

Perry River Project

Taped at Gjoa Haven

September 2003

Don & Annie Magaknak

(English)

**Interviewer: David Pelly
Interpreter: David Qirqut
Transcribed by: Ben Kogvik**

Q Today is September 9, 2003. He said his name is David Pelly and he will be conducting the interview. This interview will be about the move from Perry River to Gjoa Haven. The interviewees will be Don and Annie Magaknak from Gjoa Haven and I'm David Qirrut who will be interpreting.

He said that first of all, he wants to ask you about the forms that you signed whether you understand them, that's what he wants to find out.

DM Yes, we understand them.

Q He said that when you are being taped about this, it's up to you if you want to ask any questions, you may do so.

DM Yes, I don't know, but what we've gone through seems quite clear, though some parts I've probably forgotten, because we as Inuit don't write things down. We forget some sections, but some things we never forget, so it should be okay.

Q He said that if it's okay he wants to ask Annie first what her birth date is, if she can say where she was born, also if she can say who her parents are.

AM Yes, should I say when I was born first?

Q It doesn't matter which order you say them in.

AM I was born there where the first trading post was, Where is it, here?

DM Yes.

Q What was the name of it?

DM Where is it again?

AM Perry River?

Q Perry River?

AM Yes.

Q It's not Perry Island?

AM Yes.

DM Yes, that was the first trading post location, the very first one.

Q Yes, yes.

DM The name of it was Perry River, that was the name.

Q Yes, this island here?

DM Yes, it was an island where the first trading post was. I guess they moved over there.

Q Okay.

AM Oh, also my birth date?

Q Yes.

AM December 24 was when I was born.

Q December 24?

AM Apparently in 1948. My parents were Pasty Topilikot, who was my father, and my mother was Qaitauk, who passed away when I was very small.

Q Yes.

AM That was when I still didn't really know what was going on.

Q What was her name?

AM Qaitaq.

Q Qaitaq?

AM Yes, she was my first mother.

DM Perhaps if I just use the 19- it will be fine.

Q Yes.

DM Without mentioning the month and date.

Q Yes, do you not know the month you were born?

DM There are three different months.

Q Yes, were you told that you were born on the fall or the summer?

DM Halgiuhi said that I was born when the sun was up now.

Q Yes.

DM Perhaps in September, when was it again?

AM Last year in September?

DM When was it that I received my Nunavut benefits last year?

AM September.

DM Due to it being off by how many months, I'm young... the Federal Government has made me younger.

Q Yes, I'll try to mention that.

DM September I'll use as my birth month.

Q Yes.

DM That's how the Federal Government has put it.

Q Yes, you can also say that it was written wrong, if you know that it was the wrong one. You don't have to mention the exact month.

DM Yes. 1947, that I know is the right one for sure.

Q The place where you were born, what's the name of the place that you mentioned, what was it?

DM I was born at Tukutuuq. There somewhere that I don't know.

Q Also if you can say your parents' names.

DM Ullikattaq is my father, and Piniilaqyuk is my mother.

Q He said which would be better for you ... if he asks you a question first, about when you started from there, or do you want to talk without being asked a question? You could start telling about it, what-ever is easier for you.

DM Yes, if he wants to ask a question he can go ahead and ask.

Q Yes, he said that if he asks like this, perhaps it would help you to recollect. He would like to find out about the store, before the closure, your childhood, when you started remembering. Where you were, even if it was somewhere away from here. Where you were at the time, as well as where you spent time, your camp sites.

DM My parents mostly stayed in that area. It so happened that every year Ullikattaq would go to Gjoa Haven by dog team for family child benefits, our child family allowances were kept at Taloyoak. When we arrived into Gjoa Haven the late Ullugaq (George Porter Sr.) would call Taloyoak and we'd [have a credit] – that's how we shopped.

Q When you were a child?

DM When I was a child.

AM As for myself I started to remember things there where I was born. Though they didn't seem to stay at other places, both my parents and grandparents. I was brought up only in that area myself. It wasn't until I was becoming an adult did we move to the new site where the buildings are, there, that's it.

Q Here at the river, they moved here?

AM To Perry Island?

Q Yes.

AM Yeah.

DM There at that place, at that time, they called him the big manager, Red Pedersen built the store building.

Q When they first had buildings here?

DM Yes.

Q They moved here?

DM Yeah.

AM Yeah my grandfather started as post manager here, Red Pedersen became the store manager here.

Q Yes.

DM Those white post managers always leave, when that white person left her grandfather, Angulalik took over the post. When the white person staying there left he always replaced the manager. When it closed we moved to Gjoa Haven.

Q Yes, when this closed?

DM Yes, I'm going to start recording about the closure. When both Annie and I just started staying together, we were hunting seals somewhere around there.

AM We had a small child.

DM We were out traveling.

AM It was like this, your older brother Mark Kirknik came, from Qikiqtaquuaq (Jenny Lind Island). He was visiting at Qikiqtaquuaq.

DM Yeah?

AM We came back from Qikiqtaquuaq there... here, where is the place where the buildings are again? The place where the buildings are where there is an inukshuk is where?

DM Around here.

AM It seems as though we were at a place with inukshuks then went back to Perry Island, leaving our tent because we had planned to go back to it.

Q You left your tent here?

DM Yes.

AM Yes, on an island. We had no idea that it was closed and the post manager was gone.

Q Was it in the spring time?

AM In the spring during May.

Q You returned to where the store was, and that's when you finally found out?

DM Yes, it was closed

AM We had left it before it closed.

DM There was already no store manager.

Q Do you recall how long you were away [hunting] before you went back?

DM How long?

AM I don't think we were out too long.

DM How long, perhaps within a week, not so sure?

Q Do you remember the year?

AM At that time we started going here perhaps in 1967.

DM 67, 67 part of that year, at that time, when that store was closing.

DM Our parents were asked to move to over towards Bathurst Inlet instead. At that time, Taqak (Duncan Pryde) who was managing the post there, who used to be here, said that there was plenty of caribou and seals so he wanted us to move, they wanted us to move there. My parents didn't want to go there, so we moved here.

Q This person Taqak was a store manager? Was he the post manager at Bathurst Inlet?
When you went there how were you told that the store was closed?

DM Apparently the store was closed. I was at my in-laws, her parents, that's where I was. At that time, my parents were leaving the next day. Patsy Topilikot, my father-in-law, said "I won't be able to support you, so you should go with your parents." That's what he said, so just out of the blue, we left the people we were always at home with that time.

Q At that time, when you went from there back home to the store, were you told that the store had close or who told you it closed?

AM He came from here hunting seals and returned here, he was going to go back there.

Q When you came from there who told you that the store was going to close down?

AM We didn't know that it was closed when we came from here.

Q When you arrived to your parents?

DM To my in-laws, we never go to anyone else but my-in-laws, that where we heard from, definitely my-in-laws.

AM When we heard we had to move, we had no choice but to move.

Q Yes, did you start packing right away the next day to follow your parents?

DM I think we went back for our tent first?

AM For sure we had to get our tent first.

Q When you returned, was the store manager still there or did you go back when he was already gone?

DM He wasn't. There was already no more store manager and those things, what little was left for us, was put in the building that was for the nursing station. They had put the few things that were for us in the building that was built for the nursing station. When we arrived there, Annie and I went to get them, not from the store, but from what was supposed to be the nursing station.

AM There were a few cans of milk though I don't recall how many and we had a child.

Q Do you remember what was inside the things that were set aside for you?

DM There wasn't much of anything.

AM There wasn't much at alright.

DM Flour. There was some flour, I think, some tea, sugar, there was some sugar too. Though I don't remember how much there was, as there wasn't much at all. For the motor, there was 10 gallons of motor gas.

Q Gasoline?

DM Gasoline. Stove fuel? How much naptha was there?

Q There was at least some stove gas?

DM There was a bit of gas for stove.

Q OK.

DM There was no ammunition, no fish nets, nothing for hunting supplies.

Q Before you went seal hunting, while you were still there, was the store manager still there? When you returned there, did you get back after he had already left?

DM Yes. It was closed. And there was no way to get into the store. The items left for us, the few items that we would get, had my name on it and they were there. We picked them up from there.

Q Yes.

AM We had a small child and I was also expecting another.

DM The year that it was to close down, Ullikattaq usually trapped during the winter, so he bought an in-board motor boat from my older brother-in-law.

Q During the winther before it closed?

DM Yes, before it closed.

AM We used it to travel from over there.

Q Yes.

DM It is across there [at Gjoa Haven, now]. We used it to come here.

AM They would move them ahead and come back.

DM We waited for the ice to go here at Kulgayuk (Simpson River). We waited for the ice to move. When the ice was gone, we left by boat from there. Little Siksik and I moved things ahead and went back and forth with the two boats. There were two similar wooden boats. He would move Halluqtalik's boat ahead and I would use Ullikattaq's boat to move things ahead and return. We repeated this over and over.

Q When you started from there, did you go by dog team?

DM We went by dog team to where we would wait for the ice to go.

Q What is the name of the place where you waited for the ice to go?

DM The mouth of Kulgayuk (Simpson River).

Q Kulgayuk. You and little Siksik kept moving things ahead and returning?

DM Yes.

Q Those boats that you used, did you bring them with sleds by dog team.

DM Yes, the boat that Ullikattaq bought was there so we'd move it ahead by dog team to where we would wait for the ice to go. Still we left traps there; the traps we left there are probably rotted now.

AM From there where did we go?

DM There were a number of dogs, as we each had dogs and would have to keep bringing them ahead when we were traveling.

AM It was very hard work.

DM Perhaps, while there was still ice, if we tried to go further by dog team it would have shortened the trip, but we had to listened to our parents, as they wanted to wait for the ice to go. We waited for it to move out.

AM We got there long before the ice left.

Q Perhaps they wanted to hunt for food?

DM Perhaps so.

Q Did they want to wait for the ice to go, so you waited there for the ice to be gone?

DM While there due to it being iced in, and due perhaps to it being very windy, it took longer, because there was a lot of ice, and due to high winds we traveled a long time there. We camped for days there, and because when we arrived at Ulivyaqniqtuuq (west coast of McLoughlin Bay at a point) there was ice there, a lot of ice. There was no way around all that ice when we got there.

AM There was so much ice.

Q Yes.

DM Due to the ice not moving at all, Apiana and little Siksik talked. We discussed amongst ourselves first about wanting to go alone to Gjoa Haven. We left for Gjoa Haven by pulling the boat over ice until we reached open water with the canoe.

Q Even though it was summer?

DM When was it again?

AM It was probably in September for sure.

DM It was probably in September.

Q Do you know how long you stayed there?

DM We probably stayed there for quite some time due to ice. There was a lot of ice there. When we left from there, I don't think we camped before reaching Cam-2 by the time it got dark.

Q When you reached open water?

DM Yes, when we reached open water. The outboard motor was 5 HP. We used a 5 HP outboard motor.

Q With a canoe?

DM Yes, with a canoe. When we arrived there [Cam-2] we spent... how many days did we spend there? There were workers there. We were given a little bit of gasoline and headed for Gjoa Haven from Cam-2. When we left for Gjoa Haven perhaps the gasoline was contaminated, maybe it wasn't very good, so around there somewhere just when it got foggy our outboard motor broke down.

When the outboard broke down out in the open water, it also got foggy. At that time we heard something that sounded like a ship. When we heard the sound of a ship, we listened closer and it sounded like it was still [motionless], perhaps due to the fog, so we paddled towards it. I don't know how, but they must have spotted us from the ship. We reached the people on the ship. Those brothers from the late Ulugaq's (George Porter Sr.) kids who were brothers, they were on the Peterhead. That ship is across there, the one they were using when we were here.

Q Do you recall which of them were on the ship when you reached them?

DM The late Uukuuq (Walter Porter) and Piipiq (Ben Porter Sr.).

Q I'm just going to say that in English?

DM Yes. Itigaqpaktuq was with them, the late Itigaqpaktuq.

Q Yes.

DM At that time when we got together on the ship, we started heading here [Gjoa Haven]. When it became dark, they were afraid to run aground so we slept overnight there, because it got dark. They didn't want to travel in the dark. After we slept there, we arrived in Gjoa Haven. We got here getting a ride on their ship.

Q Who was that again? The old man was who again?

DM Itigaqpaktuq.

Q OK.

DM When we got there to Gjoa Haven I wonder how many nights we spent there? At that time, Louie Anarkanerk had a Peterhead that the late Angutittauruq was using, from there to Gjoa Haven, he was going to pick up the people by ship. We were told that Angutittauruq was going to pick them up from there, so we went over to him. He was going to pick up the people from here by ship, from Gjoa Haven we went to Cam-2. When we arrived at Cam-2, we were told that he was returning home from there, he was going to go pick them up from there and bring us at the same time and pick them up but he went home. The workers there gave us gasoline and Nulungiq's (Martha Puyattaq) late husband Ikey's 10 horsepower outboard motor was given to us to use.

Q Have you heard why Angutittauruq just brought you only to Cam-2? He just brought you there although he was going to pick up the people so why did he go back home or was he told to go home?

DM On his own. He decided on his own to go back from Cam-2 perhaps because it was going to freeze-up so he was probably cautious of that. That was probably the reason. Anyway I think that was why. When we arrived into Gjoa Haven, I forgot to mention what I should have said before, even though we went there we never bought even a little thing from the store, but Louie Anakarnerk gave us a little bit of food. I don't recall anyone else giving us anything. From there we were given a outboard motor to use, so we started back here. It became dark and we missed crossing paths with my parents and Annie around there somewhere. We ourselves didn't hear them, but apparently they heard us though it was too dark so we missed each other somewhere around there.

AM When we came from Ulivyaqnittuuq we went to Atanikittuq with Halluqtaliks and my in-laws. We missed each other somewhere around an island.

Q Because it was dark?

AM It was now dark and we put a tent up on an island.

DM I think that we camped close to this area. We slept there when Siksik and Apiana and I came from there.

Q When you came from Cam-2 was it stormy when you got there?

DM Yes, it was stormy. It was very stormy the next day, so we spent the whole day in a tent, or an iglu ... we built an iglu instead, to wait for better weather, on the island somewhere that I thought was about here. Yes, I apologize I passed this again. We came by Halluqtaliks and Putuguks around there, so Siksik and I started using his boat instead as we had intended to go back there, but we lost each other again, so Apiana was alone boating with the canoe. Since we came across Halluqtaliks and Putuguks, Siksik and I started using Halluqtalik's boat and I started going back with Siksik. We started using two separate boats, Apiana using the canoe, Siksik and I with Halluqtalik's boat that is across the bay, thinking that if we reached there, we would use it to go back. At the time little Siksik and I were somewhere around there, we lost Apiana, and we never got back together with him. So he made it back before us. Little Siksik and I, using that boat across there, spent the night again somewhere. I think we slept again, then tried to go. It was starting to freeze-up there and somewhere near an island that was furthest out from the mainland, we ran out of gasoline, just as we got close to the island. We had found a 45 gallon drum of methol hydrate that had washed up, after drifting from one of the dew-line stations, so we kept some on our trips. When the motor ran out of gas, just as we got close to an island, and there was no other fuel for it, I poured a little bit of methol hydrate into the tank as soon as the motor shut off, while it was still hot, so we managed to get almost right to shore. We made it to land using the methol hydrate in the in-board motor, making it to land on the island.

Q Without ever seeing Apiana at that time?

DM Yes, he was apparently back home to the people we had left behind. At that time, we didn't quite beach the boat due to ice, and it was hard to move the boat through but not quite strong enough to walk on. That's how it was. We took the lumber from inside the boat and put them on the ice near it, as the ice wasn't strong enough to step on. We used them on the ice to strengthen the ice, and used a 10 gallon drum as something to lean onto, and one of us was able to get on land. One of us got on the land, and we tied the boat's rope on the land after throwing it over. We were going to sleep there, but we knew we had to walk from there, so we took the oars and something else and headed for the mainland. We used those pieces of wood to cross the weaker sections on the ice. We got to the mainland by walking, and from there to Kupluguk's and Apiana's late wife. Apiana was apparently home by then. We reached there by walking after dark. From Gjoa Haven, we got to where we left by the time it was dark. Right the next day, or after we spent more days there, we walked again back to the boat, to see how it was, and to make sure it was okay. We pulled it further up on the land. We tried putting it further up on the land. After attempting this, we waited for it to freeze-up there. At that time, Apiana and little Siksik went to pick up sleds from over there [to the west, along the coast], somewhere over there, but I'm not sure where.

Q Somewhere close by the place you spent the summer?

DM Yes, where we stayed for the spring break-up, there.

Q The day after, or a couple of days later, they went to get the sleds?

DM I'm not sure. I think they waited a few days before they left.

Q They waited a few days first.

DM Then we started staying there. After we spent quite some time there, I myself wanted to walk from there to Cam-2. That area was frozen and good enough to walk on now, so I wanted to walk. Though little Siksik brought me around here by dog team.

Q This part, this is Atanikittuq (mid-west coast of Klutschak Peninsula). Did he bring you to part of Atanikittuq?

DM Yes, around there. I walked with one dog, taking a stove and I also had a small sled and the stove and took along a caribou skin and I walked. When I walked, I first slept around there somewhere, but I'm not sure exactly where. Next day I walked with one dog as a companion. I camped there somewhere. When I started walking again, though, I walked down that way. Around there somewhere, I was going to start walking on the ice so I left the little sled and the stove. The caribou skin I packed on my back and tied the dogs leash to my waist, then I started walking on the sea ice. At that time, I secured the dog to myself and the caribou skin on my back. I packed it on my back when I was walking on the sea ice. That's how I was that time.

Q Do you know how many times you camped?

DM Twice.

Q OK.

DM After I reached there [Cam-2], I don't remember how many days I was there, before those people – Apiana's, little Siksik's, Kupluguk's [families] – traveling by dog teams, arrived while I spent some days there. They arrived there coming by dog team. I was fine when I was walking, and enjoyed it, as there was no other way to be at that time. After staying in Gjoa Haven, one starts to look back and remember the hardship we had, just thinking about it. Just thinking about how long without being heard, just thinking about all of that, we must tell about that. If we went through that today, they would try to hear. They would frantically try to find out. That's how it is today. As soon as they don't hear from someone, they start worrying right away. But for us, it was months, how many months, we went through. So thinking back on it, I know it's long past and things turned out okay, but thinking back on it, I don't know how to explain the anxiety we felt. I probably missed something that I should say. I probably forgot something important that I need to mention, as I kept skipping sections before, when I started talking. Some things that happened first, I mentioned last. That's how I was before, so I probably forgot what I should have mentioned. I wanted to mention that while it was fresh on my mind. Speaking of that, there is something that I should say that I'm forgetting. When we arrived into Gjoa Haven, when we actually made it, we could not buy anything. We had no means to. Only when we signed. Ray Mercer, whom you know, at that time, had us sign and from that time on, we were finally able to get social assistance. When we just got here, we couldn't get anything, we had no means of getting anything.

Q Ray Mercer was still the store manager when you got here?

DM Yes.

Q When you all moved there to Gjoa Haven? Once you weren't going anywhere and were here to stay?

DM Yes. We didn't get help right away after we got here. Only when Ray Mercer had us sign. I suppose we officially became residents, and when that was known, we were finally able to get social assistance.

AM We didn't all arrive here at the same time. We were at Cam-2. We got here in December, to finally move here, as I remember that well. Kupluguk's and Apiana's [families] were already staying here.

DM We finally moved here in December right?

AM In September I was over here following my in-laws. While I was at Atanikittuq, Putuguk's arrived with Halluqtalik's, while we were at Atanikittuq.

Q When the three men went to Gjoa Haven?

AM Yes, that's the time that we would miss each other.

DM Yes, at that time.

AM Go ahead and complete your section.

DM What I remember has finished. After I went back and forth, from here to over there, and also when I walked by there, that's all done. From that section, moving things ahead and going back for the rest ... that's what I went through myself when I got there. From there, going back and forth by boat, to there, there, over there, by boat, going back and walking, that's how I was. If I had gone in a straight line, I'd be way over there really far away!

AM When we were here, he left us and it wasn't until October until we saw each other again!

DM Due to missing each others paths.

Q Yes, after you had a child?

AM When we had our oldest dear child we started out for here. I was also expecting a second child. I remember some of this only, but have forgotten some of it.

Q If you want to talk about what you remember, Annie, you can go ahead and talk about them.

AM I remember when we left from here with my in-laws and Halluqtalik's. There was ice down there, a lot of old pack icebergs were visible.

Q From there did you go to Cam-2?

AM From Atanikittuq, apparently, where we would miss each other around an island, my in-laws put the tent up on an island, so we missed these people. That's when both Halluqtalik's and Putuguq's [families] kept going to reach Cam-2.

Q They kept going to reach Cam-2?

AM Yes, they kept going to reach there.

Q Were there two boats going?

DM There were two boats, but little Siksik and I took the other one.

AM When we left from there, it was also starting to freeze and form ice on the water. It was probably late September. From there, we went to right across from Cam-2 and stopped at the old buildings. There was very little fuel left for the motor. My father-in-law put a little bit of fuel, though I don't know how much, and we headed across to Cam-2. The crossing was hard, as the boat moved slowly, it couldn't go fast. We rocked the boat like this and made our way across. There were people hunting seals, so there were quite a few boats, but none went to us. Yes, it was a lot of work. I didn't bother to talk about the portion of the trip before here, as it was already told by him [Don]. That's how it was at that time, spending the spring, waiting for the ice to go.

Q While the men went to Gjoa Haven, and you were left behind, how many people were left behind there? When you traveled with your in-laws to Cam-2, did anyone get left behind there? Who got left behind there?

AM While we were at Ulipyaqniqtuuq, these guys left us. I followed my in-laws with Halluqtalik's, attempting to go to Cam-2. Kupluguq's were at Ulipyaqnittuuq with Anaityaq, Apiana's late wife. That I remember.

Q When the men first left for Gjoa Haven, why did you leave the rest there, going on your trip to Gjoa Haven?

DM At that time, the group of us, if we had all gone, it would have been practically impossible, because there was so much ice. That's why only three of us were going to attempt the trip.

AM There was so much ice.

DM When and if we could reach Gjoa Haven, we were hoping to get some help. To see if we could be helped, that's why only us men traveled to Gjoa Haven.

Q After the men went to Gjoa Haven, did the ice move out enough so that you could travel by boat?

AM It was quite some time after they left there was a way around the ice, so we went here. Though I don't even know if there was ice in that area.

DM At that time there was ice in the area. When we left over there, when we came back, the ice had gone, but the sea was starting to freeze up with new ice. We returned there when it was freezing up.

AM We came from Perry River by dog team, then went here by boat. We got to Cam-2 by boat, then again by dog team we made the final move to Gjoa Haven. It became winter again while we were still traveling that area.

DM Both dogs and boats were slow at that time.

AM It was winter when we left from Perry River. We left from over there in May.

Q You are now in Gjoa Haven, but thinking back to when you were still at Upliyinituuq, though we never know if the ice would have moved because there was ice at the time. If you had waited longer, if you had all waited longer, all of you, Siksik and Apiana, had waited for the ice, if you waited longer for the ice to move, could you have all moved to Cam-2 together?

DM That would have been the case. But it's the same for anything. The weather does not let us know how it will be. There is no forecast as to how it will be on a certain day. We never know from day to day how it will be on any given day. We just don't know how the weather will be.

AM And the food [from Perry River] finished there before.

DM While we were still here they were all gone, while we were still here those things were finished.

AM We ate country food between there, over there.

Q When you came from over there, was there animals around, by the route you used?

DM Yes, if we have tea and ate we're fine, we're okay. We had tea and ate so we were fine.

AM We continually ate meat.

DM Although there was nothing else. When you're actually experiencing it, there is nothing wrong, as that's the only way to go. But when you start thinking back, when I start thinking back about it, you want to be helped some-how.

AM I started thinking back myself. If we traveled this way, it didn't matter, as we didn't think anything of it. But I start thinking of what we went through sometimes. I was expecting a child and there was no way to communicate. I was due in November as well. Both Anaiyaq and I were pregnant when we were traveling here.

Q Do you remember how old the child was when you were there?

AM I started from Perry River when I was 19 years old. I was pregnant with a child that would be adopted out to Kugluktuk. While I was pregnant, I had a very bad liver and there was no medicine. It was so sore. That's all I can remember, when I was coming from over.

I was going to tell about this before, at first. When we were going to leave to travel from Perry River to come here, and I was going to leave my parents, I was quite young so I was crying when I was traveling.

Q When you were leaving them?

AM When I was leaving them.

Q When you were leaving you parents?

AM Yes.

DM That's what her and I both did, even myself. I was so attached to my in-laws and left them. I already told about what I did. I told about what I went through, so I can't talk about it again. But this is how it was and we were hoping that somehow people would say, so that's what they went through, and would want to help, that's what we are trying and that's how it is, but I would expect anything.

AM It was extremely difficult coming from over there, when I think back about it.

DM Somewhere there is help. If someone somewhere has had help, because we are people too. Even Inuit from anywhere, even if they are from close by, they are our fellow humans, no matter where they are from. If they've been assisted, we would also like to get some help. That's what we are trying to get. I don't have anything else to say as I can't add anything other than what I've gone through. I can only talk about what I endured.

Q If either of you don't have anything more to say, he has a few questions. If you would like to say anything more, you can continue to talk, before he asks any questions.

DM Yes, if he has questions to ask, yes I will answer them if I can. If I can't answer anything, I will not be able to answer.

Q Just to clarify things, let's go back to what you've already said.

When you went seal hunting, you were camping and went back to Perry River, and at that time you said that the store was closed. How did you find out? Did they not tell you that the store would be closing soon?

AM We had no idea and we were traveling.

Q That store manager, or the white person that was the store manager there, did he know about this or did he not know about the fact that there would be no more store.

DM I don't know. If he knew, he would probably have told us, but he didn't give any information out.

Q Yes.

DM Prior to that time, it almost closed down. I seem to have heard about it. It was quite long before.

Q Was there only one white person managing the store at that time it closed, when it was closing?

AM There was always only one, different post managers come in.

DM Only after it was closed, that person Taqak (Duncan Pride) came with them by plane, and we were asked to move, we were told to move.

Q After it was closed?

DM Yes, after it was closed.

Q Do you know the name of the last store manager that was there?

AM We have forgotten it.

DM I don't even remember his name.

AM I've forgotten it as well.

DM That person, perhaps it was that person alright? That person that I got dogs from, after I got back from the hospital. He was probably the last store manager, or was there someone else after him?

AM I've tried to recall who it was but, I've forgotten.

DM That person ... I was away at the hospital for my head, and during the fall just after freeze-up, near Christmas time, I got back. I got dogs from that person. With his old dogs, we came, we traveled with them coming here. I had them as my dogs here. I wonder what his name was?

Q Which hospital, at Edmonton?

DM Yes, in Edmonton.

That person was probably the last one, as the dogs he had collected from different people. Perhaps he was the last store manager as I got dogs from him, so he was probably the last one.

Q Yes, and his name can't be remembered?

DM His name, I can't remember his name.

AM Even the other residents of there don't know him anymore.

Q His supervisors probably told him to close it, so he would have closed it.

DM Yes, that's the only way.

Q How did that last post manager leave there? Do you remember what he left with, when the store closed down?

AM I didn't know that he left.

DM When the seals were coming up on the ice, we were hunting seals, when it closed.

Q That's when the store manager was already gone too?

DM It was only because he had left that the store couldn't be entered, we couldn't get in.

AM My parents told me that they would be moving to Cambridge Bay when the ice goes.

Q Do you know how the manager left from there, either by plane or by dog team, when he was leaving his post? Did you hear about it or do you remember it?

DM The only means was by plane. It wasn't by dog team, though I couldn't be too sure, as he wasn't there and we didn't see him.

Q When you talked about the nursing station, was it a nursing station that was going to be built or was there a nursing station already built?

DM That nursing station, what was supposed to be a nursing station building, was built. It was built and it was never used.

AM We left before it was ever used.

DM At that time when the store closed, they apparently put the items that were to be given to people in there.

Q Into the nursing station?

DM Yes, and the names were written on them. That building was supposed to be a nursing station was never used and the store closed down, so I guess it was built so the things we were to take would be put in there. I guess that was the purpose of building it!

AM It was never used and left.

DM There was still no occupant at what was supposed to be the nursing station, so it was never used and the place closed.

Q Yes, though the building was completed?

AM It's the same as that one down there by the old health center [in Gjoa Haven], it was the same as that.

DM It was very small.

Q Yes, that little white one?

AM It wasn't used, but was built. The priest's building was used before that.

DM It was made of wood and was probably costly to have it put there but never used.

Q The store possibly closing down was not known, so that would explain the reason that the nursing station was built there. Those people who built the building would not have had any idea that the store would be closing down maybe.

DM That would be the only reason, that would be the only reason.

AM The only use of what was supposed to be the nursing station was when the X-Ray team came in, they would use it, and that's the only use of it that I know of.

Q Yes.

DM I don't even know when or if it was even used myself.

AM It used to be used when they took X-Rays there.

Q When you started traveling from there to move towards Gjoa Haven, all those people – your parents, Kupluguk's, Apiana's, Siksik's [families] – moved from over there to here in Gjoa Haven. Were they always together when you traveled?

AM We were always together and we kept moving things ahead and going back for the rest.

DM At that time, when Siksik and I would bring things ahead, then when we came back, we would all travel together.

AM We started to separate around here.

DM Though there was a lot of ice right here and it was hard to tell if the ice would even go, that's what made the trip much longer.

Q When the store was closing down and you started traveling towards Gjoa Haven, which person acted as the leader that everyone followed? Or else did all of you do what you wanted? Did you travel when and however you wanted?

- DM I think it was Ullikattaq? I think it was my father who was the boss. It was during that year that it [the trading post] would close, he went by dog team to Gjoa Haven, Ullikattaq and Kahak (Sarah Ullikattaq). They went to Gjoa Haven first, then came right back when it was about that same time of year in the spring the store closed down. He didn't know that it was going to close down so after he went to Gjoa Haven, he came back.
- Q When you mentioned that your mother was Pinniilaqyuk, he wants to know why Kahak went on that trip. So I indicated to him that Ullikattak had re-married to her, and that she is not your natural mother.
- DM Yes, I can respond to that. My mother is Pinniilaqyuk. Around there, where is it again, where is Perry River?
- Q Yes, there it is.
- DM How should I say this? Long ago, I had a younger sister, but I don't really recall my mother. I had a younger sister but I wasn't very big at that time so I don't really remember what my mother looked like. Apparently she was sick. Apparently she was sick and her younger sister wanted to see her, so they came from down there from the place where the buildings are to pick us up by boat and I happen to remember that we got down there. Her younger sister wanted to see her so they picked us up by boat and we got down there. Her younger sister was the late Angulalik's (Steven Angulalik) wife quite a few years his junior.
- Q Was that after your mother became sick?
- DM Yes, at that time I still couldn't remember too well so I don't really know how she was, but when she was going to be buried I could sort of recall it. I kind of remember it as I don't know how old I was, though I had a younger sister, but I don't know her.
- Q Yes, your sister, your sister? You also said that you don't really remember your mother?
- DM Yes, although I had a younger sister, I should have remembered but I don't know exactly how my mother looked.
- Q Yes, even though you had an older sister? Was she younger?
- DM She was my younger sister. That how it was, so my father re-married to Kahak. She's my stepmother not my natural mother.
- Q You said when you came from Gjoa Haven, Angutitauruq brought you there to Cam-2. That boat that he was using, was it his, did it belong to him, or was he working for someone that would allow him to use it?
- DM Apparently Louie Anakarnerk acquired that ship. Angutitauruq was allowed to use it as he wished. I don't know if he was directed to or made a decision on his own to go. He had attempted to go pick them up from there. I think that he was directed to do so. Teachers at

that time were responsible for giving out welfare. That's how the first teachers were around here.

AM That's when we first arrived here.

DM Maybe he was directed by the teachers and tried to go pick up those people. It was going to freeze up, so that was probably why he went back from there to Gjoa Haven.

Q You mentioned before that, before this store was to close, you were not informed that it would close. Before you heard, your father went to Gjoa Haven during the winter. When he got to Gjoa Haven, did he get social assistance and child family allowances?

DM I don't know as they never received social assistance long time ago. I don't even know if he got child family allowances over there. If he used to get family allowances, he probably got family allowances.

Q Before that store closed over there, did you receive family allowances? Did the people get social assistance, living over there?

DM I mentioned before that I was in Edmonton at the hospital and came back nearly Christmas time. At that time, the store manager gave me his dogs and dog food. I don't recall that he gave me anything else at that time.

Q What about the children that lived there? Did they get family allowance, other than yourselves, do you remember?

AM Whenever the police came...

DM We ourselves didn't get family allowances, so I don't know if others got family allowances.

AM I'm the one that knows. The police would come from Cambridge Bay. When they arrived they would let my parents and our fellow residents go shopping [on credit in the Perry River store]. We didn't have many other residents. There would be a lot of items that were bought when the police came.

Q Do you know if they were the family allowance?

AM That was probably what they were. Yeah, I didn't even know what a family allowance was.

Q When, you got to Gjoa Haven, and it was probable that you would not move from Gjoa Haven, and Ray Mercer had you sign some documents. After you signed were you able to start getting social assistance after that?

DM Yes, we were able to receive social assistance with everyone one else. When we just got to Gjoa Haven, we couldn't get anything. But it was probably because Ray Mercer had us

sign that allowed us to finally get social assistance when the rest of the residents there were given them.

Q Did you also start getting your child family allowance after that?

AM Yes, a child's benefit used to be 6 dollars. That was long ago.

Q When you were finally able to receive social assistance, and when you started receiving family allowances was your travel time from Perry River to Gjoa Haven, was it included by way of money or were you given anything else for it?

DM We've never been given anything. So that's why we're trying to ask for this.

AM We had very little when we came from over there.

DM On our own, we moved on our own, without any help. It would be futile to think back, remembering how we didn't get help. So we're trying to ask for compensation for that. We want to ease our minds with that.

AM It's very far from where we came, as well. That place where we left, to where we were moving, it's closer than where we left from and this section is much farther. Thinking back, when you think about it, it's very hard.

DM While we were still over there, there were several students who went to school in Inuvik. All that time that we traveled, no one ever thought about them.

AM Those kids were never thought about.

DM While we were there, those students who went to Inuvik weren't even once thought about.

Q Were they always picked up before that?

AM Halluqtalik's daughters, and Apiana's daughters. They should have thought about them, but they never did. They were always picked up when we lived over there [at Perry River].

Q When the store was closing and after it closed, were any of the students out when it was closing down?

AM Both Hiiquqluk (Molly Siutinnuaq) and Piniilaqyuk (Alice Siksik) came apparently when it was closed. Right?

Q Yes, were there only two of them that came after it was closed?

AM Probably Apiana's daughters as well, but I'm not sure?

Q Did the students come home after it was closed?

DM Yes.

Q Were they not even told that they would be picked up again when it was time for school again?

AM Yes.

DM They weren't even thought about while they were traveling. It was as if they couldn't care less about them.

AM From Inuvik, when they came back home from Inuvik, we have to go home through Cambridge Bay in May, as our land melted in May.

DM There was no landing strip so they used [a plane] that could land on the ice with skis.

AM We go by a large plane [from Inuvik] to Cambridge Bay, then by a single engine plane they would bring us to our land.

DM They would land on the ice with a plane on skis.

Q Was it after the school kids came home, or was it before they came home, that you and your wife were out seal hunting?

DM I think it was when we were down there right?

AM I know for sure that they were brought home while we were out there [seal hunting].

DM This is probably what happened. The students were brought home and the store manager must have boarded the [same] plane, and that's why we didn't see him.

AM We didn't know that we would be moving so we were just enjoying our camping trip.

Q It makes more sense, that when the students were brought, that he himself would have left on that flight.

DM That's the only explanation. When there is a plane, there isn't another one right away, so that is the only way it would have happened.

Q Did it seem that there was anything different about the store manager? Did he look sick? Was anything wrong with him, when he was going to leave?

DM There wasn't anything wrong with him.

Q Just looking at the map, and at the Nunavut Tunngavik when they were setting up the map. These red sections indicate Inuit Owned Lands, as they are shown. Do you know why these areas close to Perry River were drawn as Inuit Owned Lands, when there is no one living there now?

DM I don't know, as it was after we started living here [in Gjoa Haven] that those lands were put that way.

AM That's what they did with them.

Q At that time though, I don't know how many years ago, but not many years past, they visited communities to ask people to write down lands that they want to see owned or lands they didn't want to lose.

Q He said that he has no more questions at this time, but if you want to add anything more or if you want to stop, it's all up to you.

AM The things that we should think about, when we came from over there, I can't remember.

Q Anytime, even tomorrow, if you remember anything related to this, and would like to add it to what you've already talked, about feel free to let us know. We can always add it on.

AM The few things that I can think of and the few things that I can remember, I've given.