

Notes from Notes from Fritz Harris Kispiox, taken by
Mr. H.R. Evans, Kispiox

No moose or deer even within living memory of Kispiox. Only caribou, bear etc.

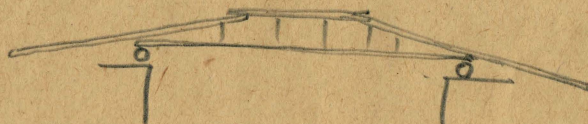
Winter clothing: "Men and women both wore a tunic affair about knee length, which had sleeves and was belted and also had a 'wood stick button' at throat. The men wore leggings to crotch, which were fastened to belt above hips, somewhat as are hip boots today. Inside this belt, between legs and up back and front, a warm fur was folded and tied in place. Moccasins of caribou. Hats of fur, hooding face and eyes.

To Nass for eulachon oil

Set out in February, run started Mar. 15. Man and wife ~~to~~ bring back 2 cedar boxes of grease each. New boxes were made each year at Nass (empties not taken there). 3 corners grooved, dampened, set over fire or line of hot rocks, then bent. 4th corner pegged, not sewn, with cedar dowels 1" apart. Bottom pegged on. Top lashed on and caulked for back packing.

A 6 to 8 day trip, begun well on in Feb. Up Kispiox valley about 50 miles, come to a wide valley (says they struck the Kitwancool trail well past the lake), follow down to a village just above Aiyansh — "Git-la-da-hansko." "There were two native built bridges to cross, one well up the Kispiox, the other presumably on Cranberry R. ... They were 30-40 ft above water, well above flood level. A brow log was set on the lip of either bank; cocked at a 20-30° angle over these

were two 'spring poles', their butts ballasted with heavy logs and rock, reaching from both sides of the creek. If the ends did not meet the opposite pair of spring poles, the gap was closed with a lighter pole connecting each pair "four - five fathoms long." Then from the brow logs out, lighter long poles were slung from the spring poles, supported by cedar branches, (1") lashed, and also some rope, and when the lighter poles were joined the bridge was decked. He remembers one such bridge.



Going, the bridges were not used because the people travelled on the river ice. They travelled light, had no toboggans or sleds, or even dogs in the old - old days. Arr. at the Nass village they presented a gift to the man whose canoe and net or nets they shared by arrangement. This gift was usually a few marten skins, or a well tanned caribou hide. By mid march the Nass was usually open enough for canoe travel and the guests travelled down to the canyon or below with their host and his family. If ice prevailed there, the nets were set under the ice, otherwise out of canoes. They used the same kind of oolichan nets as now though then of native fiber. Fish rendered in ^{Cedar} wooden boxes (cf Kitimat, spruce exclusively).

While the fish were ripening in the bins, trips further down river were made where the cedar for the carrying

Boxes was obtained and boxes were made.

When the season was over, the hosts took their guests as far upriver as possible in their canoes. Then 20-30 Kispiox or allied folk would set off homeward together. Men had 70-100 lb boxes, women 60-70. These were brought forward in not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile relays. The return trip was made in June after the snow was gone from the valleys. The trail was well worn. Arriving at this side of the divide, many families cached half their loads in a pit, securing with rocks, logs, etc and pushed on to get ready for salmon fishing here. The cached grease was packed down after the salmon season.

Item Poles: FH says definitely they had such before iron available.

Carving done with stone or bone tools, not so deep, and some poles quite short; owl, eagle were so done so he recalls. The bottom of a pole would be wrapped in birch bark, and this lashed snugly to delay rotting.

Storing dried salmon: 400 to 800 of these would be cached at or close to fishing place, thus: a pit was dug, lined with birchbark, and the very dry fish packed in it, no layers of bark, etc, between. When the pit was filled, more bark was carefully placed over it, then poles, split logs, then earth. Then heaviest logs. Fritz remembers his mo. and others going 7-8 miles upriver in Feb to open caches and pack home fish.

a good sized grease box would be 3 spans; oversize $3\frac{1}{2}$ high,
and the standard thickness, to facilitate packing was $1\frac{1}{2}$,
sometimes only 1.

Span: thumb tip to point of index finger

Snaring Groundhog: Should arrive on grounds not later than mid-August. Camp on timberline where wood available. Pack in spring poles, balsam, 12 ft long, new every 2 years. These spring poles were set with base lower on slope than the runway, thus snared groundhog will swing higher than if set above runway. The tip is set in a notched stake, and will loosen if pulled from either direction.

Salmon: put up July to mid-August. Sockeye & springs most valued. 20 40's ample for a family. "As now, the smokehouses were away from the village, on bank where fish can best be taken. The old smokehouses would be up to 40 wide and 60 or so in length.

Cremation. Always done in old days. Had seen at least one in his young days, down in front of farthest Totempole here. Kindling, small wood, big sticks, logs, body wrapped in blanket and put on top of pile about 4' high. Charred bones and ashes pushed together, protected by 4 poles  tied.