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David Friday talks about some of their village corporation activities ; Mary Gregory talks about the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation ; Glenn Fredericks talks about the Kuskokwim Management Corporation.

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Series: Potlatch series

Moses Wassillie, moderator

David Friday talked about some of the activities of their village corporation. He said they are trying to get a bill put together which would call for subsistence on those federal lands that subsistence is needed and they are proposing cooperative management which would be composed of federal people, state people and local people who would make decisions on those lands. They are also looking at the possibility of amending the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to allow Natives to hunt birds when the birds are here in Alaska. The season opens just about when they are gone out of the state. This would help the traditional users of migratory birds. One of the recent things they have been working on is the Marine Mammal Protection Act waiver. The state is petitioning for the federal government to turn back the management of nine species of marine mammals to the state. They gave back the management of walrus to the and there was some sport hunting. They are opposing the state taking over the management of the marine mammals. The federal government exempts people that depend on marine mammals. With proposed offshore leases down in the Bering Sea there is a big threat to the marine mammals. The marine mammals are important to diets all along the coast. They will have a task force that RURAL CAP is putting together. They are trying to get the villages in Alaska having a say in proposed legislation that the federal government will act on. They will make known what they want. He thinks if they push hard enough some of those things they want will be recognized.

David Friday said the Bureau of Indian Affairs is building a school in his town of Chevak. He thinks the school board did not turn to the state because the equipment from BIA is better than the state. He talked about the successful fishing, berry and hunting season.

Song by Loggins and Messina

Moses Wassillie said the improvement of health care among Natives remains a concern of many people in Alaska. Hospitals and village clinics are being built and Natives are being trained in

modern medicine. Regional Native health organizations were formed to address these problems. Mary Gregory of Bethel talked about the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. She said it was established by ABCP. They made it a preventative type of organizations. They planned programs. They have health aide education program, dental prevention program, community health representatives, and a community liaison program. They have been running the LPN program with KCC which recently graduated some LPNs. They also have other programs such as alcohol and mental health. Mary Gregory talked about the pre-maternal home in Bethel. She said a lot of people come into Bethel to have their babies. They may have to come in earlier if there are complications. They need someplace to stay before they are admitted into the hospital. Before the pre-maternal home was established ladies would come into town and stay with friends and relatives. Sometimes it wasn't a good place to stay. Fewer babies have died since the creation of the pre-maternal home.

Song by Bobby Womack

Moses Wassillie said Glenn Fredericks of Sleetmute is head of the Kuskokwim Management Corporation with a base at Aniak. He describes the merger of eleven village corporations and the functions of KMC. Fredericks said they look into any investments that the villages want. They have one attorney and accountant for all eleven villages. They take care of the books, annual reports and corporate taxes. They have been doing this for the past three years and this year they have started talking about a merger. The shareholders voted on this about three weeks ago. It passed in all the villages. Calista has approve it and then the Secretary of the Interior also has to approve it. They hope to be officially merged in January. There are eleven villages consisting of 1500 shareholders. They found that the little individual villages wouldn't survive on their own. They hope their audit bill will be cut in half. They want to save money for the shareholders. They can also get into business for the villages. They advise the board of KMC about what they want and then KMC investigates. It used to be shared and now that they have merged all the money goes into one pot. It will save the villages money in the years to come. On the non-profit side it worked well. They now have \$200-300,000 of grant funds that go to the villages. They have an agricultural program in Aniak. They hope to move to other villages with this program.

Song by Rupert Holmes.

Glenn Frederick talked about fishing in Aniak. There were plentiful fish in the lower Kalskag and Aniak. He said hunting has been a sore subject. They realize that people have to have moose to eat. Hundreds of people came up from Bethel. If they keep doing this then the moose will be gone. They hope for some way to control this. He has met with the Department of Fish and Game. There were forty Norwegians hunting for moose and bear in the area. This hurts the

area. In Holitna it was closed for five or six years and now there are lots of beaver and other furs because of the closure.

Song by Michael Murphy