



TOMMY ATTACHIE AT THE DOIG RIVER MUSEUM
“LEARNING TO DRUM AND SING”

© Doig River First Nation, 2005.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: Tommy Attachie talks about growing up in the Hanás Saahgé? (Doig River) area and about learning how to drum and sing the Dreamers’ songs. Doig River First Nation Museum, 2005.

CATALOG NO.: DZVMCDV-7-17-05-1of2

RECORDED BY: Kate Hennessy and Amber Ridington, 2005.

TRANSCRIPTION: Amber Ridington, 2006.

KEY: 00:00 indicates time in minutes and seconds; [] Indicates translator’s note.

00:00

[Kate Hennessy - off camera]

Yeah like, you’re the song keeper. And uh, what does it, how is it important to you? What does it mean for you? What are you doing when you teach those guys how to sing the song?

00:11

[Tommy Attachie]

Just sing it. You know I was raised like that. So, uh, when I was a kid, when they uh, they teach us these things through story. They teach us these things through story. All the rest, the people here, when they’re young they were drumming with these drummers. And one of them there. From there I wanted, I want the, I want that drum. I want to learn.

00:45

I learned from, uh, my dad you know. Then, but that time I didn’t sing I just drum with Tommy Davis Sr. That was uh, when they make Tea Dance. Not tea dance but just play drum, me and Sam we pick it up and we sing along with them.

01:06

And after he died you know then uh, Sammy was song leader from there, we catch on. Before these Tea Dance we help them, we sing with them. That was really important for me. Because with that story these Prophets come from, uh, heaven. All these things, that's why we, we uh, really like that.

01:34

Because it never get lost. Nearly get lost. That's why a lot of guys, you know, then I never song leading until I was singing with people good. And Albert Askoty told me, "You know all the songs. You can sing. You can't follow people all the time. You know all the songs, go ahead," he told me. He just drummed with us.

02:07

And I start one song I good, another one, another one. That's when I catch on. And Sammy too song leader. And the rest of them just about. Leo Acko, Robert, Eddy, Brian and Ronnie, Sam and uh, Johnny Askoty. All the rest of them, they know how to sing. Once they start song leader, they can make it. And uh, that's how it is.