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Tanana Nuchalawoyya Celebration

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Notes: Original on 5-inch tape, master copy on CD. Produced by Roger McPherson. THESE TAPES WERE PRODUCED AS A PART OF AN EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM NOW DEFUNCT AND WERE BROADCAST OVER THE RADIO FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

A woman's voice starts narrating about being in Tanana with John Sackett who is the president of Tanana Chief's Association. She asks John what the meeting is about. He tells that they had a very in-depth review of land selections as they apply to villages, regions and Native Allotments. Tomorrow they will talk about reservations. They have Dave Hickok from the University of Alaska whose office is at Anchorage [unclear] from Alaska Native Foundation. His question is what the Native people must do to get their lands, and they have had quite a conversation.

The reason they called the Executive Board of the Tanana Chief's conference to meet in Tanana is that they are striving to get as much participation and information to the villages as possible. When they meet in a particular village, it gives the people of the village a chance to see what the Tanana Chief's is doing, to learn about the land claims settlement and to see that they can participate in the activity of the corporation. Tomorrow's talks will include contracts in education, health and social services, enrollment, housing, local government and training programs that will be starting on 19th in 4th class cities. All those things will be presented to the Executive Committee for their direction and hopefully they can work on those things as a continuing process.

The interviewer asks what members of the Executive Committee are there in Tanana. John says they have every one of the 9 people, except for Tim Wallace who is still in the hospital. All the board members are in Tanana and they include the 5 board members who are elected from the full board of members at the Tanana Chiefs and the executive people who elected the president, treasurer, secretary and vice president. The five people of the board are Jimmy Huntington from Galena, Ronnie Sam from Alatna, Pat Frank from Holy Cross, Ernest Holmberg from McGrath and Jonathan Solomon from Fort Yukon. In addition, in Executive Board is the speaker, John Sackett, Tim Wallace who is still in the hospital in Fairbanks, Lucy Carlo the secretary and Melvin Charlie from Minto who is the treasurer.

The interviewer asks if they have had meetings in other villages before. John says that since their March meeting, this is their first, big, executive board meeting and from here on their executive board meetings will be held in various villages. They'd like to start from the larger ones and John suggests that the next one should be held in Fort Yukon and then perhaps in Galena and Holy Cross. The interviewer thanks for the interview.

At 4:36 Juanita Corwin introduces herself and says that she is there as a part of Alaska Native Foundation staff. They are present for a purpose to conduct a seminar on land selection and land priorities. The interviewer asks what the Alaska Native Foundation is and Juanita explains that it is a court foundation funded program and that they were initially founded to increase organizational capacities of Alaska Federation of Natives. Then there was a tax reform and the Ford Foundation couldn't fund any organizations that were politically active and influencing any kind of legislation. This is how the charitable trust came about and evolved into Alaska Native Foundation. It has a separate board and representation from regional organizations. They have Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians on the board, along with public officials, so that they conform to the tax reform that made them into a public foundation.

The interviewer says that a member of Juanita's staff is videotaping proceedings and asks if it's for disseminating information to other people. Juanita explains that

Jack Immig is under contract with the Alaska Native Foundation that is partially funded under 701 Head Funds. He will be using the tapes as information service that they are putting out. They will be made into videotapes for distribution in regional associations.

At 6:54 the interviewer mentions a few things that were discussed such as village rights as opposed to Native groups. Juanita tells that a native village is a community with more than 25 Natives. A group is less than 25 Natives. Then the interviewer asks about differences in rights between a village and a group. A group isn't defined and Juanita thinks that the only ones who can tackle the problem are village and regional corporations. Maury Thompson is working on it. The interviewer says that villages are entitled to a certain amount of townships that are based on population. She asks if a native group would be entitled to any kind of land based on its population. Juanita thinks that a native group can't get more than 160 acres and when the interviewer asks if it's for one person or the group, Juanita says it's for the entire group because the law states that the group must be incorporated. The interviewer asks if a group was entitled to share in a regional corporation in which they would be included. Juanita says that they'd have to work that out with a regional corporation.

The interviewer says that the meeting has brought up lots of loopholes in the act and asks if Juanita thinks that there will be more questions brought up, or resolutions to the problems. Juanita thinks that the Tanana Chiefs Executive board will have a lot to talk about. The interviewer thanks Juanita.

At 9:08 Native music starts, continuing until the end. Singing includes Nuchalawayya Song. [End of the recording.]