

DOCUMENT NAME/INFORMANT: WINIFRED DAVID #2
INFORMANT'S ADDRESS:

INTERVIEW LOCATION:

TRIBE/NATION:
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
DATE OF INTERVIEW: AUGUST 24, 1977
INTERVIEWER: W.J. LANGLOIS/DR. B. EFRAT
INTERPRETER:
TRANSCRIBER: JOANNE GREENWOOD
SOURCE: B.C. ARCHIVES
TAPE NUMBER: IH-BC.76
DISK: TRANSCRIPT DISC 186
PAGES: 4
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- tells the story of the first encounter between Captain James Cook and the Nootka Indians.
Winifred: My husband wasn't all Clayoquot. His -- one of his grandparents -- grandmother came from... She was part Nootka and that's how come she knew this story about when Captain Cook first landed in Nootka Sound when he first landed here. And the Indians didn't know what on earth it was when his ship came into the harbor. They didn't know what on earth it was. So the chief, Chief Maquinna, he sent out his warriors -- he had warriors, you know -- and he sent them out in a couple of canoes to see what it was. So they went out to the ship and they thought it was a fish come alive into people and they were taking a good look at those white people on the deck there. You know, one white man had a really hooked nose, you know. And one of the men was saying to this other guy, "See, see, he must have been a dog salmon, that guy there. He's got a hooked nose." And the other guy was looking at him and finally a man came out of the galley and he was a hunchback and the other one said, "Yes! We're right, we're right! Those people must have been fish. They've come alive into people. Look what that one is, a humpback, he's a humpback." They call it (Indian), they're humpback fish. You've seen them, haven't you? Well, they thought he was a humpback. So they went ashore and they told, they told the big chief, "You know what we saw? Those, they've got white skin but we're pretty sure that those people on that floating thing there, out there, that they must have been fish. But they've come, you know, come here as people."

And they couldn't understand each other, you know. They didn't know what those white men were saying and they were talking Indian too. So the chief told them to go out there again and see, you know, try to understand what those people wanted and what they were after. And they went out again. And Captain Cook, he must have told his crew to give those Indians some biscuits, pilot biscuits. Have you seen those pilot biscuits,

thick white pilot biscuits? So they gave them pilot biscuits. And they started saying among themselves that they're friendly, "Those people up there are friendly. We should be nice to them." And they started talking Indian and they told them, they told them to go around to Sound you know, they started making signs and they were talking Indian and they were saying, "Nootka (Indian), Nootka (Indian)," they were saying. That means you go around the harbor. So Captain Cook said, "Oh, they're telling us the name of this place is Nootka." That's how Nootka got its name because those Indians were saying Nootka (Indian), Nootka (Indian), they were saying. They were telling them to go around the harbor. So ever since that, it's been called Nootka. But the Indian name is altogether different. Yeah. It's Yuquot, that Indian village. So, it's called Nootka now in the whole of the west coast. We're all Nootka Indians now. (laughs) That's what happened to Captain James Cook.

Inter: Do you like the name Nootka?

Winifred: Nootka? It's nice. I don't mind being called a Nootka Indian. (laughs)

Inter: Have you heard any other stories about meetings with the white men, the early meetings with the white men?

Winifred: I've never heard anything other than that. I've never heard about, I don't know what...

Inter: That was good.

Winifred: Yeah.

Inter: You heard that from your father, your husband's father?

Winifred: Yeah, my husband's father told it to me. Because his grandmother came from Nootka.

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