

Call number: 02-00-133-02 PT.1

Anaktuvk Pass recording with Bob and Charlie Ahgook

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Notes: Original in 7-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.

The recording begins with interviewer asking how important caribou are to the Anaktuvuk Pass people. A man's voice [later identified as Bob, and the tape case says his full name is Bob Ahgook] says caribou are really important because that's what people live off of. There is not much fish or moose. Getting a moose is difficult and there is not much transportation to get moose. Caribou is what they live with.

The interviewer asks what would happen if the caribou wouldn't come to Anaktuvuk Pass. Bob says that they would have to get help from BIA or someplace else. When the caribou do come, everybody gets meat for winter and for summer too. They can have caribou all winter long and the caribou is very important for the village. They don't order too much meat from stores in Fairbanks and so caribou is really important.

1:37 The interviewer says he has noticed how lots of the places near the village, the hunting places, have names and asks the person to tell the names of some of the important places. Bob tells there's the Anaktuvuk River that's 3 or 4 miles east of their village. Then there are the Kaltayak [sp?], Hanpor (sp?), Chandalar, North Fork and all those places where they hunt with snow machines in winter time. Sometimes they don't have caribou close by in wintertime and they have to go out quite a ways.

The interviewer says these places are north of the village and asks when the places south of the village are used. Bob says there is [unclear] fork and there is caribou

there too in winter because sometimes some caribou stay there for the winter and at Chandalar.

At 2:54 the interviewer asks about names of some of the valleys in other areas. Bob says they live on "what they call" Chan River (sp?) and it ends [?] at Contact Creek (sp?). Little Contact runs into Contact. That's north of the village. Then there is Sturuvak [sp?] which is north of the village, Khayen [sp?] Creek east of village and Kholdak [sp?] is south-west.

The interviewer asks which direction they go to hunt caribou. Bob tells him that they go to either side of the valley where they have special place at the Little Contact, which is at the west side of the village. The other one is on [unclear name?]. They use binoculars to spot the caribou.

The interviewer asks who the people are who saw the caribou a couple of days ago and Bob says they went out early morning. Ben and Thomas went to [unclear] Rock and saw the caribou 10 miles [out of the village.] The interviewer continues asking what time everyone got ready "up there". Bob says that they got ready around 5'o clock. There were between 900-1000 caribou coming towards the village and they went right up where the people were waiting. They had 5 to 9 [caribou] when they started home.

05:46 the interviewer asks what the people did to get ready for the caribou. Bob tells that they got their rifles ready and went to the place where they would be waiting. It's a good place and the caribou often come right to the shooting range. This time the caribou went right by, maybe 75-yards away. The people waited until the first bunch, some 40 or 50 caribou, went through before shooting. They let the caribou go by first for a good reason: The caribou usually turn back when they are being shot and so if one lets a few pass before starting shooting they can kill some even when the caribou turn back. Bob didn't shoot many caribou but just a few and he skinned 3 caribou that night. There were 7-8 people shooting and they split the caribou so each one got 3-4 caribou.

At 8:17 the interviewer asks how many caribou were killed that night. Bob counted about 24. They were skinned, cut and piled up for winter. The interviewer asks how the caribou were piled after skinning. Bob says they were piled anyway people wanted and some were hung from legs and horns. Flags are for protecting the meat from ravens, wolves and foxes.

The interviewer says it was pretty dark after the shooting ended and asks if they brought any meat back with them. Bob says they didn't take too much meat home that night but some to cook and some to hang up to dry. Most of the people did the same. The next day they went out to get the meat around 10 [am?]. It wasn't very far away, perhaps 15 minutes to go one way.

At 10:46 the interviewer asks what happened to the caribou that weren't killed and Bob tells him they went south. They went to each side of the valley, some went right through and some went to the west side of the valley and right through. There were maybe 500-600 more that were still coming.

The interviewer says that he went out the next day after that hunt and says that people were going up the Anaktuvuk River. He asks if there were caribou up there. Bob says there were some going through there and that there were about 20 or so that went by. They went west side of the valley.

The interviewer asks what kind of caribou the men shoot this time of the year. Bob says that mostly they get bulls and they save all the meat. If they have leftover meat when the summer comes, it's put in a cellar because they are nice and fat right now. One doesn't use them up all winter long but puts them in the cellar for summer.

At 12:49 the interviewer asks if the meat is dried right now and if it's put in cellars. Bob says it isn't done right now and explains that the cellars are opposite during the winter and summer. They go down 15 feet into the permafrost and they get warm in the wintertime. In summertime they stay frozen solid all summer long.

The interviewer clarifies by asking if the meat that they killed was just hung on the meat racks, up in the air. Bob says [unclear, a door creaks opens and woman's and child's voices are heard]. [Break in the recording.]

The interviewer asks Charlie [Ahgook] how long he has been hunting caribou. He says he's been doing that for just a little bit, around 3 weeks maybe. He goes to Anaktuvuk River to hunt and he walks there. The interviewer asks when he has time to go hunting and he says he goes after school. It takes him about 2 hours to walk from school to Anaktuvuk River. His gun is 2.22. He goes out with his brother. '

14:38 The interviewer asks how he looks for caribou when he walks to the Anaktuvuk River. Charlie says he uses his eyes. [In the following segment, all the information is Charlie's reply to Interviewer's questions.] He's seen caribou just a

few days ago, on Sunday. When he saw them, he just looked at them as they were coming towards him. They didn't get too close, but close enough to shoot so Charlie shot them. The interviewer asks what happened and Charlie says nothing happened, so the interviewer presumes he didn't get any caribou but Charlie says he got 4. Then he skinned the caribou and it was his first time so it took a long time. It was dark when he was finished. After he got them skinned, he went home and told his mother and father. His mother and father went to get the caribou the next day.

The interviewer asks how far the caribou were from him when Charlie killed them but he says he doesn't know. Charlie agrees with the interviewer when he suggests they were 100 yards away and that he had a good shot. He killed three bulls and one cow. The interviewer asks if he's going to do more hunting and Charles says he will sometimes. He doesn't know if he's going to keep hunting. [End of the recording.]