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Howard Luke

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Fairbanks, Alaska

Bill Schneider, interviewer

Series: Howard Luke Remembers

William Schneider said you wanted to talk about the chiefs. Howard Luke said he mistreated him. He said if you want to talk with someone you talk from your heart. A lot of people have to write their speech down. Chief Thomas said to talk from the heart and not from something written down. You should listen first and then talk. He was brought up a tough way. You had to pay attention. His mother taught him the proper way to behave and have respect. Luke talked about a problem he had after he let someone use his fishing spot. He didn't think the chief helped with his problem. He said the chief is supposed to help his people. He is concerned about their language not being used.

He is concerned about another depression time coming. He thinks about the young people coming up right now and what they will do when their elders are gone. He is concerned that people aren't paying attention.

He talked about his dog that he had to put to sleep. His dog would listen to him.

Bill Schneider asked him about Chief Thomas. Chief Thomas looked after his people. He would go around to see if his people were all right. Luke said is concerned that people will lose their livelihood and they become weaker and weaker. He is teaching Sonny his native language.

Luke talked about Crossjacket. All the chiefs got together. Something happened to all the people there. They all disappeared. He commented about geographical names being changed from native names such as Denali. He would like to have places such as Deadman's Slough to be returned to their native name. He would like to talk to the borough about this.