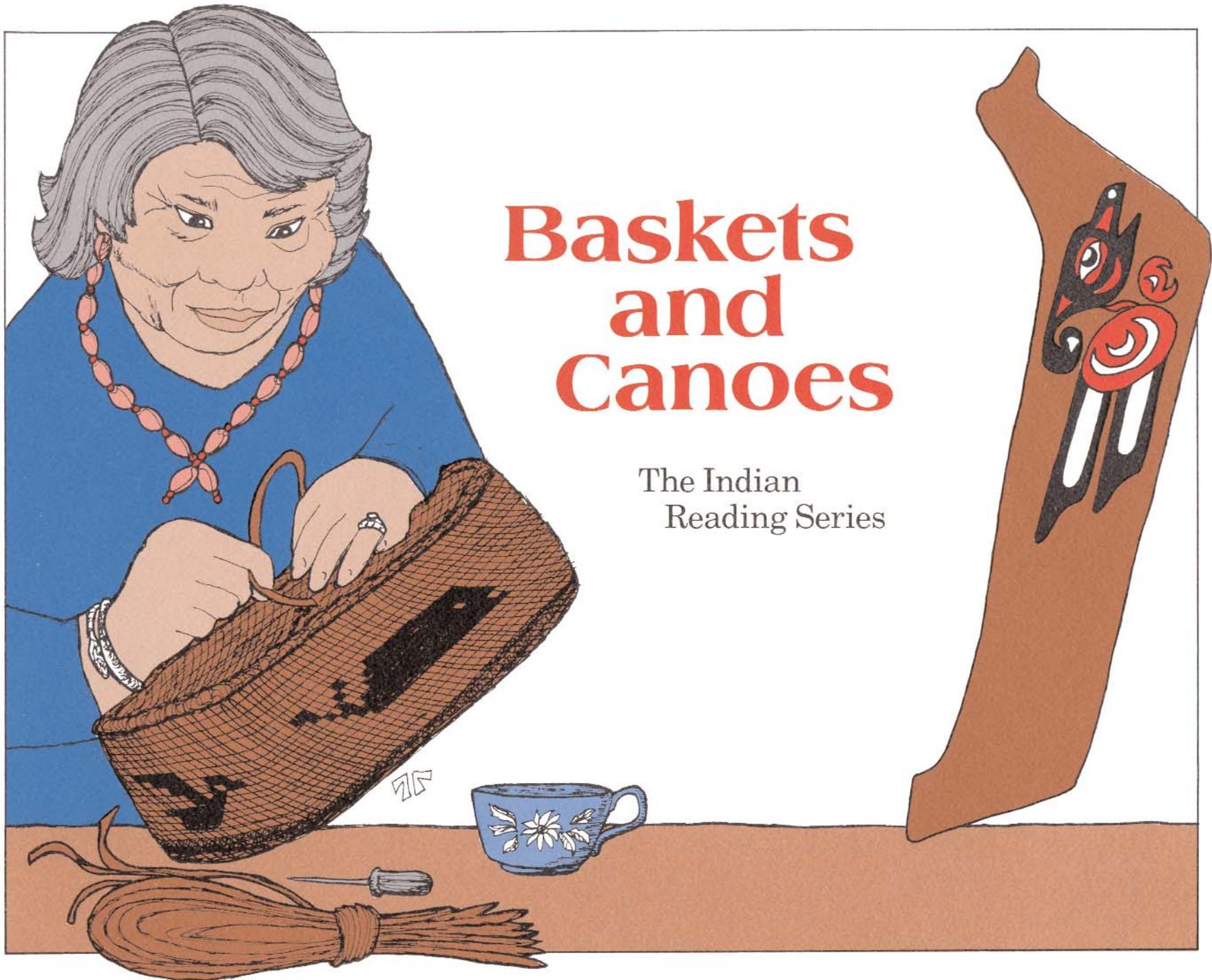


Baskets and Canoes

The Indian
Reading Series



THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

- Warren Clements — Warm Springs
Chairman
- Clement Azure — Devils Lake Sioux
- Walter Moffett — Nez Perce
- Emmett Oliver — Quinault
- Bob Parsley — Chippewa
- Lloyd Smith — Warm Springs
- Max Snow
- Jeanne Thomas — Yakima



THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Skokomish Baskets and Canoes Series IV

Developed by the Coast Area Planning Committee

Jeanne Evernden, *Coordinator*
Wilma Bush
Gerald Miller
Georgia Oliver
Yvonne Peterson

Illustrated by Terry Tafoya

A Skokomish Story

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

This work has not as yet been published and is afforded all protections under the U.S. Copyright Law (P.L. 94-553) effective January 1, 1978.

Copyright in the published edition will be held by and in the name of the Skokomish Tribe.

No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transcribed, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the author agency identified below.

The project presented or reported herein was performed pursuant to a grant from the National Institute of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the National Institute of Education, and no official endorsement by the National Institute of Education should be inferred.

Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
710 S.W. Second Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204



If you visit an Indian home in the Northwest today, you often will notice many baskets on display about the house.

Some of these baskets are delicately made, some are large, some are small and some are loosely woven. There are many, many different styles and colors, and each type served a specific purpose.



Baskets that are tightly woven are used for cooking, carrying water, and for berrypicking. In the Tawana language, they are called sp3'cHu (spu'choo). In the old days, cooking took a lot longer than it does now. Food was put into the basket with water, then very hot rocks were taken from the fire and dropped into the basket, causing the water to boil. This was repeated until the food was cooked.



Loosely woven baskets were used in clam digging to wash the clams and also for storing food. The space between the strands allowed air to circulate through the stored food to keep it fresh.

Baskets were made from many kinds of materials: cedar bark, willow wands, sweet grass, cattails, and tree roots.

You may also notice in these same Northwest Indian homes, models of canoes carved from cedar. Many are larger than toy size. These models are replicas of the large fleets used by the tribes before modern means of transportation were developed. In the Hood Canal region, the mode of transportation was by canoe only.

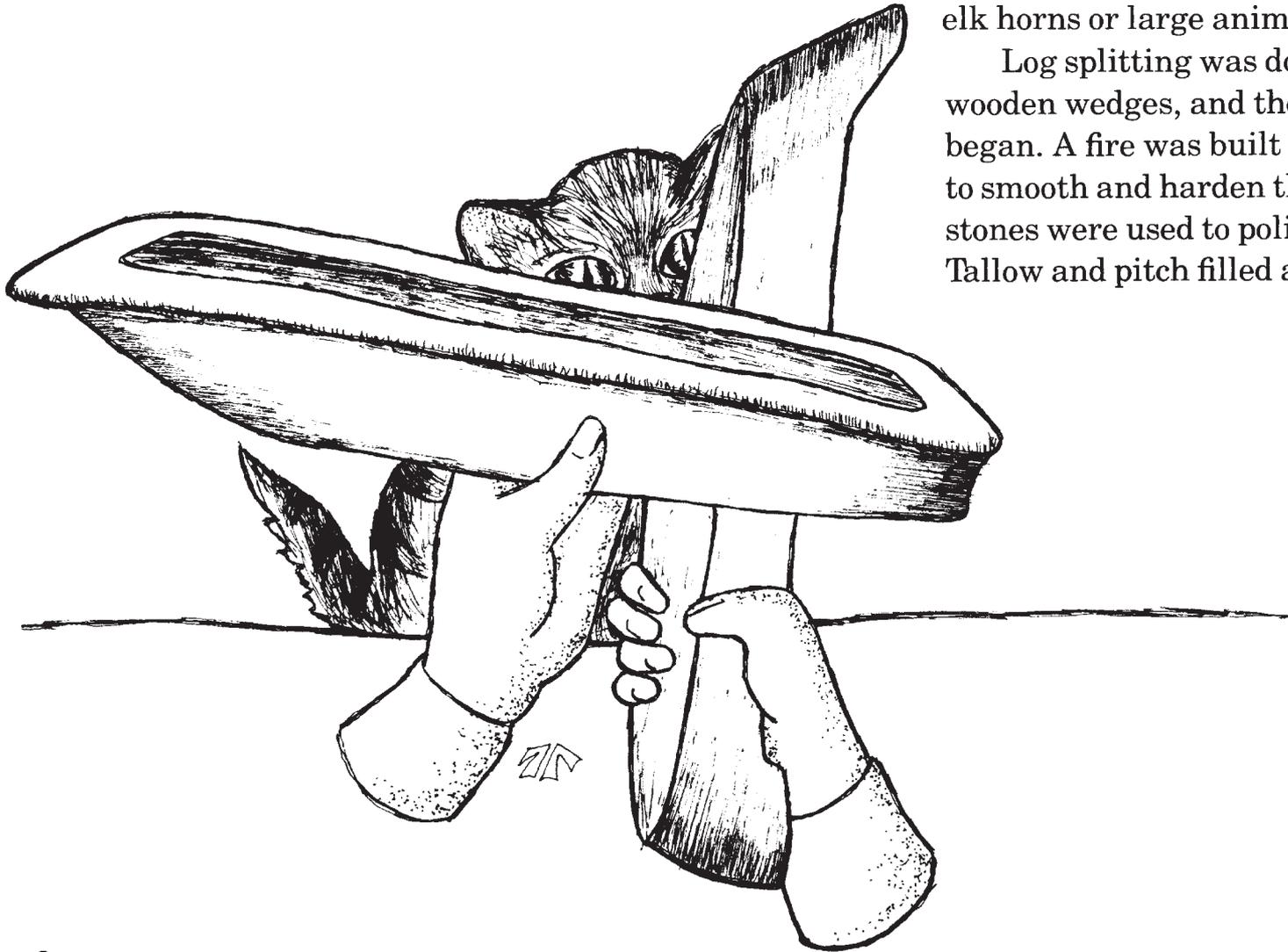
Like baskets, there were many types of canoes, each with a specialized use. The shovel-nosed canoe was used on rivers. A type called the “sneak” canoe had a slender front three feet high. With fir boughs for camouflage, the early tribesmen used the “sneak” canoe for duck hunting.

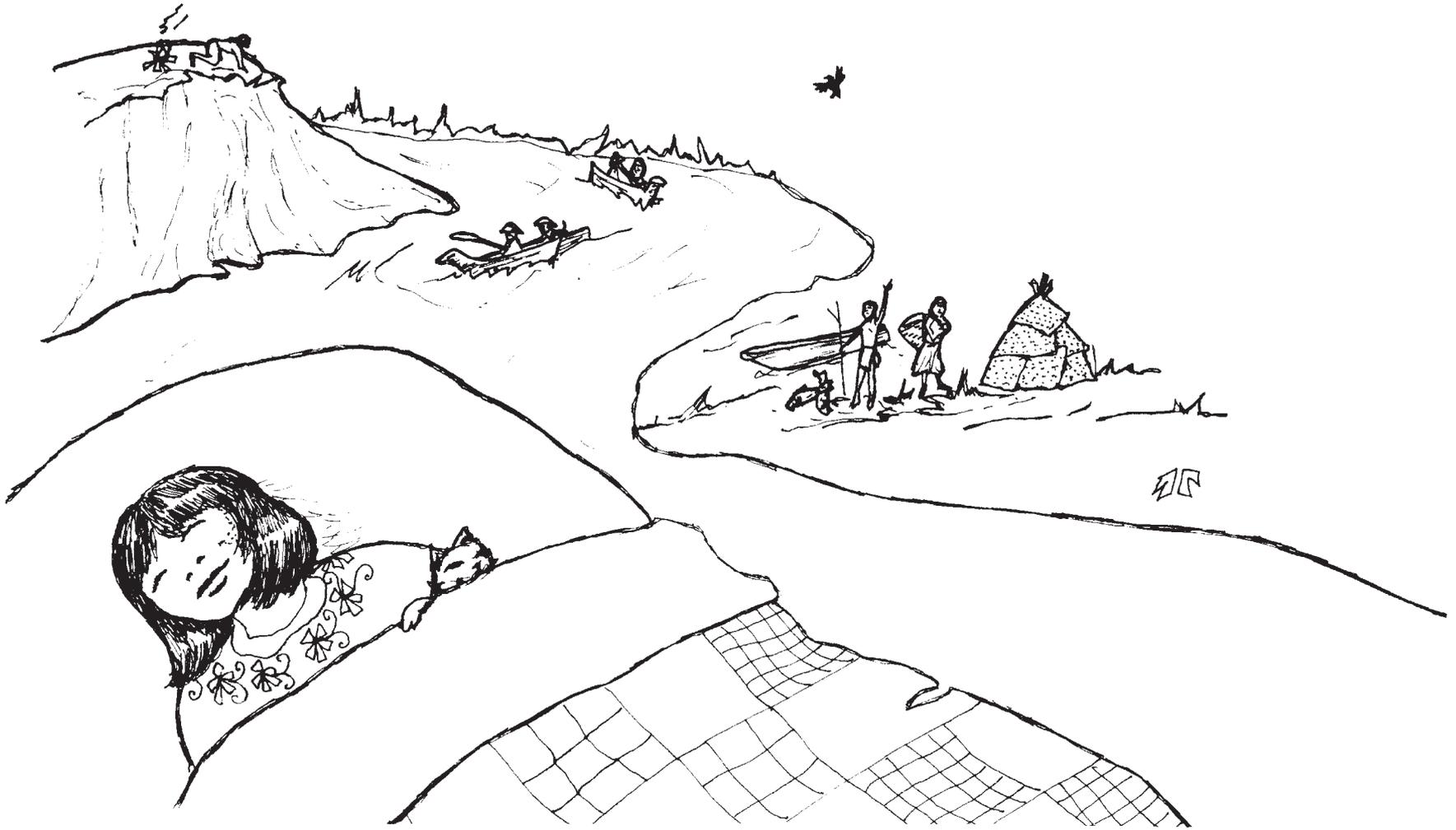
The biggest canoe was called the Chinook, or o?oycd (oh oat ks) in the Tawana language, and was thirty or more feet long. This vessel was used in warfare, for carrying large numbers of people to potlatches, and for transporting people and supplies to clamming and hunting grounds. Here the clams, fish and meat were prepared for the winter. The tribesmen loaded their supplies into these spacious canoes and returned to their homes.



To make a canoe, it was necessary to find a tree three or four feet in diameter. The felling was done by chisel and hammer. The chisel was crafted from elk horns or large animal bones.

Log splitting was done with wooden wedges, and then the shaping began. A fire was built inside the tree to smooth and harden the sides. Gritty stones were used to polish the surface. Tallow and pitch filled any cracks.





Imagine all the streams and waterways of this region filled with canoe traffic today, and every fisherman and his family using baskets to carry their catch. These methods, developed by the Indian tribes over many hundreds of years, were as adequate for their purpose as the equipment we use today.

Booklets available in the Level IV sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the Planned Sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq³a'le*
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison
Reservation
3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap
Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
9. *The Bear Teepee*
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap
Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
17. *Napi's Journey*
Blackfeet Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
19. *Teepee Making*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
Blackfeet Tribe



THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest