HIGHLIGHTS:

- The person being interviewed is apparently telling traditional stories. However, a great deal of the dialogue is inaudible and the stories are thus virtually incomprehensible. Tom: There was a man in Rivers Inlet by the name of (Indian). He was the wisest man around there in those days. (Inaudible) long time ago and he's got three boys. This wise man says to his sons, three of them, "Don't get in that smoke, red smoke comes out (inaudible). Don't get in there. Just keep away from that." And that was (inaudible).

This boy is getting suspicious on them, every time they move and they moved too, and they wanted to be right close to the boys. And one of them he come to know what to do. There was a knot hole on the door and it was goes right through. "I'm going to get it back." And the second one do the same thing.
And they all got out and here this woman comes out of the door. (Indian), that means she was getting something to eat free. And all right... And this here in distance so many miles away, back. And then she sat there and come to the house. (Inaudible) get in. And he say, "There's three boys was here. "All right, I'm going to run and after and bring her back." She start to run from the house. All right and this boys they turned into just the grass, let's say, tall grass, three of them. Come back and see no boys. Come back and told his wife, "Have you seen anybody?" "No, I just seen the tall grass, (inaudible) on the way." "Well, that's there. Go and get it." This man run and he's going to get that grass. The grass is just bare, nothing there anymore. And he runs, "I'll get them before they get home."

And there's a lake and three ducks in there and that's the same one was going up on the road, grass, and they turned into ducks. All right, he comes home to his wife and told her, "There's a big lake further up and I see only three ducks." "That's the boys you was running after. Go and get them." And he went back. The ducks is gone, the lake is gone.

Now his father, lady with him (inaudible), the lady get those what he made for rope. Yeah, cedar bark. Twist it around and make good rope out of it. Tie the horse with that rope and (inaudible). And so the boys make a drop. That's how they can (inaudible) it, yeah. All right, as soon as this man is going to come in, you see, "When I say let go, you pull this back of this here board and let him pull right down to the hard rock."

David:    Oh, I see.

Tom:    All right. (Inaudible) make, take out the stones and put it in there. He's real (inaudible), and (inaudible) listen to the story of this man, the wise man. And turn and see, let's see, (inaudible). All right, his wife come to think, not to stay in there. She knows what's going to happen, going to kill that, her husband. And then he didn't wait (inaudible), go back to where he was laying. Fall right down to where the hard rocks. And there's some more, what they already made (inaudible). (laughs) Before he falls that whistle they use is top of the mountain and top of next mountain. Doesn't matter how distant they are, and now what they call in my language (Indian).

David:    (Indian)?

Tom:    Yeah. That's the one that makes (inaudible), yeah. He comes out from (Indian) and one of (name)'s friends -- the youngest one -- got it. You see, he's got (inaudible) not long after he wants to go out. And he's got songs, (inaudible), composed songs, yeah. And that the mountain brush there slide. That's where the first meets his wife, biggest slide settled on the ground. And his wife was (inaudible) what do you call, Oowekeeno, just Oowekeeno. And they turns up and one boy that was married to (inaudible). And that's the history of it,
Yeah. But there's some more, there's (inaudible), I didn't know it.

David: Oh, I see.

Tom: (Inaudible). Yeah, this (Indian), the first man that (inaudible) the people there. He knows what's going to come. I guess he's, I guess (laughs) he's going to have song and board. Wife was just Oowekeeno and him too. And when he meets a man up there where the big rock slide is and (Indian). Spirit, not human. And this woman turn into -- not wild, just spirit.

One boy, he came from that same river but he was on the right hand side before enter the lake. There's a big village there, they got a big village in that time. He came from there (inaudible). Oh, there's nothing there. They go and move the white people in, yeah.

I was a logger and (inaudible) from there. I got papers. They used to give the paper -- cost $5 for this card (inaudible). They call (inaudible). That's a buoy lamp with the drums (inaudible). One was a humpback and one's a man, yeah. After tying the logs safe.

One time I become a high (inaudible). I was to look after a pump, gas pump, I know all about gas too. Yeah. I just seen the, what they call... Four whistle for me. They go and climb a tree, fix the (inaudible) for them. (Inaudible). And I go to read the telegram and tell them who phoned. (Inaudible).

I was up at Queen Charlotte Island. Lots of fish but the price is small. Queen Charlotte Island. I was over at Masset Inlet, Cumshewa Inlet and then there's a log port. That's where the cannery is. Not only... there's a lot of Finlanders fishing, about two or three boats, Finnish. I make very small money, only two and a half cents for each. (laughs) (inaudible). The fish there you call it a sockeye. They can there, it's all open. (Inaudible) runs right... I didn't know there was a cannery in that, what they call, Moses Inlet. There was, I guess, I just see it late. Yeah, I been in the cannery. They must make little money in them days. (inaudible) she came from Rivers. Her father and them was one of... They was the provincial police, Rivers Inlet. I didn't see them but I've been told. This Walker, well, that's one. This (Indian) means dead (inaudible). Not by the name of, just the same what... I guess they're fighting with the (Indian) people in those days. Yeah. (inaudible) they're nothing, got to be in warm water. Too cold. There's some kind of codfish that's there. That's called a lake cod, different but they're eaten. Yeah, forty years in...

David: Oh yeah.

Tom: Not in this river now. (inaudible). There must be lots of houses there before, but it's all rotten and all... I see where they killed a (inaudible). Just grass growing there.
They call it the trail, a short ways to Bella Coola. There's a little inlet. Bella Coola Inlet, right goes through that people where they used to... the Rivers Inlet. I think it's only one mile across. (Inaudible).

David: Yeah.

Tom: Yeah. Oh yeah, there's lots of totem poles at (inaudible), what do they call it, (name). There's a man there by the name of Chief George, I guess he's the chief there. I went and see, I see his house. Just totem poles all inside. And the government, those Indian (inaudible). Just down, then (inaudible) just drinking and the first totem pole my wife's father is worship Alert Bay, and (name) grandfather got it down. This old man, that was (name). He's from there. That's the smarter man that has got three sisters. I guess he knows he's going to marry. (laughs) I got nothing myself, just the two, one brother. My brother died at Nova Scotia (inaudible). Got married with a white woman. Same as (inaudible). He wanted to be a chief. (inaudible). He's not a little boy. Guess he's about fifty years old by the time he died. I'm eighty-six, born 1889. Nobody knows how many years, I just go by the school. I went to school, I guess it must be six years or seven years old. That's all I go by and nobody keeps track of... I guess you didn't know Jake. I guess he's got all kinds of history. His father was a minister and chief. And little closer like (inaudible) and he owned the store in there in (inaudible). Just a curiosity, just Indian (inaudible). I want to be (inaudible), another one to fool around with. Your peoples (inaudible). (laughs) Seems to me that they all...

David: You did?

Tom: Yeah. My granddaughter got married (inaudible).

David: That big one?

Tom: Yeah. The Thunderbird appear on this world. You see, a man tried to put a timbers to keep the (inaudible) from (inaudible). The Thunderbird comes. Asks him to try to put this timber (inaudible). Then the Thunderbird just grab and put one up and comes down and gets another one, two. There's a name of it but I didn't know. That's where there's no history. You know (inaudible). Yeah, speaking little English. They said (inaudible) in school that (inaudible). I be a good bachelor, but no. That (name) Simpson and I got kids in that time but I don't want it growing up. Yeah, I don't know (inaudible). The Walkers can tell you the other story about Rivers Inlet. He was chief then.

David: Oh I see.

Tom: And him and his assistant, what you call him, Frank, Frank Hanuse. There's a time about four, five years ago and the oolachans come up. You didn't use no net, just pail.
Tom: No, (name) and I have been unable to go around there. About four or five years ago they got those cameras with the movies, it was real good. And she's a school teacher. Well (inaudible). All right, this one. (Inaudible). And Martin this (inaudible). Good ones. Oh, the name but, maybe like if it's (inaudible). Lot of people in there that's now long just only one house. That was Charlie Walker's house. (Inaudible) nice little shack. (inaudible). If you (inaudible). History of where I come that river, not river, camp. Those times were flat (inaudible). I know. And man (inaudible). He's got a house a little bit (Indian). Little (inaudible). I get granddaughter who married with Frank Hanuse. And that Frank, yeah. Just flying with an airplane.

David: Oh yeah.

Tom: And then he goes by canoe just on the air till he finds that narrow place. That's where the camp was on the raft. (inaudible). But I know they trap there. There was a trap, like outside the (inaudible). It's a good story too. He didn't get the ordinary fish, one of them giant ones. They call it (Indian). They got fish (inaudible), four fins and middle is (inaudible).

First got the (Indian) right out. I didn't know what you call that point, just (inaudible), just from mouth of Rivers. This man get off the boat and walk and he didn't see the (Indian) was standing with both hands on the ground, and the man way up about forty, fifty feet high. The man was just on the centre of the (Indian). You see hand was come out from the little marsh (inaudible). Get (inaudible), when they get there they opens a base and when the animals would go right inside they kill it. And just a little (inaudible) not anymore than real (inaudible). Johnson and Danny and that Frank, they all young -- no old people. The father paid, they can't afford $14,000. I guess there's three of them (inaudible). (Inaudible) at Alert Bay. (Inaudible) Hamatsa. (laughs) But now getting weak. I got all kinds of masks from Rivers Inlet because I got a wife from there, yeah. There's a mask one end (inaudible) and the other (inaudible) back. My house burned down, everything's gone. It must be about '28. But I seen (inaudible). (Singing) (Inaudible) say the only guys was great. (laughs) That's why I leave. If I become a great man already I still want to come travel. That's Rivers Inlet. They got little
(inaudible). (Singing) (inaudible), you know, what (inaudible)?

David: Yeah.

Tom: Yeah, that's the one that uses feathers on top, inside.

David: He uses feathers?

Tom: Going to sing that (Indian). (Singing) (Inaudible) not mine but just used. I've got the one that's not used and the other one is being used when this one (inaudible). You got to go fast on... Those people, the Oowekeeno people, Charlie Walker built... And this thing just (inaudible). Yeah. Well, I got (inaudible) and then after, I see Harry Walker there now. (laughs) But that's in (inaudible) a long time ago. (Inaudible) name, (Indian). That's my name (inaudible). So all the young people now, same age as I am, all gone. Oowekeeno name there's Walker and (name), and there's some more, (Indian). Oh, that's just like our names in (inaudible), yeah. Hanuse, it was from that word. These names (inaudible) what you call the island, there's a little island on there, when you first get on the lake. That's where he lives, him and I think that other man just died not too long ago. That's where (name) was born, I guess. I don't know (inaudible) I guess it just raised on the... I don't think that mother's on earth. And there are people, lots of men and women there. No mother, no father just (inaudible). And I go to see in the Bible. My father he find seven girls for my wife, him. Young girl, just like buying it, but not buying. Want some more of this money. Well, they got paid in potlatch. I quit there, I quit the potlatch. And my father fired just (inaudible). Father pays seven girls to be my wife and he's got to pay for it.

David: Is that right?

Tom: The father of these young girls, pay him, not me. And I seen (inaudible). I come to think when I got (inaudible) Tommy, my boy, if I speak to him the same what my father said, you work and work. And then (inaudible). Not right. That's his idea to make money. In two years you got paid double what you pay for it, that's why. My wife (inaudible) and it's good for him, not me. Well, he gets his pay. Not in Rivers but down here, there's just a little (inaudible). I just see the whole town call the Gas Town turn to dust in fire. (laughs)

David: Oh yeah. That's in Vancouver?

Tom: This fire, before. If you didn't know that that hole on the rock (inaudible). I think it's on the right hand side. (inaudible) little island on the center of this (inaudible). You can't (inaudible). And the ice water running down just outside of that (inaudible). Rivers Inlet, it's way pretty near to the centre of this lake (inaudible). (Inaudible) this
our father. There was a provincial police and they arrest a lot of Chinese. (laughs) Yeah, Chinese was selling booze to the Indians. It's not many of them, what you call... I got (inaudible).

David: Oh yeah.

Tom: His name was Tommy, Tommy (name). (laughs) He's got a store on the far end of that big building. The (inaudible). Well he just the chief. (laughs) He's got papers from the Department of Indian Affairs. His name was Chief Charlie Smith. And you know now what makes seven wives. (laughs) And you got to pay him for what you can. Not me, I didn't get nothing.

David: Well, how long have you been in Vancouver? How long has she been living in Vancouver?

Lady: (Inaudible).

David: I understood from talking with Tommy that the amount of time you actually spend at Rivers is small.

Lady: Yeah.

David: Yeah.

Lady: Well, that was the first years of their, you know, their married life.

David: Yeah. And he moved about logging quite a bit, did he?

Lady: Yeah.

David: Yeah. At his job, he moved around quite a bit?

Lady: Yeah. I think he has a... one of the trees that he (inaudible), right around Campbell River. It's still standing there.

David: Oh I see, and they used that as a spar tree, did they?

Lady: Yeah.

David: Yeah. Well, where abouts did you grow up?

Lady: In Vancouver.

David: You grew up in Vancouver.

Lady: Maybe it's a postcard.

David: I could get your mother's name again on the tape. Maybe you could tell us again?
Lady: Her name was (Indian).

David: Do you yourself have a name?

Lady: Yes, it's (Indian). (Indian), that was my grandmother's, my grandmother in Rivers Inlet -- that was one of her names.

David: Did she have any other names?

Lady: Well, they all had several names, but the only one I know her by is (Indian). And they called her Lizzie, Lizzie Walker.

David: Right. And what was her husband's name?

Lady: He was gone before... you understand?

David: Yeah.

Lady: And I never... my mother's song. That was my mother's song that he (inaudible).

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(END OF TAPE)

PROPER NAME INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPER NAME</th>
<th>IH NUMBER</th>
<th>DOC NAME</th>
<th>DISC #</th>
<th>PAGE #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RIVERS INLET, B.C.</td>
<td>IH-BC.19</td>
<td>TOM SMITH #1</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>2,5,8,9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDEX TERM</th>
<th>IH NUMBER</th>
<th>DOC NAME</th>
<th>DISC #</th>
<th>PAGE #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARRIAGE -by barter</td>
<td>IH-BC.19</td>
<td>TOM SMITH #1</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORIES AND STORYTELLING (GENERAL) -adoption of animal form</td>
<td>IH-BC.19</td>
<td>TOM SMITH #1</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>2,3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>