

H90-06-152
Josie Kalerak
ANS 401
March 5, 1987

Reggie and Louise began the day by expressing their good feeling about and thanks to the class, Louise stated that her research came about when she couldn't work anymore Reggie thanked the festival committee for this years theme and said more children are getting involved. Reggie was glad about this and said the elders knowledge is being preserved this way.

He told us about the beaver and marten hunting trip up Portland Canal. Timothy left his tobbaoco at the base camp and returned to get it himself.

Reggie told the story about one of his relatives catching a deer. The man didn't make sure it was dead. He rode it like a horse before he killed it. Another story involved another relative who got mauled by a bear. By pretending to be dead his life was saved. Reggie trapped marten where his ancestors did and the deadfalls they used are eroding. This reminded him of how trapping was done before as compared to later. He is glad that he learned how to survive where they did before.

Reggies' Aunt Sarah was married to Cheif Mountain. He told Reggie a story about going to Tombstone Bay to hunt goat. This was a special hunting place for the Tsetsaut. They used a ladder to go up the side of a waterfall. Noah and Timothy herded the goats and they got what they needed.

Chief Mountain tried to find this place, ^{later} but couldn't find it. It was known only to the Tsetsauts.

He also learned of some cliffs, which are two days walk away from a creek by Kincolith. A lot of marten came out of the cliffs. Reggie never went up to the place since he was busy fishing during the summer. Now he feels he is too old to find this place.

Sarah recommended that Reggie write the stories of the Portland Canal people. While his grandfather was hunting beaver in Hidden Inlet, they saw a strange animal. They carved an image of the animal which they called Daahun---. One of the chiefs was called Daahun and he had two sons by that name also.

The stick which Reggie uses is a wolf dancing stick. Before, he gives a speech he raps the floor with the stick. The stick is used to signify happiness especially when scattering swans' down. The wolf dance is performed to honor the chiefs. The Nisqaas' don't use the stick for dancing. The Nisqaas' chiefs have their own sticks with the crest on it.

The Nisqaa have only one creator which is Ammliqeehalahal. They have the mythological figure Kaasim who showed the people where to get food.

The shamans who were specially trained chiefs had healing powers. They could see the future by looking at the sky.

Louise gave Eliza a beaded pillow as thanks for some fish. This is called X kayhl when you give a gift in return for another, or as a way of saying thank you. During the potlatch many goods are given away.

Reggie sang the mourning song Yamyuluh. A man left his wife to die. She returned later and he made the song.

Louise performed the Tsetsaut happy song which was made by Reggies' grandfather Willie Foster. Louise had Reggies' permission to sing the song. People cannot use another's songs without their permission. This is the only Tsetsaut song they have. It was put on a cylinder by Marius Barboa and the songs were later put on a tape.

Reggie talked about the Lost Valley in Portland Canal.

Every spring they go up there to get meat and berries. This was a sacred place for the Tsetsaut people. Dr. Carr wanted to make a movie of the area, but Reggie didn't have time to bring him up. He regrets that he didn't get this done.

When they discovered a rock which was pure copper and gold the miners came. They destroyed the village as the people were away. The people complained to both governments without any results. The people remember the promise of the big corporations regarding the preservation of their culture. But whenever something of value is discovered they come in.

Reggie says the land settlement wouldn't have passed so soon if not for the oil in Prudoe bay. He felt they

shouldn't have settled so quickly. The Canadian Nisqaas' are still working on their land claims issue. They want title to the land other than money.

Reggie's grandparents were alive when the first Americans put in the boundary line in 1888. They received a treaty stating they can live in that area as long as they want. Ira Booth discovered the treaty in the archives. It was lost with the other land documents when the plane crashed. Reggie was in Washington at the time and found out about all this too late.

A short time later the first buildings were put up in Alaska at Portland Canal. The first survey went right up to the mouth of the Nass River and was later changed.

Reggie made a good living hunting and trapping. The United States government closed fishing. The Canadian governments open areas for fishing occasionally.

The mines in South Eastern Alaska are now all abandoned. The old cabins, village site and graveyard are eroding away. He stated that there is nothing to remind you of the former village unless you know it's location. He ended his visit by stating that he was honored to share his adawa~~ks~~s.