



Walter Kelly of Pilot Station sits in Mayor George Sullivan's chair during recent visit in Anchorage. He is surrounded by his wife, Natalia, and Calista President Oscar Kawagley and Mayor George Sullivan.

Calista's oldest couple honored

Walter and Natalia Kelly, the oldest couple residing in the Calista Region, have been special guests of honor this week of the Calista Corporation.

They were honored at a champagne reception at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, owned by the corporation, and were the first of 13,264 shareholders of the Calista Region to be guests of the hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have lived in the Alaskan bush all their life. This is her first trip into any big city and will probably be a topic of conversation for them the remainder of their life.

Records of the Russian Orthodox Church in Russian Mission shows Walter to be about 110. He was born and raised in Pilot Station. Mrs. Kelly is about 90 and was born and raised in a town 20 miles south of Pilot Station.

Pia Thompson, the Kelly's niece, and Nelson Angapak, chairman of the board of Calista have served as Yupik interpreters for the Kellys during their visit in Anchorage.

One of the highlights of their trip was a visit with a grandchild residing in a hospital in Valdez. The Kellys have been married approximately 50 years and have six adopted children.

Walter is a great story teller and a very wise philosopher. He talked extensively with President Kawagley and always ended his conversation with some very sound advice.

President Kawagley added, "The Kellys are typical of the highly respected elders living in the Calista Region. They are wise and wonderful people who have worked hard all their life. It is because of people just like them, shareholders in the Calista Region, that the Calista Corporation plans to continue to forge ahead and be one of the most successful corporations in the state."