

**Call number: 02-00-133-20 PT.6**

**World Eskimo Olympics**

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**Series: ATS-1 Educational Satellite Project Tapes**

**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 Roger asking somebody what her name is. [Speaking is quiet and muffled by announcer's voice talking in the background.] She doesn't want to tell her name, so Roger asks where she is from. She tells she's from "here" [Fairbanks] and Anaktuvuk Pass. Her favorite game to watch is blanket toss. Roger asks if she did blanket tossing as a little girl. She says she didn't. Roger asks if kids play a lot of games in Anaktuvuk Pass. She says they do [unclear] Eskimo games like running out in the country [unclear talking]. Roger asks her to explain a game. She tells that a person has two sticks quite a ways from each other, some 7 feet apart. [Unclear talking.]

At 2:29 Roger asks if the lady has noticed a difference between differences in dancing between people from Barrow and Kotzebue. She says they do. Some of the differences are their drummers are better than some of the ones she's seen here [?] [Unclear talking.] They agree that lots of people don't have enough money to come to Fairbanks. Roger tells that in Barrow they have bingo games in order to raise enough money to send some people to the games. [Unclear talking.]

Roger mentions another game in the Olympics, stick ball. The lady says they don't play it or anything like it. They also don't have ear pull, but they have finger pulling. Roger tells that he is making a university broadcast and that the lady might hear herself on the radio. [Unclear talking.] Roger says that they will have a tape recording of the broadcast and he has taken pictures that he's going to send out to the villages so that people can look at the pictures and see the people who have done the recording. [Unclear talking. Long break in the recording.]

At 15:32 Roger is testing the tape. Roger asks someone if he is Billy Killbear and if he could be interviewed for the radio. He agrees to do that. Roger asks how well he did in the ear weight contest and Billy tells that he could have done better but his ears [unclear]. He should have carried on his left, but he chose his right ear. He just gave up, that's all. Roger asks if the ear gets just pulled down, and if there is nothing one can do about it. Billy says he's right, and that one of the rules they have to go by is that if one's ear collapses, one has to let go. He asked for another chance but wasn't given any. Roger asks what's the farthest he has gone with ear weight and he tells that one year he went 20-feet. [Unclear talking.] He also hopes to compete in dropping the bomb contest that is new to them. He has played it in Canada a couple of years ago. It's introduced from Canadian side.

Roger asks if there are any other sports in Eskimo Olympics [that are introduced]. Billy tells that they will probably introduce new games in later years. One of them is duck walk where one has her hands between their feet and they have to pick up their feet. That's impossible for some people. Some of his people can do it. Roger asks if that's a matter of body composure but Billy tells that it's a matter of flexibility. Roger asks if one stops the duck walk when one loses his or her balance, and Billy says that's correct.

19:17 Roger asks what some of the other sports are that they have. Billy tells that he could name quite a few. Roger asks what his favorites are and he tells he likes gymnastics like flips and so on. Roger asks if they are Eskimo games and he says they are. He tells that in older days they used to have knives that were pointing up and one did the flip over them, trying to miss them. "It's too bad for you if you [don't] miss them." Roger tells he has seen another Eskimo game where one has a rope that stretches across a wooden frame. One holds onto it and goes around it [unclear]. Billy says that he's seen that but hasn't participated in it. It takes quite a bit of practice.

Roger asks if he also does the ear pull. He says he does, and that he pulled 9 competitors last year and he was the representing the Point Barrow. This year he is playing for Fairbanks because he is living there now. He has lived there for 1 ½ years and so far he's got second place in knuckle hop and this year he won the muktuk eating contest. He ate it in 26 seconds. Roger asks what the secret is in eating muktuk fast. He tells that one doesn't chew it so the fastness of chewing doesn't matter. One has to be fast in swallowing. Last night he chewed the first two but the rest he swallowed whole. [Another man joins the discussion.]

22:02 Roger asks how many years the other man has come to the Olympics. He tells this year is his second year and that he was hoping to go down to Whitehorse, but he didn't make it there. He had also wanted to make it to Northern Games but he didn't make it either. Next year, he might be playing for Canada because he's met a girl from Canada and might be competing against Point Barrow the following year.

Roger says that Inuvik has a pretty good team. They have a commissary of their own that supports the teams and helps them to participate in Eskimo Olympics. Billy says that Point Barrow is pretty good with bingo to raise money for the competitors to come to Fairbanks, stay somewhere and have a bit of spending money. Roger wants to know if quite a few teams have to come up to Fairbanks with their own money. Billy says they do, and that's why a lot of them don't come.

Billy says that the following year they hope to have people from Greenland and from [Unclear] Bay, from Eastern Arctic of Canada. Roger wonders if they will be introducing their own sports too, and Billy says they probably will. Canadians don't know U.S Eskimo games and their traditions are probably from earlier times. Roger thanks him. [Break in the recording.]

24:24 Roger asks if he can talk with someone. He introduces himself as [Unclear] and he's from Barrow. He's really from Wales, which is pretty close. He moved to Barrow when they [unclear]. He worked there and got married there [unclear] in 1927. He's been playing for the Barrow dancers for 7-8 years. Roger says he remembers seeing the interviewee in Barrow and asks what his favorite dance is. He tells it's

motion dance, and explains that there's two different kinds of dances, motion dance and action dance. Action dance is [unclear, choreographed?] and in motion dance one can dance any way one wants. Roger asks if they practiced for the dance contest and he tells that they did. [Talking in a Native language.] They broke a drum.

Roger asks how they make a drum and the man says they make it out of birch wood. They have to look around to find a piece that's  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. Then they boil it in hot water and bend it into a circle which they tie together. Then they cut them [the drum skin?] to the size [unclear]. Roger says that the skin broke on one of the drums, and says it shouldn't be too hard to fix. The man says that they can get another walrus skin or even a caribou skin.

28:18 Roger asks which game is the man's favorite. He tells that he couldn't say. When he was young, he liked high kicking with one or two feet. He was pretty good at that when he was young. Roger asks if there are many sports for women, but the man says there aren't too many. The man says that the women just watch. Roger says that the girls seem to like boys who are really good in sports, and the man agrees. The boys are doing their best.

Roger asks if there are any sports that they didn't do in Barrow. The man says they had the same games and that they are pretty much same all over.

Roger asks if there were games that the interviewee played when he was a boy and that they don't play at the Eskimo Olympics. He tells that they are the same and that the games are learned from old people. Roger refocuses the question to ask about the duck walk. The interviewee doesn't know what that is so Roger explains how it's done.

[End of the recording.]