

# XNÍT SAPÁLWIT



Dig

Bernice Mitchell and her horn-handled Kupn dug roots from the still moist soil - piaxi for her left bag and luksh for the right.



Peel

Andrew and Edna David shared the work of peeling roots and later led Washut worshipping at the Agency Longhouse.

Come and celebrate the greening of the earth. Prepare a feast with a song in your heart.

Sing for the return of the roots — piaxi, luksh and xauch. Mother Earth offers her gifts once again. Offer her a song.

Sing for the deer who survived the winter and gives his meat and strength to you. Let a song guide the bullet to bring him down gently.

Bless the salmon given by the river and remember with a song the fishermen that the river has taken in return.

Cherish the old ones who gave you their songs. They left before you learned the endings, but be glad you listened. Sing a new ending.

Peel the root gifts with a song of thanks. They are many and healthy and we thrive because of them.

Let songs fill the kitchen where the pots and oven are filled with earth's bounty. Butcher, bake, boil . . . and sing.

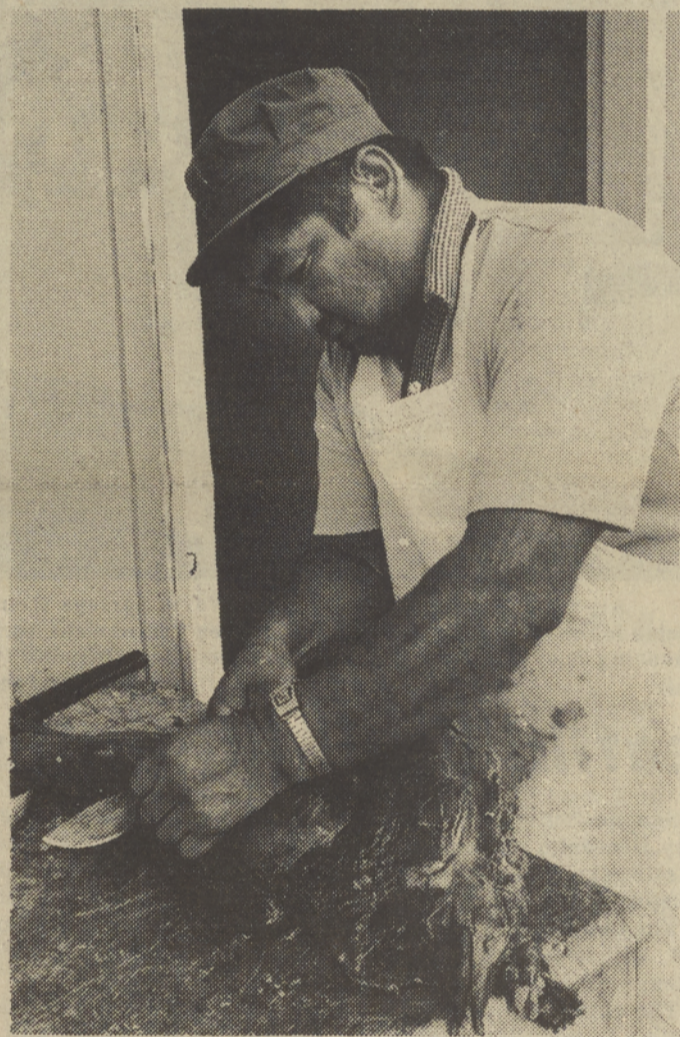
Wear your finest wing dress and moccasins and carry the precious foods to your friends and relations with a song.

Nusux, yamash, piaxi, luksh, xauch, wiwinu, tumsh.

Salmon, deer, roots, berries.

Chuush!

Drink!



Butcher

Silas Williams butchered two deer, the result of special hunts for the feast.

## (Root Feast)

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY CYNTHIA STOWELL



Boil

Steam rose from the boiling xauch as Mary Danzuka checked to see if they were ready.



Bake

The oven was too full so Verbena Greene baked several sides of salmon on the outdoor grill.