

90-06-53

Elders in Residence Collection. Elders Jimmie Toolie and Mabel Toolie from St. Lawrence Island are interviewed by students of the Alaska Native studies 401 class at University of Alaska Fairbanks, spring semester 1984.

Keywords: Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos, St. Lawrence Island, walrus hunting, lamps, hunting, care of elders, boats, whaling, subsistence and territories.

Release agreement: Yes, no Internet.

Summarized by Cecilie R. Ebsen

Summary date: 10.16.14

Length of recording: 00.53.50

00:00:23.85

[Teacher follows up on Jimmie's earlier description of harpoons and how they used them.]

Mabel Toolie

00:01:18.80

[Mabel made something for the harpoon that she shows in class] It is made out of burned moss.

Teacher

00:02:43.15

How did they get fires going before they had matches?

Mabel Toolie

00:02:55.61

They kept the fire going at all times during winter and summer.

Teacher

00:03:33.41

Asks if their lamps ever died out?

Jimmie Toolie

00:03:43.20

They always kept them burning.

Teacher

00:05:24.92

Asks Jimmie to demonstrate how to carry the harpoon

Jimmie Toolie

00:06:57.72

[Jimmie demonstrates and explains how to use a harpoon to hunt walrus. It is difficult to follow without illustration]

Jimmie Toolie

00:24:17.03

They know exactly where the bones are in the whale or walrus and they aim the harpoon so they don't hit bone.

Jimmie Toolie

00:27:54.75

[Jimmie talks about the methods for killing and cutting the walrus]

Teacher

00:34:48.99

William Paul made a speech in 1972 at the AFN convention. It was about two months before The Land Claim Settlement Act was signed. William Paul made a number of points of why the Settlement Act was not ideal; points that people ignored at the time, but that many agree with today. He talked about how he was nearing his second childhood, which is interesting as he was almost 70 years old. The way William Paul talks about his people is similiar to the way Jimmie Toolie talks about people from Savoonga and Gambel.

Teacher

00:38:52.36

Asks Jimmie is they ever used bone from the whale.

Jimmie Toolie

00:39:05.37

They used the jaw bone, which was about 12 feet, for skinboats.

Jimmie Toolie

00:41:12.57

They don't use a motorboat for whaling, instead they use sails. When a whale is spotted the first boat flags down the other boats and they all turn to sails instead of motors.

Jimmie Toolie

00:45:11.60

They have a meat cellar that is shared among several families. They sometimes dry walrus meat.

Teacher

00:45:36.05

Asks if there are certain hunting grounds for certain families?

Jimmie Toolie

00:45:55.88

They have hunting camps. If someone else came to Jimmie's camp that would be

okay. They have specific places with traplines but hunting area are not specifically designated.

Students

00:48:15.20

A student talks about invisible boundaries in hunting areas and how in her region they have to ask permission from certain people to go to their areas [Difficult to hear].

Teacher

00:51:42.44

Seems like St. Lawrence island is more open than other places in Alaska.