



Name: Katheryn L. Chichenoff

Baptismal Name: Ekatarina

Born: Karluk, Alaska, December 1, 1937

Family: Parents: Larry and Katie Ellanak, mother was from Cape Douglas, father was from Afognak.

Siblings: Tonya, Lily, Angeline, Daniel and Al

Husband: Sonny Chichenoff

Children: Michael, Robert, Lori, Keith, Melodi, Selma, Tammy

Quliangua:

Katheryn remembers the difficulties raising children in Afognak. After raising four children in the village, moving to Kodiak seemed luxurious. Chichenoff recounts the difficulties associated with raising children in Afognak. "I had four kids and we didn't have running water – no lights, no toilets, no nothing" she said when remembering life before moving to Kodiak. With Sonny gone fishing, she managed the whole house. Luckily, Sonny's mother was close by to help when Katheryn had to run to the store to fetch something.

When their fourth son, Keith, was two months old the family moved to Kodiak and have been living here since. Chichenoff says that she would not want to return to the lifestyle she lived in the village. She appreciates having modern amenities and conveniences, like running water. However, she does note how she continues to enjoy visiting both Afognak and Ouzinkie, where some of her family still lives.

Chichenoff still reminisces about aspects of village life. Remembering how people used to visit makes her realize how visiting is no longer part of our daily life any longer. She remembers how they "used to have a lot of company before, visiting. We would all sit at the table and have tea and coffee... People don't visit anymore!"

Similarly, she regrets to note how Lent is no longer held in reverence. They used to always practice it, and now it is never practiced. She grew up going to church, it was their life. The whole village would practice Lent. And they were not allowed to play outside or make any noise during the Lent season. However, they still went to school and did homework, but no extra playing was allowed. During Lent they would eat salt fish, rice, potatoes, or octopus and clams. The whole village would fast. No matter what, the church came first.