

University releases book by Athabaskan elder

A new biography entitled "*The life I've Been Living*" by Moses Cruikshank was released by the University of Alaska Press in late November.

Cruikshank is an Athabaskan elder and story teller from Interior Alaska. His book blends description, advice and humor to teach the lessons he's learned living in the bush.

Born about 1906 on the Black River northeast of Fort Yukon, Cruikshank

recalls his earliest memories of "Grandpa Henry" who told him about traditional Athabaskan ways, of the Hudson Bay Company's traders and of the Gold Rush stampeders.

Raised in Episcopal missions, Cruikshank mushed with the ministers on their winter circuit of the villages, worked on construction of the Alaska Railroad, and helped build many mission buildings.

This book is about those experiences

as well as his adventures prospecting for gold and hunting and trapping for a living.

The first part of the book consists of his stories; the second is a discussion of the historical significance of those stories and the methods used to record and reproduce the oral record in written form.

Students of oral history will find this discussion of particular interest.

Cruikshank's stories were recorded,

edited and arranged by William Schneider, curator of oral history in the Alaska and Polar Regions Department, Elmer Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

The paper-bound publication is \$14.95; add \$1.50 per book for shipping and handling.

Copies may be ordered from the University of Alaska Press, Signers' Hall, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775-1580, or phone 474-6389.