many months of the year do you normally use the woodstove on average?

**Interviewee**

Ok, December, January, February - about four months

**Interviewer**

And then how about that oil heater?

**Interviewee**

All year

**Interviewer**

All year?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

What temperature do you normally set it at for the wintertime?

**Interviewee**

78.

**Interviewer**

Okay, and then what about summertime?

**Interviewee**

58

**Interviewer**

That's nice. Ok, much lower.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Ok good. And is it, is it comfortable temperature for you throughout the year?

**Interviewee**

Like 65, 70 is what we keep this at.

**Interviewer**

Okay. Yeah. Do you ever have concerns about how much oil you have to use to keep to feel warm enough, like through the winter time?



**Interviewee**

Before but not no more. It's really [inaudible 23:54] right now.

**Interviewer**

Okay. And then do you have any other concerns about the heating in your home?

**Interviewee**

Oh, no. Everything good

**Interviewer**

Good?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And do you have ways to ventilate your home for getting fresh air in the house?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, we have the. what do you call it?

**Interviewer**

Is that with this system there?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

A track system?

**Interviewee**

Air conditioning. Yeah, we just open it up if we you know, we need it cooler in both bedrooms out here

**Interviewer**

Nice so you mostly use it in the summertime?

**Interviewee**

Yeah. Only in the summer.

**Interviewer**

Gotcha. Do you open your windows at any time of the year?

**Interviewee**

Oh, only when it is real hot like last week, we had to keep them open.

**Interviewer**

I heard it was in the 80s

**Interviewee**

80 yeah so that was the only time we'd have them open.

**Interviewer**

Okay and is there a reason why you don't open them at other times through the year?

**Interviewee**

No we just don't need the open.

**Interviewer**

And do you have any concerns with wind or drafts in your home?

**Interviewee**

No. We don't have any issues right now.

**Interviewer**

That's good and then let's see. Do you have any exhaust fans like something in your bathroom?

**Interviewee**

Yeah both bathrooms have electric. Press if you want to have it locked and then

**Interviewer**

Okay. And how often do you guys use them?

**Interviewee**

Only when they shower it keeps all the steam out.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. And they both work well?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Oh good, ok. And what about, do you have one above the stove?

**Interviewee**

So that one's broken right now. They're going to replace that top so that's the only problem right now.

**Interviewer**

When it was working, did you guys use it very much?

**Interviewee**

Yeah we used it when we cooked. It worked good.

**Interviewer**

Okay. Good. And then, do you have any concerns with ventilating your house with getting like fresh air inside?

**Interviewee**

Oh no everything works well here.

**Interviewer**

Do you have any concerns about air quality inside your home? Do you ever have concerns with mold inside your home?

**Interviewee**

No its good We haven't had any problems with mold. That was a big difference from our old place because it was it would get really moldy especially during the spring. Now we don't have that problem here.

**Interviewer**

Okay. Well, I'm glad to hear that. So the house you lived in right before this had mold.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, that's hard.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

So you do you never notice it? Like even like on the window sealer or anything?

**Interviewee**

No we don't have no mold at all

**Interviewer**

That's really good.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And then, can you tell me if you rent or own your home?

**Interviewee**

We, me and my wife own this house

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Awesome. Okay and then are there any major repairs you've done or NVU has done since you lived here?

**Interviewee**

Just on the heater and they haven't really worked on the doors yet. They said they would sometimes.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. So you're just waiting on them to fix the doors and windows.

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

Gotcha and then, do you know if there was like, so when they moved the house here that was through NVU right?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Did they do anything else to the house besides replace the insulation? Did they do the windows or other things in the house?

**Interviewee**

Yeah, they did replace the windows in the whole siding on the whole, the whole house yeah.

**Interviewer**

And was there anything else that they did to the house?

**Interviewee**

Nope.

**Interviewer**

Okay. And that was that all done when they first moved the house here in 2016?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay. And, well, okay, so go. When you went through NVU to have all of this done with the house, do you feel like it was a good process? Like, were you happy with the process of working with nvu for the house?

**Interviewee**

Yes

**Interviewer**

Was there anything about the process that you would have changed or wanted to be different?

**Interviewee**

No.

**Interviewer**

What did you like about the process? Like what did you enjoy about it?

**Interviewee**

I was just happy to get a new house. We needed it real bad.

**Interviewer**

Yeah were you like signed up on a list to like, get the house?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay. Did you have to, how long were you on the list for?

**Interviewee**

Seven years

**Interviewer**

7 years?

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

Gotcha. Yeah. Yeah. So that's exciting that it finally happened.

**Interviewee**

It finally happened and that was good.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. That's awesome especially because you have your whole family here.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay. So two questions on energy and utility infrastructure in Unalakleet. Do you have any questions before I start?

**Interviewee**

No.

**Interviewer**

And how often does Unalakleet experience power outages in a given year?

**Interviewee**

Last year there was quite a few. During the winter, they'd be off because of the storm that knocks down the poll. It was out for most of the night. But luckily, we had a woodstove. Otherwise, you know, people's houses were freezing and water bursting, and we didn't have that problem. So that was good to have a wood stove.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. So you use that as your main source of heat for the outage.

**Interviewee**

Only if the power goes out.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Yeah. And so how many would you say happen in a year because that was a really big one right?

**Interviewee**

Yeah. That was just during that big storm last fall. That was the only time.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, do you believe that the utility infrastructure, such as the water or electrical lines need to be replaced?

**Interviewee**

No.

**Interviewer**

They're all good?

**Interviewee**

They're all good.

**Interviewer**

And then what do you think about the wind turbines out in the hillside?

**Interviewee**

I guess they're good. They don't have very many power outages just them going.

**Interviewer**

Yeah, that's good.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

What do you think about putting implementing more renewable energy such as wind turbines or solar panels?

**Interviewee**

Good, I guess, but maybe solar panel, that would probably be real good for some people here. I noticed some people got it. We haven't had to use it. But I think it would be good to cut down on energy.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. So is there a reason why you would think solar panels would be better maybe than the wind turbines?

**Interviewee**

Oh, no.

**Interviewer**

Just having like the option?

**Interviewee**

Yeah

**Interviewer**

Yeah okay. So like, you would be okay with them if like they were on your roof, and it helps with electricity cost?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Okay. Did you, so you lived in Unalakleet before the wind turbines were installed?

**Interviewee**

Yes

**Interviewer**

Did you notice a difference in the cost of your electricity before and after?

**Interviewee**

No, it was about the same.

**Interviewer**

And did you notice any differences in your energy reliability, like, less outages or lack of availability of like energy or things like that?

**Interviewee**

Less outages yeah

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Cool. Okay. How many? So how many times do you use your cooking stove in an average day?

**Interviewee**

What's that?

**Interviewer**

How many times do you normally use your cooking stove each day?

**Interviewee**

Three times - breakfast, lunch and dinner. But sometimes we don't use it. Maybe twice if we have like cereal or something?

**Interviewer**

Yeah, that makes sense. And what about your laundry and your washer and dryer?

**Interviewee**

About twice a day. But with this water problem we're just using it once a day.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. Yeah, it's a race.



**Interviewee**

Yeah. I have to conserve on water

**Interviewer**

Yeah, I know. We've been like, okay, it's five o'clock you've got to get in the shower.

**Interviewee**

Yeah. Same here. Everybody wants a shower at the same time.

**Interviewer**

And then do you know the age of your roof? Do you know if they did anything to the roof when they moved the house here?

**Interviewee**

They completely redid the whole roof and everything.

**Interviewer**

Okay

**Interviewee**

Yeah, replace all the heating and stuff and redid the whole stove put in a new heating system. That's why it's so really energy efficient.

**Interviewer**

Yeah. So was that in 2016 when they moved the house here?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And before that was the house set like you said it was a prefab house?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Was it already built where someone else was living in it here in Unalakleet?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay. Do you know how long they lived in it for before?

**Interviewee**

They lived in it for probably 10 years.

**Interviewer**

For how many years?

**Interviewee**

10 years

**Interviewer**

In this same house?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

So it was a prefab house that someone lived in for 10 years?

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

And then they brought it over here and...

**Interviewee**

They redid the whole thing.

**Interviewer**

Awesome, so they redid...

**Interviewee**

They redid the floor, all the sheet rock and insulation.

**Interviewer**

And yeah, everything. So everything was basically new from 2016.

**Interviewee**

Yeah.

**Interviewer**

Okay got you.

**Interviewer 2**

So I'm gonna do the blower door test. And I just need to open all the interior doors and close the windows and exterior doors and just turn off the boiler and the water heater is that okay?

**Interviewee**

Okay.

**Interviewer 2**

Is it okay to do it with just with like the breaker box switch?

**Interviewer**

No. You could just unplug that. You wanna get that? Okay, your last item?

**Interviewer 2**

Yes. Okay. Cool.