

1 **TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO DISC**

2 Oral History Tapes with Seldovia Village Tribe

3 Ann Anderson

4 12/20/2000

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9 INTERVIEWER: Lillian Elusaas

10 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Today is December 20th, the year
11 2000, and I've got Ann Anderson here and she's going to be—we're
12 going to be interviewing her and she's going to be talking about her
13 subsistence activities and lifestyle.

14 So, Ann, would you describe your household, those
15 who harvested resources with you and those you shared with and you
16 can start from whenever, when you were younger?

17 ANN ANDERSON: Okay, when I was younger from
18 what I can remember when mom and my uncles used to take us—take
19 us out and especially in the wintertime I remember our uncles taking us
20 out to go ice fishing up the slough for Whitings and Tom Cods and that,
21 they used to take us up there.

22 And mom used to take us in the summertime in that
23 skiff and we used to row around up the slough and that and catch fish,

24 and she taught us how to fish and she taught us how to shoot, me
25 anyway, and I remember her teaching me how to shoot, to be able to
26 hunt if I had to. Because she used to go out and get rabbits and that
27 and she wanted—wanted me to know how to shoot to get food.

28 And whatever we got we always shared with the family
29 or with friends, with people who couldn't go out and get anything
30 because of health reasons or whatever, we would share with them.

31 And hunting with—our uncles did most of the big game
32 hunting, we didn't, they used to go out and get the big game and bring
33 it and share it with the family and friends.

34 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, and one of the questions we
35 didn't ask people that we've interviewed is, when they went down
36 after—when they went out after game, the big game, was there
37 anything that they used from, like fur for bedding or clothing, did you
38 hear anything?

39 ANN ANDERSON: Yeah, as far as I knew, in my family
40 where that I know of didn't, you know, in mom's family they might
41 have, but not, you know, with us, that we ever used the fur for
42 anything.

43 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, what animals, fish and plants
44 were the most important to your subsistence in the past?

45 ANN ANDERSON: Fish, it was—we always got Whittings
46 and Tom Cods, and salmon, we ate all types of salmon and Kings and
47 Humpies and—mom like the Humpies especially, with the big hump on
48 them, I remember. She used to get those. And all salmon.

49 And crab, we didn't really start eating crab until later
50 years it seems like, but clams, I know we always had clams, they always
51 brought us clams and padarkies.

52 And they always--I used to remember when they
53 would bring anything for us to eat they always cleaned it, because mom
54 worked all the time and she didn't have the time so they always
55 cleaned everything for her and that.

56 And our plants, we always—she always would go and
57 get goose tongues and nettles, it was stinky things you remember we
58 used to get, our hands were always stinging from the nettles. And the
59 fiddle heads, we used to get. And the patrushkies, and then we always
60 used to get pushkies too I remember. We picked them and have a salt
61 shaker right there and just peel them and eat them.

62 And let's see—all types of berries, we always had—
63 went berry picking and she used to like to eat those rose hips, I
64 remember in the Fall, the rose hips.

65 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: They're loaded with vitamin C.

66 ANN ANDERSON: Yeah, she always would pick those.

67 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: And---

68 ANN ANDERSON: And plants---

69 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, as far as, I mean when we're
70 talking about animals, did—you must have used a lot of—got a lot of
71 grouse and ducks too?

72 ANN ANDERSON: Ducks, grouse I don't remember too
73 much, but up here we used to get moose and that, you know, we
74 always used to bring moose, and we'd have ducks, and grouse I don't
75 remember. But what we did have I remember at home we did have
76 chickens, mom raised chickens and that. And geese she had.

77 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, please describe your season-
78 'round of subsistence activities?

79 ANN ANDERSON: Let's see, okay, is that---

80 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, where did you go, who
81 usually went with you?

82 ANN ANDERSON: We usually went-- not hunting so
83 much that I didn't go, but fishing, we used to go with her--with mom
84 and our uncles usually all the time, and we used to go up the head of
85 the bay and catch fish, we used to go in when the tide—when the
86 water was kind of all—and jump right in the river and catch them by
87 hand. And we used to catch them with rod and reel and that, but
88 hunting, I don't remember really doing that much, but we always did go
89 fishing. And usually with the family.

90 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Did you guys snag?

91 ANN ANDERSON: Yeah.

92 That's how I learned how to fish and then when they
93 put regulations—it's hard for me still to fish, you know, without jerking
94 it, that line, it's just---

95 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: I know, I just grew up with it, I
96 never---

97 ANN ANDERSON: And it was usually with the family.

98 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Yeah, okay, can you describe a hunt
99 or fishing trip or berry picking?

100 ANN ANDERSON: Uh, fishing—mom had a beach site
101 across the bay and we did commercial fishing and then my uncle had a
102 beach site and we also fished with him on his beach site, set netting.

103 And when we went berry picking it was always with
104 the family together, we would go berry picking, up the road, at the
105 dam, and across the bay where mom had her beach site, we used to
106 pick over by Steve's beach site, and fish and pick berries all the time.

107 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, how was the meat processed
108 and preserved?

109 ANN ANDERSON: I remember when they would bring
110 moose home they would usually hang it and let it age and we would, as
111 it was aging oftentimes they would cut the meat off, we'd eat, and then
112 they would dry it or salt it, or before we had a refrigerator that's how
113 they would keep it.

114 And they—I don't remember them canning any, but I
115 remember them salting some and that, and drying, and drying some,
116 but after we got freezers then we would freeze our meat.

117 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: When—like myself, did you guys
118 ever—did your mom ever cook half dried salmon---

119 ANN ANDERSON: Yeah.

120 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: ---you know, like it's not thoroughly
121 dried, where you boil it and eat it with potatoes?

122 We call that Umadukt.

123 ANN ANDERSON: Yes, sometimes.

124 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, how was this—how was
125 subsistence fishing worked around commercial harvesting, when you
126 said your mom commercial fished, or your uncle Steve?

127 ANN ANDERSON: Yeah, we—when we fished we
128 would usually sell our fish, you know, to the canneries, because that
129 was—whatever we caught during the commercial season we would sell
130 to the canneries, because that was how we earned our money.

131 And then after that we would usually set nets for our
132 subsistence after we did our commercial, because that fishing we
133 would usually do in the Fall, set nets for our subsistence, and then put it
134 up for—we'd smoke it, dry it and can it and eat it fresh. And we always
135 shared it with somebody.

136 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: How have your subsistence activities
137 changed over the years?

138 ANN ANDERSON: Oh, let's see, how has it changed,
139 well, for one I don't go fishing like it used to, I used to really enjoy that,

140 setting out and go fishing, you know, at the beach sites, and I don't
141 even do sports fishing that much anymore. I just chose—I just—I don't
142 know, it just seems like—with not as much, I don't know—it's not as
143 much family as it used to be, where we used to always—the family was
144 always together and it just seems like everybody's busy and going this
145 way and that way and it's just not—it's not—we just don't do it as
146 much anymore.

147 I like to do it with friends or family, we just don't do it
148 anymore.

149 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, do you use more or less wild
150 foods than you used to?

151 ANN ANDERSON: I'd say about the same, because
152 people either give us or like now with Andy, he has a boat, so we're
153 able to go out and get fish and that and we go out with friends a family,
154 so I wouldn't say it's less. It's about the same as we used to.

155 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, what have been the major
156 factors affecting the variation in your subsistence harvests?

157 ANN ANDERSON: Well—you mean---

158 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Like what has affected your
159 subsistence harvests, like you're saying you don't do it as much
160 anymore?

161 ANN ANDERSON: I guess it's—yeah, it's harder to—I
162 don't know, it seems that you just—you don't make the time, I don't
163 make the time for it like I used to, because I think because when I was
164 home it was just something you did, where since I'm married Andy
165 doesn't—with his job, we just don't have the time to go and do that,
166 like fish and go hunting and I really miss that, you know, and it just—
167 the changes, there's more people around and there's just no time, it
168 seems like, anymore, because I'm---

169 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, comments, how has Seldovia
170 changed in your lifetime?

171 ANN ANDERSON: It has changed a lot, and it's—I'd—
172 some things are better, but it's just—it was so busy and active here
173 when we had the boardwalk and the canneries, there was a lot of work
174 and everybody worked together it seemed like, but now it's—it has
175 become a tourist town, people aren't as sharing as it was then, and
176 they're not as helpful and they're just--everybody's busy with their own
177 thing and they just don't seem to—seem to want to get involved with

178 other people like they used to. It used to be a very caring community,
179 it used to be.

180 And the earthquake has changed it, and the oil spill has
181 changed our community a lot and the fishing and hunting isn't as good
182 as it used to be, and it's—and it just doesn't seem—seem like the
183 people care as much.

184 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, any comments on the youth
185 in the community, are they learning subsistence skills?

186 ANN ANDERSON: Yeah, I think some still—yeah, there
187 are a few, especially I think those of our fishermen, I think their kids are
188 interested in learning it, but with the technology age it seems to be
189 drying away, but they still have that interest in wanting to know what
190 their parents did and want to know I think, because, you know, there is
191 going to come time, there may be times when they need to know that,
192 so they are learning it and I think those are the fishermen's kids I think,
193 and it's not so much of the ones that don't fish, they don't seem to be
194 as interested, but I think some of our kids are, you know, kind of—I
195 know my daughter, she's interested in fishing, pick berries and do all of
196 that, so she's—and hopefully she's—and our grandson comes and I
197 take them berry picking and fishing and stuff.

198 There's still a few kids I think that are still fishing and
199 hunting.

200 LILLIAN ELUSAAS: Okay, that's it?

201 Okay, I thank you, Ann.

202 And if you have more stories maybe sometime in the
203 future, just let me know and I will come with my little tape recorder and
204 record you.

205 (End of disc.)

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