



Name: Julie Knagin

Baptismal Name: Yuliana

Born: Karluk, Alaska, December 28, 1928

Family: Grandparents: Lev and Okalena Kraznikoff

Parents: Sasha Christiansen-Noya, Norwegian

Father

Siblings: Catherine and Charles Christiansen, half brother Frank Noya

Husband: Dennis Kngain

Children: Evelyn, Victoria, Gloria, Denny, Gary, Denise, Julianna

Grandchildren: (Evelyn) Desr'ee, Kurt, (Victoria)

Dana, Leon, (Gloria) Carl, Christopher, Valen,

Nicholas, (Gary) Amber, Brian, Bethany, (Denise) Ray, Robert, Art (Julianna) Richard, Jeffery, Patrick, Lacey Anna, and 13 great-grandchildren

Quliangua:

Some of Julie's earliest memories growing up in Karluk were how people talked about fishing. Because of the importance of fishing, there were many strangers living in Karluk who worked at the canneries located there.

One memory she has of the school in Karluk was the Christmas parties that used to be thrown there. Julie talks about how very few people had Christmas trees in their homes, but the school always had one. Since there were no spruce trees in Karluk, they would take an alder and cover it with ruffled crepe paper to make it look like an evergreen. They would then decorate the Christmas tree with paper ornaments and chains.

One of the greatest changes Julie has observed is how life is no longer simple like it was growing up in the village. Kids went to school and always had chores. Children were taught to show respect, and to never talk back to their parents. You always did what you were told and were well behaved. Life was much simpler before.

A message that Julie wishes to share with today's youth is the need to get involved with our culture. Cultural information was nearly lost because we were prevented from speaking our language, and our parents were punished. People were made to believe that our language was bad, and that being Native was bad. Once Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed, we became aware of who we are, to know what our culture is, and become more aware of our culture and ancestry. Our youth need to know who they are and where they came from. They need to capture how our ancestors lived and their values that carried them through. Those values will carry us through tough times today. Respect, trust, and sharing will carry us through.

Once you know who you are and where you came from, then you can go forward and be whatever you want to be with good feelings about yourself.