

EXCERPT FROM RECORDED INTERVIEW OF VERA ANGASAN
TALKING ABOUT CHOCOLATE LILY
CONDUCTED BY PAT PARTNOW AND MARY JANE NIELSEN
IN KING SALMON, ALASKA
MARCH 23, 1998
ORAL HISTORY 98-22-05

VERA ANGASAN: There's lots of it in Savonoski, in the swamp. They have pretty flowers in them.

MARY JANE NIELSEN: I know what you're thinking of, those black lily.

PAT PARTNOW: Oh, yeah, those are very nice. Yeah, this says they used it for medicines, for colds or sore throats, or eyes, sore eyes.

MARY JANE NIELSEN: Yeah. She used to put some in a jar, then she'd keep 'em all winter in a certain place. Then she'd put them in her eye.

PAT PARTNOW: That's this one?

VERA ANGASAN: Yeah.

PAT PARTNOW: Rosewood. Did you say what the Native name is?

VERA ANGASAN: Uh uh. I forgot. I should study 'em more.

PAT PARTNOW: What was the other one you were just talking about?

MARY JANE NIELSEN: That stinky black flower like –

PAT PARTNOW: Oh, yeah, the chocolate lily.

MARY JANE NIELSEN: Chocolate lily. That's what it is. Let me see. That's what Mom has.

VERA ANGASAN: Those stinky berries?

MARY JANE NIELSEN: No, a flower.

PAT PARTNOW: It's a brown flower, kind of a pretty lily that opens up, and then it's the roots that you use, isn't it?

VERA ANGASAN: She used to make us pick those -- they had curly ends, we make a stick them out of trees. That kind.

MARY JANE NIELSEN: Remember that kind? Those kind over by that --

PAT PARTNOW: And this is the part, like rice or something like that.

VERA ANGASAN: Uh uh. There's none around here.

MARY JANE NIELSEN: I remember seeing those on that -- the black flower, like, over on that little swamp, over by the place where people used to pack water, that spring?

PAT PARTNOW: Up at the lake?

MARY JANE NIELSEN: Savonoski.

VERA ANGASAN: Lot of people don't know.