

Tina Olsen dies after long illness

By Marie Lange

Tatiana (Mrs. Pete) Olsen, also fondly called "Tina" by her many friends, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 3, 1983, after a long confinement in the Cordova Community Hospital.

Tina is her documented name, Tatiana is her name given at baptism. Mrs. Pete Olsen is her married name. But those who knew her the best and loved her the most called her "Umma," which means grandmother in Aleut. So it was Umma who passed away.

Tatiana was born in the Aleut village of Nuchek on Hinchinbrook Island. She lived with her parents and 10 other Vlasoff children in a "mumtuk" or communal home typical of village housing at that time.

During her lifetime she travelled in a Bidarki—a traditional boat made of seal skin—and eventually, also traveled in a modern jet airliner. She moved to Cordova in 1914 when she married James Peter Julius Gustov Olsen, known only as "Whisky Pete" by local old timers. A slough on the Copper River Delta is named after him.

Tatiana lived the rest of her life in Cordova where she devoted all her time and energy to being a housewife dedicated to raising her 10 children.

Tatiana has been a pillar in the local Russian Orthodox Church for over five decades. For many years school friends of her children automatically stopped at her house for home-made bread. Her family and

friends are recipients of the beautiful crochet work she spent hours doing.



Tina Olsen

Tatiana is survived by eight of her ten children. They are: Carl J., George and Gilbert Olsen of Cordova; Marie Lange and Margaret Clark of Anchorage; Pete Olsen of Kodiak and Jerry Olsen of Camano Island, Wash.

Also surviving are 33 grandchildren and 38 great grandchildren.

A plaque, depicting the dove of peace, carved by her grandson Robert Peter Allain, will be hung in the Russian Orthodox Church.