

**BORN:**

March 13, 1920

BIRTHPLACE:

Zheh Gwatsal (La Pierre House), Yukon

PARENTS:

Andrew Wilson, Lillian Churhetook from Alaska

GRANDPARENTS:

(Maternal) Walter and Ellen; (Paternal) Kenneth Wilson and Maria Choo;

GWICH'IN:

Neets'aai Gwich'in

MARRIED:

Jim Vittrekwa, July 4, 1944

CHILDREN:

Joseph (d), Lillian (d), Rose, Roger (d), William George (d), Dorothy, Betty (adopted)

were needed for life on the land. Ellen remembers the big flu that came to the people around Easter in 1944. She remembers that many people died, especially many elders. There was no doctor or nurse in the area at the time and it was a very sad time for the people.

Ellen says, "In my young married life my husband took care of us. He provided for us by trapping and hunting out on the land. Since I got married I just work for my husband and children.

"During our early married life we used to stay down in the Mackenzie Delta. That's where we used to have our camp. We spent every year there. This is where my husband trapped. We trapped for mink. Early in the fall, right after freeze up, we used to go look for a place where it was good to jiggle for loche and that's what we did early in the fall after freeze up too. All our children were born at our delta bush camp. We used to travel to the mountains to hunt too."

Today Ellen lives in Fort McPherson. Ellen likes to go to Midway Lake and to Canoe Days in Tsiigehtchic. She still enjoys sewing and likes to work with meat, making drymeat the old way. This she does for herself and others. Sadly her husband Jim passed away on March 3rd, 2002.

Ellen Vittrekwa

**Ellen Catherine
(Wilson)
Vittrekwa**

"When I was a young child I remember people used to travel around the mountains during the winter. In the summer they fished in the rivers. Down the river, in the spring, they hunted for muskrat.

When muskrat season was over, everybody headed for town and stayed for a while. Then everybody went out on the land to fish." This is what Ellen remembers about how life was like when she was a

child. She also remembers how July 1st was a big celebration day. The people would gather in Fort McPherson, they would raise the flag and there would be games.

Because Ellen's mother passed away when she was young, she learned the traditional women's skills of preparing meat, cooking, making drymeat and dryfish, tanning and sewing by watching other women. All of these skills