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Students in Unalaska,

Mo Wassillie, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

1975?

Peruvian folk music

Jeff Kennedy talks with three students from Unalaska during the Festival of Native Arts in Fairbanks. One of the students describes parts of his costume and how they were made. He is in the eighth grade. Bill Chesnikoff said he only speaks a few words in Aleut. Jeff Kennedy asked him about the chant he was performing. He said he picked up the words from Bill Spenoff. They are teaching Aleut in all the grades now. They are also teaching basket weaving. It's a new program. He hopes to learn the language next year. His grandmother speaks Aleut. Melvin Spence said he is from Unalaska. He has lived there for a year and a half. He is in the ninth grade. He hears people speaking Aleut. Jeff Kennedy asks the students to use some of their Aleut words. One of the students counts from one to ten in Aleut. Another student said they have a carving class. They have carved some games.

Gordon Lightfoot song

Levi Lott interviews Slim Stauffer, a BIA teacher in Tuluksak. Slim talks about his nickname which means suspenders. He taught in northern California before coming to Alaska. He said the major difference between the two teaching assignments is the language difference and the cultural differences. He said the kids are the same. He said the kids are a real joy to work with. It is a learning experience for him. The students are adapting and he is adapting, too. Some of the staff is bilingual. The students in the first grade are taught some of their lessons bilingually. He talked about working with a bilingual aide. He talked about the usefulness of some of the courses. He teaches geography on a local scale. Levi talked about his experience learning geography. Slim said the students should be made aware of other countries but they need to learn about their surroundings. He wished the students were able to travel more to understand some geographical concepts. Levi asked about educational television. Slim said he hasn't seen much of the program. He said the students talk about the programs. Levi said he noticed that pre-school students are picking up skills through the educational programs.

Buffy Sainte Marie song

Claude Demientieff is interviewed by Ann Nicolai. He talked about the functions of three Interior Alaska groups: the Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs, and Doyon. He said the Tanana Chiefs is a non-profit corporation that serves a regional area. The boundaries were determined by the Alaska Native Settlement Act. As a nonprofit the Fairbanks Native Association provides the same kinds of services such as health, education and social services at a local level. The boundaries are occupied by the North Star Borough. Half of the Native population within the Tanana Chiefs Conference is within the Fairbanks

boundaries. The Fairbanks Native Association provides a vital role in the overall regional programs. Ann Nicolai asked what the relationship of the Tanana Chiefs and the Doyon Corporation. Claude Demientieff said Doyon is the daughter of the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Doyon was formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Tanana Chiefs became separate from them two years ago. The Tanana Chiefs has preferred to remain in the non-profit corporate area such as health, education and social services areas. Doyon is more an investment and profit making corporation. Ann Nicolai asked about the purpose of the Tanana Chiefs survival school. Claude said it was created by Mitch Demientieff who conceived the school as a tool through which the local people in the region can begin to provide a continuum of those traditions which lasted centuries such as sled making, snowshoe making, birch bark canoes, and fish wheels. All of the subsistence and traditional modes of living are slowly disappearing with the introduction of the sociological and economical traits of the growing culture that is being increased by the pipeline. The survival school teaches the young the traits which allowed their forefathers to survive. The old teach the young the subsistence way of living.

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.