21. The Pinenut Giant Abducts a Man
(Told by Essie Parrish, July, 1958)

1. This story that I am about to tell is from ancient times—they say it is true that this happened in the early days when the white people were not here yet. Something terrible happened to a person cursed for not following many rules. In plain sight it happened to those who didn't obey the restrictions.

2. They say a group of people were living over there at Tsunno. At that time, still in the old days, the people lived close together. The man that I am going to tell about, he was a nonbeliever. He didn't believe in anything; he didn't believe the restrictions he had been taught. At that time we didn't know about writing. Consequently we did things—fixed things—by dreaming and by inspiration. That's why he didn't believe.

3. One time his wife gave birth to a child. Just for kicks, in order to see if she was true or not, he said, "Mother, I'm going after sugar pine nuts." "No," his mother said. "Don't do that; it's dangerous. It is said to be taboo." "So what. That's nothing. I want to, so I'm going to go," he replied. His mother admonished him, but unheeding he still went.

4. After he had set out from Tsunno he arrived at Mahmo. He climbed way up high into a tree and started to pick sugar pine nuts. Somewhere below him at the bottom of the tree he heard a sound of movement. Suddenly he saw a giant standing there.

5. "Where are you? Where are you?" that person kept saying. But he didn't answer—being frightened, he never answered. When [the giant] said, "Climb down from there," he didn't climb down, he didn't budge, he sat there scared. "If you don't climb down, I'll climb up there anyway and drag you down," said [the giant]. But he didn't climb down, he was so scared.

6. Then the giant climbed up—he climbed up carrying a net. He put [the man] down into the net and climbed down with him. Having slung him over his shoulder, [the giant] set out. He carried him on and on. Having done so, he set him down by the water at Kahtónan. Then he
hung him up there on a tree so that he could look over the place under the water where he would implant him.

7. Then he dove under. He's going to submerge four times. Then he poked his head up to check up [on the captive]. He dove again. In quick succession he poked up again. On the fourth time that he dove down, he did not reappear for a long time. When that happened, [the captive] thought to himself, "I will run away." He climbed out somehow.

Having done so, he ran off with his legs churning.

8. In those days, the people were terribly swift; we're not nearly as strong nowadays. We people now are not as good runners. In those days they could do great things; they were healthy like animals.

9. After having run along like that, he ran up home. The big man, the Pinenut Giant, suddenly missed him. When he did so, he set out on his trail. He chased him in order to capture him again.

10. When [the man] arrived home, he went around saying, "I am dying. The Pinenut Giant carried me off to Kahto-nan and said that he was going to set me down under the water." Then the menfolk prepared their arrows so as to prevent [the giant] from coming in. They were set to shoot. Having hidden [the man], they were aiming, lying in wait.

11. Suddenly the Pinenut Giant arrived. "Where did my man go here?" he said. "He's not here; he didn't come here," they replied. They couldn't budge, couldn't do anything, they could just follow him with their eyes as he walked around.

12. From where they had hid [the man], [the giant] dragged him out, put him back down in the net, packed him back to the same place by the water at Kahto-nan, and set him down beside the water. But this time he didn't hang him up but dove down with him at once. Having done so, he implanted him there.

13. There, they say, the fishermen in the old days saw him—they saw him while they were diving. Those that didn't believe it was so, dove down and saw that man standing there. But nowadays we don't know what happened to him—some think he was knocked over and washed away by the water.

14. This is all.