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Three state operated school coordinators talk with Levi Lott, climbing Mt. McKinley and renaming it

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch tapes

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Ida Hildebrand talked about her responsibilities as a Tanana region school coordinator. She said she assists the local people with their programs and decision and the programs they themselves have designed. Most of the programs local people want are bicultural and bilingual. Bilingual is also covered by the bilingual program run by the state operated schools. Bicultural programs include sled making, snowshoe making, fishnet making, Native sewing, beadwork, skin sewing, making boots and parkas, Native style cooking, camping and trapping. Whatever the Native culture did is included. There are other programs that cover anything the parents feel is an educational need for their children. They have field trips. Most of the people in her area have had in-state field trips. The educational needs are defined by the parents or the parent committee. They design the programs to cover the needs. The needs are assessed by parents, teachers and secondary students.

Unidentified song

Ralph Luska is originally from Agiak on Kodiak Island. He attended school at Mt. Edgecumbe and graduated from Ft. Lewis College. He works as the Indian education at large field coordinator for the upper railbelt area, Ft. Yukon area, the Delta, Greely, and Tok area. Those three regions weren't assigned an Indian education coordinator that lived in the area so he is the at large coordinator for the three regions out of Anchorage. He goes out and meets with the parents. They review the Indian Education Act rules and regulations. He assists in developing the IEA proposals.

Public announcement about food safety.

Jeff Kennedy talked about looking for useful public safety announcements and plays Carmen by Spike Jones.

Lexie Morris is the Indian Education coordinator for the lower Yukon-McGrath area. He works with religious and state-operated school. He implements the Indian Education program in 15 different villages. He said Anvik has a program of diamond willow carving, knitting, leatherwork, and video tape viewing. Their community felt this is the type of program that they wanted for their students at Anvik. At Chakwaktolik they will have a field a trip for students to Anchorage and techniques of Eskimo dancing, trapping, and survival skills. The communities will hire instructors for the program. They would hire local people that know the desired skills. They would be taken out to the field for instruction. They had over a million dollars for this year's program, but will be losing money. He feels that this type of program is effective in a lot of villages. They would like to have more cultural heritage programs. Aniak is having a

survival technique program and beaver trapping, knitting, skin sewing, beadwork, sled building and fish trap building.

Public service announcement.

Jeff Kennedy plays a recording made many years ago by Frank Brink about climbing Mt. McKinley. Frank Brink said in the summer of 1947 Bradford Washburn conducted Operation Whitetower. This scientific expedition required of climbing of 20,300 foot Mt. McKinley. Washburn, his wife Barbara and crew stayed on the mountain for two months and conducted scientific studies. During this time Washburn used a short wave transmitter to tell the world about his experience. He plays a portion of the broadcast which was received by KUAC. He is speaking from Denali pass which was the highest camp of their operation. Washburn said there were thirteen people and nine sled dogs on the expedition. Barbara Washburn was the first women to ascend the mountain. She said they have been living on melted snow water for two months. Washburn said at 18,000 they have half of the oxygen supply than at lower elevations. He talked about the temperatures. He described being at the top of the mountain. He said he felt separated from the lower world.

Jeff Kennedy said the Alaska legislature is working on changing the name of Mt. McKinley to Denali. Carolyn Dowling talks with several people about the name change in Fairbanks. An unidentified person said Denali was the first name it had and wonders why it was changed in the first place. Another person said it doesn't make much difference what it is called. Another person said he is undecided about the issue. Another person said it is a good change. Denali is a Native name. Another women said Denali means great one and McKinley was someone who may not deserve the honor. The world knows it by the name McKinley, though. She would like to see the name changed.

The moderator 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.