

EXCERPT FROM RECORDED INTERVIEW OF SARAH FRANK TALKING ABOUT THE
USE OF STINKWEED

CONDUCTED BY PATRICIA (PAT) HOLLOWAY AND ANNIE JAMES

FORT YUKON, ALASKA

JUNE 6, 1986

ORAL HISTORY 2002-13-18

PAT HOLLOWAY: It's called artemisia or sagebrush?

SARAH FRANK: Indian way, I guess they call it (inaudible) --

PAT HOLLOWAY: Do you use this for anything?

SARAH FRANK: This one?

PAT HOLLOWAY: Yeah.

SARAH FRANK: I know.

PAT HOLLOWAY: Uh-huh.

SARAH FRANK: We -- we did it. And then they dry it and then they boil it. You know what they -- people were doing with it.

PAT HOLLOWAY: No, what's that?

SARAH FRANK: This kind.

PAT HOLLOWAY: Yeah. What'd they do with it?

SARAH FRANK: They boil it. It get that long. July, it get that long. And they dry up. They boil it and then they drain -- They drain. Get only -- And here, too. It's brown color.

PAT HOLLOWAY: Uh-huh.

SARAH FRANK: And then -- and then they take about three teaspoon a day for arthritis. Is that right?

PAT HOLLOWAY: That's for arthritis?

SARAH FRANK: They take it for me to keep it up. And I make some. And be sure and keep it too in a cold place like refrigerator. They keep it in refrigerator. All the time in the summer. Good for arthritis.

PAT HOLLOWAY: So you -- you harvest it fresh like this?

SARAH FRANK: Huh-uh.

PAT HOLLOWAY: And then --

SARAH FRANK: You can dry it up.

PAT HOLLOWAY: And then dry it and boil it?

SARAH FRANK: It's all over. You can get it in Fairbanks.

PAT HOLLOWAY: Do they use it for something -- anything else besides arthritis? The sagebrush or whatever you --

SARAH FRANK: I know about it.

PAT HOLLOWAY: And you learned that from a lady on -- an Eskimo woman?

SARAH FRANK: Huh-uh. She's not Eskimo. I think she's from the coastal.

PAT HOLLOWAY: Uh-huh.

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SARAH FRANK: From Nome.

PAT HOLLOWAY: Uh-huh.

SARAH FRANK: And she -- you remember Daphne -- (inaudible) her wife. It's her wife's mother.

PAT HOLLOWAY: Uh-uh.

SARAH FRANK: You be sure and keep it up. Last time, I (inaudible) -- I just went only one month and I just forgot about it. I thought about it all summer long.

PAT HOLLOWAY: You going to get some more or --?

SARAH FRANK: (inaudible)

PAT HOLLOWAY: Oh, yeah. It smells nice, too.

SARAH FRANK: What you going to do? You're going to plant it again?

PAT HOLLOWAY: I'm going to press it. And keep -- get plants for the museum.

SARAH FRANK: (inaudible)

PAT HOLLOWAY: I wonder if you could take these roots.

SARAH FRANK: They say they can dry it and then keep it for the winter.

PAT HOLLOWAY: You just use the stems and leaves, huh? Does it have a little yellow flower?

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