1. The Creation of the Ocean
(Told by Herman James, August, 1957)


the top of a small hill to watch from there. Then, where that land had been, it was filled completely with water.

9. Then, at first, he drank some of that water. Afterwards what we call the ocean started to taste salty. The ocean [literally bitter-water] became bitter with what we call ashes. Then he named it after it became a great body of water, saying, "This will be the ocean."

10. He watched it in the beginning. The water lay still just like a lake with no waves. It looked eerie lying there so still. Then, taking a stick, he said, "Do like this!" Making waves, moving the water up and down and making it splash, he said, "Make waves!" Then when he had walked up the hill a little way, the water surged up in high waves; the water was heaving and breaking way over the rocks.

11. Then he scratched a mark to set the limits to which the water could go—this is the ocean which we see, it rises no further. And after he prepared that, he fixed the limit to the tide. He again scratched a mark to determine how far the tide would go out.

12. Then he prepared something for the people—he made food in the ocean for people to gather. He knew that people were going to eat food when they became people—at first they were animals.

13. Then he made the food for people in the ocean and threw it down. "This will be this," he said, throwing it down in. First he threw down the biggest creature in the ocean. He named it calling out "whale." Therupon he threw down a log.

14. Afterwards he threw down slighdy smaller logs [for] what he called small seals and porpoises. "This will be a porpoise. This will be a seal," he said; throwing them down. And saying /tiwiinsu'su/ he threw down a /hayhec'a/. /hayhec'a/ is what we call a dried manzanita bush—that he threw down. What I call a /tiwiinsu'su/ [swordfish or shark?] has a horn. All kinds of fish he was naming and throwing down.

15. Then he also cast down edible foods to grow on the rocks, while naming them. First he threw down the abalone. Afterwards he said that mussels would grow, and goose barnacles—he was naming everything that people eat—bullhead to be fished with a line from the rocks. And he said edible seaweed would grow on the rocks. Limpets, small chitons, large chitons, sea anemones—he didn't miss making anything for people to eat.

16. Then he said that he was going to prepare people. But they say that the people lived in the woods—when he created us Indians, we didn't know about white people nor did we know anything about planting their food here in this land where we were created.
17. And then, it is said, after that the people lived in the wilderness, hunting deer, fishing—keeping alive by those means. The food that they ate was the best and healthiest of all; no one ever got sick but grew old and, when they reached the end of their lives, just died. At that time when they ate, they didn’t have any food like the sweet food [now]. They didn’t know about that. Only a while, when the white people were present, only then did they eat food like that of the white people.

18. I am going to tell about this too before I stop. It turned out that our Father was here, that Our Father had been born on this earth. That is what my grandmother used to tell me. It turned out that He had been a human being here on earth. Then he got ready and fixed all the people and subsequently, they say, departed again for the land above. The most skilled hunter, the one who could shoot an arrow the farthest and straightest, tied something onto one and shot it straight upwards, and [Our Father], by hanging onto that, departed for the world above, they say. That one that they used to talk about must have been our Father. He stayed on earth with the people—at first he was born here, say the white people. It has turned out that we were right to pray to him. The elders in talking about it have brought forth that story: from it, we, having become people, knew righteousness—having told the story and having studied.

19. This is the end of my account of the start of the world in the old days and of the making of the ocean—that is what I have been telling about. This is finally the end.

2. The Creation of People and the Ocean
(Told by Herman James, August, 1958)

1. There lived Junco, his mother, his father, and his children. They used to hunt deer.

2. One time they had been drawing decorative lines on their faces with something red and white—very flashy. Then they went to Coyote’s place. “What is that you have painted yourself with that looks so good?” asked Coyote. The Junco brothers answered, “That’s our marrow that we striped our faces with.” “Is that so?” asked Coyote. “Yes,” they replied, “If you broke your [bone] you could do it too.”