

## Rescuing the Pilots<sup>1</sup>

Robert Rice, Sr.

1. 'o sii'em', quyupleynuhw.  
Oh, my most honoured friends. (I am) Quyupleynuhw.
2. yuthustalu tsun tse' kwthu ni' tst sla'thut 'u lhunu ten  
I will tell you a story about me and my mother  
  
kwutst nem' tth'oom' nem' 'utl' tl'elhum.  
when we went berry picking at Tl'elhum (St. Mary's Lake, "White  
Beach", on Salt Spring Island).
3. tum'qw'i'lus.  
It was summertime.
4. netulh 'i' hwuytham'shus lhunu ten.  
Morning came, and my mother woke me up.
5. *She called me McGarfy. "Wake up. hwuythut. nem' tst tth'oom."*  
*She called me McGarfy. "Wake up. We are going berry-picking."*
6. "uy'."  
I said. "Okay."
7. nusuw' 'umut, xlhas, t'ahw, suw' hiqu' tu snuhwulh tst.  
I got up, ate, and I went down the beach and pushed our canoe in
8. 'uhwiin' thu snuhwulh tst, 'uwu tl'eqtus.  
Our canoe was small, not a long one.
9. 'een'thu xut'ustum' yu q'iq'uxathut  
I was what you call swinging back and forth  
  
yu xut'e 'u tu'i kwus yu 'i'shul'.  
like this when paddling.

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<sup>1</sup> Transcribed and translated by Theresa Thorne and Donna Gerdts

10. q'i'q'uxathut, ye' q'i'q'uxathut.  
Swinging, yeah, swinging back and forth.
11. suw' yu q'eq'unuts lhunu ten sutst 'uw' huye'.  
My mother ruddered the canoe and we paddled away.
12. nem' 'utl' tl'elhum.  
We went to Tl'elhum.
13. tsakw ni' 'uw' tsakw ni' 'utl' xextl'uqun'.  
Far, it was far at a place called Xextl'uqun' (Norway Island).
14. xextl'uqun tthu shni' tst kwu lelum' tst.  
Xextl'uqun is where our house was at.
15. ni' yu 'i'shul' wa'wu 'apun 'u tthu netulh  
We paddled, and at 10:00 AM  
  
'i' ni' tst huy'uluw'sh lhu 'uhwiin' skwi'kwthe'  
we reached or passed a little island,
16. xut'u sthithqutsun kw' sne.  
Sthithqucun is the name.
17. ni' tsun kwu'elh 'uw' hwun' yu 'i'shul' 'i' wulh tetsul tthu yu  
lhalhukw'.  
We were still paddling when an airplane came.
18. 'eey' kwu xixul'ux 'u kwey', 'eey' kwu xixul'ux.  
There was war going on at this time.
19. 'i' m'i yuse'lu they' yu lhalhukw' suw' m'i 'ewunusalum.  
There were two planes and they came right towards us.
20. tl'lim' 'uw' yu stutes sus 'uw' m'i 'iputhut.  
They came very close, brushed by.
21. suw' yul'ew' tthu nuts'a', 'uwu niis hith 'i' m'i tetsul tthu qul'et  
yulhalhakw'.  
So one passed, and not long after, another one came.

22. nilh ha'kwushus tthu hwulunitum' kws t'ut'athut-s lhalhukw's,  
These are what the white people use for practicing flying,  
  
t'ut'a'thut-s lhalhukw's.  
practicing flying.
23. susuw' yu tsukwul'ul'qum' tthu nuts'a' yu st'e 'u tthey'.  
They were following each other.
24. yul'ew' tthu nuts'a', sus m'uw' thuythut tthu nuts'a'.  
One would pass and the other would come.
25. tl'lim' 'uw' yu stutes, stutes 'utl' (lhnimulh) nus m'i q'puthut.  
They swooped down at us, very close.
26. hay kwu nuts'a' ni' 'uw' huye' m'i tetsul tthu nuts'a'.  
One would pass and the other would come.
27. susuw' tiqw' tthu nuts'a' *I'll call it a wing...* susuw' *plup* susuw'  
tl'pilustum.  
Suddenly they collided and crashed into the ocean and sank in.
28. hay 'ul' hith tthu' matqw'um' 'ul' tthu qa'.  
After a long while, the water was bubbling.
29. hi-i-th hith kws 'uwu kws qwals lhunu ten 'i' tl'e' tsun 'uw' 'uwu  
kwunus qwal.  
We were stunned and both just could not say a word.
30. suw' thut lhunu ten,  
My mother finally said,  
  
"wa'wu nilh 'uw' yath 'uw' sul'uthut-s  
"I guess that is what they always do,  
  
tun'a hwulunitum' syulyal'xw q'u."  
these white people — crazy, I think."

31. hith 'i' m'i p'ukw tthu naan'ts'a'.  
Very long after one came up.
32. yu kwukwtsem' "ts'ewutham'sh! ts'ewutham'sh!"  
He was screaming, "Help me! Help me!"
33. hith 'i' m'i p'ukw tthu naan'ts'a', tl'uw' yu kwukwtsem'.  
Long after, the other emerged, also screaming,
34. "ts'ewutham'sh! ts'ewutham'sh!" 'ooh muy!  
"Help me! Help me!" Oh goodness!
35. sutst nuw' 'ushul nem' 'u ... numnus.  
So we paddled towards them.
36. 'uhwiin' tthu snuhwulh tst.  
Our canoe was small.
37. skw'ey kws 'aalhs tthey' lhalhukw' mustiimuhw, skw'ey kws 'aalhs.  
Those flying people could not board our boat.
38. "aah tstamut tst 'a'lu."  
"Now what were we to do?"
39. suw' xut'us lhunu ten, "na'nuts'a' kwun'els 'i' 'u tu'i'nulh.  
Then my mother said, "One will hold onto this side
40. na'nuts'a' tse' kwun'els 'i' 'u tthu lhaal'we's 'u tu'i'.  
And the other one will hold onto the other side.
41. *Then she said*, "'ushul ch kwu'elh."  
Then she said, "Now paddle."
42. nusuw' 'ushul, lhel, tsakw, tsakw tthu shnem' tst.  
And I paddle, going toward shore, and we had a very long way to go.
43. ni' tst ts'imul' 'u tthu yu shhwunum' tst, suw' t'ahw 'u tthu snuhwulh.  
We came close to shore, and we brought the canoe up onto the beach.

44. 'i' tl'lim' 'uw' wulh slhtsiw's tthu lhalhukw' mustimuhw.  
They were very, very tired, these flying people.
45. sutst 'uw' qw'im, ts'ewut.  
We got off and helped them.
46. suw' wutl'uts' tthu na'nuts'a', wutl'uts'.  
One of them fell down, (the other) fell down.
47. skw'ey kws kweyx-s tl'uw' lhelhuq'um 'ul'.  
They could not move, but just lay there.
48. 'i' ni' yuhw yu tth'eth'um' tthu qa', yu tth'eth'um'.  
The tide must have been going out.
49. suw' hith kwus lhelhuq'.  
They lay there for a long time.
50. wawa' 'uy' kwus yu tth'eth'um' tthu qa'.  
Maybe it was a good thing that the tide was going out.
51. ha'ulh yu qumul' 'i' ni'ulh 'uw' q'ay tthu lhalhukw'.  
If it had been coming in, they might have died, these flying people.
52. hi-i-th kwus lhelhuq'.  
They lay there for a long time.
53. suw' hwuy tthu na'nuts'a', hwuy tthu na'nuts'a'.  
One woke, one woke up.
54. suw' lhxilush, lhxilushst-hwus lhunu ten.  
then he tried to stand, and my mother helped him up.
55. suw' 'imushstum, nem' 'u tuw' tsa'luqw.  
And she helped him walk through the woods.
56. 'uy' tthu spulhxun ni' 'u tthey'.  
There was a nice field.

57. suw' kwunutus tthu .... 'uwu te' s-hwulmuhwa'lh sne kwey' *parachute*.  
There they examined their ... there is no First Nations word for parachute.
58. suw' pthutum, pthutum ni' 'u tthu spulhxun.  
They spread their parachutes, spread them out in the field.
59. wa'wu m'i suw'q'tum lumnum tthey'....  
Maybe they search and saw that...
60. suw' m'i 'ewu kwu tsswe', 'uwu te'  
Then they came over to their own ... and there is nothing.
61. suw' xlhastum tthu hwulunitum' 'u kwu suplil.  
My mother fed some bread to the white people.
62. 'uw' hay 'ul' yu kwun'etus lhunu ten.  
That was all my mother had brought along.
63. suw' 'ulhtun.  
They ate.
64. suw' xut'u yuthustum tthu hwulunitum',  
She told the white people,
65. "nem' tst tse' 'ushul suwq' 'u kw' shtuteem'."  
"We will go paddle to look for a place to phone."
66. sutst nem''uw''u-u-ushul', tetsul 'u tthu lelum' suw' tsam.  
We paddled along until we reached a house and climbed up to it.
67. kwuhwtssum suw' yuthustum... ni' ..'i tst qwal 'u kwu yey'sul'u  
'ula'ulh 'u lhu lhalhukw'...  
We knocked and told about the two pilots that were on board.
68. ...I don't know how to say crash in the water.
69. susuw' temutum hmm, temutum kwu shni's.  
They called (the Air Force) where they were from.

70. yuse'lu ts'twa' tintun 'i' m'i tetsul thu thi pout yu lhalhukw',  
It was maybe two hours and this big boat arrived,  
  
tl'lim' 'uw' yu lhalhukw'.  
full speed coming in.
71. susuw' huye'stum.  
They took them away.
72. we', susuw' hay.  
Well, that was over.
73. suw'.. nem' tst tl'e' wulh nem' 'ushul nem' 'utl' Jimmy Ryan suw'  
tth'oom tst.  
After this we paddled to Jimmy Ryan's place, where we picked.
74. suw' hay kws tth'utth'oom tst sutst 'uw' nem' t'akw'.  
After we finished picking berries, we went home.
75. ni' tst mel'qt.  
We forgot about the incident.
76. hi-i-ith hith hith wawa' yuse'lu *three months*.  
Maybe two, three months went by.
77. tl'uw' wulh tetsul thu thi pout ni' 'u kwthey'.  
A big ship came in there.
78. suw' huye'stalam nem' 'utl' mutouliye'.  
They took us away along with them to Victoria.
79. xu'athun tintun kwutst 'ula'ulh 'u lhey' pout 'i' ni' tst tus.  
About four hours on board this ship and we reached our destination.
80. suw' nemustalum 'u thu thi 'ulhtunew't-hw.  
They brought us to a restaurant.
81. *Cantaloupe* sul'its' 'u tthu *ice cream* xlhastewut tthu quyupleynuhw,  
Cantaloupe and ice cream they fed me, Quyupleynuhw,

xaatth'ustum ni' 'u tthu pipu.  
and took a picture of us for the paper.

82. nem' 'u kwthu xut'ustum' Beacon Hill Park.  
They brought us to [the place called] Beacon Hill Park.
83. 'amustalum 'amustum tthu quyupleynuhw 'u tthu pipu,  
They gave me, Quyupleynuhw, a certificate,  
  
'amustum 'u tthu shuptun, 'uhwiin' shuptun.  
and a knife, a small knife.
84. 'amustum lhunu ten 'u *little medal*.  
They also gave my mother a little medal.
85. suw' t'ukw'stalam.  
They then brought us back home.
86. qux *ice cream* 'ula'ulhstum 'u thu pout.  
There was a lot of ice cream.
87. suw' hun'umut, mukw' lhwet 'uw' *hice cream*.  
When we arrived home, everyone had ice cream.
88. suw' hay.  
So that's the end.
89. 'i' sxuxil' 'u tthu pipu *newspaper*  
And it was written in the paper.
90. "Indian Boy eats his first ice cream."
91. That is the end of my story.
92. quyupleynuhw signing off.