

Feb 12 '74

Robin Redington

Formal ethnographic session

"Beaver" could be called *c'a toné*, but call themselves  
Dunne-za "real people" (people related to us)

Entire Dunne-za society as (was) 2-3 x size of this class.  
Why so small?

Athapaskan. Peace R. area. Bennett dam to L. Athabasca  
when Alex. Mackenzie went through.

Climate different: colder, more snow. (Subarctic climate)

No great depths of snow, but enough so you have to use  
snowshoes & toboggan. No Salmon (arctic drainage)

Rivers have high cut-banks to terraces - prairie land.  
Also muskies. Lockes in west; some go up into  
lockes. Sekani neighbours (close). On East, Cree.

These realities dominate the life of the people.

8 months locked up in winter. Sept-June no green food. <sup>Vit. C</sup>

Edible cambium layer of spruce as first fresh food  
→ Aug-Sept berry crops.

Just straight meat is "bread & butter" (gives  
craving for <sup>sweetness</sup> sugar - story of frost sugar - so sweet)

Put up "dry-meat" for winter, but problems of storage  
of nomadic people. Depend on regular fresh meat  
3 times a day.

Used to be bison (until 1830's). Now moose principal  
also beaver, rabbits (but cyclic feast or famine), grouse  
(cyclic too), fish. Caribou, elk, deer in small  
numbers. Sheep, goats, marmots in high mountains.



Who? How? a question of cultural ecology (how the things people do fit into the natural ecology of the area. How everything fits with everything else. Quantitative analysis of calories. Size of groups, seasonal rounds, social interaction - - all fit area. A clear relationship. 90%+ food must come from hunting. (Leacock says the most difficult environment in world) Duvnaya occ. c. 75,000 sq. miles. Moose  $1/4$  sq mi = 19,000 moose. Biomass =  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs of meat (400 lbs/moose)

major source of caloric energy  
it is potential: only realized by expenditure of human energy. You have to exert yourself to get it. Predator man top of food chain (no less pounds of people than pounds of moose) At contact, 600-1000 people ( $1/75$  sq miles - phenomenally low Kalahari desert  $1/5$  sq mi, Kwana Bushman  $1/10$  sq mi).

Max crop of moose is c. 15%/yr. A self-correcting relationship. i.e.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds of meat.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs/person/day. 1000 people require 900,000 lbs/yr. Popn. in <sup>congruence</sup> balance with food source. (roughly)

Had to be nomadic, small bands of flexible composition and size. If group is 10, 750 sq mi, need  $\frac{1}{3}$  moose/week, every week. A month on 2 moose. (but only 1 or 2 effective hunters - incredibly lonely. If group 100 need 14 moose/month,  $\frac{1}{2}$  moose/day Run out sooner - a week of bad luck causes starvation. So optimum group c. 30 1 moose/week enough hunters, enough companionship. In fact, winter group was c. 30



Sometime in summer, groups larger, up to c. 300  
Groups changed size easily. Flexible, at a moment's  
notice. Hunter feeds everybody in camp, like  
living in lifeboat (generalized reciprocity). Bands  
split into groups according to resource availability.  
People take action right away.

Now on reserves. "Summer" groups. c. 100 people.  
Little movement. So hunters can't feed all. (just those  
who would have been in nomadic group).



# Robin Lidington

"Bush" no longer exists (It was one of the most remote areas in No Am. until <sup>1942/43</sup> Alaska Highway. and life was much as described yesterday)  
Old lady in camp - out of bush came "Cat-kettle that walks". No longer dependent on hunting. 5 reserves in BC (Doig, Blueberry also come Halfway, M 232 Prophet R, Moberly Lake) plus more in Alberta (Hay Lake).

Ron Ignace was there last summer as CD worker. Slides.

Farm at Halfway is only one that is succeeding to some degree.

Housing: 80% no insulation. Too small  
Charlie Yaku - camping out in a plywood box  
Cross generation marriage was normative  
Several spouses throughout wives  
Poor roads and lack of commerciation → high mortality rate  
IAB banned Indian Powwows. Drinking  
Elect chief because they have to. So elect the guy they dislike most.

High mortality rate ~~factor~~ of young people  
Heaven is white, clear like glass, up,

1) Reserves

2) Houses

3) School

4) Welfare

5) Chief & Council

6) Alcohol

7) Death on Alaska Highway

} → genocide



Week 6  
Feb. 11-15

Robin Redington.

No lecture Friday

Week 7 - Mid-term week. One lecture only (Sufr)  
Feb 18-22

Week 8

Feb 25-Mar. 1.

1 Lecture on

2

3 Curtis film: can we have it Friday Mar. 1. ?

Week 9

Mar 4-8

1 Lecture

2 Lecture

3 <sup>Mar. 8</sup> Guests Friday (Gloria) Indian Women

Week 10

Mar 11-15

1 Lecture

2 <sup>Mar 13</sup> Guests (Wed.) Ron - statue

3 Films

Week 11

Mar 18-22

1

2

3



Robin. Wed. pm

- Dunne - Za ("human beings")  
people real  
ours  
proper

- people of --- a territory
- brother or brother-in-law
- desperately cold for long periods of time
- used place area (beacon) as provisioning area for Arctic and westward expedition.
- 75000 sq mi 19000 moose  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs meat  
moose biomass

- 600-1000 people in 75000 sq miles

- 15% is maximum poop w/o eating into principle  
= 1 million lbs of meat / year.

1 person per 75 sq. miles -  
is like eastern Subarctic

Optimum group size is c. 30.

If meat doesn't go around to whole camp, it is a sign your camp is too large

Drastic breakdown when settled on reserves  
Factions now - lines of division then.



## Robin & Ron - Thursday

Now living in groups the largest size they had before, like summer trading post band. (Some bands are larger - Slave and Dunneza)

- band doesn't correspond with old reality  
- they didn't really have chiefs before. Decisions were on consensus. Nobody bossed anybody else around

- elect someone to throw them to the lions

- young chiefs are reversal of old system of respect for age

- "the houses the government gave . . ." - in rows not oriented right

- cross-generational marriage is passing from scene  
marriage is passing from the scene

(melodic line not in phase with rhythmic line out of phase)

Alaska Highway is not the road to heaven