

And I was comfortable dealing with my own situation, but when [the doctor] mentioned that I would be asleep for 3 to 4 hours if she did bilateral mastectomies, I thought, "holy buckets, you know maybe I'd better tell my kids because if something happens to me, they'll really be upset, then I'd really be in trouble." . . . so, I decided maybe I better tell my kids. So I called all my kids and I asked them to come over. And . . . , told them that I had been diagnosed with cancer and that I was going into a hospital that following Monday. And . . . , that we had no idea how extensive the cancer might be, but . . . I knew I was going to be under the knife for about 4 hours and I thought they should know that. . . . some of them burst out crying, . . .



Carolyn Shubert
[Eskimo]

At the time I was in Nome I didn't tell my mother or my brother or my sister . . . I didn't tell anyone in Nome what was going on with me. Part of the reason for that was my mother's age. Earlier this year . . . she'd gone into cardiac arrest in the state of Washington and she had a pacemaker put in. And she's 84. My brother, Johnny, . . . just had quadruple bypass surgery. And I thought, holy buckets, I mean, that's a lot for her to have to deal with, you know just the fear of the unknown. And, . . . having been diagnosed herself with breast cancer, having undergone a right mastectomy, and having lost her husband to cancer, my dad, . . . she'd had a lot to deal with. And I didn't want her to have to worry about me because I was confident that the procedure would go fine. You know . . . , I probably was going to be real uncomfortable for awhile, but I just didn't want her to worry.