

Call number of interview: 85-118

Series title: Chinook Radio Programs (Chinook Echos)

Date of interview: 1979

Name of person writing the summary: Jesse Adamczyk

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Notes: 7" tape, master copy on CD

[3:31] A native woman from Nelson Island sings a juggling song.

[5:53] A children's jump rope song is sung by a native woman jumping rope.

[8:01] A story song is played.

[10:31] A one string fiddle is played by an Alaska Native man while he sings along.

[12:19] Second part of recording: Emily Ivanoff Brown discusses a multicultural center.

Location of Interview: KUASCSM University of Alaska Fairbanks

Radio Host: Paula Schuler

Radio Guests: Tom Johnston, Emily Ivanoff Brown

Summary:

Paula Schuler discusses music from Southwest Alaska with University of Alaska Fairbanks ethnomusicologist Tom Johnston. Traditional songs are played after Johnston gives some background information on each piece played. Johnston describes the variations of Yupik songs and how they have been preserved because of native speakers. Most of the children's songs are being forgotten because the native youth are in school or away from home. The different kinds of materials used in the native instruments are described. One string fiddle instruments were found from Alaska to Greenland by missionaries and explorers in the 19th century. [12:19] In the second portion of the Chinook Echos recording, Emily Ivanoff Brown, a chairman of the Alaska Heritage Writers Association (AWHA), discusses how and why she wants to build a multicultural center for Alaska Natives. Brown's goal is to see a native multicultural center built so there will be a place which Alaska Native people will be comfortable in. Because so many of the books on have cultures are hidden away in libraries, she wants the books to be organized and available for the public to readily access in order for the literature to be preserved. Songs, dances, festivals, and games are written about in literature, but they have never been performed or witnessed in modern day. The multicultural center had not been fully planned out and AWHA was in search of leadership from an informed individual to reorganize the AHWA. Brown

wanted to educate the Alaska Native people on the artistic value within their culture, but she also wanted to ensure that their lives were not run by the dominant culture. In order to represent the different native groups across Alaska, Brown talks about how the multicultural center should be architecturally designed. She describes some of the requirements and challenges in trying to build the multicultural center. One of the primary needs for the center was funding, so AHWA was working on getting public and federal funding for their project.