

## VERBATIM

### **Okookoo Quaraq**

Yes, in 1958, 59 we were sent up there, me, my younger brother, my stepsister, my mother, that was the group. My brother in law, my sister, Sigluk, Jaipiti, there were three in that family... They were four of them actually. We went up there in 1959.

It happened like this, our brother in law left on the C.D. Howe for down south, after being in the hospital he flew back to Resolute Bay. He met his older brother there and his older brother wanted him to go up there, he told him to go there during the summer on the C.D. Howe. And so, he was our brother in law, I think my mother wanted to stay with my sister, for that reason we ended up going along, we went along, the four of us.

That time we left for up there in August, around August 20. When we got there, my impression was that we had left the earth and that we would never see our relatives again. Turns out I did not know the future, turns out it would become possible, but it was my impression that I would not see my relatives again.

#### ***Question 1: How were you feeling?***

I felt, well, I felt like I would never see my relatives again, I had relatives in Arctic Bay, cousins and others, my uncle's families. I thought I would never see them again and that's how it was. And one of my concerns, well, when I think about it, it causes me regret, well, I was not in control of events there, I just followed my parents along.

In Arctic Bay the teachers arrived and children my age were to go to school and we moved down there. Only after four years later did teachers come to Grise Fiord. I too would have been in school this long, I would think that. What I felt when we moved there, there were hardly any people, very few people lived there and I thought there was no one who was my age.

Turns out Moses was the same age as me and we met down there and we became friends and are friends to today. When we met down there we became fellow youths and I was very glad for Moses being my friend.

And there is less game in Arctic Bay, we would go hungry there living in our own small camp. We would go without meat there and down there we were more fortunate and Akpaliapik and my brother in law started to teach me to hunt there and today I am more

successful as they had helped me. We would travel to different places too, to far off places also. I am grateful to have been trained by those siblings.

To me, for example we lived at Arctic Bay, it was similiar to that, the weather, it would be a little darker though. To me, when I got used to it I was happier living down there. I did not seem to remember any of my relatives being sad, no one was sent away for medical reasons, that's how it was for us. It was similiar to our lives in Arctic Bay.

***Question 2: When did you leave Grise Fiord?***

We moved there in 59, we came here in 1977. My in laws moved here and I wanted to be able to support them so I followed them here, we followed them here. My in laws moved down there in 1961, Markoosie and family. We met down there, Hanna and I. We became a couple in 1968.

***Question 3: How were you getting along with the people of Inukjuak?***

We weren't used to hearing the Inukjuak dialect. When we first met them I didn't really understand them. We didn't really understand each other's dialects, perhaps all of us. We all got along well with each other, we were great friends and supported each other completely, the Inukjuak people and us. They supported us and we supported them, that's how it was over there back then.

Yes, their recent visit was joyful but I was unable to attend the whole time as I was travelling and such. I enjoyed their visit very much. I became capable down there and got a job so living down there was beneficial to me, at least to me. It taught me about jobs and hunting.