

Wayne Attia  
 Tape summary  
 Knowledge of Native Elders  
 Jonathan and Rosie David  
 March 22, 1988

"If I talk in my language you wouldn't understand," said Jonathan  
 "Because you don't know my word. My oldtime way."

He says that the video (Madison Minto Video) is about the people  
 having a potlatch. *He thought it was a documentary video of  
 a memorial potlatch they put on, but it  
 wasn't*

Jonathan briefly talks about how the people in his area is divided  
 between family clans. He talks about the reasons for having potlatch by  
 using the memorial potlatch as an example.

"If I don't make potlatch it will be on my mind all the time," Jonathan  
 David. He says that people make songs for those that die. He made a song  
 for his boy when he died. Johnathan talks about what is distributed to  
 those that attend the potlatch.

He said that often a couple of people hold potlatches at once to help  
 one another with the expense and preparation.

He says that when we made potlatch for his boy it was the biggest  
 one in a while. Seven different people made the potlatch. He says people  
 used to have potlatch for one month.

Jonathan says the older people do more than young people in that  
 potlatch because they are learning from the elders. They have to see what  
 the older people are doing. "We teach our kids yeah. They learn the songs  
 they go on with it,"

"You go by the mothers side more," Jonathan David. "All my kids is  
 come after me I'm Caribou (clan), Rosie David. She talks about worrying  
 about her son's drinking before he drown.

Jonathan says that the kids take the father last name but they belong to the mothers clan.

Jonathan talks about the video and how the hunters get together to catch a moose.

Question. Do Minto people have reserved hunting areas among them.

Jonathan says that they share hunting areas.

Jonathan says that sometimes they make potlatch for people that have been sick for longtime. Villagers often make songs also for the sick hitting a stick a certain way. *Hitting the stick toward themselves for good health (good luck)*

"That potlatch never die. Can die away. Thats our granfathers way what we're doing," Jonathan David.

There are songs for many activities in Minto including hunting, etc.

The memorial potlatch is a very special event. There are also informal potlatches for people that visit the community.

Do children give potlatches for there parents. A student was wondering if the young did what the old do.

When ever there is potlatch it is a whole village event. Everybody gets involved in the preparation. The young and the old. In the evening there is food potlatch and singing.

"Until we are ready to start potlatch we never say we will have potlatch," Rosie David.

Jonathan says everybody donates during a potlatch. Money, food and volunteering is often donated. It is up to the individual to decide what they want to donate. The donations are kept track of in Minto.

Jonathan points out that when people were making ice cream in the

video they stir in the direction the sun travels. They both describe how Indian ice cream is made including the ingredients.

Student. ... Do you always use the same one two beat in all the songs?

They describe that the songs are different. Eliza refers the student to a thesis done on campus.

Jonathan and Rosie show that songs have special kinds of arm, head, and body movements. There are also many other factors to consider such as the purpose of the song.

Eliza refers to the video that in butchering a moose everybody quietly goes about getting the job done.