

**BORN:**

*February 28, 1926*

**BIRTHPLACE:**

*Mackenzie Delta*

**PARENTS:**

*(Jean Tsell) John Andre  
and Julienne Jerome*

**GWICH'IN:**

*Gwichya Gwich'in*

**MARRIED:**

*Francois Coyen (d);  
Richard Bullock on  
October 9, c. 1950*

**CHILDREN:**

*Lawrence (d), Jane,  
Burt, Sam, John,  
Winnie, Julie, Lorraine,  
Evelyn and Grace*

like she did. She taught me our history of the past of the Gwich'in people. She told me stories of long ago. I have not forgotten what I was taught. Today I am looked after very well. I'm treated well in my old age. My work today is just observing. Watching others and their work."

Marka married Francois Coyen in 1944 but he died in the flu epidemic just eight days after their wedding. Later she married Dick Bullock and together they had 10 children. Marka says her husband was kind, worked hard and treated her well. Every summer Marka would return to Tree River where she spent time growing up so she could fish and eat her traditional food. Some of her happiest memories are from the times she spent at Tree River.

Today Marka lives with her daughter in Inuvik but she says with a lonesome smile, "I wish I could just visit Tree River, go on the shore and just roll in the mud or sand and just feel good. It would be such a joy to see my bush camp again, my mother's bush camp. I am grateful that my children look after me well but sometimes I am just lonely for my people and for Tree River. My Creator has blessed me with many things. I am rich in my old age with food and the care I get from my children.

My brother Hyacinthe also has always treated me well. I miss him very much and wish I could visit him more in Tsiigehtchic. He was the one that raised and looked after us well after my dad died. Then my brothers Gabe and Antoine looked after us well after my dad died too. My brothers were beautiful brothers and I love them very much."

# *Marka Bullock* MARKA (ANDRE) BULLOCK

Marka remembers travelling up the Arctic Red River near Snake River with her parents so they could hunt in the mountains when she was a child. She remembers sitting in the sleigh bundled in blankets. When she pushed aside the blanket that covered her face she saw how high they were and far down was a tiny river. The mountains were so steep that the sleigh almost travelled sideways on the slope. "I was sure frightened," exclaims Marka. Marka fondly remembers how

families travelled the land then hunting moose and caribou. She remembers watching her mother make drymeat at the kill site, tan moose hide, making pemmican and bone grease, and teaching her how to sew. Marka says she remembers her mother's teachings even today; not just the survival teachings, but the teachings of how to treat others kindly and share what you have. Marka says, "Momma prepared me for life. She taught me everything. She made sure I watched and I did exactly