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Meeting with Students in the Tilichiki Evening School

The Liquidation of Illiteracy in the Koryak Autonomous Okrug

Our okrug in tsarist times was full of illiterates and low-cultured people. A cadre of teachers who knew their native language was the first necessity for the liquidation of illiteracy. But there were no teachers at all and no schools -- there were church schools in Tigil and Tilichiki. The first teachers were volunteers from the great territory of Russia; they didn't teach without translators. In March of 1920 after the overthrow of the White Guards in Petropavlovsk, at the District Council the President of the military-revolutionary committee, T. S. Malovechkin proposed creating a "'Alien' (native-inorodcheskii) committee for work among the local population." To relate peacefully and with friendship to the migratory peoples, attracting their children to school, bringing culture to the masses.

Up until the Great October Revolution there were 7 schools in the Okrug with 213 participants (uchashchisia). The tsarist government gave out 74 kopecks for the education of a child.

It was not easy for the first teacher volunteers: kulaks and shamans made up tales about the teacher. They said that they were evil spirits, they scared the people. And in general they did not give up the children to the school and took off to pasture on the distant tundra.

The main problem was the lack of knowledge of the Koryak language. The russians could not teach the children and adults without a translator. A translator sat with the teacher in the class -- usually a student from an older grade level. During the summer they organized courses for the study of the Koryak language. For example, in 1938 there was an association on the Apuka river, an artel and a teacher Maliutin worked in the school with Vasia Umyatav as translator. Maliutin wouldn't have been a teacher without him, like without having an arm. Neither conferences with parents or teaching classes. And for me the main translators at the Koryakskii kultbaza were Kolya Aritagin, Vasia Vachaurgin, Misha Tnagirgin, Katya Ilyina.

The schools were mobile - they moved with the reindeer herders. The schools were in yurts and in semi-subterranean huts. There were not enough books or writing materials -- one textbook for the whole school.

The first schools opened in October 1923: 1) Penzhina, 2) Sedanka, 3) Dranka, 4) Khairiuzovo where a few people studied.

In the 19th century in Tilichiki (Iosifovka) a missionary school was opened. However, the christian christianization of Oliutor households was meager.

I. Benikminov said, "The rough soul of the Koryak remains closed to Christian learning."

In November 1917 the "Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia" was passed with the signature of V. I. Lenin.

It declared (prevozglasila) "the free development of the national minorities of ethnic groups living in the territory of Russia."

The first constitution (1918) proclaimed "Equal rights for the citizens, independent of their race and nationality - the political equality of citizens."

Books in the native language were needed for work in schools of the peoples of the North. So in 1930-31 the first textbooks were prepared for the schools of the North. In 1932 a group of Koryak students under the guidance of Sergei Nikolaevich Stebnitski created the first introductory Koryak reader. Our own Ketsai Kekketyn, Lev Zhukov, Ivan Barannikov, Nikolai Nayanov, Mikhail Kichigin, and Anatolii Kechgiyat. They studies along with me in Leningrad in the Institute of the Peoples of the North (address: Obvodnyi kanal 17). A famous ethnographer and linguist and former teacher from Kichiga in Karaginsky raion, Stebnitsky wrote: "Both in the elementary and secondary schools and in the grammar schools for adults education was conducted in native language literacy. Literacy began to spread literally like an epidemic. The children teach their parents, husband their wives."

In 1937 on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the first meeting of the Okrug Soviet and in honor of the acceptance of the new constitution of the USSR: the Oliutorskii RK (revolutionary

committee) (VKPB vsesoiuznaia kommunisticheskaia partiia bol'shevikov) and the raion executive committee declared to the okrug that in the raion:

1. Total schools - 16
 - a) elementary - 15
 - b) middle - 1
2. Schools for illiterates - 24
3. Schools for poorly literate - 8
4. Reading huts - 3
5. Red corners - 3
6. Clubs - 3

In 1932 the first school opened in Tilichiki with seven grades. 14 worked in the school.

In 1941 the first middle school - Tilichiki

Schools in the raion 18

Seven-grade schools - 3

868 students, 86 local (native) [860?]

The president of the Koryakskii okrug executive committee and the first Koryak deputy to the Upper Soviet was Makar Mikhailovich Obukhov.

On the occasion of the first okrug congress of Soviets the fifth said (to 1937)

1) In 1931 the network of schools increased to 20 -656 students and expenditures per soul to 17 rubles, 66 kopecks.

2. In 1936 the network of schools - 49 - 402 persons; and expenditures per soul of the population was 142 rubles, 68 kopecks.

Cadres - primarily those who finished 6-7 grades became teachers.

For example:

- 1) Pavel Lastochkin
- 2) Lena Loginova
- 3) Flor Slobodchikov
- 4) Domna Longinova (Brel)
- 5) Pantelei Longinoi [v]
- 6) Kostya Nayanov
- 7) Nikolai Pak
- 8)

The introduction for the preparation of cadres of teachers for likbez and elementary schools took place at the Far East Region department of folk/national/native (narodny) education. In the Autonomous Okrug, on the first of September 1935 there were 30 teachers ready for the likbez schools and 34 for the elementary schools. There was teaching in the native language in 39 schools. In the Tilichiki ShKM 67 students studied in 1931.

In 1931 there was a soviet-party school operating in Petropavlovsk. The students were presidents and secretaries of village councils, likbez teachers and PartKoms (party committees). After finishing they all worked in Soviet-Party agencies.

In 1935 a Teacher's training center was established in Tigil - 41 people.

- 1) School department - 17 people
- 2) In the preparatory department - 24

Instruction was conducted in Russian but Koryak was taught as a subject. Cadres were prepared for national (native) schools.

In 1939 there was the first graduation.

The following graduated with honors

1. P. P. Longinov
2. K. Ya. Nayanov
3. K. S. Chernykh
4. N. A. Pak
5. P. M. Biriukova

The following were sent to the Institute of the Peoples of the North for continued education:

1. Elena Alekseevna Loginova (Tigil)

2. Nikolai Nayanov (Tigil)
3. Pavel Gavrilovich Lastochkin (Tigil)
4. Mishcha Chernykh (Tigil)
5. Kostya Longinov (Tigil)
6. Ketsai Kekketyn (Tigil)
7. Lev Zhukov (Tigil)
8. Misha Kichigin (Oliutorskii)
9. Tolya Kechgiiat (Oliutorskii)
10. Irina Gutorova (Karaginskii)
11. Keueil Adukanov (Bystrinskii)
12. Dusia Mandiatova (Bystrinskii)
13. Kolya Nerevle (Bystrinskii)
14. Egor Solodyakov (Bystrinskii)
15. Fekla Mmak (Karaginskii)
16. Ivan Barannikov (Tigilskii)
17. Tania Slobodchikova (Tigilskii)

June 8, 1930 a Koryak kultbaza was founded on the bank of the Penzhina river.

The organizers of the kultbaza and first kultbaza director was M. V. Shishkin and his assistant for cultural-mass work was N. N. Bilibin.

M. V. Shishkin was the organizer in the preparation and conducting of the First Okrug Congress of Soviets of the Koryak National Okrug. In April 1932 he was elected president of the Koryak Okrug Executive Committee.

N. N. Bilibin conducted hugely significant scientific-practical work on cultural construction. His articles had practical significance. They generalized the experience of work on national (ethnic) construction among the minority peoples of the North.

In 1934 the Apuka kultbaza is formed. The heads of the kultbaza were Rudenko (1934-38), Skvortsov (1938-41); Broitman (1941-43). From 1946 to 1956 the allotment for folk education was from 6.5 million rubles to 14 million rubles. In 1958 22,997 thousand rubles. For improvement and strengthening of educational cadres, improving the material conditions for teachers there was a decree of the council of Ministers of the USSR on the February 10, 1948:

- 1) Raise teacher pay by 15%
- 2) Payment of a pension for years of service
- 3) Award for years of service for irreproachable teaching

All this produced tangible results in the strengthening of the pedagogical cadres in the schools of the Koryak okrug.

The title of veteran teacher of the RSFSR on the 30th anniversary of the okrug the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR

1. Domna Nikolaevna Brek
2. Elena Alekseevna Loginova
3. Grigorii Vasilievich Neridaev
4. Aleksandr Sagzhanovich Pinku
5. Galin Vasilievna Lukash
6. Viktor Vasilievich Zhirnov
7. Nelli Nikolaevna Kosygina

Awards.

1. Domna Prokhorovna Pravoverova - Orden Lenina
2. V. I. Eitanin (Penzhino)

In 1946 there were 50 teachers prepared in the Koryak teacher's learning center

In 1948 88 were prepared.

Of them 70 worked as teachers and five in administrative work. The rest were sent on for higher education.

In 1958 there were 147 who studied in higher institutions (VUZ) and Technikums (from March 1957) in an external competition in accord with the decree of the Central Committee of

the CPSU and SovMina USSR "Measures for the further development of the economic culture of the peoples of the North (the external competition place). In 1958 in the okrug its own specialists who studied in the Pedagogical Institutes in Khabarovsk (150) and Leningrad (33).

During the school year of 1948-49 there were 40 national (native schools): 29 Koryak, 6 Itelmen, 3 Even, 2 Chukchi; 18 schools had preparatory classes.