

EXCERPT OF RECORDED INTERVIEW OF BARBARA JOHNSON, PART 1

TALKING ABOUT USING PINE

CONDUCTED BY KAREN BREWSTER

YAKUTAT, ALASKA

MAY 27, 2006

ORAL HISTORY 2004-17-29\_PT.1

KAREN BREWSTER: So did you -- you said your grandmother who raised you was a traditional healer or midwife. Did she teach you things?

BARBARA JOHNSON: Well, actually, she would talk to me about it, you know. She -- she did a lot of deliveries that even the doctors wouldn't be able to do. You know. Turning the baby, you know, when it's in the wrong place and stuff like that. She used to be able to do that, you know. And she would just tell me how, you know, how she did that. But I -- I would just watch her, you know, stuff that she would do. She used to bring home the pregnant moms and then she'd deliver the baby at our house and then take them home the next day. And she was very good, you know, at what she did. And when she -- you know, she lived to be 100 years old, and she didn't have -- she didn't have no heart condition, you know, no high blood pressure, no diabetes. The thing that really got her was arthritis. You know. So something I inherited from her.

KAREN BREWSTER: It runs.

BARBARA JOHNSON: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did she use plants for traditional medicine?

BARBARA JOHNSON: Yeah, she did. She would have different things. Like I know one time after I had my -- one of my babies at -- I was bleeding a lot and so she -- she went out into the woods and got some kind of pine (lodgepole pine? Or does she mean sitka spruce or western hemlock?) and put it on the stove in water, and boiled it and boiled it and boiled it and boiled it, and then she made me drink it. And that helped. I wished that I could have written down everything she did, but yeah, she had a lot of stuff that she would fix, you know, for medicine.

BARBARA JOHNSON TALKING ABOUT PINE

MAY 27, 2006

EXCERPT FROM ORAL HISTORY 2004-17-29\_PT.1

Page 1 of 1