

1 **TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO DISC**

2 Oral History Tapes with Seldovia village Tribe

3 Gladys Yuth

4 Run time: 23:23

5 MP3 Format/27MB

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8 INTERVIEWER: LILLIAN ELUSAAS.

9

10 INTERVIEWER: Today is March 19, 2001, and we're interviewing
11 Gladys on her subsistence activities. Gladys—oh, Yuth.

12 Describe your household, those who harvested
13 resources with you and those you shared resources with?

14 And you can even talk about when you first started.

15 GLADYS YUTH: When I first started, like with mom
16 and---

17 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, ahuh?

18 GLADYS YUTH: ---mom and my uncles---

19 INTERVIEWER: With your uncles, yeah.

20 GLADYS YUTH: And that's—we used to go out duck
21 hunting, mom first taught me how to shoot a gun and then we used to
22 go for the whiting and herring and we used to go fishing up the slough
23 on the ice.

24 INTERVIEWER: Up the lagoon? In the lagoon?

25 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah. In the lagoon, on the ice. And
26 then we used to go and we used to pick Bidarkies of course and clams
27 and patrushkies, and then there was another one that we used to get,
28 yeah, seaweed and then there's a green that we used to pick and I
29 don't know what the name of it was, but it was like—I don't know, it
30 kind of---

31 INTERVIEWER: Where did you pick it at?

32 GLADYS YUTH: On the beach.

33 INTERVIEWER: Oh, beach greens?

34 GLADYS YUTH: The beach greens I guess, and then
35 they boil them up.

36 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, there's two different kinds that
37 are out there now that I know of, there are—one is called oyster--
38 oyster leaves, and the other one is—oh, it has a bunch of little leafs like
39 a—it's a stem with a bunch of little leaves, and those two plants are
40 two different types, that have a different flavor?

41 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah.

42 INTERVIEWER: Like a bunch of bushes—a bunch of
43 plants?

44 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah. And then we used to pick the---

45 INTERVIEWER: Peas?

46 GLADYS YUTH: No, not the peas, uh, uh, the stingers,
47 we used to boil those up.

48 INTERVIEWER: Nettles?

49 GLADYS YUTH: Nettles, yeah. I guess that's what you
50 call them.

51 And then Harry and I, we did the fishing, and mostly
52 dried fish and smoked fish, pulp fish.

53 INTERVIEWER: There was--when you were growing up,
54 when you first started, as you remember as a little girl, you guys had
55 freezers, right?

56 GLADYS YUTH: No.

57 INTERVIEWER: Okay, you guys didn't have none either,
58 because I didn't have—we didn't have any either at home.

59 GLADYS YUTH: No, we didn't have freezers, and you
60 know I didn't really pay attention what mom really did with the—with

61 the stuff, besides just eating it, you know, because I was younger and
62 never really paid attention.

63 INTERVIEWER: It must have been like everybody else,
64 they canned?

65 GLADYS YUTH: They canned it---

66 INTERVIEWER: They dried it, they smoked it and they
67 salted.

68 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, a lot of different stuff, yeah. And
69 the moose meat, I guess they jarred it, and salted it and stuff too.

70 INTERVIEWER: Huh, I'm surprised how we were
71 without freezers.

72 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh.

73 INTERVIEWER: In the wintertime we must have froze
74 it, in the snow?

75 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, because we had, a box outside
76 and we used to keep our stuff in it, and you can keep it—keep it cold.
77 And our camp freeze, they were cooler also. And we kept a bunch of
78 stuff in there.

79 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I remember when we had a
80 cellar, we had a padlocked like it would be like a three by ten room
81 downstairs, it was kind of insulated and we'd have it locked up, we had
82 everything in there, we had our butter down there in barrels, you
83 know, in a keg.

84 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, that's how we had it, we had an
85 extra room all by itself and there was no heat in there really, they just
86 had a little hole up in the top just to keep it where it was---

87 INTERVIEWER: Ventilated?

88 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, ventilated so it wouldn't be really
89 cold and that's where we kept most of it.

90 INTERVIEWER: Did you share your—you must have
91 shared with your family and---

92 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, we shared and---

93 INTERVIEWER: Okay, what animals, fish and plants
94 were the most important to your subsistence in the past?

95 GLADYS YUTH: Well, the salmon.

96 We got moose, but I don't remember too much, you
97 know, of getting a moose as much as we did the seal and ducks and
98 stuff like that. They must have went moose hunting, but I don't---

99 INTERVIEWER: Somebody probably went moose
100 hunting, I think like we say, we'd share?

101 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah.

102 INTERVIEWER: And we always got something from---

103 GLADYS YUTH: I think the uncles always went, you
104 know, moose hunting and that.

105 INTERVIEWER: And as far as plants, you collect plants
106 in the summer, the spring, spring, summer, Fall? Did your mom dry
107 them or anything?

108 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, she used to dry them. Yeah, and
109 she dried the patrushkies and---

110 INTERVIEWER: Did you ladies ever hear of wild
111 onions?

112 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh.

113 INTERVIEWER: Did you guys have wild onions around
114 here too?

115 VOICE: Yeah, we'd go across by the airport.

116 GLADYS YUTH: Oh, yeah, that's where we used to get
117 the goose tongues all the time too.

118 VOICE: Yeah, go all across to the airport.

119 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, because we—in Port Graham we
120 have a place where we go and get wild onions.

121 GLADYS YUTH: What they call chives.

122 INTERVIEWER: You know how they preserve those, is
123 in salt.

124 GLADYS YUTH: They salt 'em?

125 INTERVIEWER: Ahuh, put them in jars, cut them up
126 first and put them in jars and put salt on them and fix them up with
127 salt, and when you take them out you have to rinse them in order to
128 use them, so that's how, you know, I just remembered.

129 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, and we used to get goose
130 tongues too.

131 INTERVIEWER: Did you dry a lot of plants, like goose
132 tongues and---

133 VOICE: Mom used to dry lots of patrushkies.

134 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, a lot of patrushkies I remember
135 her drying, but it seems like the others were just seasonal, whenever,
136 you know, they were in.

137 INTERVIEWER: I wonder how goose tongue would be
138 dried?

139 GLADYS YUTH: I don't either, because I'd never---

140 INTERVIEWER: I think I'd like it just the way it was.

141 Okay, please describe your season-round of
142 subsistence activities, where did you go to harvest, who usually went
143 with you?

144 GLADYS YUTH: Mom, and Helen and Ann and—that
145 was a long time ago, and Mary, Nina and Mickey---

146 INTERVIEWER: Did you take your kids—you must have
147 taken your kids with you, huh?

148 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, when we would berry pick, and
149 go fishing and that, yeah, we took the kids with us.

150 INTERVIEWER: And where did you go to harvest?

151 Like your hunting, where did you guys go hunting?

152 GLADYS YUTH: We went hunting up---

153 INTERVIEWER: Up the slough?

154 GLADYS YUTH: Up Kachemak Bay and---

155 INTERVIEWER: Oh.

156 GLADYS YUTH: And then on the Otter Beach, there
157 was a lake—there's that lake there, there's that, and they used to come
158 in there and---

159 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, we heard that from another
160 interview with you too, remember? Otter Beach?

161 VOICE: Oh, yes.

162 INTERVIEWER: ---Beach, to hunt---

163 VOICE: Ahuh.

164 GLADYS YUTH: That's where we used to go and catch
165 the ducks, across the slough was Kachemak---and fish out that way, and
166 across the bay, because mom had a fishing place there, and go there
167 and subsistence fish for our food.

168 INTERVIEWER: So did you have your own skiff and
169 outboard then? Your uncles and your father?

170 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh.

171 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I seem like I remember your
172 mom had a skiff and outboard?

173 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh. We'd did a lot of stuff like that.

174 INTERVIEWER: And she stood in the outboard too,
175 didn't she?

176 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, ahuh.

177 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I remember seeing her.

178 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, I used to go fishing with her, us
179 and her. She must have been in her early fifties.

180 INTERVIEWER: And when you said you went up
181 Kachemak Bay, did you also go in your outboard, with your mom and
182 your uncle?

183 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, ahuh.

184 INTERVIEWER: Because I remember someone saying
185 they used to row when they didn't have an outboard? That must have
186 been a two day project or something, because they'd have to row?

187 GLADYS YUTH: They used to go rowing because it was
188 cold and stuff.

189 INTERVIEWER: Okay, now you can-- could you
190 describe a hunt or fishing trip or berry picking?

191 GLADYS YUTH: You want to hear just a story or---

192 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, we want to hear the good
193 stories.

194 GLADYS YUTH: Dora Mulch, an Eskimo from Homer,
195 she was---

196 INTERVIEWER: Oh, a good story.

197 GLADYS YUTH: ---came over—or she wanted to come
198 over and go berry picking and mom says, come on she says, you guys
199 got to go berry picking with me and Dora and Nancy was going to come
200 with us, and she was in her seventies I think, wasn't it, and she said
201 we're going to have to wait for her all over picking berries and she
202 come over and they took off and we went by, what we call Blueberry
203 Hill, that's up at Hopkins' place up there, his place---

204 INTERVIEWER: Oh, Dora Mulch came over here?

205 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh, to go berry picking, and we took
206 off up there and we lost her, she out-picked us, she out-walked us---

207 INTERVIEWER: Seventy-some years old.

208 GLADYS YUTH: Seventy-some years old, that was our
209 adventure, berry picking. And Dora Mulch could---

210 INTERVIEWER: Ah, that's neat, I mean it seems like it
211 doesn't happen anymore, not a family thing anymore?

212 GLADYS YUTH: No. Ahuh.

213 INTERVIEWER: And the reason why it seems like most
214 of the people are picking is to make money.

215 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, that's true.

216 And we used to pick a lot of berries.

217 INTERVIEWER: I know I used to go out, I used to dread
218 to go berry picking.

219 GLADYS YUTH: I know, I hated it too.

220 But mom always made us go.

221 INTERVIEWER: Okay, would you like to describe a
222 hunt, did you and Harry ever go hunting?

223 GLADYS YUTH: Oh, yeah, we went hunting.

224 I remember one time we went—well, of course we
225 used to go up subsistence fishing in Halibut Cove, you know, in that

226 area, but I remember one time I went duck hunting with him and he
227 had me crawling and sneaking up on the ducks and I was getting tired
228 and bending down and crawling, and I stood up and about that time all
229 the ducks took off and all you could hear is flapping---

230 INTERVIEWER: Did you get to shoot any?

231 GLADYS YUTH: No, they all took off.

232 INTERVIEWER: All that work trying to crawl up to
233 them, sneak up to them, and then you scare them away?

234 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah.

235 INTERVIEWER: So, when you guys went on the hunt,
236 on your duck hunting, did you get—if you guys did go, how many did
237 you get, did you get any ducks to bring home to share with---

238 GLADYS YUTH: Oh yeah, we always had enough and
239 we'd make a big pot and invite everybody over to—for ducks and---

240 INTERVIEWER: Do you remember what kind of ducks?

241 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh.

242 (Laughing.)

243 Well, Goldeneyes, Mallards.

244 INTERVIEWER: And there was this like duck hunting,
245 you know, and somebody brings like ducks there's this big--and you'd
246 make it a family thing where you'd—everybody would grab a duck and
247 pluck ducks, it's not that way anymore?

248 GLADYS YUTH: No.

249 INTERVIEWER: Nobody wants to pluck ducks. So it's, I
250 don't know, whoever got the ducks ended up plucking the ducks?

251 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh.

252 INTERVIEWER: So it's not a family thing anymore, like
253 it---

254 GLADYS YUTH: And then when we'd go on our picnics
255 and stuff that's when we'd pick the others, you know, our patrushkies
256 and all that, we'd just make a gathering time out of the picnics.

257 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, and then—okay, how was your
258 meat processed and preserved, like your moose meat or your ducks or
259 seal?

260 GLADYS YUTH: A lot of it I know was--later on it was
261 frozen and salted and jarred.

262 INTERVIEWER: Or canned?

263 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah.

264 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, and canned—did you guys ever
265 smoke—did you ever see your uncles or your mom and them smoke
266 meat?

267 GLADYS YUTH: You know, they talked about it so they
268 must have.

269 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I think what they do—what they
270 did is, because I remember I used to see some hanging in the
271 smokehouse?

272 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah.

273 INTERVIEWER: I think they'd put it in brine and then
274 hang it up and just smoke it?

275 GLADYS YUTH: Ahuh.

276 And then dried fish and stuff.

277 INTERVIEWER: It seems like sometimes it was big
278 chunks of meat that I'd see hanging in the, you know, smokehouse, and
279 sometimes it'd be there all Winter? They'd use-- just cut off what they
280 were going to use and just cut a piece off.

281 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah.

282 INTERVIEWER: I think that's one of the ways they
283 preserved it?

284 GLADYS YUTH: That's the only way that I can think of
285 that—we did a lot of putting smoke fish in there, smoke fish—I don't
286 know—I didn't know how to do the salt fish---

287 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, it's simple once you get the
288 technique down.

289 Okay, you mentioned that—it asks here, how were fish
290 processed and preserved, you said you canned it and froze it and
291 smoked it and salted it, huh?

292 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah. And dried it.

293 INTERVIEWER: And oh and dried it, yeah.

294 Okay, and how was subsistence fishing worked around
295 commercial harvesting, when you were commercial fishing, like we've
296 asked everybody else that commercial fished, did you bring home—
297 bring home fish for home use, from the commercial fishing?

298 GLADYS YUTH: We did some, yeah.

299 But then the two of us always after the end of the
300 season would bring some home, because we needed the money too,

301 you know, so we didn't really bring a whole lot home at that time
302 except for the King salmon. Have to bring that one home, because it
303 was---

304 INTERVIEWER: But your commercial fishing would be
305 your set-netting, right?

306 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah.

307 INTERVIEWER: It's not like you have two members
308 from another family where you would actually share with those guys?

309 GLADYS YUTH: No, uh, uh.

310 INTERVIEWER: For a seining, for a seining thing I guess
311 it sounds like, like we got from other interviews from other people?

312 GLADYS YUTH: So whenever we wanted a fish we'd fry
313 it up or whatever, but most of the time we'd just—the King salmon is
314 the one we brought home. They didn't pay that much.

315 INTERVIEWER: Okay. Yeah, it's true.

316 How have your subsistence activities changed over the
317 years?

318 I guess we didn't call it subsistence then.

319 GLADYS YUTH: No, we didn't.

320 INTERVIEWER: We called it—we called it our foods?

321 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, we'd just go out to get our foods
322 for the winter and---

323 INTERVIEWER: And how has it changed for you?

324 GLADYS YUTH: Oh, for one thing I don't go out on the
325 boat, you know, to get—to get my--mostly I'm just getting seaweed and
326 berries and stuff like that now.

327 INTERVIEWER: So, you get your subsistence fish from--

328 -

329 GLADYS YUTH: From other people, yeah, mostly,
330 because I don't—everyone is sharing with me now---

331 INTERVIEWER: Now, okay, do you use more or less
332 wild foods than you used to?

333 If you think it's the same---

334 GLADYS YUTH: It's probably about the same, you
335 know, I just—I still eat the same food.

336 INTERVIEWER: What have been the major factors
337 affecting the variation in your subsistence harvest?

338 For one thing you said you have to do it by yourself
339 now?

340 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah. I have to do it by myself.

341 INTERVIEWER: The major change is---

342 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, ahuh.

343 INTERVIEWER: ---you have to do it by yourself?

344 GLADYS YUTH: Yeah, if I go with Ann and Helen and
345 Junior and, you know---

346 INTERVIEWER: Okay, on the comments part, how has
347 Seldovia changed in your lifetime?

348 GLADYS YUTH: Oh, it has changed a lot—it's—I don't
349 know---

350 INTERVIEWER: Just say---

351 GLADYS YUTH: I don't want to get into the politics part
352 of it, but it's just—the people are not the way they used to be, so
353 friendly and there was no difference between a Native or a white
354 person, you know, and everybody shared with everybody, you know,
355 and they don't do that that much anymore.

356 INTERVIEWER: And in them days if there was a
357 difference—if they seen a difference they never said anything.

358 GLADYS YUTH: And they never said anything, uh, uh.
359 But then too we had all different nationalities here because we had the
360 canneries and stuff, it's changed an awful lot.

361 INTERVIEWER: Any comment on the youth in the
362 community, are they learning subsistence skills?

363 GLADYS YUTH: I don't think as much as they used to,
364 no. Some of them take it up, like my kids never take their kids out
365 hardly, you know, berry picking, you know, and that, but they never
366 take them out.

367 I took Katrina out to the beach the one day, for
368 Bidarkies, she just thought that was just the greatest thing, and I told
369 her now you were doing subsistence fishing—or subsistence---

370 INTERVIEWER: Gathering?

371 GLADYS YUTH: ---gathering.

372 INTERVIEWER: And as she gets older you could
373 probably take her out and show her seaweed. You know the eggs are
374 under the rocks now?

375 GLADYS YUTH: Oh, are they?

376 INTERVIEWER: Mark said they've been out for three
377 weeks.

378 GLADYS YUTH: That's a start.

379 INTERVIEWER: I know, and the seaweed should be
380 there too.

381 Okay, that's it, anything else that you want to share
382 with us?

383 GLADYS YUTH: No.

384 INTERVIEWER: No? Okay, thank you.

385 (End of interview.)

386 (End of disc.)

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