

90-06-283

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

Keywords: Reindeer herding, St. Lawrence Island, Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos, walrus hides, seal oil lamps, Savoonga in 1914, fishing, arranged marriage, butchering walrus, ivory, dog sleds and dog commands

Release agreement: Yes, no Internet.

Recording date: October 1, 1991

Summarized by: Cecilie R. Ebsen

Summary date: 10.13.2014

Length of recording: 01.16.30

Jimmie Toolie

00:01:56.10

[Jimmie talks about his daughter who just called him to update him on the family]

Jimmie Toolie

00:02:36.90

Jimmie wants to tell them about becoming a reindeer herder when he was 14 years old. [Talks about this - identical to other recordings where he talks about reindeer herding]

Jimmie Toolie

00:12:14.32

Jimmie hunts walrus with a harpoon. He made his harpoon [head] out of ivory. He has promised some of the boys that he will teach them how to hunt walrus when he gets back from Fairbanks. No one else teaches them. In the wintertime the ice push to the shore and they go hunt walrus. One time he went hunting with two others and the ice broke loose so there was suddenly 500 yards of open water. They were able to make it back to shore with the help of a harpoon.

Jimmie Toolie

00:17:47.03

Jimmie needs more ivory to make a new harpoon.

Jimmie Toolie

00:19:14.90

One time he went hunting with his cousin's brother. Several men wanted to go hunting but Jimmie advised them not to [either because they didn't know how or because of bad weather, not clear]. The men used harpoons but they didn't tie them up, so the walrus dragged them once they shot them. One boy was lost that way and the others were told not to go hunting anymore.

Jimmie Toolie

00:27:06.58

Jimmie loves hunting walrus. [Tells a couple more stories of hunting walrus]

Jimmie Toolie

00:30:39.72

Jimmie starts talking about reindeer herding here.

Jimmie Toolie

00:32:36.40

Jimmie didn't meet his wife until they were married.

Jimmie Toolie

00:35:01.68

When they hunt walrus they watch them to find out when they will appear.

Jimmie Toolie

00:38:52.38

If Jimmie had some ivory he would use it for a dogsled [or he would transport it on dogsled?]. [Talks about the different commands that he knows like yehaa [sp?]]

Jimmie Toolie

00:42:52.35

One time he ran to grab his anchor and he was faster than his dogs because of all the running exercise he had done.

Jimmie Toolie

00:47:34.47

[Recording shots of sound]

Jimmie Toolie

00:47:53.12

[Recording comes back on]

Students

00:48:44.87

What kind of things did Jimmie do as Mayor?

Jimmie Toolie

00:48:57.23

When someone did something wrong he talked to them.

Students

00:54:45.27

Asks if Jimmie can talk a bit about the windmills they have gotten on St.

Lawrence Island.

Jimmie Toolie

00:56:39.61

[Jimmie does not give any clear answers on this subject]

Teacher (Theresa John)

00:58:29.40

How do you know when someone has done something wrong?

Jimmie Toolie

00:58:40.72

Other people tell him and ask him to talk to them. Tells a story of two boys playing with a gun and one boy shot the other. Jimmie found the boy who had gotten shot and got the story from him. The boy died from the gunshots because it was not possible to transport him anywhere for medical help.

Jimmie Toolie

01:06:01.29

The other boy never went to jail.

Jimmie Toolie

01:06:53.44

Jimmie's family lost one man once. He would go watch seals in the skin boats. [Not clear if he fell in the water or got shot accidentally.]

Jimmie Toolie

01:09:00.07

A long time ago if someone killed somebody they would be killed too.

Jimmie Toolie

01:09:41.29

One time Jimmie went to Seattle to school by boat [or he was suppose to but his grandmother forbid it, not clear which one]

Jimmie Toolie

01:12:57.52

[Jimmie sings a song]

Teacher (Theresa John)

01:13:55.34

Asks if Jimmie can do his walrus dance too

Jimmie Toolie

01:14:02.94

[He sings and dance the walrus dance]