

## **90-06-279**

Elders in Residence Collection. Jimmie and Mabel Toolie are interviewed in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Keywords: Siberian Yup'ik, Yup'ik song and dance, St. Lawrence Island, the making of Yup'ik drums

Release agreement: Yes, no Internet.

Recording date: 1991 (?)

Summarized by: Cecilie R. Ebsen

Summary date: 09.19.2014

Length of recording: 01.10.30

### **Teacher (Theresa John)**

00:01:23.31

Introduces Jimmie and Mabel Toolie.

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:01:35.35

Jimmie introduces himself and explains how he is an Eskimo dance teacher at Savoonga high school.

### **Students**

00:06:44.05

How many people lived in Savoonga?

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:06:50.67

Jimmie estimates about 500 people live there today.

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:09:45.44

Jimmie and Mabel Toolie have six living children today and over 40 grandchildren.

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:12:16.00

White man calls him "Tulle" while Natives call him Toolie

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:14:02.69

Jimmie is [has been] mayor and chief herder.

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:15:34.12

Jimmie makes his own sled. It is the kind without a handle.

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:18:10.28

[Shows the class drums and discusses how much they might cost]

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:21:37.74

Before they got hickory to make drums they used driftwood. They put oil on the driftwood to make it bendy.

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:23:23.07

[Sings and drums for the class]

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:28:58.59

Talks about the umiak skin boat.

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:32:14.12

Talks about living in Anchorage and working for the Air Force.

### **Mabel Toolie**

00:32:26.26

Mabel was very homesick when they lived in Anchorage.

### **Teacher (Theresa John)**

00:45:05.04

Asks Jimmie and Mabel if they want their grandchildren to go to college?

### **Mabel Toolie**

00:45:46.72

They would, when they are ready.

### **Students**

00:49:28.05

Asks if the little kids speak Yup'ik in Savoonga?

### **Jimmie Toolie**

00:49:41.30

Some of them do.

### **Students**

00:50:00.10

Are there any Russians on the Island?

**Jimmie Toolie**

00:50:08.81

No. [Jimmie comments some more on the Siberian Yup'ik language]

**Students**

00:51:10.70

Do the girls get to learn how to make drums too?

**Jimmie Toolie**

00:51:20.05

Anyone in the class gets to do it [Correct interpretation?]

**Jimmie Toolie**

00:57:19.47

Jimmie talks about dancing. Women sometimes sing too.

**Students**

00:58:07.36

A student asks Mabel is she would like to play the drum too?

**Mabel Toolie**

00:58:22.48

She answers no.

**Teacher (Theresa John)**

00:58:34.62

[Translates for Mabel] Mostly the women sat in the back while the men drummed in the front.

**Students**

01:00:05.77

Do they have a walrus song?

**Jimmie Toolie**

01:00:10.46

They do.

[He sings and drums it]

[He teaches the class how to dance the walrus dance]

**Jimmie Toolie**

01:05:37.75

They do dance exchanges with other villages, but they have never done so with Athabascan interior villages.

## **Jimmie Toolie**

01:09:11.80

[Sings a mainland song]