



SAM ACKO AT DOIG RIVER
RENEWING DRUM MAKING TRADITIONS

© Doig River First Nation, 2005.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: At a community project-planning meeting, Sam Acko explains how drum-making traditions at Doig River were almost lost. He recalls how he started making drums again and was able to continue the tradition of drumming, and singing. Doig River First Nation Cultural Centre, 2005.

CATALOG NO.: DZVMCDV-6-29-05-1of6

RECORDED BY: Peter Biella, Julia Miller and Stacy Shaak.

TRANSCRIPTION: Kate Hennessy and Amber Ridington, 2006.

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

00:00

Making that drum, too, we just about lost it. And then, uh, we lost it for a while, we didn't know, uh, how to make drums.

00:09

And then, uh, my uh, my brother, and uh, Albert Askoty, they are professional drum makers. And then, uh, they know what kind of wood, they know how to cut it.

00:22

And then they, they usually tell us how to do it. And then, uh, after, and then I started making, uh, drums, but uh, every, every, uh, every wood I cut, he told me how to cut it this way, this way, but I want to cut it my own way, and then I kept breaking it, breaking it. Pretty soon I give up and sit. Who cares? I'll just give up. I don't want to make drum no more.

00:52

And then after he passed away, about ten years later, uh, I remember exactly what he told

me. The way to cut it, what kind of wood. And then, after he, he died, ten years later. And then I cut that, the wood, and then I cut it exactly the way he told me to, uh, to do it.

01:14

And then I made a frame. And then I made a drum. And then, that's ten years later.

[Tommy Attachie]

And you teach me.

[Sammy Acko]

Yeah, yeah.

01:26

That's how it is, too, we just about lost that, that one, how to make a Dane-zaa drum.

01:32

And then even songs, too, we just about lost it. But we picked it up again. Now there's a lot of young people are singing, and drumming.

And we start teaching the little ones, too. We run a kids' Beaver Camp every spring. And then that's where, uh, we teach those little kids how to drum and sing. Which is really good.

01:58

And this Elder's Camp is very important to us. Because, uh, all the young people like to go there, camping and then learning. We try to pick everything up again. Like, how we used to live. Before.

That's all.