

Interview with: - Martha Nasook
Interviewed by: - Madeleine Ivalu
Translated by: - Celina Uttuigak
Word processed by: - Therese Okkumaluk
Date:
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M. If you were pregnant, or if it was your first, what advice were you given, or did you have to prepare yourself? Also how did they know when a woman became pregnant, what signs were visible about pregnant women?

M.N. Uh, huh.

M. When you first got pregnant, what kind of advice were you given that was related to your condition?

M.N. Are you asking me now?

M. Yes.

M.N. I wasn't always given advice but I was advised to urinate as often as possible, that was when my pregnancies became advanced, and began showing, I was told that I shouldn't hold on to it so I wouldn't have the urge to pee when I was in labour, so I was told to urinate whenever possible.

M. Yes?

M.N. Yes.

M. If you have anything to say on labour and pregnancy, you can talk.

M.N. The people I lived with didn't make a big deal out of anything, so I was never forced to do anything really but I miscarried with my first pregnancy. And when I later became pregnant, I tried miscarrying but that was not possible. It was not a difficult thing. It wasn't complicated.

M. Really?

M.N. Do I tell you about myself, my situations?

M. Yes. Go on about yourself, anything you have heard of.

M.N. I can only answer questions.

M. Yes? You were never advised on your labours?

M.N. No. Your older sister's Nutarajuk's namesake advised me and my mother. My mother was advising me later, she said that if

we got into labour, and we were told to locate the water, we would have to reach inside ourselves and try to locate something that felt like the eyeball, like the outside being hard and center of it being soft that I was told was the water.

M. Yes?

M.N. Yes. That was about the only advise I was given.

M. You were not advised as to how you'd feel, or what the pain would feel like?

M.N. No, I think I was advised on that. You would feel like moving my bowels and you'd feel abdominal pain and sometimes the lower back is painful. It is still now, I guess.

M. Yes.

M.N. Sometimes lower abdominal pains were not present. When that doesn't happen, you can feel the labour as it progresses, but when you have abdominal pain, you feel the pain so severely that you hardly feel anything else.

M. Yes?

M.N. And for babies with a lot of hair, you'd feel it inside you. When walking you'd feel a prickly sensation with babies with a lot of hair or when there was excessive water. My water wasn't a lot with mine. We were travelling when I got into labour. We camped. I was having stomach pains. I was placed in position and told to try and locate the water. The water was coming out. My nail was dented and I was told to try and tear the sack of my water. I was told that I could do that on my own so I was told I couldn't be assisted. I was told that if I was attended too constantly, I wouldn't learn for later. So I was told that if I couldn't do it on my own, than I would get help but I had to try first. So I tried puncturing the sack, it tore right away and the baby started coming right away. That was the only labour I remember with water.

M. Yes?

M.N. The other 3, I only have four? Right?

M. Yes.

M.N. The other 3 didn't have water.

M. Really? How?

M.N. I felt something like a slipping or something and the baby started coming right afterwards. That is how they used to be.

M. Now today, women have babies lying down. Lying down.

M.N. Yes.

M. Were there different positions in the old days?

M.N. Yes. When a woman who was in labour had difficulty, it was then assumed that the baby wanted to come out while the mother was lying down. If no change occurred, it was then thought that the baby wanted to be delivered in another position.

M. Yes?

M.N. I was upright with all of mine. One time I was put in a lying position, with my knees paralleled, my back supported and my body straight, but I thought that was awkward. I didn't feel the contractions as severely then so they put me upright.

M. Really?

M.N. That is what happened. Lying down is difficult. My knees were really paralleled. My toes too. And hands were placed between my knees so my legs could be apart.

M. Yes..wow! Were there cases when delivering was done urgently?

M.N. Yes. When the labour was in an advanced state, yes. Sometimes too it would be urgent but the labour would cease for some time and it would be that way for a while. And if a boy was going to turn into a girl it took a long time.

M. Yes? These days people are starting to believe that boys don't turn into girls anymore. (sex change)

M.N. Yes.

M. Was that a fact in the old days though?

M.N. Yes, that's true.

M. Little boys turning into girls?

M.N. Yes. When the baby came out the little penis would be there but it would go inside.

M. Yes.

M.N. What they did sometimes was suck out the little penis, and when that happened a person would hold the little penis so it wouldn't get back inside.

M. They really wanted baby boys that time?

M.N. Yes.

M. Wow! That's what happened, but it didn't happen the other way, girls changing to boys?

M.N. I don't know.

M. Couldn't have.

M.N. Yes. I've never heard of it happening.

M. The little baby after it's born, would you be the ones to cut the cord?

M.N. The women attending would do that.

M. Yes.

M.N. I I have never done it on myself but I have done that to other women. I'm a little afraid of tying the cord, like I think it's as soft as a sea weed. I could cut a cord but others had to tie it.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes. Turning into little girls, yes but I have never heard of girls turning into boys.

M. Yes.

M. Pregnant women nearing the end of their term were noticeable?

M.N. When she was close to delivery?

M. Yes. Did you attend women in labour yourself?

M.N. Yes, but I was a little scared at times.

M. Yes.

M.N. I never really attended all the way alone, but I would

help.

M. You'd help.

M.N. Yes. I would be supporting the woman or something or help in assisting in the positioning. It is comfortable to be back to back when in labour.

M. Yes. You deliver faster when not in the lying position?

M.N. I don't know. Should be.

M. When your in that position.

M.N. Yes, being arched backward too.

M. Arched backward?

M.N. Yes. When you're not too straight. What happens too is when a woman is arched backwards, the womb tends to come out with the baby.

M. Really.

M.N. We're told to arch not so much. You have to try and stretch you stomach.

M. Yes. You don't have to change into any position when the baby is coming out?

M.N. Maybe. I should think you move around from the pain.

M. Yes. And the baby would be forced to breath?

M.N. Yes. I remember one baby who didn't breath as he came out, Eunice's son. He was not breathing, so someone got some snow and put it on his chest area, it melted and the baby started breathing.

M. When it all melted?

M.N. Yes. The baby started breathing.

M. You have to make the snow a certain size?

M.N. I don't know. I only saw that happen once.

M. Really.

M.N. Also you have to go inside the mouth with your hands to remove all the mucous. They did that to prevent the baby from swallowing anything that he/she shouldn't or the mucous was sucked out.

M. Really?

M.N. When the baby swallowed, the shit got bad. The first bowel movement would not be the same, or vomiting occurred.

M. Really?

M.N. It was from the baby swallowing what she/he shouldn't swallow.

M. No wonder.

M.N. So they made sure to always clean the mouth. What happened later with Bay Manager's wife information was to take the baby by the feet and slap the baby in the bum and that way anything in the mouth came out.

M. Really.

M.N. That helped get rid of anything in the mouth. Also too, if a woman was feeling contractions, she was told to move the baby from side to side so she'd move it. That should be done to prevent the placenta from sticking to the wall of the womb. In some cases, the assistance of the arms would be used to pry the placenta from the wall of the womb.

M. Really.

M.N. If the placenta failed to come out, someone would reach inside the womb and assist the placenta out.

M. There must have been times when the womb would sometimes come out of its place?

M.N. Yes, when the head was not positioned properly.

M. And it would be placed back in?

M.N. Yes. They would clip their nails when they were going to assist by putting their arms inside the mother. The inside of the womb is sensitive so prevention of nail touching was really important.

M. The womb would be placed back into its position?

M.N. Yes.

M. Wow!

M.N. There were cases when there was a lot of bleeding.

M. Really. But lack of bleeding was not healthy too, right?

M.N. That's true. It was not healthy, there were cases too

when the baby moved its bowels inside the mother. And when that happened, the mother usually died.

M. Yes.

M.N. The bowel movement mixed with the blood and in some cases when that happened the bowel movement would be removed by putting the arm inside the mother.

M. You mean the bowel movement?

M.N. Yes.

M. Really? There were breech babies too sometimes? And did they not always die?

M.N. You rarely die from breech babies.

M. Really.

M.N. I had a sister who was a breech.

M. Really.

M.N. Apak adopted the baby but later died.

M. Yes?

M.N. It was not considered a crisis.

M. Yes. As long as it came out?

M.N. Yes. As long as the feet went out together. There was one case when the arm came out first and that was difficult.

M. Really.

M.N. I think the mother died.

M. Really, because it was side ways.

M.N. I think so.

M. Maybe if they had positioned it the proper position?

M.N. Yes, maybe.

M. It must have been scary.

M.N. Yes. Maybe we should stop for a bit.

M. What about ailments, or the skin with defects? What did you do about people who were dying from sickness? What was done

to help those people? I have to ask you that.

M.N. Really?

M.N. Yes, I rarely saw people dying from illness.

M. What about boils or skin infections, what medication was used for that?

M.N. Lemmings are usually used. The skin, after wetting is placed on the skin. Lemming skin was used for such ailments.

M. Yes?

M.N. When that was not available caribou skin was used.

M. Really.

M.N. Yes. In some cases the boil would be situated on the shoulder, in that case cutting would be used to remove the pus, as long as the shoulder wasn't fleshy. The pus would be there but unable to come out, the person would be in a lot of pain. Sometimes cutting would be done. I have never seen, just heard that the cutting was done to remove the pus. And when that happened (cutting) the pus would come out more easily and healing would start.

M. The germ causing the boil.

M.N. Yes. The germ would be situated on the opening I guess.

M. Yes.

M.N. The pus becomes thick when it is warm constantly and that thick part is called the suguk (the germ), once that comes out.

M. Really? What did they use as bandages for cuts?

M.N. They tried different methods, puyuk (herbs) and skins would be used or blubber would be used. You know puyuk. The arms or legs in some cases would be placed in an upright position.

M. When excessive bleeding occurred?

M.N. Yes. Sometimes tying a string above the wound would be done.

M. Really?

M.N. I remember your Ilaluagainuk got cut and it was bleeding a lot, he almost bore a hole right through his hand, in between the bones. That night he was tied and his arm was kept in an upright

position.

M. Yes. There were no bandages?

M.N. No, but it was bleeding a lot.

M. So it had to be tied?

M.N. Yes. Also there were times when people had to sew a big cut.

M. That happened?

M.N. Yes. I heard it did. I think hair would be used as thread.

M. Really.

M.N. Yes, sewing would be a method. In some cases licking of the cut would be done, and when they did that, it got to be a habit. In that way, by licking the wound the bleeding would slow down.

M. Really. Maybe it was a custom?

M.N. Yes, maybe. They were told to do that. When they did something it got to be a habit, for cuts especially.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes. You licked the cut. Also skins would be used by putting it on the cut.

M. What about broken bones?

M.N. That time, square flipper hide was used for casts.

M. Yes, because it is the only hard stiff stuff they had?

M.N. Yes. Maybe wood would be used sometimes, anything that was hard, I guess, by placing it in the proper position.

M. Dislocated joints would heal by assistance?

M.N. Yes. What would happen is someone would support the body while someone pulled on the leg and the person would be in a lot of pain. The person in pain would be ignored and the leg would be pulled, and a clicking sound sounded and the joint would be in its place.

M. A lot of pain though?

M.N. Yes. Pain is very obvious on people who have dislocated

joints.

M. No wonder the bones don't connect properly.

M.N. That's true.

M. No wonder. Today joints will be dislocated but nothing is done anymore.

M.N. That's true. Pulling is not a method anymore. My avainuk-taguluk used to get dislocated joints, sometimes the kneeling method would be used.

M. Really.

M.N. They would kneel on the joints and the joints would locate.

M. For those who were sick, were they known if they were going to live or die?

M.N. Yes. I think so. It was bad if a person got sick while he was out hunting or travelling.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes. When a person got home very sick, he was known to be dying. Some people when in committing too many sins got sick would be forced to talk. I've heard that shamanism was used or were known by shamans. But when shamanism vanished, talking would be a method of healing.

M. But recovery would occur by talking?

M.N. Yes. For a very sick person, peoples' personalities are different. Some are easy to talk to but others aren't.

M. Really? Helping others was really obvious?

M.N. Yes, for people who couldn't eat, hunting what the person wanted was done but when the person was not going to live, it was very hard to catch the game.

M. Really.

M.N. What the person wanted to eat? Sometimes when the person ate what he wanted to eat, he got better. The healing didn't occur right away but it was eventual.

M. Ways to get the person better was always the first priority?

M.N. Yes. Boy, were they helpful than.

M. People were not sick that often?

M.N. That's true. They rarely were sick.

M. They rarely were sick, but there weren't very many Inuit either.

M.N. That's true.

M. Flus were rare.

M.N. Yes. Only when they went to the trading posts.

M. I'm trying to ask questions about illnesses but I'm running out of questions.

M.N. That's true. Because people were rarely sick, that's why.

M. Because people were not sick that often?

M.N. Yes. A lot of people know about these things.

M. Yes. Headaches, flus, what medication was used?

M.N. For people with headaches, head bands would be tied around the forehead and they'd use that to make the headaches go away.

M. Headbands?

M.N. Yes, they'd wear headbands. That was their method.

M. For people who were suffering from liver discomforts, were they helped in anyway?

M.N. Yes. I think it is uncomfortable. You tend to get heart-burn. When you are burning for bile, I had that problem once myself after the chicken pox epidemic occurred, I was vomiting a lot, I vomited some black stuff and had a difficult time doing so. It makes one vomit.

M. Really? Yes. There were many methods and ways to treat illnesses.

M.N. Yes. Also, when on thought that he was having liver problems, strong tea would be medication, drinking strong warm tea eased the pain. The tea would make you vomit and the bile would come out.

M. What about impetigo? Was there medication for that?

M.N. Yes, there was medication. Square flipper blubber was a means for curing impetigo.

M. For impetigo?

M.N. Yes. For impetigo, fat would be applied and that, people thought was the best means for curing. I remember when there was an impetigo epidemic. Square flipper being used for curing, because there was no ointment then. Some had very severe cases of impetigo.

M. And the pus related sores, holes would be bored to take the pus out?

M.N. Yes. That could be determined by applying pressure to the area that they thought was infected. What happens is when you apply pressure to the area, you remove your finger and the skin comes to the surface and if that happens, that means that the skin area is infected. Also, the tongue was used around the area and in that way, they knew that there was an infection.

M. Really? And they would find where exactly the infection was by using those methods?

M.N. Yes. For people who bore holes to let the pus out what they did was with a knife cut the skin and as the knife retreats outward, they would cut deeper before pulling the knife out. They used to have pus in the neck area.

M. Yes.

M.N. For those that had pus in that area, people would use the cutting method.

M. Really?

M.N. They were careful not to cut any veins.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes.

M. Weren't they good?

M.N. Yes. That was not caused by a sore throat. People said it was (tutak) pus infection below the jaw and a little above the neck.

M. That was on the surface?

M.N. Yes. On the surface. There rarely were sore throats then.

M. Yes.

M.N. That is what it was called. Tutak. And holes would be made to make the pus come out.

M. Really? For people who were snow blind, was there medication?

M.N. I don't think so. But they tried ways to cure snow blindness. Milk was used and that eased the pain somewhat.

M. Milk?

M.N. Yes. They squirted milk to the eyes.

M. Really? Wow!

M.N. Although we had moved into settlements where there were white people, we would go out camping in order to hunt. Yes, in the spring, people would start hunting in order to get skins for clothing.

M. Yes.

M.N. Yes. That's what they did.

M. Skins for tents?

M.N. Yes, for tents.

M. Skins to make tents with.

M.N. Yes. When the hair was falling off the seal, that was best for tents. People near the flow edge would be hunting seals. They had equipments they used for drying skins in the spring. When the hair of the seal was falling off.

M. Really? They'd be drying skins.

M.N. Yes. Drying skins. Some for kamiks and that. In the spring too, square flipper hunting was in season. They gathered everything needed for winter. In areas where walrus was bountiful, they'd make pouches or sacks of the hide and store the fat in there for use in the days ahead. For people who would be hunting caribou by walking, they'd make sacks out of walrus hide to store the blubber for the seal oil lamp.

M. Did the women do that job?

M.N. Men and women.

M. Really.

M.N. Atungaksak (hide used for the bottom part of the kamik) would be placed in the sacks. That was done to prevent drying.

M. The women all through the time would be chewing skins to tan them?

M.N. Yes, for atungaksak that was left in the blubber sacks, they had to drain the blubber before chewing and when chewing it afterward, it seemed delicious. We did a lot of chewing that time.

M. All tanning was done by teeth?

M.N. Right.

M. The teeth were used constantly to tan. And we made kamiks more than once in a summer.

M.N. And we had to repair kamiks.

M. Because there were no boots or shoes?

M.N. That's right. There were no boots.

M. Mitts too?

M.N. Yes. Mitts too. They used skins too that were hard to tan for kamiks, by applying oil on them. After drying kamiks fat would be applied to all areas where the stitches were. That caused the kamiks to puya (meaning aged fat applied to something and preventing water sogging, like making them water proof) and in that way too it prevented the kamiks from drying.

M. What about skins for tents? How many were needed to make a tent?

M.N. For big and small tents, different numbers were used. Skin with fur was used for the bedding area of the tent and skin with no hair was used for the walking or door area of the tent. They'd pattern this on the ground. they'd use their ulus to cut the edges, stretch the skin, dampen it with salt water and some would be used for the runners of the kamotik. They would sew it up then. The connecting area of the two types of skins would then be sewn together.

M. You would be careful as to how you sew it?

M.N. Yes. That we did so there would not be any leaks. And it would be sewn that way. I personally didn't prepare skins for the tent, someone would sew it for me. Sometimes too the tent would be done in such a way that there seemed to be breast patterns. Like some patterned skins would have to be used for each side of the tent. Some would be patterned sideways too.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes. They just didn't sew carelessly. The skin would not be dry, it would be sewn while wet and after sewing it would then be stretched to dry.

M. They were constantly sewing?

M.N. Yes. Constantly sewing. For people from other districts, they had a different way. For thread, they would use strips of square flipper hide which they prepared before sewing. That is how they did it. And preparation of the skin it self was different.

M. Really.

M.N. They sewed it in a different way, not in the regular stitch we use. They used strips of hide for thread. Also too, they would use skin for thimbles. The reason why too was to prevent cuts. For skins that would be used other thing.

M. You mean Umiaks (boats)?

M.N. Yes and kayaks too.

M. Kayaks?

M.N. Yes. They would let the skin age. After that the threads would be prepared by braiding strips of sinew together. They made the foundation with wood and they would hook the skin to the foundation and from there sew the skin. The place where it would be sewn together was rid of any blubber or fat.

M. In that case, you had to use your teeth?

M.N. Yes. They'd sew on it to remove all traces of fat. Some were not as professional as others and they were called amateurs because they couldn't sew properly or tighten the threads as it should be. You sew the outside part of the skin and then you had to sew the inside. People had different ways of patterning the skin to fit the kayak. For the professional kayak makers, the preparation was done properly. For the front part of the kayak, insulation had to be done.

M. Really.

M.N. Yes. That was done to prevent any disasters from happening.

M. Yes.

M.N. If it wasn't insulated, holes could be punctured and that is dangerous.

M. Yes. Is the preparation of the skin different for tents and kayaks?

M.N. Yes, it is different.

M. For the tent the flippers had to be there and used?

M.N. Yes. The flippers were not cut off.

M. How did they do that?

M.N. I don't exactly know how it was cut, but there were different ways of patterning.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes. The flippers?

M. Yes.

M.N. The flippers were patterned differently.

M. And after patterning, the flipper would be enlarged and spread out?

M.N. Yes, by patterning it in such a way?

M. Yes.

M.N. And a bit of sewing had to be done to connect for the back or feet flippers. The tail of the seal had to be used and by patterning the flippers in such a way, the tail was visible and all connected with the flippers.

M. Really.

M.N. And when that was done, the stretching made the skin very big.

M. You had to sew the flipper area first before drying?

M.N. Yes, it is easier that way. You do that while the skin is still wet.

M. Both the arms and the flippers?

M.N. Yes. If the arm and flippers needed sewing, yes.

M. Really. You had to sew it all together like all the seams?

M.N. You stretched out the arms, yes.

M. Yes.

M.N. You just stretch out the flipper and you sew it.

M. The skin with the hair had to be sewn when dry though?

M.N. Yes.

M. But for skin with no hair, -it had to be wet?

M.N. Yes. When it was wet. You sew it together while it was wet. You first cut the seal in the belly area and in that way it is proportioned properly and it looks like a pair of beasts.

M. Really?

M.N. After the sewing is done, the stretching and drying is done and when it is dry it becomes very nice.

M. Wow!

M.N. When the hair is falling off the seal in the spring, it makes the skin thicker and that makes it more water proof.

M. Yes. The top part of the tent is different too?

M.N. Yes. You can use seal skin with the fur on for the top area.

M. It had to use only one support (tent)?

M.N. Yes. One support for some tents, wooden supports were not used at all. There was one rope used to support the tent to the ground. For use over the door, a wooden support was used. Those kinds of tents you do not use for travelling. And to that wooden support one rope was used to secure it to the ground. It didn't use a lot of rope.

M. Really.

M.N. For the ones that you use with more than one rope, you used heavy stones to secure it to the ground.

M. Really.

M.N. Big stones were used to support the sides and the back. When there was bad weather (rain) the tent sagged so they had to stretch it out. When it dried again it would start to shrink so they had to use heavy rocks for the bottom area of the tent to stretch it back to shape.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes.

M. To make a tent, more than one person did the job?

M.N. When help was available, yes.

M. They helped each other?

M.N. Yes. When help was available and the tent had to be done in a hurry, more than one was good.

M. Really.

M.N. Yes, the sewing has to be done properly, preparation first.

M. If I prepared skins, would you be able to show me?

M.N. Yes, Uyarasuk and his family had a tent.

M. That true.

M.N. When the skins are big, you don't need that many.

M. Really?

M.N. I don't know how many you needed, four or five. They tried using the bigger skins for that purpose.

M. Yes.

M.N. They didn't need that many.

M. Really?

M.N. They didn't have to use extra skin, they just used two skins for spare.

M. Only two?

M.N. Yes.

M. That's how it was?

M.N. Yes.

M. You were born around the time that skins were used for the purpose?

M.N. Yes. But I didn't prepare skins that much, because I had parents to do that.

M. Yes.

M.N. My parents did that. I would sew only after everything was prepared. I have never prepared skins though. I have never made floats. Floats are very complicated in preparing.

M. They did a lot of things.

M.N. Yes. To make a float, you had to inflate the skin first

and then scrape out the blubber.

M. So the scraping would be the same all around?

M.N. Yes.

M. For the place where you would tie rope, was tanning with teeth a method of tanning?

M.N. Yes, should be.

M. Real geniuses.

M.N. For the flippers, I've forgotten how they were done, but for the head part where you inflate the float, an antler piece was used. A plug would then be made and as they were drying it, they'd blow air into it from time to time to really inflate it properly.

M. You prepared seal oil lamp blubber for fuel in the winter by banging on it with a hammer, but how did you prepare your fuel in the spring?

M.N. In the spring and summer sputi (plants used for burning) are grown. We gathered them and manik (moss) was gathered too. What the preparation method was by scraping the fat out of the blubber. Also by cutting the blubber into small pieces and boiling it. For seal blubber you'd eat the crispy left over after the fat was removed. For seal fat you could just squeeze the fat out. For walrus or any kind of fat you cut them up into small pieces and you cooked the fat out. Also for sputi, you know what sputi are? (no, you used a portion of manik (moss) and sputi (plant) and you rub them together to mix them for use for wicks. Kanguyat (cotton) was available. Some would run out before winter was over but they'd get some from their neighbours. That way they had wicks for their lamps.

M. Really?

M.N. Yes. They boiled fat. Their sacks for oil couldn't have been all that big.

M. That's true.

M.N. They must have boiled blubber often. They boiled it.

M. They had small containers for fat (fuel)?

M.N. Yes. They boiled the fat.

M. They used their kudliks (seal oil lamps) to boil the fat?

M.N. Yes. They could fry the fat by getting a tin flat rock and placing the blubber on the stone and fry it over the fire.

M. Yes.

M.N. They did that in the summer and the scraping method was often used. In the winter, hammering was done but the fat would drip into one place.

M. Really.

M.N. Walrus fat?

M. Yes.

M.N. For whale blubber, you had to bang or hammer the blubber, hang it and the would drip out by itself.

M. Really? Different animal fats had different effects on the brightness of the kudlik?

M.N. Yes. Seal was the least bright, walrus and seal flipper fat were brighter and whale fat was the brightest but went out faster.

M. Really.

M.N. Yes, because the fat is burning out faster due to the brightness of the flame.

M. Yes.

M.N. Yes. Different animal fats have different affect. Seal light is reddish, but were sued most often. When not rotten, walrus fat is the best.

M. You said earlier that you prepared fat in sacks, was that used for the kudlik too?

M.N. Yes. For the kudlik. When the rotten blubber produced fat fuel, it was also used for kamiks but for the fat itself, it was used for kudliks. That is what they did. Blubber can be frozen too.

M. That's true.

M.N. Whale blubber can be really frozen. There are two layers to whale blubber. The one that produces more fat is the top layer. That is how whale fat is. When they are frozen, it is very difficult to hammer then to produce fuel.

M. Yes. For atungaksak (bottom part of kamiks) you dipped them in the fat that was being boiled?

M.N. Yes, you dipped them and let them drain afterwards. After

a while you start to chew on them.

M. And repairing kamiks?

M.N. Yes.

M. You couldn't let one go with only one part of kamiks?

M.N. Yes. For the men we had to have more than one pair, especially for men who hunted seals regularly.

M. Yes.

M.N. You had to constantly keep repairing the soles. Some men froze their feet if they had holes in their kamiks. So we always had to be prepared anyway. They were very hard workers.

M. Because every member of the family needed kamiks?

M.N. Yes. Every one needed a pair. Those were the only available footwear.

Thank you.

M. I'm through for now.