JAMES TEIT, "THE SHUSWAP", IN FRANZ BOAS, ED. THE JESUP NORTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION: MEMOIR OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, VOL II, PART VII (LEIDEN:EJ BRILL/NEW YORK: GE STECHERT, 1909) AT 722

# The Man Who Married the Sa'tuen

A lad was badly treated by the people, who always scolded him, gave him the worse food to eat, and old things to wear.



He felt much grieved because of his treatment and left his village.  He wandered south along the Fraser river, remained a little while in each village that he passed, and thus reached the Thompson River, where he remained some time.





Then he continued his journey, passed beyond Columbia River, and eventually arrived in the country of the Sa’tuen.

There he came to many houses on a large grass plain. He entered the first house, which was occupied by a very old man and his grand-daughter.



They asked him where he had come from, and what he was doing there. He answered, "I am Shuswap. My country is far away to the north."



“I have wandered south to see the world.” The old man said, “I know your country. We rest there every year going north.” The young woman asked him to be her husband; so he stayed with her all winter.



One day in the early spring she said to him, “In ten days all the people will make ready for their journey north. You will go with us and see your own country.”



The lad was glad to hear this.  One morning the chiefs blew bone whistles, and all the people put on their Crane dresses, and blew their whistles in imitation of the cries of the Cranes.



They flapped their wings, and then ascended and descended in the air. Thus they acted for four days, morning and evening.



The woman said to her husband, “The people are now practicing  and making ready for the journey north.”  She had done the same as the other people.



Then the man said to himself, “This numerous people, whose houses cover the plain are, after all, the Cranes that I used to see pass my home every spring.  I shall be deserted.  They will soon leave here, my wife amongst the rest.”



His wife knew his thoughts, and said, “We shall not leave you.  We shall take you along.”



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On the following morning all the birds came, and each plucked a feather out of it's body and out of one wing and gave it to him.  His wife fastened it to his body, and he was now able to fly.



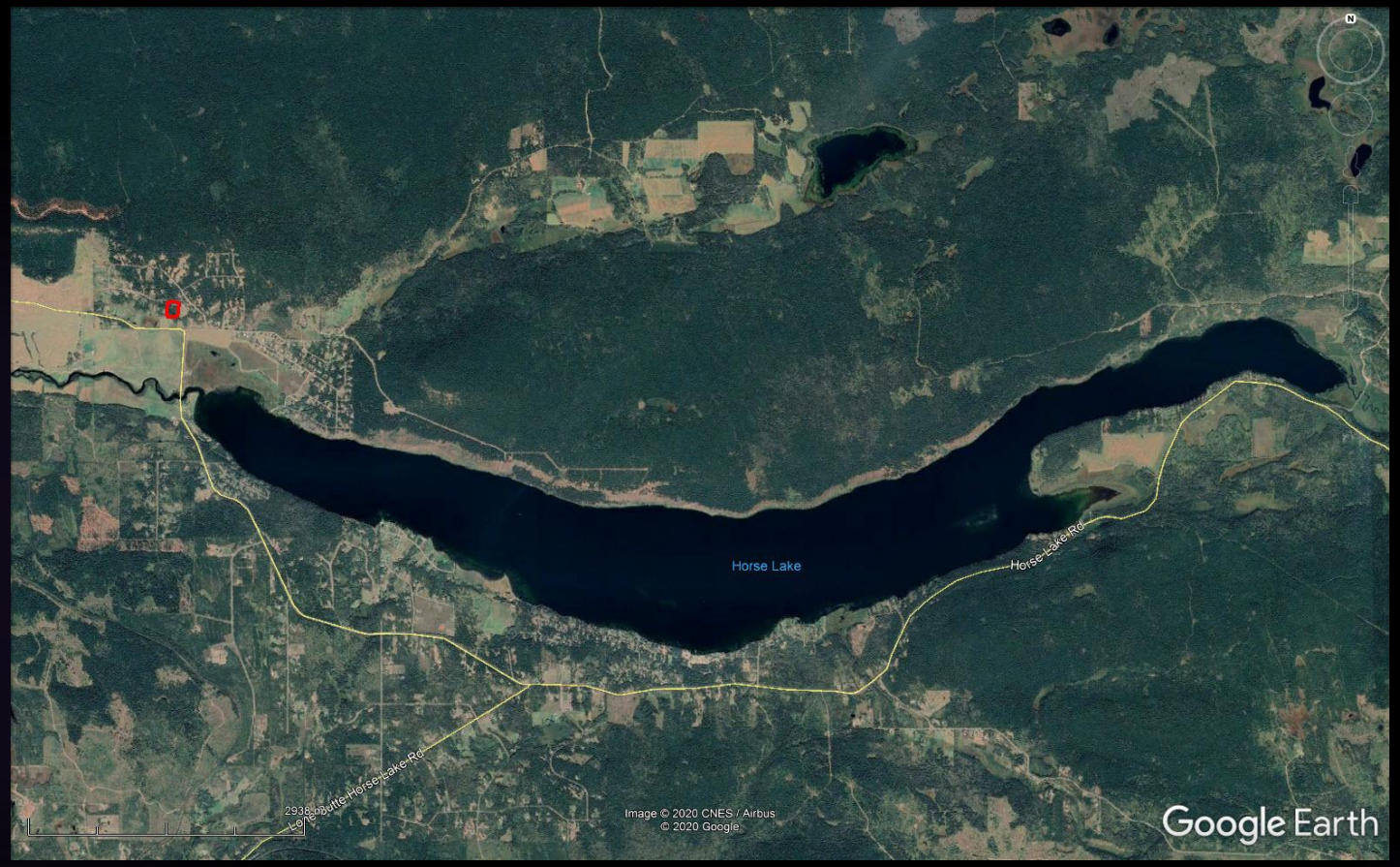
She also gave him a whistle made from the wing-bone of the Crane. For two days they trained themselves flying up and down above the houses, and on the next morning they flew away on their northern journey.



The man, his wife, and their father-in-law followed a little behind the others. This is the reason why three birds are always seen flying behind the others.



When they reached the Shuswap country, the Cranes asked the young man where his home was.  He named a place near Horse Lake, where his people were living at the time.



The Crane people alighted and camped near there that night.  This is the reason why cranes always rest there on the passage north or south.



His wife said, “Go to your friends camp and visit them, but return at daybreak.” He spent the night there, told all his adventures, and heard all the news that they had to tell.



At daylight he left, saying, “I am now going to join my wife.” The people followed him, and saw him fly away with the Cranes, who were going far north to their breeding-grounds.



In the Fall of the year, on their way back, they camped again near the people; and the man visited his friends, taking with him his wife and children.  On the following morning they all flew away south, to the land of the Cranes.




Thus the man visited his friends for many years on his passages north and south until his relatives had all died, when he came no more. He stayed in the land of the Cranes, and became as one of them. He had many children.

# Cranes visiting at Horse Lake

