

88-49-10

Cecily Kuntz, Steve Matthews, songs by Buffy St. Marie

Unidentified interviewer

Series: Potlatch series

Program starts with a song by Buffy St. Marie.

Walter Johns listens as Cecily Kuntz has advice for whites who are writing books about Indians. Cecily Kuntz said don't believe everything you read about Indians. She talked about a book she was reading about the Eagle tribe and the Raven tribe. There was information in the book that was not correct. The book stated that the Ravens were not known by a special name when they actually are. He said the Ravens started using a different clan name. The Eagle tribe had different names, too. She said don't take the word of just one Indian. She talked about her tribe. There are sub-tribes with different names.

Walter Johns and Cecily Kuntz discusses using Native names for Alaska geographic places. They discuss Fairweather Mountain. Cecily said her people traveled from the Copper River to Metlakatla routinely. They sold copper. If the mountain was covered with clouds they knew not to travel. She knows all the songs they used to sing when they traveled. Walter said there seems to be a mountain for each village that is important. Cecily said Mt. Fairweather and Mt. St. Elias were important to her people. Walter said when he was younger he was shown the people that the Angoon people climbed up when there was flooding. An elder told him not to point at a mountain because you would make it rain. He was making in fun of the elder and before they got across Chatham Straits they had the biggest storm. Cecily said the mountains are important to the people in Juneau. She gave the name of one mountain in her language which translated to moldy mountain. She talked about a chief and Mt. Juneau. Walter said every important point had a Tlingit name. Cecily said her husband knew all the names from his father. She wanted the Forest Service to use the Native names. Walter said the names of the mountain and streams are important. He said it has a lot to do with their personal freedom.

Song by Buffy St. Marie.

Jeff Kennedy said he recently interviewed Steve Matthews. Steve said his main involvement is counseling and he is speaking as a counselor for the Native Center. He said the Fairbanks Native Association has a contract with the Alaska Federation of Natives to hire so many Natives as a percentage on the pipeline project. He talked about the Native Land Claims Act. It is pumping a lot of money into the villages. The pipeline money is helping to bring the Native lifestyle up. They are concerned in the health department that there is education in all fields. They are active now as far as the Tanana Chiefs and Doyon. They are looking for younger people to eventually take over. They are setting up programs for the young people. There are different ways for them to get their education. They are working on a revolving loan program and a career ladder. The Native people didn't have these opportunities before. Now they have the opportunity to further their education. The Native people are looking forward to

having input for services. Matthews believes many people don't want highways built to their village. The change in lifestyle would change completely. People and hunters would be brought into their villages. The Native people are really aware that their voting powers can curtail these changes. He thinks that during these years where they could delay this action it gives the Native people time to react. He doesn't think they can stop it but he doesn't like to see it happen.

Song by Buffy St. Marie.

Jeff Kennedy said Potlatch is produced in the KUAC studios in College in cooperation with KTOO Juneau, KOTC Kotzebue and KYUK Bethel under Title One of the Higher Education Act.