

Call number: 02-00-56

Name: Anfesia Shapsnikoff and Bill Tcheripanoff interviewed by Dorothy Jones

Summary created by: Varpu Lotvonen

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Notes: Original on 3-inch tape, master copy on CD, partially a copy of 78-86

The recording begins with a segment that is a copy of ORAL HISTORY 78-86. Anfesia Shapsnikoff tells about Jenny Kukoff's mother's song to Jenny, who was her only child and was married away.

[Break in the recording.]

Bill Tcheripanoff sings a song that's a copy of a song on ORAL HISTORY 78-86. He tells about a lady whom he saw in his dreams. [Recording is of bad quality, with muffled sound. Bill sings another song. Unclear talking.]

7:51 [Bill sings another song that doesn't sound like a copy. Another song.]

At 11:46, Dorothy asks what the song was about and Bill tells that it is a game song. He sang two, and they were both game songs that mean nothing. [Singing another song. Speaking in his language. Singing more.]

14:02 [Another song.] That was a game song for a game with two sticks. Then there is a sea lion song [recording gets really unclear]. They are for Native games that they used to do [unclear]. They used to do that outside in summertime and they had songs to go with it. Kodiak people [unclear]. [Unclear talking.] That was hard, but Bill won.

17:40 [Bill and Anfesia sing a song. They might be playing the game at the same time. Bill sings another song. Talking briefly in Aleut. Another song is sung by Bill and Anfesia.] Bill says that somebody is good [probably Anfesia. They talk in Aleut.] Anfesia says that now Bill won't win anymore.

23:45 [Anfesia starts a song but doesn't keep singing. Talking in Aleut. Bill sings a slow song, as if instructing Anfesia how to sing it.]

25:56 [Anfesia sings a song that Bill joins.]

27:41 [Anfesia sings a song. Breaks in the recording. Talking in Aleut.]

34:06 Anfesia tells a story: Once upon a time there lived a man who was called a bird. He was a sparrow [?]. He was going to go out to meet his secret girlfriend who lived under the hill in a village. He went to see her and told her that in three days he would pretend to fall sick and die so that his wife would bury him with all of his equipment. That happened.

He pretended to get very sick and was sick for a day or so, and then he died. Before he died, he told his wife that he'd like his belongings buried with him, like his boat, his arrows, and spears. When he died, his wife buried him and had his [their?] daughter helping her. They took his body to the burial place and his daughter spoke to her mother, saying that father looks like he died with a pleasant smile on his face. The mother asked how the daughter would expect a dead person to be smiling and she said she really thought he smiled. Mother thought that was nonsense. When they buried him, they put the belongings on the grave and left.

She went home and in a day or two, or three, she went out with her daughter one morning without having any good lights and they saw a little spot on the ocean. It was a boat that was paddling. The mother went inside without saying a word, leaving the daughter outside, and shortly after the daughter came running in telling that she sees a boat. Mother agreed that she saw the boat too.

They got dressed and went to the place where her husband had been meeting the other woman. The lady was there with a big pot of soup that she was stirring and she offered the wife some food. The wife said she hadn't come to eat but to see who was coming on the boat. The other woman said it's nothing but a rock to which the seals come on a low tide.

The other woman tried again to offer the wife something to eat, but she said again that she is sure that a boat is coming. The other woman said again that it's not a boat. This exchange happened for third time, and this time the wife turned the other woman inside of the food pot, scalding her face so it was wrinkled and looked like she was smiling. Then she took her out and fed [?] her in sitting position, and put her in a baidarki, facing the ocean, so the man would see her.

After that, she hid under the racks in order to be able to grab her husband with her daughter.

It was a nice weather and the wife heard her husband talking, saying that he knew that the other woman would be sitting there and waiting for him, and that he's coming a long distance to see her. The other woman didn't answer. He repeated that for two or three times, but still she didn't answer. He came to the shore and ran towards her, thinking that she had a nice smile on her face, but when she tried to embrace her, they both fell down. Then the man saw his wife and daughter under the rags. They grabbed the husband and wouldn't let him go.

The husband offered his wife the best halibut in the ocean and claimed that he had got it for her, but she said she didn't want anything but to put him to death. He said he was just out fishing so that he could give his wife the best that could be caught. The woman said again that she didn't want anything, but to put her husband to death. This exchange happened the third time, and at the end of his sentence the wife grabbed him and drowned him in the bay and shoved the boat out to drift. Then the wife and her daughter walked all the way back home and agree that he deserved it.

He wanted to die but didn't, so they helped him to death. They went home but the widow worried about putting her husband to death and died herself.

44:06 [Bob is talking in Aleutian. Sings a song. More talking in Aleut and singing.]

49:30 Anfesia says that that was a story of a raven family. They lived together and found out that some different village had a whale party. They sent their son to go fetch some whale from the village. The son left and when he told the chief of the whaling village what they wanted, they put him inside a house where the whale was, and they fed him for a certain amount of days [?]. He was forgotten there [?]. They finished all the whale meat and blubber and every [unclear] went out and got the skin of the baidarkis [unclear] and the parts from the inside of the baidarkis. He started taking off pieces of the baidarki itself and got caught doing that. Someone reported that to the chief who gave orders to raise a pole and put the boy on top of it. Whoever hit him with an arrow would get a price. One of the villagers killed him and the boy was left lying there.

One of the elderly women went to get water and saw the it [the boy?] lay there and she thought that his skin would make a nice cap for her so she picked the corpse up on her way back home. She skinned it and made a cap out of it.

Some time passed and the father and the mother never heard of their son, so they went to the village where the boy had gone. One went one way and the other the other way. While passing the hills and the valleys the mother came across a woman who was picking berries. The mother sat out of sight where she could hear the berry picker but not be seen. She sang a song about how she had sent her only son to fetch whale from the village and never heard of him again. Finally the berry picker thought that the singing came from a spirit because she didn't see anyone, and so she replied by singing that they had had the son but they never gave him a chance to return. He had been hungry and had fed himself with baidarki leather and was killed because of it. She sang too, that she had made a cap out of his skin. The woman who was hiding got mad and started running towards the village. Her husband was already battling the villagers and killing them one by one. They took what they wanted and only left the woman alive who had made the cap. Then they went home.

55:43 That story has been told by blind man Sidra Sigrah [sp?] in late [unclear], 10-12, around those years [1910-1912?]. [Unclear talking.] It was camping out, seal hunting, and he told that [unclear] give to the family. He comes to "this village" and the Aleut Name of the man is [Unclear, sounds like Takvalokh.] The man had his pride and he ate just a little bit in order to be polite. [Unclear.] After everybody went to sleep, Takvalok went quietly into the place where the cooking pots were. [Story is the same than in ORAL HISTORY 78-86, and of poor sound quality.]

1:02:40 Anfesia tells the boy who got lost in the fog, got over to another village and was killed there. [Copy of ORAL HISTORY 78-86.]

[End of the recording.]