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Date:
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C. When a woman became pregnant for the first time, she was told to go outside for awhile as soon as she got up. This tradition comes from a long way, and it probably is still effective today. If a woman was pregnant, she was asked to go outside completely, instead of going halfway and returning inside. This tradition was interpreted as the woman didn't go outside fully while she was pregnant, her baby wouldn't be able to come out right away and the baby would probably go back to her womb without completely going out.

M. Was it like having labour and not getting the baby out right away due to not having going outside completely while she was pregnant?

C. Yes, the baby would almost get out from the womb that's, the way it was. A pregnant woman always had to go outside completely and it is still effective today probably, but we don't give advise to our younger generation anymore though.

M. Have you been given advise about giving birth before?

C. Yes, we all have been given advise.

M. About giving birth.

C. Yes.

M. Why don't you just sew?

C. I couldn't find a needle.

M. How were you given advise if you were to give birth.

C. I don't think I was given advise fully.

M. Really.

C. But I forget easily now about giving birth or before giving birth.

M. What position did you use when you were in labour?

C. I always gave birth while lying down right up to now. I gave birth to all my children in the lying position. It was probably because I gave birth to my first child lying down.

M. Yes.

C. I had never been in a sitting position. But we were told to keep our spine straight and not to have our butt protruding.

M. Yes. Were you helped in a position while you were in labour?

C. Yes. While lying, the bedding was fixed by making it hollow like, maybe it was to keep our butt in a straight position?

M. Yes.

C. Also, the pelvic area was positioned lower than our upper body, that was probably to keep our butt secured in order to give birth.

M. Really?

C. It was to help us in a straight position.

M. Yes.

C. That was probably to keep us in a good position, if we were not in a good position to give birth, we might end up hurting ourselves probably.

M. Yes.

C. No wonder.

M. If a pregnant woman cried while in labour for the first child...how does it go?

C. When a pregnant woman cried during labour for the very first delivery or if she screamed and shouted during her labour, it would mean that she would always be that way whenever she gave birth in the later years. It was believed that way. Some women weren't probably that way at all.

M. Really, like a woman who yelled during labour?

C. Yes.

M. It would always be like that for the woman...

C. Yes.

M. Would it also be like that if a woman in labour was restless during their first labour?

C. During their labour?

M. Yes.

C. It would probably lengthened their labour.

M. Right, but was it that way for a woman who was giving birth for the first time?

C. Yes, probably that could have been that way for the woman for the other babies in the future.

M. You were to obey the strict rules without question then?

C. Yes. When the baby was coming out, we were told to push then.

M. When the baby came out, did you cut the umbilical cord all by yourself?

C. Not me. Some women were able to cut the umbilical cord all by themselves, if they were alone, yes.

M. Have you ever cut an umbilical cord yourself before?

C. I have cut the umbilical cord of Melanie who was the last one.

M. Really.

C. Yes. I don't think I have ever cut another umbilical cord again. Yes, I still have a vivid knowledge of the one I cut before.

M. They did it themselves, is that right? Sometimes they would scrape the afterbirth by themselves sometimes?

C. Yes.

M. By themselves?

C. Yes, by themselves, yes.

M. That is something.

C. Their fingernails shouldn't be long if they were to scrape if part of the placenta was still attached to the lining of the womb.

M. Really. I wonder why the placenta was sometimes stuck to the

womb?

C. Maybe it was because they didn't rotate their stomach enough by rubbing around it while they were pregnant or they were too idle while pregnant?

M. Really.

C. Yes, we were hardly ever idle while we were pregnant in those days.

M. Really.

C. Nowadays, pregnant women have more problems and it's a fact, I wonder why we hardly had problems while we were pregnant then, maybe we ate a lot of meat then.

M. Yes, maybe we weren't swallowing any pills then?

C. Yes. We didn't swallow pills and we ate only meat then.

M. That's the truth, we only ate meat then.

C. Whenever the baby hardened in the womb, we were told to move it around with our hands.

M. Really.

C. Yes. If you don't move it around, the placenta would get stuck on the lining of the womb. Also we were told not to eat the fat on the sinew of the caribou, because that would incur the placenta to get stuck on the lining of the womb if we ate the fat.

M. Really.

C. About getting the placenta to get stuck on the womb?

M. These..

C. Yes, these fat on the sinew.

M. Yes.

C. These sinew have fat only on the bull caribou?

M. Yes.

C. I was told not to eat the fat on the sinew when I was a child. All the girls were advised not to eat the fat on the sinew because it would make the placenta get stuck on the lining of the womb.

M. Really.

C. Yes.

M. Is it because the fat is stuck on the sinew?

C. Yes, because it's stuck on the sinew.

M. Really.

C. Yes. This fat was not to be eaten by the girls, because it would make the placenta get stuck. But we were allowed to eat regular caribou fat though. No wonder.

M. Really.

C. Yes. Of course as a matter of fact I still don't allow the girls to eat the fat on the sinew because I used to be told not to eat it when I was a child.

M. Even as a girl?

C. Yes.

M. Now I'm an adult.

C. Yes. It was probably because the girl would give birth to babies when she grew older.

M. I'm asking questions about giving birth and also pregnancy, but now I'm running out of questions.

C. Really.

M. I will try to ask you some more questions. Also when they wanted to know before hand if the baby was a girl, they would try to predict it somehow, didn't they?

C. Yes. They did try to predict sometimes. Sometimes when I was in labour and during the time when I was almost giving birth, if the the baby was a girl, the contractions would be less strong. The contractions were.....

M. Really. I must have been knowledgeable too.

C. Yes. My cousin, I had made her do some emergency preparations on me before. I thought I was only in the midst of labour because the contractions were still weak, but I was actually on the verge of delivering the baby.

M. Girl babies tend to have weaker contractions do they?

C. Yes.

M. Or is it because they have less strengths?

C. I didn't even notice the movements of the baby.

M. Really.

C. Probably because I could hardly feel her then.

M. Yes.

C. But I still could feel her a bit too though.

M. When you were in labour....(inaudible)

C. Yes, I knew I was in labour, but I thought the contractions were going to get stronger, so my cousin had to do some emergency preparations on me, because I was delivering the baby right away. It was then, when I knew that no two labours are the same, some stronger, some weaker.

M. Yes. In those days, how did they try to get a girl baby? Did they do something to get a girl sometimes?

C. It's like this. The young women or girls who would braid their bangs of their hair would get girl babies more. Also, if the woman split the intestines of bearded seals while eating them, their babies would change sexes after they were born.

M. Really.

C. That's the way they'd believe it would happen. If the girls or the young women would braid their hair bangs, they would usually give birth to little girls a lot more in their future.

M. Yes.

C. Yes, that's the way it was. If the women slit the intestines while eating them, their baby would change sex after being born.

M. While you were cutting the umbilical cord...

C. You must cut it short.

M. Did you cut it just like that?

C. Yes, but you had to squeeze the excess inner stuff out.

M. Really.

C. Then tied it.

M. Squeeze the excess inner stuff?

C. Yes.

M. Or was there other procedures?

C. Yes.

M. Was it this way or...

M. You could use either side to cut it.

C. Yes, you must tie it tightly too, but you mustn't cut too short, make it a little bit long. When you were actually cutting the cord.

M. You had to tie it tightly?

C. Yes, you had to tie it tightly, until you hear it tighten.

M. Until you heard it snap?

C. Yes.

M. I wonder why?

C. When you could hear it snap and that would mean the cord had been severed from the rest of it.

M. Really? You had to tighten it while trying not to stretch the cord?

C. Yes.

M. It's quite something.

C. Then you cut the cord. But when you're cutting the cord, it is very tough to cut.

M. Really.

C. You could feel it because it's slippery when it snaps. I used to notice that if the umbilical cord was tied, it would crop off earlier.

M. Were these the ones that were tied?

C. Yes. Maybe it was because the babies were kept in a warm place in our amauti's¹. Nowadays, we don't keep the babies warm enough, because they are left by themselves on the bed or some place else.

1.AMAUTI: a woman's parka to carry the baby on the back.

M. And they are now secured with a clip too also?

C. Yes.

M. I hope they'll start tying the cord now.

C. That's right.

M. Are all the actual labours different from each other? Some seem to be in a hurry to get out.

C. Yes, some are quick to get out. Some takes longer to get out. Yes, some get out very quickly.

M. Some women goes into labour, and they deliver their babies quickly.

C. Yes, when a woman is in labour, it doesn't take them long to deliver their baby. But some women take longer to give birth.

M. Sometimes when the water breaks, some of the water is left behind..is it true?

C. Yes. It's not as smooth giving birth when that happens probably.

M. Yes.

C. It happens when the baby and the water doesn't go out together.

M. When they don't go out together?

C. Sometimes a woman takes a long time in delivering their baby when the water and baby don't go out together, but when they go out together, it's a quick delivery. It had never happened to me, but I've heard about it before.

M. Really. When a woman had given birth, how did they prepare the woman to take control of her womb's condition?

C. While the womb was in the state of healing, the woman was advised not to do any work at all.

M. But how did they do that?

C. They just let it be like that.

M. When a woman had just given birth, we would be advised to take it easy without doing any work at all.

C. Yes, she was asked to rest while the womb was in the state of healing. So that she wouldn't get sick later.

M. Sometimes a woman could get sick after the actual birth of their babies, didn't they?

C. Yes.

M. It was the result of the meat they ate?

C. Yes. It was due to the result of the separation of the pelvis and the birth area, which was most of the reasons why women would get sick sometimes. No wonder it happened sometimes.

M. The women who got sick sometimes, did they get better too after awhile sometimes?

C. Yes, probably, but sometimes a woman wouldn't get better altogether.

M. It's hard to know if a woman had cramps afterwards, would they always have cramps in the future?

C. No, they don't have cramps, because it doesn't concur cramps after giving birth. But, rarely it happens for a woman to have cramps. They are all different from each other. I had developed cramps before delivering a baby only once. But most of the birth or deliveries are all different from each other. Some births make a woman have cramps, but some don't have cramps.

M. How do you interpret having cramps?

C. It's when you feel achy around the abdomen area and the back area when the stomach is hardened.

M. Not this area?

C. Yes, that area that's when you have cramps.

M. Are they very different?

C. Yes, they are different.

M. This area is worse isn't it?

C. Yes, this area.

M. You feel having a stomach ache? No?

C. Yes.

M. But is it different?

C. Yes, it's different from a stomach ache, when the stomach hardens, that's when you feel a cramp.

M. Really.

C. The upper end of you thigh isn't comfortable anymore also, the pelvic area were also achy when ever a contraction was felt. But the ones that weren't very strong didn't occur any cramps for the women who were in labour.

M. Really.

C. They were different. The weaker ones didn't give the woman cramps at all.

M. Was it different when you had contractions in different areas, either in your pelvic area or your stomach area?

C. Yes. The back area and the stomach area had different feelings; when you started having contractions. The back area didn't feel too much pressure than the abdomen area when you were feeling cramps then. When the contractions came, you would not feel like having a stomach ache, because it was a lot different from having cramps due to the pain.

M. Really.

C. It's never the same, it's always different every time.

M. Really.

C. Yes.

M. And there is the time when the baby is starting to get ready to come out before delivery actually happens to go lower nearer to the birthing area?

C. Yes. The woman is told that the baby is almost ready to be delivered when it show that the baby is getting lower.

M. Did they feel the baby's head on the woman's stomach, while she was in labour?

C. Yes.

M. When they were in labour?

C. Yes, they checked on the baby's head, where it was situated while the woman was in labour.

M. The water didn't break right away?

C. Yes, the water would break by itself, but sometimes the water had to be broken by someone.

M. Yes. Sometimes the babies would be born with the sac at-

tached.

C. Yes, they would be born with the sac then, but I don't know why they had them, I don't know why. Maybe because they didn't have water or maybe they had water.

M. They didn't have water too? Women who were in labour.

C. No. Illupalik had been born before, that's what I have been told before. My aunt know about this though.

M. Really.

C. Yes. Maybe she had told that he had that. I wonder why it happens sometimes. Maybe when the baby had a hat on. When a newborn had a hat on.

M. Yes.

C. I haven't asked about it before..too bad.

M. It's a tremendous effort to give birth, isn't it?

C. Yes. When you are told to push hard, you pushed very hard trying to get the baby out.

M. Yes. You don't want anybody touching you then.

C. Yes. Yes, the ears especially, that's when you are almost delivering the baby.

M. Yes. When the head comes out...

C. Yes, the rest seems smooth, it seems smooth after the head comes out. I guess that's the time when the pelvis is separating then.

M. Yes.

C. Once the pelvis had separated, it seems smooth and the baby comes out easily, it seems.

M. Yes, when the baby is coming out.

C. Yes, when the pelvis is separate for awhile, that's when the pelvis had never been separated before and when it gets separated for the first time.

M. The body seems to be very smooth coming out.

C. Yes. There's a lot of bumps we feel when it gets out. That's how it is.

M. It doesn't take that long doesn't it?

C. Yes, when the pelvis had separated, the head is starting to come out and you don't even have to breath before the whole body is out and if you take an inward breath that could promote the delivery to stop.

M. Really?

C. Yes.

M. Nowadays the women are asked not to push even if they feel like pushing. They are asked to stop now. It's because they are being assisted by the doctors.

C. When a woman goes into labour and if it's a premature baby, the woman is asked to stop pushing.

M. Sometimes the head is almost out then.

C. Yes, the head is out, but the woman is asked to stop pushing, she takes a breath and her labour stops then. We were told never to take a breath while the baby was in the process of being delivered those days.

M. Really.

C. When the baby was almost out, we were told not to take a breath at all, but to keep on pushing in order to get the baby out completely.

M. Really.

C. If you take a breath during that time, the baby would stop getting out.

M. Really.

C. This little piece of sealskin is for a patch.

M. If you prick yourself with a needle and you suck the blood right away, you won't be infected at all?

C. Yes and it wouldn't be painful any more and you should squeeze the blood out right away.

M. Really.

C. That is if you prick your finger, you should try to squeeze the blood out right away. That is if I prick myself with a needle, if the pricked finger isn't bled, it would become painful a lot.

M. Really.

C. Yes. You were advised to squeeze the blood out when you have pricked yourself those days.

M. Yes.

C. You were to bleed it so that it wouldn't get painful. If they are not bled right away, it would get very painful. I'm just patching it on the top.

M. What about the stuff that was used to put on cuts, wasn't there other stuff that you could put on cuts before? Were there others that were good for the cuts?

C. The gall bladder were good also. Seal gall bladders that is.

M. Really.

C. They were also used to put on cuts too.

M. Really.

C. They were used on cuts also. I have also heard about that if the cuts were opening more, showing the inner part of the skin and were getting bigger...

M. Cuts?

C. Yes, if they tried other things, but had failed to heal the cut, and the cut was getting more infected and getting bigger, they were asked to pee on the cut and it would start to heal then.

M. Really.

C. That's what I have heard before.

M. Really.

C. Yes, I guess the urine is strong and it stings too on the cut.

M. Really.

C. It would help the cut to heal a lot more quickly. I have never actually seen this being performed but I have heard about it.

M. Never mind. If a person had a big cut, did they use to sew it?

C. I guess sometimes. Maybe, I have never actually seen it

done. Sometimes they would use part of a plant which has furs in order to heal the cut if the cut was quite big. They would use it as a bandage.

M. Really.

C. Because they could blend into the skin.

M. To the skin?

C. Yes, they could blend in real nice to the skin. They would take out the excess stem off it.

M. Really.

C. They were probably the best for healing cuts then.

M. Probably.

C. It's quite surprising that they knew about it.

M. Yes, they must have known about it.

C. Yes, but nowadays there hardly any of them left.

M. Was it from the ground, a plant?

C. Yes. There's a lot of them on the land where we camped before, now I just see them on the ground, but we don't use them for cuts now.

M. Does the sores have nothing to heal them with?

C. Yes, they only used blubber oil on them and saturated them onto the sores.

M. Really.

C. Yes, that time when some of us had sores.

M. Really.

C. When you and the rest arrived then, when you were a child then.

M. Yes. I remember now, we had a lot sores then.

C. Yes. Even if we try to cure or heal sores, it's pretty hard to heal them if they are still active.

M. Really.

C. Yes.

M. I know about boils a bit, they have to be squeezed in order to get the pus out.

C. Yes, there are different kinds of boils, some are infected a lot.

M. Are there other kinds that are not infected?

C. Yes, some are not infected, the boils that aren't infected are easy to heal when you squeeze out the pus and the pus soon is all gone.

M. Really.

C. The boils that are infected are usually embedded right in the skin usually takes a long time for the pus to dry up. The only time the infected boil will heal is when the part that is infected has healed and dried up. That's the time when the boil finally heals and the pus won't be coming back again. If the infection continues, pus will keep coming back over again. People don't have boils nowadays at all.

M. Maybe when people had boils before, the boils were really embedded right into the skin then, that's probably why they were in real pain those days.

C. Yes.

M. We would like a good knowledge on how to take good care of people who are really sick and who we know are dying. We need more information on this in order for us to help out more in those days.

C. In those days?

M. Yes.

C. People who were very sick and those who were almost dying used to be told that if they needed to voice out their hurts and pains or other dramatic situations, they were told to say it out loud. They sometimes got a lot better and wouldn't be so sick anymore.

M. Really.

C. Yes. I've heard about it before, but if the person was in the state where nothing could cure his or her illness anymore, even if they told the people about their bad ways..

M. Their sins?

C. Yes, their bad ways in the past, even if they told, sometimes it would be too late and the person didn't get better, the person

would die soon. I have only heard about it.

M. If a person seemed to be on the verge of dying and if the person told someone about their bad ways in the past, they would get better?

C. Yes.

M. Even if the person was on the verge of dying?

C. Yes. That's the way it was. If the person had some extended life in the future, yes. If the person could tell people about their past lives and that was before the near end of their life, they would eventually get better then.

M. That was before pills were used then?

C. Yes, but right up to now it still is effective.

M. Really.

C. Yes, that's the way it was, and even today.

M. They were fed whatever they wished to eat too?

C. Yes, even up to now, whenever a very sick person want a certain meat or food, they are given some. If a very sick person is given meat or food that they yearn, the sick person starts to get better.

M. When I have to ask you these questions about death and dying, it is quite sad and mortifying, but I had to ask you these questions.

C. I understand.

M. How did they go about the dead person's body then?

C. In the past?

M. Yes.

C. They were put in caribou skins. In the past, I've only heard about this mind you, but in the past, if a person died, they left the soapstone lamp unattended and they kept it unlit even if they had blubber to lit it for three whole days. They didn't even bother to pound some oil from the blubber in order not to make any noise. If a person accidentally drop something on the floor and it mad a noise, the person would say, "QAAQAA," because they weren't allowed to make any sudden noises, because the three days wasn't over yet. Even if they had blubber for the lamp, they didn't bother to pound oil from the blubber, because they wouldn't dare make any sudden noise.

M. Really.

C. That was before Christianity came to them.

M. Really.

C. Only after the three days have past, would they be able to pound oil from blubber and they would lit their lamps. It happened that the lamps were unlit for those three days, even if they had a lot of blubber. That's the way it used to be. I've only heard about this before Christianity was brought down to them.

M. Did the dead person clothed real good too?

C. Yes.

M. The person's own clothes?

C. Yes, they clothed them in their own clothes, but sometimes when it was winter, the dead person was wrapped in caribou skins and buried above piled up snow. They were above the ground.

M. Were they buried with their personal belongings too?

C. Yes.

M. They even were buried with their belongings.

C. Yes, they were buried with their belongings in their graves, in those days they didn't have much then.

M. Yes. The dead person kept their belongings right to their graves?

C. Yes, to their graves.

M. I guess it was because the people weren't allowed to keep the dead person's belongings at all.

C. Yes, they were now in the grave.

M. The dead person was put above the ground on top of piled snow during the winter?

C. Yes.

M. Was it because they didn't have coffins then, I guess?

C. Yes, they didn't have access to coffins and I guess when they lived where bigger rocks weren't available then.

M. Yes.

C. They were probably better buried if their land in which they were living had bigger rocks to bury the person properly and I guess they had misgivings to bury the dead person by just covering it with stones. If sometimes a dead person wasn't wearing any clothes, the shaman would go up to the grave, because he was the only one who could go see a dead body and if there was a new caribou parka available, the dead person's body was donned one, and if the dead person wasn't given any access to a pair of caribou pants, it would stay like this for good. Some of the dead bodies never were given any clothes at all for good sometimes.

M. Really.

C. Yes, I've only heard about it before, I remembered my cousin talking about it. When people used to go see the dead person's body: People still probably do this yet because it is a tradition that we go see the graves now.

M. If they didn't have many clothes, they were buried the way they were probably?

C. Maybe because the body was too stiff to put clothes on.

M. I guess that when they couldn't bend any of the dead person's limbs.

C. Yes, the joints.

M. Yes.

C. I'm telling you all these, only because I have heard about it.

M. It's okay. We have to know about these too.

C. Yes, it's true when we aren't told about things like that we wouldn't know anything about these then.

M. Were they fitted mittens too?

C. I don't think they were fitted mittens.

M. Really.

C. I have never heard of them being fitted mittens at all.

M. Really.

C. Yes, they were given only clothes for the body.

M. They were clothed before the body became stiff?

C. Yes, they couldn't clothe them if they became stiff.

M. Really.

M. If someone could do the interview?

C. In the past?

M. Dog urine?

C. Yes.

M. On the snow?

C. Yes, dog urine are usually on piles of snow, they would bunch up the snow and swallow it as fast as they could, they would use that to cure their colds.

M. Really.

C. Yes, that's the way they used to do. Yes, they would sometimes catch colds which was very rare in those days.

M. Really.

C. Yes. When they stopped having a cold, it would be a long time before they caught one again.

M. Maybe it was because the plants on the ground were too few, maybe that's why they didn't have any medicine then?

C. Yes.

M. Nothing much growing around here.

C. Yes.

M. For those who had headaches.

C. They used to wear a headband, if a person had a bad case of a headache. The person was advised to wear a headband. Maybe if a band is tightly tied to the head, it would make the person's headache pain go away.

M. Must be.

C. They would be given a band which didn't stretch at all or probably a strip of skin in which they tied it very tightly. Probably the throbbing became less when a band was tightly tied to the head.

M. Yes. For those people who broke either a limb, even if they had no medicine.

C. They would be wrapped around with a piece of bearded seal skin.

M. They were taken cared for too?

C. Yes, they did their best to put it in place.

M. Yes.

C. They tried to set it in place. If a person broke a bone, they would try to set it straight and would wrap it in a piece of bearded sealskin and would leave it like that until the bone healed properly. Or something similar which was strong and stiff enough. Or they would sew something that would keep it in place until the bone healed. They did their best to lessen the pain, no wonder.

M. Yes. For those people whose bones were out of their sockets nowadays have to go down where there's a hospital. Were they able to be fixed by the Inuit in the past?

C. If a person's bone became dislocated, someone would pull the bone and tried to put the bone in place.

M. Was it even if the person couldn't stretch their legs.

C. Yes. They would pull the leg of a person whose leg was dislocated, even if the person was screaming with pain and eventually the bone became placed in their place. The shoulder bone can really be put back into the place; but sometimes it was fixed for only a short time.

M. When it became dislocated?

C. Yes.

M. Were there any solution for eye infections?

C. For eye infections?

M. Yes, for people who had eye infections. For people who had sties.

C. Probably. Maybe they used oil blubber fat? When the eye gets red, they would anoint it with oil and the redness would go away.

M. Really. Seal or other oil blubber are really good aren't they?

C. Yes. They were used to keep things wet.

M. Yes.

C. They could keep the skin from drying. Oil from blubber fat was very useful in those days even up to now. But once they became stale and old, they'd stink.

M. Oil from blubber fat used to be very useful for everything. It still is useful today.

C. Whenever our lips became too dry, we'd just reach out to our lamps and dip our fingers and rub some on our lips, it would help a lot not to keep it dry.

M. Really.

C. Yes, it's only oil but it kept our lips from drying out or cracking.

M. There were hardly any form of medicines then?

C. Yes.

M. Especially nothing like pills of any sort.

C. Yes, it wasn't long ago when we started having pills.

M. Were you adopted by you grandmother?

C. Yes. I didn't start living with her until I was a bit older, maybe that was the time when my younger sister was born.

M. Really and you stayed with her for good?

C. Yes. I lived with hr for as long as she lived then. When she died, I moved back to my parents.

M. Really. Did she have a husband before you moved in?

C. Yes. The woman who was with him before... It was the time when they were out caribou hunting on the mainland, when my grandmother's second husband became alone, because his wife had died that time by starvation.

M. Did they have any children?

C. I don't really know if they had children, but the husband had another wife before, and they had children.

M. Really. Were they on mainland? Where did they come from?

C. Probably from that area in Pond Inlet, I think.

M. Really.

C. Maybe he never arrived. No, they had arrived. They had

arrived, but they were on the verge of starving that time.

M. Did they kill any caribou while on the mainland before coming down to the land?

C. Yes. They had killed caribou that time though. They were having hard times then probably. They had something to eat other than caribou, but they ended up almost starving while up on the mainland.

M. Were they up on the mainland all that time?

C. Yes. They probably had other food to eat, but they came back without some of the people then.

M. Were they on the mainland all that time.

C. Yes, they couldn't go to other places.

M. Yes.

C. The man did his best to feed them, but they ended up having hard times and those days when hard times came they really could do nothing about it.

M. No wonder, they were way up on the mainland.

C. Yes. The caribou were very scarce then in those days.

M. Yes. I guess it was during the autumn season before they end up coming down and probably that time they were starving then.

C. Yes, she had told me that she had tried making clothing for them but had a hard time, but she was trying to make kamiks too.

M. Yes.

C. That was when all of them were alive then.

M. Yes. Do you know how many there were?

C. Yes, I haven't heard how many there were.

M. Really. Were they all related in that time?

C. I think they were the only people there then.

M. Which ones were they?

C. The adopted son, the father and there were probably some other people who were related with them too. They had another child too. But I'm not too sure about the rest, because I haven't heard about them before.

M. Didn't she relate to you about them before?

C. She probably thought I was too young then.

M. I guess so.

C. We were told not to listen to the elders when they were telling stories because we were too young, in those days. But I have heard her tell another person, that at that time, she would get a bit of snow and put in a hollow ground and let the sun melt it in order to get a bit of drinking water.

M. Was that when she was alone?

C. Yes, she was quite alone then that time.

M. Yes.

C. Her igloo's roof had fallen that time too. Then I have heard that she would dream of someone who would place a slab of meat on her shoulder while she was sleeping.

M. Really.

C. Yes.

M. Right next to her?

C. On her shoulder where her clothing was.

M. Really.

C. That's how I understood it, maybe it wasn't that way, but I was quite young then. I wasn't really too aware, but I used to hear her tell these stories that she told.

M. Really.

C. Sometimes I forget easily, but sometimes I'm able to remember a lot.

M. I wonder how many years. Did she give birth to four children that time when she almost starved?

C. Huh? Before and after she almost starved? My aunt Alaka, my mother, my uncle, my other uncle, my aunt.

M. There were five then?

C. Yes.

M. She wasn't too old then was she?

C. Yes. It was like that.

M. Really. After those children were born, she died when she was quite old then probably?

C. Yes, she was quite old when I recalled her, you probably seen her when you were small. Do you remember her?

M. Yes.

C. She was quite old then.

M. I remember when she was quite sick, she was outside, I wonder why she was outside?

C. She had wanted to be outside, she had a small tent put up. It was probably because when she was outside most of the time at the time she was in the mainland and she was almost starving that time too.

M. Really.

C. Yes. That's the time when she didn't want to be in a real tent then. It was because when she was almost starving she was outside most of the time then. She was alone by then that time. That's why she wanted to be left outside then.

M. I had seen her outside with a small shade of a tent and there was no other shade.

C. Yes, she had only a shade, that's how she wanted it and the people just obeyed her.

M. She died at that spot did she?

C. Yes.

M. Really.

C. Hers was empty the, that was before she died and after she died.

M. She had wanted to be left like this, because she had lived a very trying time before that.

C. She relived her trying time and that why she was outside and alone because of that tragic time before. She wanted it that way, and she died that way. She died when we were in Kangiq.

M. Really, what year was that, 19 what?

C. 1948, around that time. that was the time when you cousin was born, during the summer.

M. Yes. Really. She died in 1948 that's for sure. That's it.