

The Snakebite
by Edward Riggs

1. tótseha hákó'e tséška'ěškónéhévětse ná'éveévo'sóeme tóxeo'hé'e
Long ago, far past, when we were children we were playing by river.
2. ná'òhkeéetoo'hamēme
We would swim.
3. néhe'she hó'ótóva náhne'évaasēme
Then suddenly we left.
4. náhtae'ohtsēme hoéhose
We went up hill.
5. néhéóhe ná'éveévo'sóeme
There we played.
6. tséohné'ameohtsése hetane
He was approaching, a man.
7. hátáháóhe néstséhe'òhtse
"Over there, come!
8. néxhémeva ho'enóhkono
Come eat tubers!
9. náma'xemé'oma'àsoo'o éxhevo'o
I plowed up a lot," he said.
10. naa náxhestomeévo'sóeme
But we were too busy playing.
11. násáa'éeáahtovóhéne
We didn't listen to him.
12. néhe'she hó'ótóva na'ěstse tséohtséseheese he nétáhémevoneo'o
Then suddenly one (of us) said "Hey! Let's go to eat

ho'enóhkonésoneo tséoxheese
the little tubers!" he said.
13. naa nóheta náxhéme
And "Let's go!" we said.

14. tséohtaovóeasetaxése ma'ev'e'ése
He took off first, Redbird.
15. néhe tséohnéxhéseváenóse he'àhtsenēva ma'evotóneva
This one grabbed her by the hand, Redplume.
16. tséohtaaséta'xevóse
They ran off.
17. hápó'e násemahe he'ama-náhkohe he'ahtse náhtáheseváenomōvo
Likewise my younger brother. Up-bear, his hand I grabbed his (hand).
18. náhtaasetaxēme
We took off.
19. náhtaaméhó'e'ovóneo'o nenóve'she
We followed them a little ways behind.
20. tséstanéšenáamo'áhéotsétse tséohtáhétóhtáno hova'ehe
While we were running he ran over something.
21. tséoxxaehoó'heaxávévaotse
(We) overheard it rattle.
22. tséohsténeohevóse ma'evoto naa ma'ev'e'ése
They stopped running, Redplume and Redbird.
23. tséohtanéhotsetó'óvóse ho'ēva
They looked down to the ground.
24. náhtamóného'o'áhéotsēme
We soon arrived.
25. hótáhtse ma'xéšé'senovótse tséoxxamaetšéšéé'eka'a'eóó'ése
Behold, (it was) a big snake. It was holding up its head.
26. votse náxhohátséme
Unknowingly, we laughed.
27. násáahéne'enovóhéneo'o tséohkéhešená'senēvóse
We did not know that they bite.

28. náhtáhóseasēme
We went on again.
29. hánaháóhe hetane tséstsetóma'xovāse náhtáho'èhnēme
There the man where he was plowing we arrived.
30. ná'émévoneo'o ho'enóhkonèsono
We ate the little tubers.
31. náhoháeóněšeōhtse tséoxheese ma'eve'èse
"I'm in great pain," said Redbird.
32. nétaévaé'èhnema hoéhose tséoxheese
"Let's go back up the hill!" he said.
33. náhne'évaé'èhnēme
We went back up.
34. nēhéóhe náxhósèhoháe'ěšéévo'sóéme
There we again played a lot.
35. nēhe'še móxhoháamátòhéhe hestse'ko
Then it must have really hurt him, his leg.
36. éhoáeóněšeōhtse náhtse'ko tséoxheese
"It hurts really bad, my leg," he said.
37. náhtaanoheohtsēme tséhvéestove
We went down to the camp.
38. tóxeha o'hé'e éhvéeo'o
Along river they were camping.
39. nāháóhe tséstáho'èhnétse náxo'tsenèhetóneo'o néhe tsévéese
There when we arrived we tried (failed) to tell those who were camped.
40. éahanomāā'e šé'šenovoto náxho'tsenèhetóneo'o
"It bit him, a snake," we tried to tell them.
41. nássáa'amáhtóhéneo'o
They did not listen to us.
42. náhnetséstoeo'neo'o ta'e tséxhéne'enomēvōse tséhešeóha'otse hestse'ko
They doubted us until they found out that it was swollen, his leg.

43. náhmónenótseamàhtóeneo'o
They finally believed (listened to) us.
44. éxhoháetanóotseo'o
They got really scared.
45. tósa'e étaeeahanomāā'e náxhetāā'e
"Where did it bite him?" they said to me.
46. náhtaévatse'òhtséhoo'o néhéóhe šé'šenovòtse tséahanó'sénèse
I took them back there (to) snake where it bit.
47. tséoxhováne'eése néhe šé'šenovòtse
It was gone, that snake.
48. mó'éšeasevonéhnéhēhe
It must have already crawled away.
49. kàsováaheho tséhnéhmaeho'èhnēvòse
Young men arrived from all around.
50. éhnòhtse'ovovo néhe šé'šenovoto
They looked for that snake.
51. néhe'se tséoxhósého'táhoevòse tòhé'késaévé'hó'e
Then they arrived, cowboys.
52. éhmòhonorovo
They looked for it everywhere.
53. tósa'e éssámé'ovóhevo
They didn't find it anywhere.
54. votá'máhove'se néhe tòhé'késaévé'hó'e éstamé'ovovo néhe šé'šenovoto
Finally those cowboys found that snake.
55. hótàhtse éxhoháa'èstóneehe ma'xéšé'šenovòtse
Behold, it was really long, a big snake.
56. é'ahanòhnovo néhe šé'šenovoto
They killed that snake.
57. néhe'se náhne'évaase

Then I came back.

58. náhtaéváho'éhótoo'o
I went back to them.
59. éssáa'évaévo'sóetanōhe tse'tohe ka'ěškóne ma'eve'ěse
He did not want to play, this child, Redbird.
60. móxhoháeóněšeohséhēhe
He must have been in great pain.
61. heséeo'ótse éxho'tsetséhetanomónónovo
Medicine they tried to apply.
62. éssáaho'to'eotsēhe
It did not help.
63. hēne taa'ēva tséhvóoneohsētse éxhovánee'e
That night when it was dawning he died.
64. naa nēhe'še ná'òhkéhoháe'o'háevamaeneo'o nēhe'xóvéva
And then they would really warn us at that time.
65. tósa'e ná'òhkésáa'évanóhpáho'òhtséhéme
Nowhere could we go.
66. hena'háanéhe tséhetaa'óhta'hanéto
That's all that I have to tell.

Text Information

Original Transcriber: Olson

Location: Oklahoma

Date: c. 1965