

ê-waşkwayi-cîmânihkâniwahk

- 1 nîštam ê-kihcihtâniwahk tânt' êtôcikâtêk â... oškwayi-cîmân¹
êy-oš'htâniwahk, pitamâ nâtahihâtêw' ôškwaya² mihcêt. êko, kišê-'l'liwak ôta
ihtâwak ê... êy-oš'htâcîk mihcêt a... oškwayi-cîmâna wêskac, *Company*,
'udson Bay Company'³ 'oš'tamawâcîk cîmâna. êko mâka, môl' âlimisîpanik
ê-wš'htâcîk; nâš'c wêhtan êy-oš'htâniwahk oškwayi-cîmân. piko 'kwân'
ê-'tiy-olâskwahaman kiwâkinâwak mâsakîskak; ê'kwân' êši-'ci-šîpâhacîk,⁴ a...
awa... aspihtitâkanak kâ-išîni..., kâ-napakîsîcîk, kâ-môhkotacîk⁵ mistîkwak.
mâsakîsk mâka piš'šîk kitâpacihâw.
- 2 êko mâka watapîy, watapîy n'tâmîhk mištîkohk kâ-pimâpihkêšîhk askîhk,
êwakwâna 'kaškîkwâcîkâkêyan êy-oš'htâyîn ôma apaci... ay'hâw,
oškwayi-cîmân. êkotê' n' ê-tôcikâtêkipan êy-oš'htâniwahk ôhi cîmâna. môšak
mâna n'ka-kanawâpamâhtayak kišê-'l'liwak ê-wš'htâcîk. n'kaškîhtâhtay
mâka nêsta nîla ê-wî-..., 'ci-wîcîhêw'ân êy-oš'htâniwahk. kiyâpac mâkââ,
n'ka-kîy-oš'htâhtay oškwayi-cîmân, wî-koc'htâyân 'ci-wš'htâyân, anohc êê...
kiyâpac. tânt' êtôcikâtêk piko, oškway n'ka-nâtahehtay, mâsakîskak mâka,
ê'kwâni piko. êko mâka, mâka ... *Hudson Bay* mâka ôh' êy-oš'htamâht
cîmân', ê'kwân' ê-'tiy-ânîskê-'tâmâspan ilîliwa. êko môla mâk' an', ... môl'
âlimakihtamôpan kêkwân anim' êspihc. môla tâpîskôc anohc kâkîkê.
- 3 ê'kwâni piko 'tê kâ-tôcikâtêkipan anih' êy-oš'htâniwahkwâpan
oškwayi-cîmâna. milwâšînopana mâka. maškîwâwa nêsta môla ... môla
pîkwahtînopan' ê-p'mîškâyan, ê-..., asîniy âskaw ê-mîškwaht. pâwîstîkohk
nêsta ê-pîwitaman nâhtâ' milwâšînopan. mihcêtwâ mâk' antê n'kî-n'tahên
sîpiya ôh' êy-âpacihtâyân nêsta ê-mâhamân, ê-n'tawihoyân wêskat. ê'kwân'tê
mâka,⁶ piko êtôcikâtêk ê-wš'htâniwahk.⁷
ê'kwâni mâk' ôma êskwâk wîla.

Making birch bark canoes

- 1 First at the outset the way it's done in making a birch bark canoe, first of
all many pieces of birch bark are gathered. Well then, there are old people
here wh... who used to make many uh ... birch bark canoes long ago, the
Company -, making canoes for the Hudson Bay Company. And so, they used
to have no difficulty making them; it was very easy making a birch bark
canoe. Only at that point when you start making the frame you bend the
cedars; then you push them in, uh ... the flooring stays as they are cal... the
flat ones, the boards which you plane. You use cedar throughout.
- 2 So then [you take] a root, a root which lies in a line beneath a tree in the
ground, this is what you lace it with as you make it, use this ... well, uh ... a
birch bark canoe. That's how it used to be done when making these canoes.
I would always watch the old people again and again as they made them. And
I myself used to try also because I want ... in order to help as they made
them. And still, I could make a birch bark canoe, should I wish to try to make
one, right now, uh ... still. The only thing that would have to be done, I'd
fetch birch bark and cedar, that's all. And, and then ... when these boats were
made for the Hudson Bay, then they in turn sold them to the people. So then
they weren'... nothing used to be expensive at that time. Not like it always is
today.
- 3 That's all that used to be done in making those birch bark canoes. They
used to be good, though. They were strong too and didn't ... didn't break up
as you were paddling, as ... as you sometimes hit a rock. And as you were
running on the rapids it was really very good. And many times I've gone
upstream using these and downstream too, as I hunted long ago. And that's
all they used to do in making them.
That then is the length of this one.