

Mabanna, Rita Hukill, was born April 13, 1938 to Willie and Clara Angnabooguk in Kifigan, Wales, Alaska. She lived in Kifigan until her family moved to Nome in the early 1950's. Mabanna was raised in a very large family where they lived a traditional lifestyle of gathering and preserving foods. She remembers fondly of picking surra, walking the pristine beach to gather clams, and attending school. Rita and her family were raised on traditional foods where she helped her sister, Ruth, put away marine mammals to assist her mother and their growing family.

Her immediate family includes Ruth, Wilson, Caroline, Cordella, Christopher, Sharon, Robert, Percy, Bertha, Hannah, Eddie, Gail, and niece, Kate Jo. Rita raised two sons, Otis and Paul, in Nome. Her grandchildren Tiffany, Tasha, Liam, Asa, Sonja, Macy, Alec and Madison, and great grandchildren, Riker and Desmond, are her pride and joy.

Fort Davis, where the family fish camp and marine mammal preparation took place, is a special place to her. The quiet, peaceful solitude and being near the ocean and river at Fort Davis makes her happy. The Angnabooguk family continues fish there to make dried fish at the river's mouth. Over the years, Rita enjoys the ambience and relaxation of her campsite even during winter months.

To supplement her income, Rita knits beautiful gloves and creates unique, calico Eskimo dolls which were sold at local markets at the Golden Goose lot, Nome Rec Center, Christmas bazaars at Nome Elementary School and Nome Mini Center, and Old St. Joe's during the annual Iditarod Craft Fair.

Watching the rolling waves at Fort Davis spying for walrus, seal, birds, and whales with her aunts, Esther Bourdon, and Polly Koweluk, were special moments. Sitting behind the Senungetuk family cabin, upon a long driftwood log, conversation often focused on fishing. Rita would be found rod and reel fishing or helping her father set net. Like many families, everyone in the family to process the fish.

Rita has vivid memories of picking berries and eating lunch with her sister, Caroline, around Nome's countryside. After a short ride on her sister's four-wheeler, the two would spend hours picking seasonal berries and venture back home happy to have spent time on the tundra.

The Maynard McDougal Memorial (MMM) Hospital and Norton Sound Regional Hospital, along with The Nome Nugget Inn, were Rita's main employment. Along with her family, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, provided spiritual guidance since their move to Nome.

Rita is connected to the tundra often reminiscing about relaxing drives on the Teller Road, Kougrok Road, or towards Solomon

accompanying either Otis or Paul. She remembers extended boating trips up the Imruk Basin with her parents to pick salmonberries. She enjoyed river boat rides with her late brother, Don Don (Robert). Like many, she finds the Nome countryside beautiful.

Mabanna says, "Nome is home." She enjoys the quiet, simple life she has here. Her favorite television programs are *Family Feud*, *The Price is Right*, *Let's Make a Deal*, statewide and national news. Rita wakes early to listen to KICY radio programming. Over the years, she has supported her sons and grandchildren as they played basketball at Nome-Beltz, Nome Elementary or Nome Rec Center. Rita enjoys the sentiments of the Christmas and Easter holidays. Camping, time on the tundra, and family gatherings for special occasions continue to give her much happiness.