

✓ H 98-39-03

Gil Truitt talks with Karen Brewster and Kristen Griffin on December 8, 1998 at the Sitka Tribe of Alaska office in Sitka, Alaska about...

1) Kristen Griffin introduces the project and the purpose of the interview.

Sitka National Historical Park/ Sitka Tribe of Alaska/ University of Alaska Fairbanks/ Sitka/ Cottages|

2) Growing up in the Cottage Community which bordered Sitka National Historical Park.

Sitka/ Cottage Community/ growing up/ Truitt, Gil -- mother/ James, Dorothy/ Truitt, Gil -- father/ Truitt, Joseph/ Truitt, Gil -- grandmother/ Katlian, Pauline/ family heritage/ punctuality -- importance of/ Sitka/ Totem Park/ Indian River/ Cottages -- history|

3) Life in the Cottage Community and people's subsistence use of the Park area.

Truitt, Gil -- grandfather/ James, Alfred/ Cottages -- construction of/ Cottages -- history/ Simpson, Peter/ boatshop -- Peter Simpson's/ Totem Park/ subsistence/ herring -- eggs/ Indian River/ food -- gathering/ Sheldon Jackson School -- respect for/ smelt -- use of|

4) Tlingit people's subsistence use of the Park and their deeper ties to the place.

subsistence/ hunting -- deer/ deer -- scarcity of/ Truitt, Gil -- grandmother/ Cameron, Mrs. Don/ Thornton, Tom/ cultural research/ language -- Tlingit/ Kiks.ádi/ family history/ Russians/ battle|

5) Learning from his grandmother and how education was stressed in the Cottages.

Truitt, Gil -- grandmother/ Cameron, Mrs. Don/ storytelling/ Cottages/ traditional knowledge -- lack of/ language -- Tlingit/ Simpson, Peter/ education -- importance of/ salvation/ culture|

6) Sitka's early educational system.

education/ school/ Sitka/ Bureau of Indian Affairs/ teachers/ teachers -- Native|

7) His own educational background.

college/ Harding University/ Arkansas/ Mount Edgecumbe School/ teacher/ Arizona State University/ family/ education|

8) His work experience as a teacher and coach.

Sheldon Jackson School/ Wrangell Institute/ Kikendoll, Oregon?/ Mount Edgecumbe School -- opening/ coaching/ Alaska Native sports/ basketball|

9) His years teaching and coaching, and his interest in the history of basketball in Southeastern Alaska.

coaching/ teaching -- challenges of/ basketball/ Southeast Alaska/ basketball -- history of/ Cottages/ Cottage Hall/ Truitt, Gil -- mother/ music/ musicians|

10) The role of music in the Cottage Community, and culture change he has seen.

James family/ musicians/ alcoholism/ music -- disappearance of/ Hays, Ellen Hope/ Cottage Hall/ Cottages -- map of/ Simpson, Peter/ young people -- interest in/ Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act|

11) The layout of and life in the Cottage Community.

Simpson, Peter/ Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ Indian River/ foot trail/ Sheldon Jackson School/ smoke houses/ berries -- salmonberries/ salmon -- smoking/ baseball/ Visitor Center -- location of|

12) Collecting salmon at the Indian River in the Park when he was a boy and how the river has changed.

Indian River/ fish -- Pink Salmon/ fishing/ fish -- disappearance/ military/ flood -- 1942|

13) Social activities in the Cottage Community and names of some of the community's residents.

Cottage Hall/ Sitka Historical Society/ band concerts/ banquets/ Christmas/ family history/ Howard, George/ Simpson, Mary/ Sloan, Lilly/ Hearst, Bernard/ Hearst Chichigof Mine/ Sitka/ Portland|

14) The Cottages history and its role in the development of local organizations.

DeArmond, Bob/ Hearst family/ Cottage Hall -- use of/ basketball/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ Jackson, Sheldon/ Simpson, Peter/ Alaka Native Brotherhood Hall/ Littlefield, Esther/ American Legion|

15) Women's activities at the Cottages, and the role of Sheldon Jackson School.

Cottages -- women/ basketball -- women/ Sheldon Jackson School/ Presbyterian Church/ Cottage Hall -- disappearance/ Brady, Isabella/ Hope, John|

16) The relationship between Sheldon Jackson School, the Cottages, and living a "clean" life.

dances/ Sheldon Jackson School/ Cottage Hall - closing of/ Hope, John/ Mission/ control -- social/ change -- social/ Cottages -- concept of/ alcohol -- use of|

17) Troubles with alcohol in the community, and the relationship between the Cottages and local social and political organizations.

alcoholism/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ judicial system/ Presbyterian rule|

18) The role of Cottage residents in developing local organizations continued.

Cottage Community/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ Sheldon Jackson School/ Simpson,

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Cottage Community/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ Sheldon Jackson School/ Simpson, Peter -- influence on/ education/ "Native state"/ preamble|

19) The history of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, and differences between the Cottages and the Tlingit village in Sitka.

preamble -- intentions/ Cottages/ Simpson, Peter/ Young, Ralph/ Price, Frank/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ Newell, John/ education/ village -- separation of|

20) The role of the church in Sitka, and the importance of the Park to Sitka Kiks.ádi clan members.

Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall -- location of/ Mission/ Presbyterian Church/ Orthodox Church/ Katlian/ Kiks.ádi/ memorials/ Totem Park/ battle/ Russians|

21) Kiks.ádi connections to the Park.

Kiks.ádi/ Truitt, Gil -- great-grandmother/ Cameron, Mrs. Don/ Totem Park/ songs/ Hope, John/ memorials/ World War II|

22) Changes in the Park and its influence on Sitka.

flood/ bridge -- loss of/ Cottage Community/ employment -- variety/ entrepreneurs/ tourists/ Totem Park/ fishing -- salmon/ carpenter/ Price, Frank/ Young, Ralph/ boat builder/ Simpson, Peter/ Newell, John|

23) People selling Native arts and crafts to tourists at the Park, and the influence of tourist art on Tlingit culture.

entrepreneurs/ Village/ Kelly Street/ Cook, Mrs./ Shotridge, Louis/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ culture -- suppression of/ Hoonah/ Kake/ tourist trade|

24) The history of the Alaska Native Brotherhood in Sitka.

Hope, John/ Alaska Native Brotherhood/ Young, Ralph/ Native dancing -- lack of/ education -- emphasis on/ Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall -- historical landmark/ National Park Service/ Sheldon Jackson College/ Mount Edgecumbe School|

25) Growing up in the Cottages in such close proximity to Sheldon Jackson School.

Cottage Community/ growing up/ Sheldon Jackson School/ campus -- beauty of/ baseball/ basketball/ Weeks, Ralph -- coach/ Yaw, Leslie/ activities -- feeling welcome/ Wooster, Roland/ friendship -- lasting/ students -- influence of|

26) Life in the Cottage Community.

Cottages -- loyalty to/ poverty/ food -- lack of/ subsistence -- importance of|

27) Differences between the Cottages and the village, and influence of the military in Sitka.