

H90-06-175
Agnes and Paul Tony Tape
11/17/87

[Transcribed in point form; looking for specifics on dance and masks. A= Agnes and P= Paul. Main questioner preceded by "..."
? = someone from the audience]

Side A

...Will you sing your ----- song?

...The ones you wrote. But you don't know. Do you want to skip it?

P: Yeah

...How many people live in your village now?

P: 500

...Are they Yup'ik?

...Are there a lot of elders living in the village or old poeple?

P: -----old ladies many.

...How old do you have to be to be an elder?

P: About eighty years old.

...So they're older than you.

...What are the people of ----- doing to pass on the Native culture. What are the people of ----- doing to teach the young people -----

P: -----we tell stories.

...They do that right now at -----?

...So different people go to the kazgi?

...They tell stories to all the young kids?

...Do people from different villages still go to -----.

...So older people would come to ----- to tell stories?

...Do the kids tell the stories after they hear it?

...Who do the kids tell the stories back to.

...Any other questions about stories or Native customs?

...In that film we saw -----

...I don't remember that

...Do they teach some of this stuff at school?

...What do they teach at school?

...AND the girls learn to sew too?

...Who teaches them?

P: The Native people.

...Long time ago did they have bush men in your village?

P: Yeah a long time ago ----- from Marshall to-----

...So they first saw them in -----?

...How many years ago?

P: Ten, twenty years ago.

...Tell us what it was like.

...And they saw them in the village or in the woods?

P: In the woods.

...They just see them and that's it.

...What did you think they were?

P: I don't know I never could get close.

...Did they used to see it a long time ago too?

...How long after you saw _____ did they see it in the next village?

P: Oh maybe one month.-----

...Did it leave any tracks?

P: No

...Did it make any noise?

P: No

...How big was it?

P: Like a man about 5 feet.

...How about some other things like little people? Do you have any stories about little people?

P: Yeah, there are stories about that ----- winter time -----
----- Dance, Eskimo dance every year -----after it
creeped up ----- _____ ----- tell it to come here -----
----- . ----- . ----- around the marsh --
----- .

... ----- I guess you would call them little people. But they have a word for it in Yupik.

?: _____ or different kinds -----.

P: Their small, really small. -----

... What kind of stories do you hear about it.

P: -----and then ----- in the lake.
-----.

?: -----

P: -----

...For black fish?

P: For black fish

...And it was taking fish from the -----?

P: Uh huh.

...So that's an old story then.

P: Yeah

... I guess we have to ask Agnes if she heard stories like that.

...So this must be one of the stories that you heard in the kazqi?

...Who did you use to war with when there was wars? People from your area, when there was wars?

P: ----- sometimes up river down to marsh,-----
-.

?: Toksook Bay around there -----.

..Then there are stories about fighting against the indians too?

...Did they sometimes fight against people form the north, the Inupiat.

P: Uh huh.

...So most of the stories about war that you heard were in the summer.

P: Yeah summer, sometimes winter time.

...Do you have stories about great warriors? You can speaak up -
---.

?:

P: -----old man, how to fight, how to kill that man.

...Maybe you could talk about WWI or WWII; do you have stories about that?

[several people talk here, hard to make out.]

...Did they inlist people from the villages to train?

P: Uh huh

...That's during which war?

P: WWII

... So you have National Guard training?

P: Uh huh

... What kind of clothes were they?

...Eskimos used to where white parkas?

P: ----- swans ----- used in winter time.

...Oh for hunting?

...Oh for camouflaged----- still how many swans to make one parka.

P: ----- couldn't recognize.

...During WWII did somebody go around and enlist people from all villages or just some villages?

...The women didn't do that huh?

?: Did the women sew the parkas?

P: Yeah

... Did they sew parkas for the -----?

...During WWII did they make swan parkas?

?:

...How did you train for that? How long did you have to be away from home?

?: Did you ever see a balloon, a Japanese balloon in the air?

P: No but I heard about them.

...Oh they are just dropped out of the sky.

...Did they explode? What happened when they exploded?

... Could you forecast weather and temperature?

P: Old guys, every morning ----- After we'd get up --
-----sometiems it's cloudy, sometitmes it's clear -----

---. Sometimes -----. I don't know what -----
----- I knew ----- sit in water -----
-----.

...Was it just certain people that could forecast the weather?

P: Older people

...So when somebody goes hunting he tells them what the weather is?

P: Yeah

...Something about Native signals? Did people used to make signs from far away like smoke signals or something?

P: No.

... How did people used to send messages long ago?

P: ----- Tell them they are sick, don't go there.

...So if people are sick they warn other villages?

P: Yeah.

...What does the red flag mean?

P: Weather is no good go home right a way.

...And the white flag?

P: Getting too dark go home

...So a lot of people have C.B's now in the villages?

P: Yeah

...How many years?

P: 20 or 30 years.

...What people used to do before ---- for mosquitos?

?: Used _____.

...What do you call it in Yupik?

P: _____.

?: -----grows on birch trees

...So you burn it in the house or on the porch?

...So you have smudge -----.

...Is the one of the things that people on the coast would trade for?

...What else was _____ used for?

P: ----- chewing tobacco. ----- mix it with tobacco.
-----.

?: Blackfoot.

...They say it's really strong.

P: Yeah. I taste once -----.

...Did it make you sick?

P: Yeah. After that I touch no more.

...How do they mix it?

P: Blackfoot cut with water ----- mix with ashes -----

...So you don't put too much ashes?

P: -----

?: Some people mix it by putting ----- back in the ash
----- mouth is all black -----

...This thing they use for tobacco -----

P: -----

...So they always use that?

?: How much does _____ cost?

?: \$10.00

P: ----- \$20.00 or \$30.00

?: Kuskokwim coast a lot more than that.

...Maybe you could tell us stories about when people first started using tobacco was it stronger?

P: Yeah

[End of side A]

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Side B

...Oh did they chew it off? Long time ago did they have pipes?
Long pipes?

...My grandparents said the tobacco they used to use was so
strong that they used to after they smoke they fall asleep.

...The tobacco that was first imported from Siberia it was really
strong.

P: From Russia

...Enough stories about tobacco.

...Tell us about how people used to get wood or still get wood
and make rafts.

P: From the Yukon up river. ----- Mtn Village

...They cut the wood?

?: How big was the raft?

P: Sometimes about 14 feet wide sometimes 20 feet long.

...That many logs.

...After you make the raft did you put your stuff up on the raft

...So did you ever put

...So you can cook while you're floating?

P: Yeah

...People still do that?

P: Yeah

...Did they make rudder on the back to paddle?

P: No just on the side

?: So was it driftwood?

...What kind of saw did you use a long time ago?

P: Hand saw.

...Did they ever use the 2 man saw?

P: Yeah 2 man saw.

P: Right now they use a chain saw.

...When they make a raft do they have to drill a hole, holes on the bottom log or anything?

P: No.

...Besides singing and eating on the raft what else did people do?

P: Play cards.

...Til they calm down.

P: Yeah til they calm down.

...Tell us about how you used to get your water in the winter time.

P: Containers.

...Where did you get your waaterr from?

P: The Yukon

...How did you bring it home?

...Make it even huh?

...Did people ever chop ice and bring it home, paddle it up?

P: No

...So everyday -----

...Do you use like 50 galloons?

...How about summertime the same thing?

P: Can't use anymore down the Yukon.

...Who told you that?

...So you have wells now in the villages?

...So you put chlorine in there?

P: Sometimes they use rain water.

...How about, _____?

[onversation between several people.]

..What time of the year?

P: After freeze up.

...How do they catch them?

P: ----- some about ten feet some about 12 feet long.

...Like a paddle?

...Oh so you cut a long hole?

P: Yeah

...And how many [eels?] would you get?

...How you cook it?

P: Sardines

...How you cook it?

P: Pan or

...Do you bake it?

P: Yeah

...How long are the eels?

P: 2 feet some 1 foot.

?: What time of the year?

P: November

?: Are you going up river or down river?

...So with people from [Elukunuk] would that be one of the trade items?

P: Yeah

...So how many eels do you cook for a dinner?

P: About 5 or 6

?: What's the oil good for?

P: Beaver skin

...Oh for tanning

P: Rabbit, jack rabbit -----

...Did you ever use the oil to eat?

?: Did you use it in your dog food?

P: Yeah use it for dogs too.

...How often do you eat that? Whenever you trade?

P: Sometimes once a day.

...Well we didn't take a break so...

End of side B