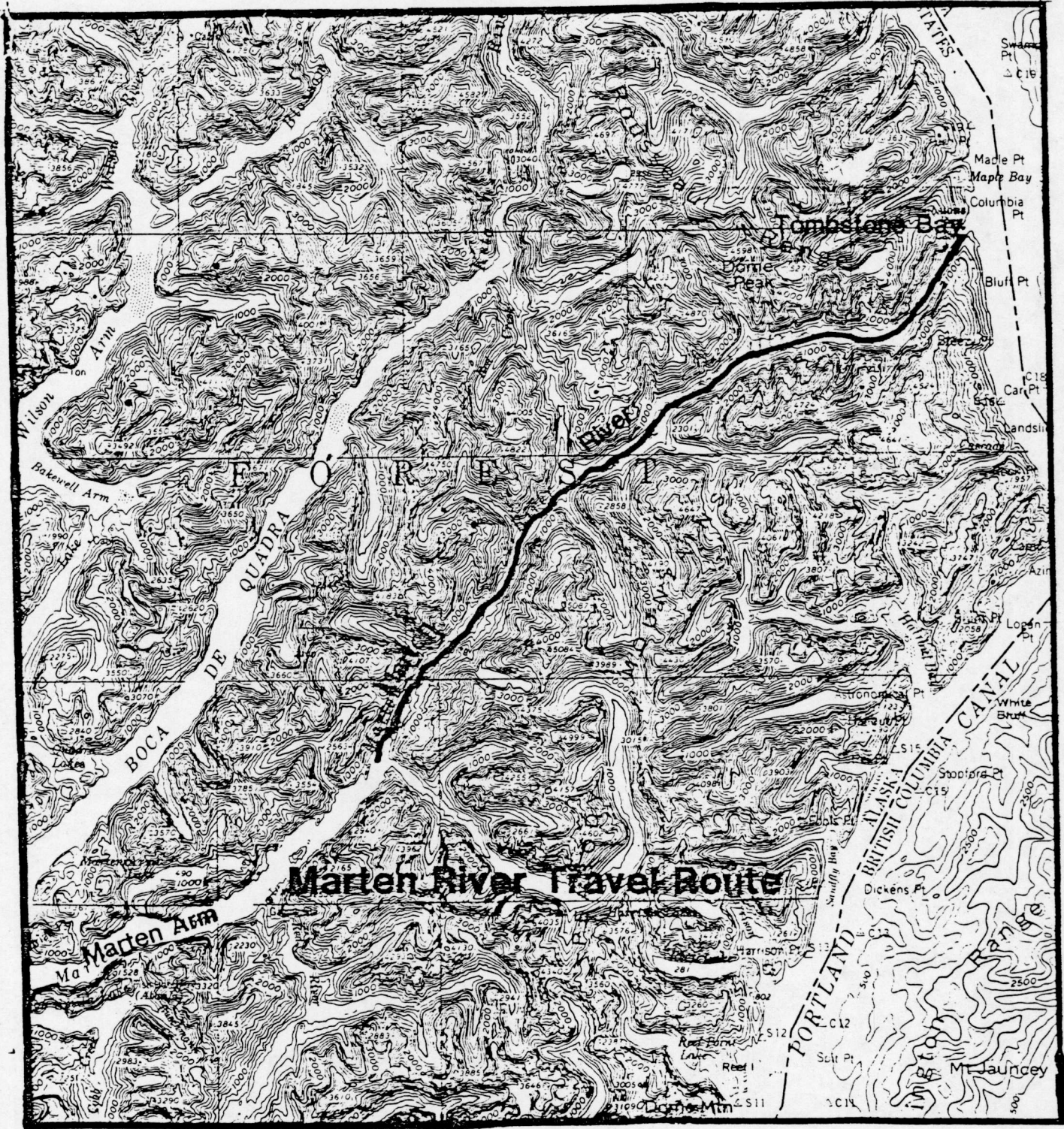
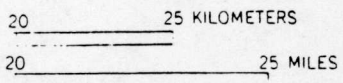


"U.S. Misty Fjord National Monument"

Tselsaut
Marten River Travel Route



SCALE



ANS 401
 Feb 12, 1987
 Transcripts
 by Lisa Chavez

In class today Reginald and Louise showed tapes of Misty Fjords, a potlatch at Lemon Creek Correctional Center, and some dancing from Celebration '86. What follows are some of the comments that Reggie made as we watched these tapes.

Reggie: Reggie introduced the tape about Misty Fjord National monument by saying that he wished us to get an idea of what the area looked like as he would be talking about it for the next few weeks. He said the film showed places where people used to live a long time ago. He also said that although he was born and raised in Misty Fjord's, it was still a very beautiful and spectacular place to him.

The next tape we saw was a recording of a potlatch at Lemon Creek Correctional Center in Juneau. This was the first potlatch there, and the Dangeli's daughter Arleen had organized it. Louise said that the idea for the Potlatch was so the inmates did not lose touch with their culture. It was a lot of work to get it organized, and Arleen had to go through a lot of red tape, but the Potlatch did take place. Unfortunately, not of all of the dance group could attend because some of them were under eighteen and regulations forbid anyone under eighteen coming into the Correctional Center. Still, the Potlatch was a success. About two hundred people attended, including Lt. Governor McAlpine and many respected elders.

As we watched the tape, Reggie told us a little bit about what was going on. One of the dances we saw was called the circle of life. It signified the way life begins and never ends--like a circle. There were representatives from many different peoples--Haida, Eskimo, Athabaskan, Tsimshian, white and black. They all greet each other and shake hands. The song that was being sung with this dance was a song from a lower 48 tribe.

Some of the speakers at the potlatch were: John Hope, Chief Austin Hammond of the Chilkat region, Richard Dalton, master of Tlingit law, and Reggie himself, who spoke about the Nisgaa Tsimshian potlatches.

The next tape we saw was from the Celebration '86 performance. The dancing we saw was from the last night of the celebration. Louise said that dancers did not do the whole ceremony. Usually they would open with the Peace song and would use swan's down as part of the ceremony, but they did not do this in the celebration.

At one point we watched a dance and heard the Tlingit entrance song. Reggie explained that a long time ago, before Juneau existed, the Tsimshian would go on long trading trips into Tlingit territory. At the end of their stay, they would go into the longhouse and they would sing songs. The Tsimshian said of one song "We will leave this song with you forever" and that became the Tlingit entrance song.