



**TOMMY ATTACHIE AT SWEENEY CREEK,  
GAAYEĀ'S "PRAIRIE CHICKEN SONG"**

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**DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS:** Tommy Attachie remembers Dane-zaa people and Dreamers gathering at Sweeney Creek. He tells the story of the Dreamer Gaayēā, dreaming the "Prairie Chicken Song" at Sweeney Creek.

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

00:01

Dane-zaa Záágé?.

*I'll speak in the Dane-zaa language.*

00:04

Sę, dane jeh dáásasdaa dōh kwadó dōhch'ę, kénasjiih dōhch'ę.

*Ever since I could remember, I sat up behind people [in the saddle on horseback].*

00:12

Júuhje Chuu Dehgas dę wadzęh gwe dane tsédzęh náejich jō Sweeney Creek dane náájiich.

*From Black Water, people used to move down to Sweeney Creek.*

00:19

Dane náejiihé júúhje;

*People were moving back this way;*

00:21

jɔ yaadóné ghadaajiihe gwadzé?

*they were moving back this way*

00:25

Ch'óné? Zaahgé? ghajii dah,

*towards Ch'óné? Zaahgé? [Wolf River],*

00:27

ɛ dane néjii.

*that's where people camped.*

00:29

È wats'èh dane chejii e yii Ole Lake kòh,

*From there, people moved again, through Ole Lake,*

00:34

ɛ Moose Creek wats'èh Cecil Lake kòh.

*and from Moose Creek, through to Cecil Lake.*

00:37

Gwe dane wats'èh dòhchɛ ɔsɔge náájiich. Kénasjiih.

*I remember people always used to travelled around that way.*

00:42

Tòhchɛdòhjii, jii *highway* háá tòhchɛdò aadlaa?.

*This highway was made a long time ago.*

00:47

Ii aadzèh jii *wagon trail* alɛ áádadzé.

*Before that, it was a wagon trail.*

00:52

Háá lhéło *highway* aadlaa?. Kénasjiih.

*And then finally, the highway was built. I remember that.*

00:57

Jii laa Hines Creek Road giyééhjii júúhjii tane.

*They call this the Hines Creek Road.*

01:02

Háákaa wadzèh dòh juu lhígé aatlaa?.

*Another one [road] was built before that.*

01:05

*1947, 1947,*

*1947, in 1947,*

01:13

guuh núúdlii laa gwatsii McCarty Line ghiyééhjii aatlaa?.

*it must have been at that time that the bush road they call the McCarty Line was made.*

01:18

Lhét'òh Hines Creek jò wats'èh.

*It went from here to Hines Creek.*

01:20

È kénasjiih juuh hwéhwá zòh kedaache gwats'èh dòh.

*I remember, you used to be able to see a long ways, now you can only see a short distance [because of the trees].*

01:28

Juuneh ts'édaah ghanayeh héh háákaa wats'èhdò.

*The children were growing up here even before that.*

01:33

Jò dane néjiih héh.

*People moved here [to Sweeney Creek] at that time.*

01:36

*Wagons, everything,*

01:38

háá *wagons* wółę juu.

*there were already wagons.*

01:41

Jọ dane néjiih héh.

*People moved here at that time.*

01:43

Gọ yíjéh natókwê wółę ts'eh wats'eh aahte kedaache.

*Back there, you could see all the way to that cabin.*

01:48

Júúhje şiskatsę zọh gat nachii alę,

*The only place where you would see big spruce was on that big hill,*

01:52

júúhje juu.

*and over here, too.*

01:54

E jędzaą hadaa naaghaagole dah giyaa?édah háá,

*Whenever they would see a moose walking across over there,*

01:57

gii - giits'ę? dadle hé, hadaa ghazéhhelh.

*they went toward it, and killed it.*

02:00

Jii t'uk nachii alę menasjiih, tóhchedóh.

*I remember this used to be a big prairie, long ago.*

02:07

E gwadzèh sís gwadódzèh ẹ dane náádaalhe júuhjii kwâ nááááwíís?ah dèh, kedaadaajèh,  
*When a person walked down from the hill, they could see all of the tipis standing upright there,*

02:14

Charlie Dominic ê séhjii.  
*the late Charlie Dominic told me.*

02:18

“Guulaa hááwaawoch’è?, ẹ juu nááwanézhq,” éhjii.  
*“That’s the way it used to be here, now everything has grown up again,” he [Charlie Dominic] said.*

02:20

1970 ii hestlah ii hehnaawaajèh.  
*1970 was the last time he went to see that place with us.*

02:27

Hats’ané? yédéh gédzadich, truck éh nahélaa.  
*Someone brought us up there by truck, and then we walked around on foot.*

02:31

“Ach’uu wólè,” éhjii.  
*“It’s different now,” he said.*

02:33

Go’òh háátl’uk t’uk zòh alè, t’uk hádaaséhk’áse,  
*Long ago it was only an open meadow, the grass was this tall,*

02:36

guu dachin dahdaasa?ò.  
*and there were trees scattered here and there.*

02:38

Jéyò naaghaagol dé háá dzezehhelh.  
*When a bull moose was crossing that big opening, we would kill it then.*

02:43

Hááгаа wòhdaadzih jii atanii alẹ.

*Even back then there was a trail here.*

02:47

Gaayẹa guu náachesne ẹhlhonaaghadesh dé got'òts'ẹh.

*When Gaayẹa was a Dreamer, he came together with all the other Dreamers here, long ago.*

02:54

Jii nan lhẹt'òh wúújọ nághane?ọ.

*They put everything on this land [people's values] in good order.*

02:57

Háá júúhje hestlah tòhche, dane wúújọ nuuke kaa.

*Even people coming from far away they would enlighten [about how to be good].*

03:05

Háá dane úújọ nááje ọ.

*Even people who were already living well.*

03:08

Hááгаа dane duujii kaa.

*He still wanted to tell them about how to live.*

03:10

Jwe dajii úh hòhch'e Gaayẹa daghats'égé? we,

*He moved around like that. Gaayẹa and his wife must have camped together here,*

03:14

háá chuudah sọ gúlẹ yétsédzeh gúlẹ juude nẹdah.

*down by the creek; maybe he camped here.*

03:20

Nadahe dahwesadze gah wache? neghenedah.

*Right where the prairie chickens were dancing, that's where he set up camp.*

03:24

Háá guushin Nahhatáá? ts'eh,  
*Those songs came from God,*

03:29

háá sô juuhjii ts'ê? edaawajííh kaa.  
*they must have been for us to learn from today.*

03:33

Nedahe dah wesats wage? neghanedah,  
*They camped right where the chickens usually danced,*

03:37

ę hátlét'óh, hátlét'óh, aajen.  
*And in the morning, in the morning, he sang.*

03:41

Ii nedahe yiné? háádę?o.  
*He brought out that prairie chicken song.*

03:45

“E dats'égé? ts'ê? ii dahwesadze wats'ęyaah,” éhjii.  
*“Go to where the chickens are dancing,” he told his wife.*

03:50

Háá ę wats'ę? yaadeh,  
*When she got there,*

03:52

ę neyaadeh, hájé yegááh naadelh yegááh naadelh.  
*when she got there, the prairie chickens just flocked to her.*

03:56

Ii madezé? ii nedahe yiné? ejine dahdéhł'aade,  
*While her husband was singing that prairie chicken song, she started dancing.*

04:01

Jii makuusjii yiiwe laa, haje nadahe nááwadanaaselh.

*The prairie chickens were dancing even under her dress, swirling around and around.*

04:07

Gulaa dane éhjii.

*That's what people say.*

04:09

Haa guu ghade uu mayiné? daawóle.

*Even the animals had their own song.*

04:12

E nááchesne laa jii nan úújọ néghene?ọ? dane éhjii.

*The Dreamers were the ones who set this land straight, people said.*

04:18

Hé sadzẹ dane kéyah, gwats'ẹ? dane hólhch'e zọh háách'ẹh.

*Even though people were living far away, he would travel great distances to reach them.*

04:24

Háá lhígé yaşk'ih,

*Then one time in winter,*

04:25

wachis t'ọh

*during the time of stories,*

04:27

lhígé shin hááde?ọ.

*he brought out a song that had come to him.*

04:31

“Jii nan k'eh dọyáá ts'ẹ?”,

*“This place where you go to [each summer],*



04:36

gots'ę? laa nan k'eh dọyáá ts'ę walq̄h ts'ę gwats'ę? laa; ajuu wawq̄dáá sę," ęhjii.  
*you will go to its end; maybe you will die there," they said.*

04:41

“E júuhje guutaah aja wawq̄dáá sę, e júuhje dane nááche ęhlhene taahdzé? ajuu awq̄dáá sę,’  
*“You will die over there amongst the people and the Dreamers,’*

04:52

dane séhjii,  
*people told me,*

04:54

ęhjii laa,” giyęhjii.  
*that's what people told me,” he said.*

04:56

Ii ęh, háá ii dę s̄ Dane-zaa nané? k'eh gúlę je s̄ ęhdę núúdlii.  
*There, that place must be on Dane-zaa land, maybe at that place [Montney Prairie].*

05:06

Adegęh dane che?adlii úúh.  
*People really prayed.*

05:08

Guune nááchesne ęhlh̄q̄ náághadesh  
*Those Dreamers came together*

05:11

adęgeh chegha?adlii ęh.  
*and really prayed.*

05:13

“Ęhdę núúdlii Sunéç'i Kéç'iige,”  
*“It must be at Sunéç'i Kéç'iige [Dance Grounds at Montney Prairie] [where you will die],”*

05:17

wéhjii dane yéhjii.

*that's what they told him.*

05:19

Ii shin, juuhdzenéh hááгаа mēhts'ajin.

*We still sing that song today.*

05:23

Edę dane ęnéh daayaahéh,

*People met there,*

05:27

dane ahte ghadaa ?úújọ.

*and they were all happy.*

05:30

Ii sọ dane ahdaaghajíh ọ ii shin ké?aadlaa?.

*Those people must have known about that song.*

05:34

Haje hááje *every year* hólhch'ii, háá walọh ts'ę?.

*Each summer he did that [went there], towards the end.*

05:41

Nááchesne ghętl'ọ dọh,

*When there were still many Dreamers, [he said],*

05:44

“Ajuulii,

*“There will be nothing,” [no Dreamers]*

05:47

nááchesne,” natlọ dé.

*[he told them that] when the Dreamers were still numerous.*

05:50

“Qkechine nahhagááh haawúú?áázé,  
*“Only two Dreamers will be with us,*

05:53

nááchesne wajwé éhsé,” ghajii.  
*when the other Dreamers are gone,” they said.*

05:57

Ii ghajii éh.  
*They predicted that.*

06:00

“Háá ęhdę sô,” Oker sô ts’ę? éhjii  
*“It must be there,” he said to Oker.*

06:07

“Satl’q̄h wawq̄daa sé,” éhjii  
*“After me, you will look after the people,” he said.*

06:10

“Ęhdę sô sachęh ô edaawajíh ô,”  
*“I must have known about it even while I was sleeping,” he said.*

06:13

Aje kéhwołę kuuji, ii adaajii.  
*He told him that he had doubted whether his dream was real.*

06:17

Ii Charlie Yahey, Oker *fifties* aja ghadah.  
*Charlie Yahey and Oker were both Dreamers; Oker died in the 1950s.*

06:22

Charlie Yahey *seventies* ii 1970 watl’q̄,  
*Charlie Yahey died after 1970,*

06:28

*Seventy-four* godah enúúdlíi.  
*around 1974.*

06:30

Aja ghadah, ii juu.  
*He died, too.*

06:33

Ii ghadah! Nááchesne nat'ò nejuwé jáá?  
*Look at that! Lots of those Dreamers died.*

06:37

Háá qkech'ine háághes'aadzé.  
*Then, two of them were left.*

06:40

Lhígé zòh héstlah.  
*There was only one at the end.*

06:42

Háá ii laa nááchesne gweghaajii dah juu?  
*Long ago the Dreamers talked about this time when there would be no Dreamers.*

06:46

“Héé háákaa waze t'òh Makenúúnatane nene  
*“Still further back, Makenúúnatane and*

06:51

Makéts'awéswwá,” yéhhjii.  
*Makéts'awéswwá were Dreamers,” he said.*

06:53

Náághaches d'òh, gwat'òh juu.  
*There were Dreamers, even way back then.*