

ANS 401 - Knowledge of Native Elders
February 28, 1989:
by Jeanette Scannell

This class summary is different because our Elders, Larry and Martha MatSoy didn't show up for class. Larry had an eye operation that morning so we were shown two video's.

The first video was about Aleut dancing which to me resembled some sort of square dance. It must have been a dancing class because there was one guy showing a group how to do the various steps involved in the dance.

The second video was on Interethnic Communication by Ron Scollon.

It was a mock interview, where a white man was interviewing a native woman for a job. The interviewer was Ron Scollon and the interviewee was Eliza Jones. Those of you that missed the video missed seeing a young Eliza with short hair.

This video showed points of miscommunication between the white interviewer and native interviewee. Some examples were; the "wait time" of the response of the native woman. When the interviewer didn't get a response immediately he went on to the next question. Seems like he was always interrupting also.

Cont 2.

Another point was where Eliza felt the questions were being repeated. She felt she already answered them on the application.

At the end of the video both sides of the interview were discussed to show where the miscommunications occurred.

Eliza also related to us some of the difficulties she had in making the video. One part she said "was when she kept moving away from Ron, because she felt uncomfortable being so close. The people making the video told her it was necessary because of some technicality with the camera.

Then some of the class members asked questions. One being "whether the problem still exists today?" Eliza said she didn't think so because the natives today have been exposed more to the white culture.

End of Class!