

Coffee Pot Is On At Old Harbor For Visitor As She Meets Residents

(Editor's note: This is an article by Mrs. Eudora Preston, in which she describes her visits among the inhabitants of villages on Kodiak Island.)

By Eudora Preston
Old Harbor

July 30, 1960
On the way over to Old Harbor with Bob Hall, we flew near the cabin of Eli Metrokin on Killuda Bay. Guess he was still at Shearwater as there was no sign of the "Donna." I was the house guest of Sasha and Rolf "Nukken" Christiansen; however Sasha was out berry picking with the children

as she had not heard I was coming. Daughter, Jennie, was household mother and had on the coffee pot.

Jack Spearns of Port Hobron came in to see how Nukken was feeling as word had passed around that Nukken had a flare-up of his old stomach trouble. Over coffee we talked over the present salmon run. Mirra Andrewvich stopped in to meet me and after coffee we went over to see Durbin Nelson. I carried a message for him from Annie Mueller. Durbin is well known and much loved by many around the island. He has lost his

eyesight completely now and is bedridden most of the time. At present his daughter Agnes Ihnat from Ketchikan is visiting him; but the village sees that he always has company and is well cared for.

I visited with Vera Shugak, who is the village storekeeper and postmistress. She is also the mother of seven and the busy wife of a fisherman. Called on Florence and Ralph Christiansen. He is Nukken's oldest son and his wife is one of the election judges this year. She is the daughter of Larry and Martha Matfay, who are gill netting at Moser Bay. Three other fishermen joined us for a round table of local problems; Alfred Azuyak, Sanfont Shuyak and Mike Tanohan. Near Two-Headed Island by Kaguyak are very many sealions who are raising hob with the fish. One boat in an hour and a half run counted 500. The fishermen would like to have a bounty put on them, as British Columbia has.

Elizabeth Seldon, wife of the missionary, invited me to lunch one day and I met her mother and father visiting her for a few weeks. They are from Pennsylvania on their first trip to Alaska. David Seldon is trying a little gill netting in Baring Bay.

Walked over to Annie Pestrikoff's with Florence Christiansen. We found her grandmother, Annie Andrewvich, and a house full of children. We had a real women gathering, discussing everything from politics to children. Annie Andrewvich was raised in the old Woody Island mission and is well known here. Her son, Wilford, whom I met, has had his share of bad luck this year; but he still retains his ready grin. The first of the season, while hauling in a net full of salmon, it split in two, spilling the entire catch. Last week he had to be towed to the village because of engine failure. The tender engineer couldn't repair it. Bad weather prevented a tow to Shearwater that day.

Talked with young Paul Andrewvich (son of the Chief and Mirra) on the beach for a while as we looked for "jumpers." Paul is one of the "K-16" crew and will go out with Carl Christiansen as skipper. Harold and Oscar Christiansen will fill out the crew. Jennie is on the "Alexander" with her uncle, Alec Inga and his daughter, Martha and son, Martin. Very young crews but able to hold their own. I had the best guides in Old Harbor, three little Christiansen girls: Lisa, 10; Wilma, 4 and Violet, 3 years. Raymond Kelly, the brother of Sasha, gave me lessons in grinding snoose! He uses the old "Koroshook," a mortar made of wood or bone, in which leaf tobacco was placed and then ground with a wooden pestle. I have one of whale bone, but Raymond uses one of wood. He placed cut tobacco in the koroshook and ground it well, adding wood ashes from time to time to increase the strength. Tea is added at the end to bind all together. The wood ash is important as that is what gives the strength; birch is stronger than

alder, driftwood makes it salty. He offered me some but I decided to take a rain check. I bought two lovely baskets from Feodosia Inga, Slaton, in Larsen Bay. the mother of Alec and Polly Tanohan. She made these over bot-

ties but showed me another nice one in the traditional style. Mrs. Inga has a daughter, Barbara Old Harbor is on Sitkalidak Bay (Continued on Page 6)

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|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Name of hunter. | 3. Sex of kill. |
| 2. Location of kill. | 4. Date of kill. |

COLLECTION POINTS

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Thank You— Ron Batchelor, Biologist
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