

88-49-44

Tom Hardtrycke, Anna Frank, Bill Nindorff, Keryn Able, Mary Jane Faith

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

1976

Jeff Kennedy said they will be talking about all of the activities that are being made for Children's Dental Health Week. Governor Hammond has designated it for the first week in February. Jeff Kennedy reads the proclamation from Governor Hammond about fluoridation and improvements of dental habits. He said there are three ways to improve teeth: fluoridating, flossing, and eating good food instead of junk food.

Jeff Kennedy introduced Tom Hardtrycke with the Alaska Native Health Service, Anna Frank with the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Dr. Bill Nindorff with the Alaska Native Health Service, Keryn Able with the Alaska Native Health Service, and Mary Jane Faith originally from Rampart and a member of the Tanana Chiefs. He said the Alaska Dental Health Association will also have a program during Children's Dental Health Week. Keryn Able said she talked with the state department and they said the total name for the dental week is "Smile America be free from dental disease." Jeff said Keryn is from Finland.

Song by Peter LaFarge

Jeff Kennedy asked about who was going to get fluoridation treatments. Tom said the Alaska Native Health Service has a program for installing water fluoridation equipment along with other sanitary facilities put into the villages. In Alaska there are approximately twenty villages where fluoridation is presently in operation. During the next year or two years there will be an emphasis to get more of the water systems fluoridated particularly in the Tanana Chiefs Region. Presently there are only two operational fluoridation water systems in Tanana and Huslia. Jeff said there is fluoridation in the Fairbanks water. They hope to install fluoridation in Kaltag, Galena, Hughes, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Arctic Village, and Birch Creek. Jeff asked about getting children to take better care of their teeth. Mary Jane Faith said the new idea is to involve the parent or guardian in care. She said the child must know what good foods are. In rural areas they grow up this way. Many times the stores are not supplied with the junk foods. She said the Native foods are good foods. The bad foods include soft drinks, candy, and carbohydrates. Keryn said many people in the village have good teeth and they eat dried meat or fish. Mary Jane Faith said she thinks it is good. She said dental services in the past has not been good as in the urban areas. In the past the teeth had to be extracted when they needed care. Now the new belief is to prevent removal of teeth and they are now rarely extracted.

Song by Tom Rush

Jeff Kennedy said they have been talking with several people about dental care. Anna Frank said they didn't sell candy bars at her store in Minto. They sold things like apples instead. Jeff asked Anna what

she is doing in Tanana Chiefs to provide dental services. Anna said she started working for the Tanana Chiefs in October and she is working in prevention. They are getting literature and films out to the people to make them aware of health care. Jeff said they will hear about some of the services provided by the Alaska Native Health Services.

Story songs by performers in Pt. Barrow

Jeff Kennedy said it is an important point in places such as Barrow that what the Native people have been doing for years and years to take care of their teeth has been the natural way. It is the imported things into the villages that have been damaging the teeth. He said the Alaska Native Health Services covers a huge area. Dr. Nindorff said this service unit is called the Tanana Service Area. It covers the middle Yukon area as far south as McGrath and as far north and east as Eagle. They serve more than 30 villages. The problem in getting adequate care is staggering. They don't have enough dentists or money to cover all the need. They try to use private dentists. As the money and dentists become available they will be able to provide care up and down the Yukon. He said they want to do what the people in the villages want. They can decide who they want as a dentist.

Song by Buffy Sainte Marie

Jeff Kennedy said Mary Jane Fate has information about paying for dental care. Mary Jane Fate said she thinks most of their people are employed with various jobs and their insurance will provide care. Then money that is provided by ANHS can go to the ones who are not covered by other insurance. She also said most Indian people do not look at professional careers. She said there are scholarships available for careers.

Jeff Kennedy thanked his guests.