

90-06-280_SIDE_A and B

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

Keywords: Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos, St. Lawrence Island, major chiefs, bear camp, reindeer herding, sailing ships, corrals, ice, black bears, wolves, school, tents, trapping, white fox, walrus, seal, snowshoes, weather patterns, marriage rituals, dowry,

Release agreement: Yes, no Internet.

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Summarized by: Cecilie R. Ebsen

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Length of recording: Side A: 00.45.52, Side B: 00.39.57

00:01:16.50

[Practical organization of class activities]

Students

00:04:03.76

Jimmie mentioned that he was mayor/chief, how did he become that?

Jimmie Toolie

00:04:22.74

In the village they vote for the mayor. Two boys ran and Savoonga people voted. Jimmie von and was mayor for four years. He was also the chief herder for reindeer. After four years as mayor they have to elect someone else. Jimmie selected a boy to run after him, but the council asked Jimmie to run again too. He ended up being mayor for more than ten years.

Jimmie Toolie

00:07:18.40

He likes to work as a chief herder and go and stay in the dear camp during winter. For a whole month they stay out there.

Jimmie Toolie

00:08:51.36

If something happens out there they have to do by dog sleds to Savoonga where there is a doctor.

Jimmie Toolie

00:10:34.13

In 1914 he became a reindeer herder.

Jimmie Toolie

00:11:28.87

They earmarked their reindeer by cutting them with a knife.

Jimmie Toolie

00:12:04.45

In the winter they would corral and butcher the reindeer. They would use their skin for clothing. They got 45 cents pr. hour.

Jimmie Toolie

00:15:18.00

Talks about mukluk and what the different parts of the seal and walrus are called.

Jimmie Toolie

00:19:14.49

Talks about reindeer herding and the location of the deer camp five miles from the beach, southside.

Jimmie Toolie

00:28:58.92

Talks about seeing bears and wolves while herding

Jimmie Toolie

00:32:26.18

Jimmie went to school until 7th grade when he was 14 years old.

Jimmie Toolie

00:35:39.20

In March and April there is lots of ice. That is when Captain Peterson comes by boat to buy reindeer fur.

Jimmie Toolie

00:38:05.09

Jimmie is 88 years old.

Jimmie Toolie

00:41:18.55

Jimmie talks about foxes, but does not have any old stories about them.

Jimmie Toolie

00:43:41.33

He hunts walrus and uses baby walrus hide to make rope. They also call this young mukluk.

Jimmie Toolie

00:45:01.68

They used to use snowshoes in the winter to get around. Today they don't do that as much because it is too windy. If there were moving clouds they advised

the boys to not go hunting. One time he went to stay with his cousin and the cousin advised him not to try to go back to Savoonga because of the weather. His father told him the same thing. He decided not to go because old people know.

In the afternoon a storm rolled in. They learn from the old people. When they go on the ice they watch the sea. If they see it moving, the old people tell them to come to the shore before the current changes. One time some people got stuck on the ice and couldn't come to the shore because they didn't listen. Next time they listened.

Jimmie Toolie

00:02:33.52

Right now Jimmie teaches Eskimo dance in school, but he doesn't only sing, he also teaches them.

Mabel Toolie

00:04:05.74

[Mabel talks in Yup'ik and Jimmie translates] The young people never listen.

Jimmie Toolie

00:04:34.06

They let the white man take over the role of teacher and so the kids stopped listening to the elders.

Jimmie Toolie

00:06:41.50

When Jimmie started going hunting by boat, one man made him a skin boat that was 29 feet long. He bought it for \$ 800.

Jimmie Toolie

00:09:19.60

They change the skin on the boats every 3-4 years. In the old days they changed the skin every year because they used them much more and dragged them across the ice a lot.

Jimmie Toolie

00:14:42.38

Talks about treatment of skin and rope and how to sew it for the boats. It takes three women one day to make the skin for a boat. They use whale sinew to sew the skin together.

Mabel Toolie

00:18:21.12

Mabel doesn't sew much anymore but sometimes she teaches younger girls how

to do it.

Jimmie Toolie

00:22:42.35

They make drums from walrus stomach. Sometimes it takes two stomachs or one really big one.

Mabel Toolie

00:24:26.15

Mabel was born in a deer camp on the south side of Savoonga. It was September 1st, 1909. Her sister was born in Gambell but died.

Jimmie Toolie

00:25:39.06

Jimmie met Mabel in 1924 in Savoonga.

Teacher (Theresa John)

00:28:57.44

Theresa asks how Jimmie and Mabel handle a disagreement, how they settle it?

Mabel Toolie

00:29:12.02

Her father always punished her and she did not like him. He was tall.

Jimmie Toolie

00:30:36.20

Jimmie told him to stop and get away from her and he finally did. [Alternative interpretation: Mabel ran away from Jimmie when they first got married]

Jimmie Toolie

00:32:40.94

Jimmie explains how parents give gifts as part of marriage ritual.

Teacher (Theresa John)

00:34:42.62

Shares how her grandmother was nine years old when she got married. They used dowries as part of their marriage ritual. Her grandmother was playing outside when her grandfather first saw her. She wasn't in puberty yet so her new husband was not allowed to sleep with her.

Teacher (Theresa John)

00:39:47.94

Practical information for the class