

## Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, April 2016

April was "30 stories in 30 days". Every day, we posted the first sentence of a different story from our website, told by an elder sometime between 1901 and today.

### April 1

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*káruk iinâak káan tá kun'áamvunaa.* • Upriver they ate indoors there.

*káruk* = upriver

*iinâak* = indoors

*káan* = there

*tá* = in or has been in a state

*kun-* = they (subject prefix)

*'áam* = eat

*-vunaa* = plural

#### Comments

This is the first sentence of the story "Coyote's Homecoming".

The suffix *-naa* or *-vunaa* ("plural") is sometimes used with verbs that have plural subjects or plural objects.

### April 2

Vina upiip:

*vaa pananítaat uum tupíthxah pananúsaanva koovúra vúra.* • My mother washed all our clothes.

*vaa* = so, in that way

*pa-* = the

*naní-* = my

*taat* = mother

*uum* = she (referring to "my mother")

*t-* = in or has been in a state

*u-* = she

*píthxah* = to wash (objects)

*nanú-* = our

*saanva* = clothing

*koovúra* = all

*vúra* = intensive

#### Comments

This is the first sentence of Vina's story about "Washing clothes".

### April 3

Benonie Harrie upiip:

*ithâan mit masúruk saamváruk nishxaaytihat.* • Once I was fishing up a creek.

*ithâan* = once

*mit* = past time

*masúruk* = up a creek

*saamváruk* = in a creek

*ní-* = I (subject)

*(i)shxaay* = to fish (with hook and line)

*-tih* = ongoing

*-at* = in the past

#### Comments

This is the first sentence of "How I Found Gold" (1927).

### April 4

Chester Pepper upiip:

*pihnêefich káruk u'árihroovutih.* • Coyote was going upriver.

*pihnêefich* = coyote

*káruk* = upriver

*u-* = he (subject)

*'árihroovu* = to go upriver

*-tih* = ongoing

#### Comments

Lots of coyote stories begin like this, but this one is the first sentence of a story that was published in 1957 under the title "Coyote Eats His Own Excrement" (transcribed around 1950).

## April 5

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*pa'ifápiitsha sárip tá kunishtúkanva*. • The young women went gathering hazel sticks.

*pa-* = the

*'ifápiit* = young woman

*-sha* = plural (more than one)

*sárip* = hazel sticks

*tá* = in or has been in a state

*kun-* = they

*ishtúk* = to pick or pluck

*-an* = to go and do something

*-va* = multiple action

### Comments

This is the first sentence of "Work Contests" (transcribed around 1950, published in 1957).

In the verb *kunishtúkanva*, the suffix *-an* means to go and do whatever the verb means, so *ishtúkan-* means "go gathering (sticks)", and the suffix *-va* means that a bunch of actions of that type happen.

In the noun *pa'ifápiitsha*, the suffix *-sha* is plural. Karuk nouns that refer to people can have a plural suffix. The suffix *-sa* becomes *-sha* here due to the vowel *-ii-* in the syllable before. (The noun *sárip* "hazel stick(s)" has no plural suffix because it does not refer to people.)

## April 6

Violet Super upiip:

*ithâan mît káru naa kári nînamich, nanítaat upiip, "sáruk nivâarameesh ka'tim'íin."*

• Once I was also still little, my mother said, "I'm going down to Katimin."

*ithâan* = once

*mît* = past

*káru* = also

*naa* = I

*kári* = still

*nînamich* = little

*naní-* = my

*taat* = mother

*u-* = she

*piip* = say

*sáruk* = downhill

*ni-* = I

*vâaram* = go

*-eesh* = in the future

*ka'tim'íin* = Katimin (Ishi Pishi Falls)

### Comments

This is the first sentence of "Violet's Picture" (2004).

## April 7

Daisy Jones upiip:

*âanaxus uthíimti táay tá kiníykar áraaras.* • Weasel heard they were killing a lot of people.

*âanaxus* = weasel

*u-* = he

*thíim* = hear

*-ti* = ongoing

*táay* = lots, much

*tá* = are or have entered in a state

*kin-* = they (subject) + them (object)

*íykar* = beat, kill

*áraar* = person

*-as* = plural

### Comments

This is the first sentence of "The Perils of Weasel" (transcribed around 1950, published in 1957).

## April 8

Maggie Charley upiip:

*píshiiich pakun'áaraahiti pa'asiktávaansas ápkaas kun'íshumtih.* • As they lived at first, the women scraped iris leaves.

*píshiiich* = first

*pa-* = as, when, that

*kun-* = they

*'áaraahi* = live (plural)

*-ti* = ongoing

*pa-* = the

*'asiktávaan* = woman

*-sas* = plural

*ápkaas* = irish

*kun-* = they

*'íshum* = to scrape iris

*-tih* = ongoing

### Comments

This is the first sentence of "Indian Food" (transcribed around 1950, published in 1957).

## April 9

Vina upiip:

*avansáxiich u'áhooti káru pachíshiih.* • A boy is walking, and the dog.

*avansáxiich* = boy

*u-* = he

*'áhoo* = walk, go

*-tih* = ongoing

*káru* = also

*pa-* = the

*chíshiih* = dog

### Comments

This is the first sentence of "*Avansáxiich káru Chishíih káru Xanchífich*" (2010), a story retold from Mercer Mayer's picture book "A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog".

## April 10

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*ithyarukpíhriiv u'árhoov*. • Across-the-Water Widower went upriver.

*ithyarukpíhriiv* = Across-the-Water Widower

*u-* = he

*'árhoov* = to go upriver

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Nettie Ruben's story "The Creation of Eels" (transcribed around 1950, published in 1957).

Each of the two words in this sentence is awesome! The first word, *ithyarukpíhriiv*, is a compound made up of *ithyáruk* "across (a river or ocean)" plus *píhriiv* "widower". The second word, *u'árhoov*, contains the common suffix *-roov* "towards upriver" (for example, *vítroov* "to paddle upriver").

## April 11

Mrs. Bennett upiip:

*ipasnáhvaanich káan úkrii*. • Pygmy Owl lived there.

*ipasnáhvaanich* = pygmy owl

*káan* = there

*ú-* = he

*krii* = to live

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Mrs. Bennett's story "Screech Owl and Coyote" (1903).

The word *ipasnáhvaanich* refers to a type of owl called the Northern Pygmy Owl in English.

## April 12

Mamie Offield upiip:

*pathufkírik muhrôoha xákaan kun'íinanik*. • The Owl and his wife lived together.

*pa-* = the

*thufkírik* = (great horned) owl

*mu-* = his

*(i)hrôoha* = wife

*xákaan* = together with

*kun-* = they

*'íin* = to live (of two people)

*-anik* = in the distant past

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Mamie Offield's story "The Greedy Father" (transcribed around 1950, published in 1957).

This sentence can be very literally translated: "The owl together with his wife they lived."

## April 13

Violet Super upiip:

*pananichishíh'anamahach itháan káruk nu'ípasroovat*. • Once we took my little dog upriver.

*pa-* = the

*nani-* = my

*chishíh* = dog

*-'anamahach* = little

*itháan* = once

*káruk* = upriver

*nu-* = we

*'ípasroov* = to take upriver

*-at* = in the past

### Comments

This is the first sentence of "Violet's Dog" (1989).

The suffix *-'anamahach* can be added to lots of words to mean a little one: *ipahá-'anamahach* "little tree", *sít-'anamahach* "little mouse", *pufích-'anamahach* "little deer", *avansaxích-'anamahach* "little boy", etc.

## April 14

Fritz Hansen upiip:

*pihnêefich vookúphaanik ôok ithivthanéen'aachip.* • Coyote did this, here at the world center.

*pihnêefich* = coyote

*voo* = *vaa* + *u-*

*vaa* = so, this

*u-* = he

*kúpha* = to do

*-anik* = in the past a while ago

*ôok* = here

*ithivthanéen'aachip* = center of the world

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Fritz Hansen's story "Coyote Falls through the Living-House Roof Hole" (published in 1930).

The word *ithivthanéen'aachip* (meaning "center of the world, Karuk country") is a compound made up of *ithívthaaneen* "country, land" plus *áachip* "middle". So *ithivthanéen'aachip* means "middle country, middle land" (or "Middle Earth"!).

## April 15

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*chími kunímthaatvunaavish.* • They were going to play the stick game.

*chími* = soon

*kun-* = they (subject)

*ímthaatvu* = to play the stick game

*-naa* = plural

*-(a)vish* = future

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Nettie Ruben's story "Why Lightning Strikes Trees" (transcribed around 1950, published in 1957).

## April 17

Vina upiip:

*pi'êep nanítaat musára tóo kyav.* • Long ago my mother made her bread.

*pi'êep* = long ago

*naní-* = my

*taat* = mother

*mu-* = her

*sára* = bread

*tóo* = *ta-* + *ú*

*ta-* = has done or is

*ú* = she

*(i)kyav* = to make

## April 18

Phoebe Maddux upiip:

*tóo xváhaha.* • It is gummy.

*tóo* = *ta-* + *ú*

*ta-* = has done or is

*ú* = it

*(a)xváha* = pitch or gum

*-ha* = verbalizer (turns a word into a verb)

### Comments

This is the first sentence of "Gum" (transcribed from Phoebe Maddux in the 1920s and published in 1932).

This short text is part of a long book on Karuk tobacco knowledge, practices, uses, etc., published by J. P. Harrington based on the language and cultural wisdom of Phoebe Maddux

The *-ha* suffix is a good way that a noun (like *axváha* "pitch") can be turned into a verb (like *axváhaha* "to be pitchy"). A similar example is *áas-ha* "to be wet", based on *áas* "water".

## April 19

Violet Super upiip:

*akráa itíhaan vúra kuníthtiitih.* • They were always gambling with Eel.

*akráa(h)* = eel  
*itíhaan* = always  
*vúra* = intensive  
*kun-* = they  
*íthtii(t)* = to gamble  
*-tih* = ongoing

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Violet Super's telling (in 1989) of the story of why eel has no bones.

## April 20

Julia Starritt upiip:

*pihnêefich vaa káan mukríhraam pihneefthuf'ípan.* • Coyote's fishing place was there at the end of Wilder Gulch.

*pihnêefich* = coyote  
*vaa* = so, thus  
*káan* = there  
*mu-* = his  
*(i)kríhraam* = fishing place  
*pihneefthuf* = Wilder Gulch  
*'ípan* = end

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Julia Starritt's story "Coyote Goes to a War Dance" (published in 1957).

The word *pihneefthuf'ípan* "the end of Wilder Gulch has a lot of pieces". First, it's a compound of *pihnêefthuuf* "Wilder Gulch" (in Orleans) and *ípan* "end", so it means "the end of Wilder Gulch". (The long *uu* is shortened to *u* in a compound.) Also, the word *pihnêefthuuf* is a compound that means "coyote" (*pihneef-*, the combining form of the word) "creek" (*thúuf*). So literally the whole word means "the end of coyote creek".

## April 21

Mamie Offield upiip:

*áxak asiktâan kun'íinanik kustáaras ameekyáaraam.* • Two women, sisters, lived at Ike's Falls.

*áxak* = two

*asiktâan* = woman (variant form of *asiktávaan*)

*kun-* = they (subject)

*'ín* = to be (two people)

*-anik* = in the (distant) past

*kustáar* = sister (variant form of *kústaan*, used in the plural)

*-as* = plural

*ameekyáaraam* = Ike's Falls

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Mamie Offield's story "Coyote Gives Salmon and Acorns to Mankind" (published in 1957).

The name of the village *ameekyáaraam* means "salmon making place". That is, it has the parts *áama* "salmon" + *ikyav* "to make" + *-raam* "place". When you combine *a+i* it makes *ee*, and when you combine *av+r* it makes *aar*.

## April 22

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*itáharavan kun'ífanik tipahêeras.* • Ten brothers grew up.

*itáharavan* = ten (people or animals)

*kun-* = they

*'íf* = to grow

*-anik* = in the (distant) past

*tipahêer* = brother

*-as* = plural

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Nettie Ruben's story ""Lizard and Grizzly Bear" (published in 1957).

## April 23

Julia Starritt upiip:

*pa'arara'asiktávaan uum ishváak uthúkinhahitih.* • The Indian woman is tattooed on the chin.

*pa-* = the

*'arara* = (Indian) person

*'asiktávaan* = woman

(so *'arara'asiktávaan* means "Indian woman")

*uum* = she

*ishváak* = chin

*u-* = she

*thúkinhahi* = to be / get tattooed

*-tih* = ongoing

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Julia Starritt's description "Tattoos" (published in 1957).

## April 24

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*xuntápan tá kunkítanak.* • They crack acorns.

*xuntápan* = acorn(s)

*tá* = have done or just doing something

*kun-* = they (subject prefix)

*kítanak* = to crack acorns

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Nettie Ruben's description "Making Acorn Soup" (published in 1957).

## April 25

Julia Starritt upiip:

*káan ávansa úkrii. áxak muhrôovas.* • A man lived there. He had two wives.

*káan* = there

*ávansa* = man

*ú-* = he

*(i)krii* = to live

*áxak* = two

*mu-* = his

*(i)hrôov(a)* = wife (variant form)

*-as* = plural (more than one)

### Comments

These are the first two sentences of Julia Starritt's story "The Bear and the Deer" (published in 1957).

## April 26

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*káan áraar úkrii, táay vúra mupathúvriin.* • A person lived there, he had a lot of strings of money.

*káan* = there

*áraar* = (Indian) person

*ú-* = he

*(i)krii* = to live

*táay* = much, lots

*vúra* = intensive

*mu-* = his

*pathúvriin* = string of large dentalium money

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Nettie Ruben's story "Coyote's Journey" (published in 1957).

## April 27

Julia Starritt upiip:

*pa'áaraar uum pa'áama ukupéekriihvahitih.* • The Indians fish for salmon in a certain way.

*pa-* = the

*'áaraar* = (Indian) person

*uum* = he

*pa-* = the

*'áama* = salmon

*u-* = he

*kupée* = *kupa-* + *i-*

*kupa-* + *-ahi* = in a certain way

*(i)kriihv* = to fish (with a set net)

*-tih* = ongoing

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Julia Starritt's description of "Salmon Fishing" (published in 1957).

Note that in English you would say "the Indians fish", with a plural subject "Indians", but in Karuk the verb is singular (*u-*), so literally the sentence means "the Indian person fishes ..."

The prefix *kupa-* plus suffix *-ahi* together mean to do something in a certain way. For example: *kun-kupá-'iin-ahi-tih* "they live in a certain way".

## April 28

Julia Starritt upiip:

*asáxvu uum káan úkrii.* • Turtle lived there.

*asáxvu(h)* = turtle

*uum* = he

*káan* = there

*ú-* = he

*(i)krii* = to live

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Julia Starritt's story "The Hair in the Soup" (published in 1957).

## April 29

Nettie Ruben upiip:

*pihnêefich "kahyúras" uxus, "tîi kanvâarami."* • Coyote thought, "I should go to Klamath Lakes!"

*pihnêefich* = coyote

*kahyúras* = Klamath Lakes

*u-* = he

*xus* = to think

*tîi* = let me ..., I think I'll ..., I should ...

*kan-* = I (subject in exhortations)

*vâaram* = to go

*-i* = command or exhortation

### Comments

This is the first full sentence of Nettie Ruben's story "Coyote Trades Songs" (published in 1957).

This sentence has an unexpected word order. Literally, it could be translated: Coyote "Klamath Lakes" he thought, "I should go."

## April 30

Vina upiip:

*áxak pananífyiivshas, káru ávansa káru muhrôoha.* • I had a couple of pals, a man and his wife.

*áxak* = two

*pa-* = the

*naní-* = my

*(i)fyiiv* = friend(s)

*-shas* = plural

*káru* = also

*ávansa* = man

*káru* = also

*mu-* = his

*(i)hrôoha* = wife

### Comments

This is the first sentence of Vina's story "I'll Never Forget Those Days" (2015).