

Name: Sophie Shepherd

Baptismal Name: Sophia

Born: Karluk, Alaska, September 12, 1927

Family: Great-Grandparents: Sophie's great-grandfather on her grandmother's side held her when she was born, his name was Mili and was 103 when he died.

Parents: Nikita Naumoff and Marina (Nikolai) Wasilli

Husband: Fred Katelnikoff

Children: Robert, Joe, Carol, Joan, Donna, Patricia, Wanda, Sandra, Fred, and Marina

Quliangua:

When Sophie Shepherd recounts her memories about growing up in the village they are fond memories filled with hard work, helping others, respect, and most importantly, Church. Shepherd talks about going to school in a large, cold schoolhouse, then going home to help with chores. "We always had chores, even when we were little after school we had to make sure the barrels were filled with water, kindling was made, even though I was a girl I had to help the boys pack wood into the house". She attended school until the 7th grade, and then got her GED 35 years later while living in Larsen Bay.

Her parents made her a garden for which she was solely responsible. "My dad made me a garden for potatoes, and they made another garden for other vegetables. Lettuce, carrots, and potatoes." She also worked in the canneries every summer with her mother until the canneries shut down. Her and her mother always worked together at the same table. Work and subsistence were constantly employing her and her family. Shepherd remembers how boats would come and bring groceries in the spring for the store and the canneries, and when the canneries would shut down for the season, they would sell whatever was left. Supplies like butter, pig's feet, and corned beef came in barrels to be sold.

When she had her own children, Shepherd continued to subsist and didn't think anything of it. She tells how she learned to run a dory and a kicker. Whenever she wanted fresh fish she would load up her kids and put her seine in the river to catch a fish for dinner without thinking anything of it. Her memories are fond, and she says "village life was beautiful". Remembering the dances, music, hard work, the importance of Church, and living off the land remain fond memories today. However, much has changed, and according to Sophie, life in the village is not the same as it once was. Even today, Sophie tells how she enjoys getting together with other elders to reminisce.

When asked if there was a message that she would like to share with today's youth, she said: "One, they have to learn how to respect like we were taught to respect. Another one would be Church, that is the most important part of our lives, Church and respect." She also adds that youth need to get a good education and learn a trade.