

Segment: Opening

EXT. mountain meadow

Mountains raise above the plains. A river flows through a grassy meadow. A middle-aged Native American couple walk their dog through the tall grass.

V.O. Tribal elder

Our people have a legacy of living in union with nature. Our Fathers and mothers found everything they needed, here on our lands. But our world has changed. There is a thief among us. This thief slipped silently into our communities. At first, the thief stole so slowly that no one noticed. The husband stops walking and looks at his wife as she moves ahead being pulled by the dog. He looks confused. His hand to signal his wife. as he slumps to the ground. We hear,

V.O. Tribal Elder (CONT'D)

But now the thief has grown bold and he steals from us in the day as often has he does in the darkness.

The woman turns wife looks back and does not see her husband. He is simply gone.

V.O. TRIBAL ELDER (CONT'D)

The thief is cunning. Often do not hear him coming. He is evil because he steals only that which is most precious to our families.

The scene dissolves slowly to a view of the sun setting over a western canyon.

V.O. TRIBAL ELDER (CONT'D)

Now we have given the thief a name. We have learned his face and he can no longer hide.

Super Title: The Silent Thief

Interview Segment: The Doctor

Dr. Scott Clark has been a doctor in Bishop, California for over twenty years. He's retired now but he spent over half his life working with local Bishop residents, many of whom are members of the Paiute Indian Tribe. After learning about Dr. Clark's background he talks about his experience with the heart disease problem in the American Indian and provides an historical perspective to the problem.

Segment: Historical Background

Historical film footage and old photos will be used as a history of this problem is presented. This segment will show how their diet has changed as they've been moved on to reservations. Because this program is targeted towards American Indians, great care will be taken to present this segment in a way that doesn't stereo-type or draw broad assumptions for a diversified group of people.

Segment: The Athlete

Billy Mills is a famous American Indian athlete, Olympic gold medal winner, and fitness advocate. A biographical element introduces Billy showing the historical footage of him entering the stadium at the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 in ninth place and then going on to lap the field to win the gold medal. In his interview, Billy provides insight into the problems of diet and inactivity. He also talks about efforts to reverse the negative effects of the modern lifestyle.

Segment: Personal Stories

This element further illustrates using the words of American Indians. Each in turn tells their personal story. A father tells about losing his sons. A wife and widow share how heart disease has devastated her family. A healthy young mother talks about her heart attack. An Indian Health Service staff member talks about the size and scope of the problem.

Segment: The Facts and Figures

The size and scope of the problem are documented using facts, charts, and statistics compiled by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Several simple graphics or charts will be used.

Segment: Solutions and Future

Dr. Rick Frey, an educator talks about the program titled Honoring the Gift of a Healthy Heart from the NHLBI. This program was designed specifically for the American Indian and Native Alaskan. Then, each of the previous speakers weighs in on possible solutions and hopes for the future. A feeling of optimism tempered with a realization of the magnitude of the problem pervades this final segment.

Segment: Closing

EXT. mountain meadow

Again we see the images used in the opening segment. The couple are walking through a grassy meadow.

V.O. TRIBAL ELDER

Our world has changed. We have called out to the

thief that walks among us and we have given him a name. We have told him he is not welcome here anymore."

Fade to black.