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Saradelle Fredrickson, Bob Callahan, Nathaniel Tarn and Jim Pepper speak at the Native Arts and Literature Conference held in Sitka, Alaska in December 1975

Moses Wassillie, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

Sitka, Alaska

1975

Moses Wassillie said Saradelle R. Fredrickson talked about her experiences in art education and appreciation. She said she was teaching an art appreciation course and one of her students from Pt. Hope said she didn't have a topic for her term paper. Fredericks talked to her about the finds from her own town. It was one of the greatest artistic finds in all of Alaska. The student grew up there not knowing anything about this. Professor Fredericks said this kind of art appreciation education in the schools is necessary. She tried to get a program started in the state-operated schools. To her knowledge it was never started. She sees a need for more inclusion of Alaskan Native art in the world history of art. It is an important segment of world history of art that should be recognized and amplified in future publications. She has thought about the quote: the only thing permanent is change itself. She is excited about the creativity changes in Eskimo art in particular. One excellent example is Fred Anderson. She would like to see more creativity.

Moses Wassillie said Bob Callahan of the Turtle Island Foundation in California is a writer and printer. Bob Callahan said winter comes early to Alturas. The Pit River Indians have lived there for thousands of years. The snow people is their name by the Modoc people. In the old days the Indians would climb down into the winter lodges. Once in a while someone would take out the pine boughs and replace them. The life in the lodges could be miserable. In those days the Pit River Indians didn't have what we would call culture. They did sing and had stories. Dr. Heime Dingola bought a ranch in the area before WWI. Dingola was living on his homestead by Big Sur and met Kroeger. He joined Kroeger at the University of California in Berkeley in 1920. Dingola expanded his interests including several languages of Mexico and northern California. In 1921 he returned to Alturas to record the grammar and literature of his Pit River Indians friends. In the stories they found the primitive religious spirit. He said the life of the Indians is a continuous religious experience.

Song by Jane Oliver

Moses Wassillie said poet Nathaniel Tarn journeyed from the east coast by car to Alaska. He recites several of the poems that he wrote while he was here.

Unidentified song

Nathaniel Tarn continues reading his poetry.

Song by Herb Peterson

Moses Wassillie said Jim Pepper is a composer of Native American music from California. He sings the Caw Indian song.