

88-49-19

David Friday, Gary Nelson

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

1975

Song by Buffy Sainte-Marie

Information about potato supplies for the winter of 1975 and storage information.

David Friday from Chevak is interviewed by Ann Nicolai. Ann asked David to tell her about the Bureau of Land Management. David said the Bureau of Land Management is part of the federal government that looks after the land including taking care of fires and oil spills. Ann asked what an easement is. David said an easement is land set aside for a certain purpose such as a road or pipeline. The land will not be used for any other purpose except what it was set aside for. Ann asked him to summarize the problem that the people in his area have with BLM. David said there is a lack of communication. He explained there is no or little input from the native people who are affected by what BLM is doing right now. There is no input in planning. BLM is not trying to solve the problem of communication. They make plans that will affect the people in the villages. Ann asked about air freight service in his area. David said it is not efficient right now. A lot of freight is being held at major stop points. He thought the state should look into more efficient airports in villages. Freight may stay in Bethel for months before it is delivered to villages because of landing problems. Ann asked about solutions. David said right now they need to improve the airports for the villages in his region. About half of them don't have sufficient airports. In some of the villages the only time planes can land is when the ground freezes. The state should work towards improvements in the airports in villages. Wien Consolidated delivers freight and passengers. They can only travel at night if there are lights in the villages. He talked about the airport in Chevak. He said the solution is in the hands of the state. Ann asked what Native people can do to solve transportation problems. David said the Natives can help by requesting the state to do the work on the airports. The Natives can make petitions to the governor and politicians. The people must ask for improvements in their transportation by writing petitions and resolutions. Ann asked about highways being built. David said no they did not want highways at the present time. He said people in his region are subsistence and roads and highways might upset the subsistence way of life. He talked about how much food is harvested every month in his village to feed the people. He talked about a cash economy equivalent if they did not have a subsistence economy. Improved airways and waterways are acceptable to the people. He believes this applies to other Natives in Alaska. He said there should be more involvement by the Natives for planning. He said Natives need to form organizations to decide what is right for their land. They need to be protectors of the land.

A health brief from the National Institutes of Health about headaches.

Song by Bobby Gentry.

Gary Nelson from McGrath is interviewed by Levi Lott. He said he is the chairman of the regional parent advisory committee. Each village has an advisory committee for the Indian Education Program. They are the people who talk with the village people to get ideas about what they would like to see done in their village. In his position they try to come together with all of these ideas across the region. He wants what is being taught to be what the people actually want. In his home village they talk with the people and discuss what would benefit the students. He is from Chuathbaluk which is above Aniak. His village wanted a survival type school. It would teach the younger kids how to trap. They were going to schedule the program during beaver trapping season. The women wanted to teach skin sewing. They have been doing Eskimo dancing and wanted to continue it. One of the elders, Johnny Omikomoff, is one of the last people to know the dances. They will be getting drums for this program. Levi asked what the drums were made of. Gary said they were trying to get drums from up north. They were trying to get one done in the village made of moose hide, too.

Public announcement about operating a fire extinguisher.

Fiddle dance song from Folkways records.