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Emily Brown, Isabella Brady and the dancers from Sitka and an Aleut story by Alfred Steffaten with Eliadoff Stillmonidoff translating at the Festival of Native Arts in March 1976 in Fairbanks, Alaska

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

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Emily Brown tells a story about a mother marsh hawk. A flood came. She had four little birds in the nest and they had to escape to higher ground. In order to save her little birds she decided to compose a song. She gave the name in Eskimo. She sings the song in Eskimo and then English. Brown said the mother hawk told her little birds that she would carry them on her back. The first bird hung on tight. Emily sings the song. The bird sang this song four times. She sings the song in English.

The Gadyaheen dancers from Sitka perform several songs. Isabella Brady said there was a Tlingit man that went up to the island of Eyak. He learned the songs from the Aleut. She explained the movements of the singers and dancers. She dedicated the song to all of the Aleuts in the audience.

Isabella Baker said the students have often asked why they do Copper River songs. She said the next two songs are usually done at big gatherings. The students will be dancing behind blankets for part of the performance. She said Charlie Joseph told her that women would traditionally do this song too. After the dance the blankets were given to the opposite tribe. She said the canoe was made by Nathan Jackson. She talked about the education program in Sitka. The students attend the program after school.

Alfred Steffaten tells an Aleut story that is translated by Eliadoff Stillmonidoff. Alfred said this legend is about two brothers. The father had two sons. The father favored the older son. The mother saw what was happening to the younger son and therefore she favored the younger son. The older son saw that his mother was favoring the young son and wanted to kill his younger brother. The older brother told his young brother let us go out hunting. The mother warned the younger son that his brother would take him out on a hunt and try to kill him. She told the younger son to take out a wedge and say it was for chopping wood. The older brother said let us go out and split logs. The older brother had the younger brother split the log and then shoved the younger brother into the log. The younger brother took the wedge and fell into the log and pretended that he was dead. The older brother returned home and said his younger brother was lost. While he was eating he saw his younger brother appear. The next day the older brother asked the younger brother to go out fishing with him. The mother gave the younger brother a seal stomach to use for flotation. The older brother pushed the younger brother into

the water. The older brother returned home and said his younger brother was lost at sea. The third time the older brother took the younger brother out for an egg hunt. The mother gave the younger son a pair of eagle wings. The older brother pushed his younger brother off the cliff. The younger brother came back and killed his older brother.