Bears with Tails and the Sly Fox
As Told by Lucille Davis

Years ago the bears had tails. It is very seldom that you see a brown bear that has a tail. And there is a story about that, because *Nicanor*, Tatiana's mom's husband… no Julia's. They used to come over from Alitak, him and Larry and several others, would come for a New Years dance. At that time years ago it used to snow a whole bunch. Now we don't have near as much snow as we used to. When they came they spotted a bear and they asked *Filka*, my step-dad, about it, and explained that they saw a strange bear. He had a tail. That is when he told them that bears with tails are dangerous.

If you come to swamp you would think that the bears with tails would sink. Those kinds (of bears) do not sink in the swampy places like you and I would sink. And then if the bears with tails came to solid ground, that is when they would sink. Opposite from the way we would. They would not sink on soft ground. Like I was saying, if the ground was soft people would sink, the bear did not. Only when they came to a solid ground, would they go down. Bears (back in those) days had tails. Those they used to say are very, very rare now.

That is also where that story comes from about the bear and the fox. The sly old fox did a trick to the bear. This sly old fox was fishing, looking for food down in the ice, solid ice, and this bear came along. The sly old fox had fish already, so the bear with the tail was making strange remarks you know, "How did you get the fish?" So the sly old fox decided to trick the bear and told him to use his tail. Use his tail like a fishing rod. Put your tail in the ice hole and catch your fish. The bear kept his tail in there until it froze and fell off. The sly old fox got him!