Summertime

by Th'athelexwot ~ Elizabeth Herrling, Dr. hon.
As told to the Stolo Shxweli Halq'emeylem Language Program, Stolo Nation¹

This Halq'emeylem language (Upriver Halkomelem) story is taken from the Elizabeth Herrling collection, an archive of stories collected by the Stolo Shxweli Halq'emeylem language program at the Stolo Nation. This story was recorded with Elizabeth in 2004. The transcription and glossing shown here are taken directly from a community-run Wiki, and glossing and transcription shown here is entirely done by community members. Translations marked ‘EH:' are Elizabeth's own translations from the audio; all other translations are taken from contributors to the Wiki. The rough sketches include are pictures we prepared for Elizabeth prior to the recording session, as her 'notes' in telling the story; she sometimes refers to the images, but they were mainly a memory aid. A professionally illustrated version of this story is being prepared for publication through Trafford Press.

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(1) Iti kw'es qex-s te qwal.  
Here that a.lot-3sub det mosquito(s)  
‘Here there's a lot of mosquitoes.’

(2) Ö ts'ats'el ew qex te  
Oh very PRT a.lot det  
qwal li te Sq'ewqel.  
mosquito(s) P det Seabird.Island  
‘EH: Lots of Mosquitos on Seabird Island!’
Our parents took us way over to the island they call 'Kw'esitselala.'

Go from Seabird Island around the bend in the river.

Travelling on board a canoe.

So you go in a culvert, then round the bend, then drift down to the island (EH added: it's a bog now, used to be a little island.)
O lheq tu xwe'i te hops.  
so used.to PRT arrive.at DET hops  
‘EH:  After they took us off the island they brought us to the hop-yard. We had to come to work.’

Osu oxwesth-ox-es the-l tal-elh  
and.so give-1OBJ-3AGR DET-1POSS mom-PST  
te hikw hikw sqwols-s tutl'o.  
DET big big pot-3.POSS she  
‘My (late) mother gave me her big boiling pot.’

Os lheq su tl'o hokwex-al kw'e-l-s kwukw,  
and.so use.to so FOC use-1 COMP-<1> cook  
‘EH:  My mom gave me that great big pot to cook in. It's called a /lhemkiya/--it's a cast iron pot.’
(10) Kwukw te skwukw-elh-tset ye-l il
cook DET food-PST-1PL DET-my my
sqelaqel sat'etel.
younger.siblings older.siblings
‘EH: That's the way I cooked for my brothers and sisters.’

(11) Su la osu tl'o tes ewe tsel-lh
so AUX so FOC DET NEG 1SUB-PST
ewe tselh...
NEG NEG-PST?
‘EH: So you never had to...’

(12) qwels te sqawth lheq tsel qw'o_l teli
boil DET potato PRT used.to 1 BBQ from
tei huyeqw.
DET fire
‘boil the potatoes in the fire’

(13) Ew sta'a kw'as qw'elem te sth'ojwi.
just like.that that.you barbecue DET fish
‘EH: You just baked your fish in the fire and you do the same as when
you're barbecuing your fish. (Added: I should have said /otheqt/!’)’
(14) Osu iti kw'es thel set'l'atel.  
so here COMP my brother  
‘Here my brother....’

(15) la kw'atset-es te sweltel.  
AUX look.at-3AGR DET net  
‘...checks his net(s).’

(16) lheq su kwelexw-es te sth'oqwi.  
used.to so catch-3AGR DET fish  
‘EH: My brother used to go check the net and see if we got any fish.’

(17) e’ lheq tu iwolem.  
PRT used.to a.little play  
‘(We) used to just play.’
(18) Ewolem s'ewolem te chalhtel-tset. playing game DET fish.drier-1P.POSS
‘EH: We just played with the fish that we were drying it like the elders. (Added: Everybody said it wouldn't work there, but it was real nice!’)

(19) Thiyt-es alhtel te chalhtelawtxw. fix-3AGR they DET smoke.house
‘They made a fish-smoking house.’

(20) Axwil o esu li tetha kw'es ... small just and.so AUX there COMP
‘Just little, so it was there that...’

(21) ...a'eyq'ewet-tset te... q'eyq'ewet-tset te sth'oqwi. hang.up-1PL DET hang.up-1PL DET fish
‘We hung up the fish. EH: A small little dry-house.’

(22) Osu qe::x kw'es le xwa le ch'iyxw ...
so lots COMP AUX become AUX dry
‘EH: There was lots of it that got dry.’

(23) Ey! kw'es la xwa ch'ayxw.
good that AUX become to.dry
‘EH: It was good they were all dry.’

(24) Osu xwe'ilst-oxw-es tel shxwwali-elh. and.so bring-1PL.OBJ-3AGR my parents -PST
‘My parents brought us ...’
(25) Xwe'i alhtel axwet -oxw-es te s' alhtel-tset ...
arrive they to.give.it-1PL.OBJ-3AGR DET food -1PL.POSS
‘EH: My parents used to come up and see us and bring our food.’

(26) Lam-es t'oqw'tem qesu xwe'i yutl'olem.
AUX-3AGR weekend and.so arrive they
‘EH: That's food we have to have for a week.’

(27) Kw'atset- oxw-es i tu eyo.
to.look.at -1PL.OBJ-3AGR P PRT alright
‘EH: They just come to see us, if we're alright. (Added: She told my
brother if anything serious happened, get on a canoe and drift down to
Agassiz.)’

(28) Osu la q'ep'et-es yutl'o ...
and.so AUX gather-3AGR they
‘and then they gathered (it) up...’

(29) Q'ep'et-es te schalhtel-elh-tset.
gather-3AGR DET dried.fish-PST-1PL.POSS
‘EH: They used to gather up our dried fish and take it with them.
(Added: /sch'alltel/=anything you hang up to dry; they used to go and
give it to our grandmothers.)’

(30) O ts'ats'el ey xete alhthet xwe'it kw'es te
very good said DET what.do COMP DET
sewolem-s te o schalhel-tset.
game-3.POSS DET PRT dried.fish-1.PL.POSS
‘EH: That was just our game, playing with the fish.’
(31) Osu la kwut-es alhtel mekw'.
so AUX take-3SUB they all
‘EH: They took it all. ’

(32) Su le mamt alhtel we mamt lam te
so AUX give they PRT give P DET
selsila-lh li te hops.
grandparents-PST P DET hop
‘EH: They gave it all to my grandparents. ’

(33) Osu la hoy.
so AUX finished
‘It's all finished. ’

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