

Call number: 00-00-178-05 PT 2

Eskimo Olympics, 1972 (KUAC) Interviews and Dances

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Date(s) of creation of summary:

Notes: Originals on 7 inch reels. Master and circulation copies on CD.

(Continued from 00-00-178-05 PT 1)

Roger Pescoya interviews Roger Kunayak from Little Diomed. Roger describes the highkick. He describes the suspended target used and how the target is raised little by little. He describes the Canadian style of kicking where you jump with both feet, kick with one foot and land with one foot and the Alaskan style where you jump, kick and land with the same foot.

Roger describes the stick bend. It is similar to limbo. The stick is as long as from ones underarm to the tip of the middle finger. You bend down backwards and touch the floor with the stick. "And it keeps on going shorter and shorter until you can't do it anymore". The man says that the record is unbelievable. A man can do it without the stick. He bends down all the way backwards and touches the floor with his head – only his feet and head touch the floor - and goes right back up again. And he goes down again and touches the floor with his back and comes back up again.

Three attempts are allowed for each game.

Roger ran the games at the Thahetan potlatch on the lower commons of the University of Alaska.

Isaac asks why, when the Fairbanks Indian dancers were dancing, Isaac was dancing with them. Roger explains that he learned Athabaskan dances when he was in Upward Bound in 1969. Roger was teaching at university and people knew he knows how to do the Indian dances and drums. Roger says he would help out the dances, singing along, sort of leading, the songs and starting the drums. Roger did not expect this to happen but the dances specifically asked him to lead them.

The drum beat is important to the dance.

Isaac asks Roger the differences between Eskimo and Indian dances. Roger thinks that the Eskimo dances have more specific, demanding, precise movements while Indian dances are easier to learn because the movements do not have to be as specific.

Isaac asks whether Roger enjoyed describing and participating in all the games and dances tonight. Roger responds that he did, but that he did not expect "it to happen that way."