

# Ethok Łats Potting Clay

Told by Edna Deacon (ED) and Alta Jerue (AJ) at the home of Alta Jerue in Anvik, AK, October 2002.

Told in Deg Xinag (Deg Hit'an, Ingalik Athabascan) and English

Recorded by Alice Taff (AT) and Donna Miller MacAlpine.

Transcribed and translated by Donna Miller MacAlpine, Alta Jerue, Edna Deacon, and Alice Taff.

Recording	Translation	Begin Time - mm:ss.ms
<b>Istl'idong sito',</b>	When I was small, my father,	05.920
<b>"Gan iy ethok łats?" viditłqit.</b>	"What is potting clay?" I ask him.	10.220
And he say, ah, "That's what they make pot out of," he tell me. I tell him, "What kind of pot?" <b>"Ethok,"</b> he said, "cooking pot." Then I want to know how they mix it, to make it into a pot.	... "cooking pot."...	21.130
<b>"Gitth'ithgi vitux dalyayh," ne sito'.</b>	"(With) feathers in it they mix it," says my father.	51.546
<b>And, naghixiyinitłtth'inh.</b>	And they knead it,	58.669
Like a bread dough.		01:04.733
<b>Naghixiyinitłtth'inh</b> and then,	they knead it and then,	01:07.096
(AJ) Really knead it.		01:11.184
(ED) Yeah, they knead it.		01:12.700
But I didn't ask him what kind of feathers they put in there. It's just, ah, grouse feathers, I think. And it have to be just right feathers in there, he said.		01:17.411
<b>Iy gitth'ithgi vitux dalyayh.</b>	Those feathers among it they mix it.	01:34.638
<b>And, naghxiyinitłtth'inh.</b>	Kneading it into it.	01:38.477
<b>Xidigal xeledz xineyh,</b>	Finally it's good.	01:43.375
Meaning it turn just good, just right to make the pot. Then they start forming,		01:45.794
<b>viye givatr iy, pot.</b>	a pot. [Lit. in it, it cooks]	01:54.910
<b>Ingthaq xeyitł'onh.</b>	They put it by the fire (to keep it warm).	01:59.557
<b>Gits'an xiyilghith,</b>	They turn it	02:05.387
meaning they turn it <b>"gits'an"</b> this way by hand and they have something straight to	...around (turn)...	02:07.740

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

keep,		
(AJ) Yeah, they use a little paddle and as they turn it they pat it flat so it won't, you know, get out of shape, or something. She said she didn't watch her do it. She didn't watch her doing it. She was doing it outdoors. She had a little fire outdoors.		02:16.265
(ED) Then after while when I wanted to know more about it, he said I talk too much. My dad tell me I talk too much, so I have to quit. But I know it's that <b>ethok lats</b> , the mud that's used to make a cooking pot.	... potting clay...	02:42.803
(AJ) Oh, and where he got the mud from?		03:11.213
(ED) It's somewhere Innoko River or they came out on the Yukon to get it.		03:14.765
That's what I wanted to know but, he said I was talking too much so I have to quit.		03:21.651
(AT) Do you want to say the whole thing in <b>deg xiq'i</b> so we can have it all in one piece now? Say what you just said but without any English to it.	...the local language...	03:33.180
<b>Ethok Łats</b>	Potting Clay	03:45.325
<b>"Sito', gan iy ethok lats?" vidisne.</b>	"My father, what is potting clay?" I say to him.	03:50.629
<b>"Etho yixigheghok, he'?"</b>	"Pots, how they used to make them, eh?"	03:58.827
<b>Etho lats axa," silne.</b>	With potting clay," he tells me.	04:04.891
<b>Gan sre' di'ilne.</b>	I don't know what he's telling me.	04:10.998
<b>"Ethok lats yixeghoyh,</b>	"They used to make mud pots.	04:20.264
<b>Yidong dixil'anh," yilne.</b>	Long ago they made them," he tells me.	04:26.156
<b>Ndagh sre' deg Yiqin or edixi. Ndagh sre'.</b>	Where I don't know, around Yukon or up there (Innoko River). I don't know.	04:31.454
<b>{yixiz} Nixiyalyayh ts'in'.</b>	They brought it (the clay) down.	04:40.935
<b>Gitth'ithgi</b>	Feathers	04:44.040
<b>xiy tux ilayh.</b>	are mixed in.	04:47.006
<b>Ts'i naghixiyintlth'inh.</b>	They knead it in.	04:49.973
<b>Getiy xeledz dineyh tux.</b>	It's mixed until it's really nice.	04:52.625
<b>"Agide.</b>	"OK.	04:55.225

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>Viye givatr iy tr'itiltse," ne.</b>	A cooking pot, we'll make," he says.	04:58.778
<b>"Di ethok xiq'i iy xiltse,</b>	"A pot like they made,	05:10.678
<b>engthe xididhiq'undi xighun'.</b>	(and put it) down near the fireplace.	05:14.441
<b>Xits'i xiy di'oyh ts'in',</b>	By it they put,	05:19.898
<b>ah, tritr,</b>	ah, wood,	05:25.459
<b>dit'its xiy axa.</b>	flat, by means of it. [The piece of wood is just right to put under the pot.]	05:28.569
<b>Gits'an xiy do'ol,</b>	(So you can) move it around (so you don't touch the pot),	05:31.091
<b>tr'ixeneg ts'i.</b>	carefully.	05:36.763
<b>Yuxudz xaxa toggingh'," yilne.</b>	Completely that's how it will dry," he says.	05:39.180
<b>Yuxudz nixal'an ilt'e gits'an xiy do'ol ts'i xidigal,</b>	All the time they keep doing that until finally,	05:44.960
<b>yuxudz xaxa diggoyh.</b>	completely, that's how it dries.	05:50.572
<b>And your ethok {nn} viq'i elnek.</b>	And your pot is finished.	05:54.967

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]