

ANTHROPOLOGY IN ALASKA
Friday, March 22, 1974

- 8:00-12:00 Noon Registration - Building K-205
- 12:00-1:00 pm Buffet Lunch (Cost \$2) - Lucy Cuddy Center
- 1:15-4:30 pm The Alaska Native - Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Chairperson: Leslie Richards, Bldg. K-215
- 1:15-1:30 pm "Food Taboos and Attitudes Toward Animals"
Leslie Richards, Anchorage Community College
- 1:30-1:50 pm "A Statement Concerning the Impact of the Eliot
Highway on New Minto, Alaska, an Athabascan Village",
Dan Slaby, University of Alaska, College
- 1:50-2:10 pm "Reincarnation Beliefs in Southeastern Alaska",
Petty Hulbert, Alaska State Museum, Juneau
- 2:10-2:30 pm "The Economics of Kinship Among the North Alaskan Eskimo",
T.F. Eidel, University of Alaska, Anchorage
- 2:30-2:50 pm "On the Time Reckoning of the Koyukon According to J. Jette,
S.J.", Gisela M. Dykema, University of Alaska, College
- 2:50-3:00 pm Coffee Break
- 3:00-3:20 pm "The Meaning and Origin of the Lower Koyukon Feast for
the Dead", Craig Mishler, University of Alaska, Anchorage
- 3:20-3:40 pm "Change and Stability in Alaskan Eskimo and Indian Musics",
Thomas F. Johnston, University of Alaska, College
- 3:40-4:00 pm "The Impact of 'Convenience' Foods on a Community in
Western Alaska", Michael Nowak, Colorado College, Colorado
Springs, Colorado
- 4:00-4:20 pm "The King Island Eskimo: An Emic View of Community Relocation"
Linda J. Ellanna, Anchorage Community College
- 4:20-4:40 pm "Status of Anthropology--University of Alaska, College",
John P. Cook, University of Alaska, College
- 4:40-5:00 pm Coffee Break
- 5:00-6:00 pm Forum--"You Talk, We Listen: Alaska Native Views on Anthropology",
Chairperson: Linda Ellanna, Bldg. K-215
- 7:15-8:15 pm Distinguished Conference Speaker, William S. Laughlin, Ph.D.,
Professor of Biobehavioral Sciences, Chairman, Laboratory of
Biological Anthropology, University of Connecticut. Bldg. K-215
- 8:45-11:00 pm Informal Party

Saturday, March 23, 1974

- 8:40-11:45 am Alaska Linguistics, Ethnohistory, and Miscellaneous
Chairperson: Joan Tenenbaum, Bldg. K-215
- 8:40-9:00 am "Tanaina Dialects", James Kari, Soldotna
- 9:00-9:20 am "Linguistic Research as a Foundation for Second Language Teaching--some Practical and Theoretical Problems", Joan Tenenbaum, Nondalton
- 9:20-9:40 am "A Brief History of the Importance of Railroading to the Development of Alaska", William M. Thomasson, Alaska-Yukon Railroad Historical Society
- 9:40-9:50 am Coffee Break
- 9:50-10:10 am "American and Early Alaskan History", Ian W. Brown, in absentia, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island (Paper will be read by Charles E. Holmes.)
- 10:10-10:30 am "Tlingit and Haida Land Claims: A Manifestation of Economic Trends in Alaska", Jane A. Johnson, University of Alaska, College
- 10:30-10:50 am "Chiefdom--Par Excellence: Dahomean Economy" Buff Jacobson, University of Alaska, Anchorage
- 10:50-11:10 am "Alaskan Collections in European Museums", Mary Pat Wyatt, Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum
- 11:10-11:30 am "A Disappearing Ecological World-View Among the Bella Bella: So What?" Kerry Feldman, University of Alaska, Anchorage
- 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch, Lucy Cuddy Center (Cost \$3.50)
- 1:00-3:15 pm Physical Anthropology and Archaeology in Alaska
Chairperson: William B. Workman Bldg. K-215
- 1:00-1:20 pm "Analysis of Eskimo Dental Attrition", Charles J. Utermohle, University of Alaska, College
- 1:20-1:40 pm "The Interrelationships between Health Problems and Environment Living Conditions in the Arctic", Quentin A. Fisher, M.D., Ketchikan
- 1:40-2:00 pm "Early Maritime Cultures About the Gulf of Alaska", William B. Workman, Alaska Methodist University
- 2:00-2:15 pm Coffee Break
- 2:15-2:35 pm "Anangula Blade Site Excavations, 1972 and 1973", Sara B. Laughlin, William S. Laughlin and Mary E. McDowell, University of Connecticut. (Paper will be read by William S. Laughlin.)

- 2:35-2:55 pm "Diffusion of Material Culture Traits as Seen in the Archaeological Record at Lake Minchumina". Charles E. Holmes, Alaska Resource Planning Team, Anchorage
- 2:55-3:15 pm "The Application of Dendrochronology to Dating a Proto-historic Athapaskan Site at Chitna, Alaska", David C. Plaskett, University of Alaska, College
- 3:20-5:45 pm Forum: "Anthropology/Archaeology, Special Alaskan Problems"
Chairperson: Wallace M. Olson Bldg. K-215
- 3:20-3:40 pm "The Role of the State in Alaskan Archaeology", William S. Hanable, Alaska Division of Parks, Anchorage
- 3:40-4:00 pm "Problem and Potential in Alaskan Public Archaeology", Karen Wood Workman, State Archaeologist, Alaska Division of Parks, Anchorage
- 4:00-4:20 pm "The Unpaid Anthropologist: Opportunities, Rewards, Pitfalls, and the Future", Charles Lucier, State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage
- 4:20-4:40 pm "Emics and Etics: Whatever Happened to Ethics?" Wallace M. Olson, Juneau-Douglas Community College
- 4:40-5:00 pm "The Extra-Legal Forum and Legal Power: The Dynamics of the Relationship in Alaska and Other Places", Steve Conn, University of Alaska, College, ISE3R
- 5:00-5:45 pm Alaskan Problems, Discussion
- 5:45 pm End of Meetings

ABSTRACTS FOR ANTHROPOLOGY IN ALASKA CONFERENCE

Brown, Ian W. Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
"American and Early Alaskan History"

Because of the extreme mobility of the Americans and their failure to establish settlements between 1788-1812, they were in a much more advantageous position than either the Russians or British in securing a monopoly of the fur trade along the Alaskan Coast. Of importance in this question is the American involvement in the Sitka massacre, and subsequent activities of Americans as middlemen between China and the Russian posts in Alaska.

Conn, Steve University of Alaska, College, ISEGR.
"The Extra-Legal Forum and Legal Power: The Dynamics of the Relationship in Alaska and Other Places"

Abstract not available at time of printing.

Cook, John P. University of Alaska, College.
"Status of Anthropology--University of Alaska, College"

Recent trends in the three fields of teaching, research, and public service will be outlined, following a brief history of the Department from its inception. Present philosophy, goals, and the methods for obtaining those goals will be explained.

Dykema, Gisela M. College.
"On the Time Reckoning of the Koyukon According to J. Jette, S.J."

This paper calls to attention one of the ethnographic contributions of Jette which to this date remains unpublished. It centers on time designations which were used by the Koyukon and which were recorded by Jette during his stay among them, 1898-1926.

Eidel, T. F. University of Alaska, Anchorage.
"The Economics of Kinship Among the North Alaska Eskimo"

The purpose of this paper is to illustrate the results of confusing theoretical models with functioning systems in delineating Eskimo kinship, and the results of thinking that kinship can be successfully dealt with as an isolated unit, independent of the rest of the society. This paper will also address itself to the degree of variation which exists within Eskimo societies.

The presentation of alternative views beyond the scope of this paper. Let it suffice to say that alternative approaches

do exist which render more accurate results. However, as an illustrative example, the kinship of the Tareumiut, Kingikmiut and Kovagmiut of the northwest coast of Alaska is very briefly viewed in light of economic practices.

Ellanna, Linda J. Anchorage Community College, Alaska.
"The King Island Eskimo: An Emic View of Community Relocation"

During the first half of this century the Eskimo of King Island have gradually formed a sub-community of Nome which exhibits distinctive cultural characteristics, in-group identity, and community solidarity within the larger, more heterogenous, semi-urban Nome community. The emic view of both this relocation process and its effects on King Island culture and society will be explored in this paper. It is hypothesized that this emic view of relocation is a critical factor in the analysis and understanding of persistent King Island community solidarity throughout decades of intense contact with Nome.

Feldman, Kerry University of Alaska, Anchorage.
"A Disappearing Ecological World-View Among the Bella Bella: So What?"

This paper will present linguistic data pertaining to aspects of the ecological world-view of the Bella Bella Indians of Campbell Island, British Columbia, a world-view that disappears as the native language fades into disuse.

The field work for the paper was carried out in the summer of 1970 when the author was a neophyte graduate student in anthropology. Looking back, the experience raises several questions not only as to the nature of field work and the significance of anthropological research topics, but also as to the ethical concerns a student anthropologist should become familiarized with.

Fisher, Quentin A., M.D. Ketchikan.
"The Interrelationships Between Health Problems and Environmental Living Conditions in the Artic"

The interrelationships between health problems and environmental living conditions are particularly evident in the Artic. Thinking and planning for health care necessarily parallels awareness of other environmental factors. Using the recent outbreak of Infectious Hepatitis in Barrow as an example, discussion will center on how housing, climate, sanitation and cultural habits relate to individual and community health.

Hanable, William S. Alaska Division of Parks, Anchorage.
"The Role of the State in Alaskan Archaeology"

This paper describes the role of State government in Alaska in the management and conservation of archaeological resources and proposes areas in which changes can be made.

Alaska's Constitution and statutes written at the time of Statehood direct the Department of Natural Resources to develop continuing plans for conservation and maximum use in the public interest of the historic and archaeological resources of the State. These directives have been strengthened by the Alaska Historic Preservation Act of 1971 which declares State ownership of prehistoric, historic, and archaeological resources on land owned or controlled by the State; establishes an Historic Sites Advisory Committee to advise the Governor on policies necessary for preservation of the State's historic and archaeological resources; and creates the position of State Archaeologist. Better management of historic and archaeological resources seems to require amendment of sections of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act to restrict sale of artifacts, change composition of the Historic Sites Advisory Committee, and place the position of State Archaeologist within the State civil service merit system.

Holmes, Charles E. Alaska Resource Planning Team, Anchorage.
"Diffusion of Material Culture Traits as Seen in the Archaeological Record at Lake Minchumina"

Evidence from the Minchumina site indicates indirect contacts between prehistoric Eskimo and Athabascan cultures in central Alaska. Alternative interpretations are suggested which set up an archaeological problem. Who were the inhabitants of the site? Were they Athabascan, Eskimo, or another group unknown in the ethnographic record?

A working hypothesis is offered, a theoretical approach suggested, and a method for testing the hypothesis and solving the problem is outlined.

Hulbert, Betty Alaska State Museum, Juneau.
"Reincarnation Beliefs in Southeastern Alaska"

A firm belief in reincarnation still exists among many Tlingit and Haida people of Southeastern Alaska. The extent to which this pre-contact belief has survived acculturation suggests it may have once been a generally accepted philosophy. This paper presents an over-view of the belief and statistics regarding documented case studies.

Jacobsen, Buff V. University of Alaska, Anchorage.
"Chiefdom--Par Excellence; Dahomean Economy"

"Chiefdom Par Excellence" is a paper based on economic aspects of 18th century Dahomey of West Africa. Primarily covering Karl Polanyi's studies, it briefly details census-taking, which comprised the structural base for economic function; the taxation system; the annual customs ceremony; the annual wars; methods of resource conservation; the monetary system and short summary.

Johnson, Jane A. University of Alaska, College.
"Tlingit and Haida Land Claims: A Manifestation of Economic Trends in Alaska"

Because the Tlingit-Haida land claims agitation predate the land claims settlement act of 1971, and in some cases clarified several political and legal issues before Alaska's Native population the history of the Tlingit-Haida movement provides essential background information for a fuller understanding of the Native land claims issue.

A study of the history of native land claims in Alaska is illustrative of the fluctuations in United States Indian policy which alternated between encouraging a reservation system, and advocating total assimilation of the natives into white culture. Although included in the land claims settlement act of 1971, the Tlingits and Haidas received separate consideration due to the court settlement of their earlier agitation for compensation. In short, the Tlingits and Haidas are a special case, and an examination of their land claims settlement is particularly revealing of the impact of an aggressive society on an aboriginal culture.

Johnston, Thomas F. University of Alaska, College.
"Change and Stability in Alaskan Eskimo and Indian Musics"

The problem-oriented study of music-in-culture has much to contribute to Alaskan anthropology, not only with regard to native world-view, self-concept, and felt cultural identity, but also in the field of linguistics. It also throws light upon differential rates of change in form and function: stability in native musical form (sound, style, songworks, instruments, and association with dance, games, stories) has, interestingly enough, been paralleled by considerable change in musical function. The performing situation at ANB, ANS, Eskimo Olympic, and town-potlatch gathering-ups reflects increasing musical secularization, the social meaning of which is explored in this paper.

Kari, James Soldotna.
"Tanaina Dialects"

The following will be discussed: present-day condition of the Tanaina language; a preliminary classification of the Tanaina dialects

based on shared phonological, morphological, and lexical traits. A discussion of the importance of Tanaina for Athapaskan linguistics; and the prospects for a Tanaina language maintenance effort.

Laughlin, William S., Laughlin, Sara B., McDowell, Mary E.
University of Connecticut.
"Anangula Blade Site Excavations, 1972 and 1973"

Anagula Island, eastern Aleutian Islands, has the oldest and largest archaeological site on the Bering Sea coast. The 900 year span of occupation (8700-7800 BP) ended when rising sea levels forced the people to leave, but tectonic uplift, some 2,000 years later, preserved the site from submergence. Excavations on the coastal margins showed reduced tool density and less site erosion on the Nikolski Bay side, higher tool density and more site erosion on the Bering Sea side, a distinction between contaminated and uncontaminated carbon specimens, confirmation of the span of occupation, a factory site with a carved stone lamp, and sea level changes documented by cultural occupation, major ashfall stratigraphy and radiocarbon dates.

Lucier, Charles State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.
"The Unpaid Anthropologist: Opportunities, Rewards, Pitfalls, and the Future"

This paper will present a defense of the thesis that the amateur anthropologist should participate in northern studies. It will be shown that obstacles to achievement by part-time anthropologists can be overcome; non-material rewards are ample; and knowledge gained from such studies can spread informally and by publications. Positive working arrangements can be created and maintained between northern peoples, others and new technologies.

Mishler, Craig Anchorage Community College
"The Meaning and Origin of the Lower Koyukon Feast for the Dead"

Briefly described will be the nature and function of the Feast for the Dead. The thesis to be presented is that this week-long ceremonial complex, popularly known as the Stick Dance, reflects the mixing and melting of several distinct cultural traditions that have profoundly altered whatever ritual might have existed prior to white contact. These external traditions can be identified as coastal Yupik, Ingalik Athabascan, and perhaps most importantly, Russian.

Nowak, Micheal Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
"The Impact of 'Convenience' Foods on a Community in Western Alaska"

With modern air traffic, even remote areas of North America are subject to aspects of modern American urban civilization. One of these is the supermarket foods commonly available to American consumers. Many of these foods have been processed and packaged so as to maximize consumer convenience in preparation for consumption.

This paper examines the acceptance of such foods in an Eskimo community in Southwestern Alaska, and discusses some of the factors for acceptance or rejection of these and other food imports. The single most important factor in modern Eskimo diet in general appears to be their socio-economic position. The latter can usually be translated directly into amount of money earned or obtained annually.

Olson, Wallace M. Juneau-Douglas Community College.
"Emics and Etics: Whatever Happened to Ethics?"

The concern for methodology and techniques has overshadowed the most important questions of Anthropology--"What do we owe the discipline? The Informants? The Students?" The problems of the use and misuse of anthropological research and teaching will be discussed in light of the American Anthropological Association's "Statement On Principles of Professional Responsibility."

Plaskett, David C. University of Alaska, College.
"The Application of Dendrochronology to Dating a Protohistoric Athapaskan Site at Chitna, Alaska"

This paper will discuss the results of applying dendrochronological dating techniques to a protohistoric Athapaskan site. This Ahtena site will be located geographically, and a climate description presented based on archaeological data. By means of slides and discussion, the entire process of archaeological dating by dendrochronological means will be presented.

Richards, Leslie Anchorage Community College.
"Food Taboos and Attitudes Toward Animals"

Attitudes towards animals are expressive of a people's conception of the world around them and people's relationships to non-human beings in their environment. Food taboos are a dramatization of emotions pertaining to specific animals. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the implied world view that is expressed in taboos against the consumption of specific species of animals. Kinds of data to be examined is taken from mythology, informant statements and anthropological theory. Areas of concentration are African tribal societies and Alaskan Athabascan and Eskimo societies.

Slaby, Dan University of Alaska, College.
"A Statement Concerning the Impact of the Eliot Highway on New
Minto, Alaska, an Athabascan Village"

New Minto, Alaska, is a recently relocated village (1968) in interior Alaska which, because of its site selection, had road access to Fairbanks via the Eliot Highway. The thesis of this paper is that the major effect of the road has been to increase the socio-cultural integration of this rural community to the urban influence of Fairbanks.

Tenebaum, Joan M. Nondalton, Alaska.
"Linguistic Research as a Foundation for Second Language Teaching--
Some Practical and Theoretical Problems"

Nondalton is an Athapaskan community whose language is dying. The people, aware of this fact and already feeling its impact, desire that the language be taught to their children. This paper will focus on the unique and challenging problems involved in the context of the Nondalton community, in which the author is currently residing and conducting linguistic research.

Thomasson, William M. Alaska-Yukon Railroad Historical Society.
"A Brief History of the Importance of Railroading to the Develop-
ment of Alaska"

The construction of railroads in Alaska during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries culminated in both success and failure. The interrelationships between these railroads and the needs of the people in the areas serviced by the railroads and the factors involved in the ultimate success or failure of these railroads will be considered.

Utermohle, Charles J. University of Alaska, College.
"Analysis of Eskimo Dental Attrition"

A preliminary investigation of fifty-two dentitions from a skeletal series of Alaskan Eskimo reveals interesting patterns of wear in relation to age and sex. Observed wear on the male dentition is found to be greater than that on the female dentition. Explanation of this phenomenon will require the use of ethnographic information and a reappraisal of Eskimo dental attrition.

Workman, Karen Wood State Archaeologist, Alaska Division of Parks,
Anchorage.
"Problem and Potential in Alaskan Public Archaeology"

This paper will discuss the need for an organized body of individuals concerned with preservation of the past for the benefit

of future Alaskans, some alternative methods of structuring such an organization, and where Alaska presently stands relative to an adequate program. It will call for increased involvement of the public, support for resident and non-resident Alaskan archaeologists, and greater activity on the part of State educational institutions, State and Federal agencies.

Workman, William B. Alaska Methodist University.
"Early Maritime Cultures About the Gulf of Alaska"

During the last decade a small series of archeological sites dating between 6000 and 4000 years ago have come to light on Afognak, Sitkalidak and Chirikof Islands and on the Pacific shores of the Alaska Peninsula. Assemblages from these sites stand at the base of the known prehistory of these areas. Site locations indicate that these were fully maritime cultures, ranking among the oldest in the north. On the basis of work in the Kodiak Archipelago we will consider, if not necessarily resolve, problems of the origin, internal relationships and ultimate fate of these ancient North Pacific maritime lifeways.

Wyatt, Mary Pat Anchorage Historical Fine Arts Museum.
"Alaskan Collections in European Museums"

Museum collections in Denmark, Finland, and Scotland included numerous items of native Alaskan origin. Photographs of some of these items will be presented and briefly discussed. A grant from the National Museum Act administered by the Smithsonian Institution enabled the author to visit various museums.

Conn, Stephen University of Alaska, Fairbanks
"Extralegal Forums and Legal Power: The Dynamics of the Relationship in Alaska and Other Places"

Diverse groups, among them Alaska Eskimos and Athabascans and others, look to special forums to resolve disputes outside of the formal legal system. These forums are employed because they accept disputes as their clients define them and offer remedies based upon these conceptualizations. Formal agents of the law in their environments cannot do this. When these forums are extralegal (without formal legal authority to act) and are located in an environment where the formal legal process has the theoretical capacity to intervene in the disputes, they must tap into authentic lines of power to maintain their credibility with their constituents.

Legal power is not usually formally delegated without defined limits upon its use. Because extra legal forums often must be free from the constraints of particular norms and processes, in order to correctly define and remedy disputes, extralegal forums seek borrowed power through special relationships with formal agents of legal power. Then they reapply it to meet the needs of their constituents.

This paper describes the ways to study these relationships and their likely impact upon an informal forum. The author suggests a way for social scientists in Alaska to view extralegal dispute resolution in a given community against the larger matrix of relationships between the formal and informal legal process. He draws upon his field work in Brazilian squatter colonies, Navajo Indian communities, and rural Athabascan and Eskimo villages in Alaska.