

## TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Narrated by David Andrew

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David was born in 1940 and raised in Cuukvagtuliq by his parents until their death in 1950. At which time he went to live with his sister and her husband Greg and Martha Chief in Bethel Alaska. David then moved to Chicago in 1964 to earn a living working for Welch Manufacturing until the manufacturing business went bankrupt in 1973, he moved around for a year in the lower 48. David decided to move permanently back to Bethel in 1974. Upon his arrival, he discovered that a canary was operating and worked seasonally for them.

When he was a very young boy before the time of dump trucks, and the dumpsite was located at Hanger Lake. Bethel having only one road called Mission Road named by the Moravians. At which time there was only one truck owned by the Moravians. In addition, the only airplanes that landed on the very small airport attached to Mission Road were Super Cubs. Before the time of housing. When David still lived with his parents at Cuukvagtuliq...

The family used a bowl of oil with a canvas wick for lighting inside their homes. Later his father got a small lantern, and his older brother was the first in the family to get a generator. David remembers that his parents were always very clean. In fact, everyone was very clean. Nobody at that time ever littered. David is very flabbergasted at how now a day the young people will unwrap a piece of gum and throw the wrapper on the ground, or discard empty soda cans on the ground without giving a thought to being disrespectful to Mother Nature.

In November, the family moved to their winter camp up river in Cuukvagtuliq where they hunted mink including other fur animals, and ice fish all winter long for their survival. In the month of May, the family moved again this time to their summer fish camp, which was located close to Oscarville.

Before the family moved, everyone cleaned up the campsite. All the trash put into a trash hole called Teq'aq. The teq'aq dug up behind the trees away from the camp and waterway at each campsite. To prevent animals from ransacking the campsite the teq'aq was thoroughly covered up so that nobody knew that it was ever there in the first place, but they always remembered where it was so as not to accidentally dig the new teq'aq in the same spot. Each seasonal campsite left pristine. As it should be.

When the men went out hunting, they always made a walk around for garbage whenever the men made a stop to refresh or clean any of their catch. The men buried the waste, and bones of all the animals they caught. With instructions by his elder brother, never to step on any part of what they buried in the ground as a sign of respect to the animal.

David's strict teaching came from his parents, and the Moravian church, which was. "God sees everything." "God gives you to keep it clean." In addition, "God know who the people are that litter." It is very important to him to keep everything clean, and has kept that teaching close to himself all these 77 years of his life. When he sees animal bone's laying aground, he has to stop pick them up and put them in the garbage can.

To this day, he is very cognizant and is very important to him to keep his immediate surrounding clean. From his person to his household, and even when he takes walks around town, he will stop and pick as much trash as he can hold until he comes across a trash can. David said that it is a daily struggle to keep his environment clean.

Everybody put their trash into the teq'aaq rather than leave it on the ground. The teaching on littering never left derelict. If a person littered, blowflies would become a nuisance and lay larvae causing a stench to their campsite. This was a sign of ill teaching, carelessness, and laziness. When visitors came - having been taught the same thing - would cause embarrassment to the whole family.

David also expressed that due to his leaving Alaska to eke out a living he has missed out on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. He has since tried to get assistance in claiming land to no avail. David has no idea where to turn to for assistance.