



Arthur McLeod

VAGÒONLII DRIN: Gwilyuu Zrì' 18, 1920

NIJÌN VAGÒONLII: Fort Liard, NT

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: Dan ts'at Mary Dzanàayet

VÌTSII TS'ÀT VÌTSUU: Edward ts'at Fordy Aadaa

GWICH'IN: Ehdìtat Gwich'in

BORN: May 18, 1920

BIRTHPLACE: Fort Liard, NT

PARENTS: Dan McLeod and Mary Dzanaayet

GRANDPARENTS: Edward and Fordy Aadaa

GWICH'IN: Ehdii Tat Gwich'in



handau nuh ts'at Aklavik gwizhìt adanh ts'at vijùu neekanh kat goohanh ts'at digiti' diik'agahjik. Arthur zrit viti' Northern Traders goovàazhii kat hàh gwitr'it t'agwah'in' unli' ts'at viyùughwàn kat nihkhàgoodhìnjik 1926 dàì' vanadhindau ahnuh. Chaa tsal nili dàr' t'at Echee Zrì' danh khyàh nàunli vanadhindau nijùk dàì' geetàk ak'oh gòonli -40 ts'at -50 gwunli' guuzhik ahtr'aih niint'au. Gukhu kat ts'at GOT kat gooveenjìt troo t'ii zrit nuh ts'at nijùk dàì' agadanh troo tr'oovik kat zrit nuh. Au t'ee zrit World War II dàì' ekhè'gogoonuu ts'at khai drình gogwìjìk'an' nagwìjàazhii.

1931 dàì' zrit Arthur chan ts'at vizhehk'oo hàh Tsugèhtshìk nduh ts'au nagoojil ts'at zheh gwadhòh nagogwunli' ts'at gwizhìt gogweech'in'. Diti' edìneht'eh ònjik ts'at khyàh t'ahah'yaa eenjit ehdiitat gwà'an gehkhee ts'at vidree'oonaatsoo kat chan gooveenjìt vake'alch'uh. Arthur chan gayuuniltin ganadhindau ts'at jùk gweendò ts'at gwik'it gòonli kwaa nijìn danh zrit khai tthak gè'tr'oonantan gwizhìt undi' ts'at shin dàr' gwizraih digiyùughwàn hàh t'àngunch'uh. "Ezhik dàr' ch'igijùu'ee gunli'!" jùu t'ìnuh.

Jùk drin zrit, Arthur t'at dadachan zheh gwizhìt ts'at dilik neekau hàh t'unch'uu, jidi adanh zraih yàtsaih. "Adà' gwànoo shik gwitr'it t'agwa'u, troo t'ah'u, dachan jùutin iht'u ts'at zheh gwaftsii," jùu yàhnuu. Jùk at'at geetàk hee luk kadi'u, khyàh dha'au, datroo t'ah'u ts'at kheenjit troo t'ii hàh dha'au. Dachan tat gwà'an adagwidaandau veenjìt gwijùnchii gòonli ts'at zrit gwiyaa'an srugwandau ts'at adanh gwik'it t'unch'uh. "Ji khai shaghau eighty-five tihyaa yeendoo May 18th danh!" zrit nuh.

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Memories are plentiful for Arthur, when it comes to growing up in Aklavik where his mother and stepfather raised him, along with his two younger sisters. Arthur recalls his stepfather was a trader for the Northern Traders NT and remembers his parents wedding in 1926. As a child, Arthur remembers setting traps during the month of March, when it could reach anywhere from forty to fifty below zero with blowing winds. He used to cut all the cordwood for the Mission and the GOT guys back when Northern Traders used to buy wood, although, Arthur states, they quit at the end of World War II when they started burning oil.

In 1931, Arthur and his family travelled across the Arctic Red River using their tent as lodging. His father managed to get himself a trapping license in

order to trap in the Delta and cook for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Arthur recounts his school years, and in comparison mentions, that when he went to school, he would remain in school all year round except for a couple of months over the summer. "They were strict them days!" he exclaims.

Today, Arthur remains in the Delta with his two sled dogs in a log cabin, which he built himself. "I used to work all the time, cutting cordwood, getting logs, building log houses," he says. Now, he goes fishing once in a while, sets a few traps, cuts and gathers his own wood. He firmly agrees that living out on the land will keep you fit for a very long time, as he himself is living proof. "I will be eighty five years old on the eighteenth of May."