

## Annie Norbert Annie (NIDITCHIE) NORBERT

As a child, Annie travelled the land with her parents. She remembers spending the winter at Sitr'ijee (Sitidgi Lake), or up the Arctic Red River towards the Snake River in the mountains. They also lived about 15 years around Big Rock in the Mackenzie Delta. Her father was a good hunter and he would travel to the mountains where he would get lots of meat for them. Annie remembers loads of fresh and dry meat being moved back to their camp and how happy they were. The meat lasted from spring

until fall. "In those years we did not wish for anything much because we had so much food all the time. We were very fortunate to have lots of meat and nobody stayed in town."

Although Annie went to school in Aklavik for two years when she was nine years old, she says that what she really learned in life was from her mother. "What I learned from my mother was the old ways of women's work like tanning hides, how to prepare meat, how to work

with meat, how to skin animals. Taking great care of skinning, cutting meat and drying meat was very important. She was so fussy in this. She taught me how to cut wood, what fish makes good dryfish, how to sew, how to keep the house clean, how to keep our clothes clean and good and how to tan moose hide. She taught me everything and everything she taught me, I did in my life."

Annie also learned from her mother that stories important, especially stories from elders. Stories about people and events held knowledge and were a way to teach survival skills.

Annie was married to Jim Moses for only three years before he died. During their married life they lived on the land, up the Arctic Red River and around Travaillant Lake. Annie later married Nap Norbert and became the mother of his seven children. Because these children were attending school in town, they lived in Tsiigehtchic. Annie and Nap also had three children together. Sometimes in the spring Annie and Nap would go to the Mackenzie Delta to hunt muskrat and sometimes they fished in the summer.

Although Annie's strength is not what it used to be, she is always willing to help where she can. In the last few years she has participated in several place archaeological names and projects. She is more than willing to share her knowledge of bush medicine. Annie continues to sew and tan beaver skins.