Nihoo3oo and the Butt

Told by Dickie Moss, October 13, 2003

wohei ceese’ heetnoo3itoone3en;
wohei another one I will tell it to you [about]

teecxo’ nhu’u[no] neeneisiinsee3i’,
long ago these how they roamed around these they moved camp from place to place

‘oh hehniisi3i’ honoh’oho’ he’ih’ii- he’ihni3inowuu beso’o.
and they are two young men they had it a butt

he’ih’iiyoo3itiino’.
they kept it clean

he’ih’iiyohceteyoo beso’o.
it was nice and round butt

he’ih’ii’ononcitiino’.
they were handling it carefully and protecting it

hiiyoo3itiino’.
they kept it clean

wohei nhu’ niinwo’owuu3i’; hiinwo’owuu3i’
wohei these who wander along moving their camp they were wandering along moving camp

heeneetohbii’iihoonoo3i nihii hii3einoon.
wherever they found them well buffalo

he’ih’iiyiiisihino’ tohuuiinoo’ei3i’.
they would move camp over that direction when they were hunting

he’ih’iineeneh’eeno’, tohuuse’esoonee3i’
hiseino’.
they would kill some of them and then they would slice the meat thin to dry women

nih’iiwo’o3ti3i’
hoseino’ hinee hee3ebceciini’i;
they gathered it up for storage meat that towards whenever it’s winter

nee3eb.. biibii3ihiini3i’.
they would have plenty of things to eat for that coming time
howoo biibinoonto neenei’iixo’otii3i’, heenei’isihi’, biino, heenei’isihi’;
also berries they dried them during that time various ones chokecherries and so forth

howoo nuhu’ 3eici’i, ‘oh nih’iiikookoxhou’u.
also these roots and they would dig them up

niiwo’o3ti3i’ heetceciiniini’, heetihi’ibi3hiini3i’.
they gathered them up and stored them it will be winter so that they would have things to eat

hee, nihnee’eeso’.
yes it was like that

he’ih’iwoo’owuuhuno’.
they were moving their camp farther along

heeneetwo’owuuhunoo3i, ‘oh nehe’ niisi3i’ honoh’oho’
he’ih’iiyoo3itiino’
wherever they moved the camp to and these two young men they would keep it clean

hi’in beso’o.
that butt

heenee3wo’owuuhunoo3i, he’ih’ii3ookwo’owuuhuno’.
wherever they were moving from [the two young men] would move camp along after them
heeneetoonoo3i, he’ih’ee3neeniiyoo3itiino’.
wherever they were they were always cleaning and polishing it

wohei hei’noxowuu- heenii- tootoyouno’oxoo’;
wohei when it really well the autumn season arrived

heenei’isihi’: cesistootoyo3oo’.
and so forth it started to get cold

hi’in niiciihoho niini’o3inoo’ou’u.
those rivers they are starting to freeze up

wohei kooxne’wo’owuuhu3i’.
wohei then once again they moved camp farther along

wohei [he’ih]heetwo’owuuhuno’, huu3e’ nee’eeto3i’ hii3einoon.
wohei where they moved on to there that’s where they are buffalo

heetwoniini, [he’ih]heetih’itoseinouwuno’.
they’re going to [kill them] so that they will have meat

heetniini.
they will [kill them]

woow wonoo3ei’i [he’ih]heetniini heetnehyiisiihino’.
now there are many they will they will move camp away over that direction

[he’ih]heetne’cecinisienono’.
that is where they will spend the winter. then...

kooxne’wo’owuu3i’.
then once again they moved camp farther along

‘oh niicie he’ih’ini hee3neenoho’kosot.
but river it appeared very shiny [with ice]

noh [he’ih]hoowbeet- [he’ih]hoowbeetokooxuuseeno’ nuhu’ honoh’oho’.
and they didn’t want they didn’t want to cross over these boys

3enei’iiwoonhu3i’ nuhu’ beso’o.
they are carrying it on their backs this butt

he’ih’ii3ei’iinootuu3i he’itnei’i;
they were carrying it somewhere

he3ebiixoke’ino’ nuhu’ hoo30o’o’,
they have already crossed to there these others

‘oh nuhu’ neniisi3i’ honoh’oho’ hoowbeetiini...
but these they are two young men they don’t want to

“heebenohnkoh’uhcesinen nuhu’, 3o’ostiin nuhu’ beso’o.”
we might slip with it this we might bust it this butt

“hoowoh’oe! hoowoh’oe!”
wait wait

wohei toonhe’ii3ino’oo3i nihoo3oo.
wohei he just showed up from somewhere nihoo3oo
he’ihciinsiwihe’i.
he came sliding to a stop

“nehee- heeyou? heitoustoobe?”
what? what are you two doing?

noh “nii3ei’iitootowuni’
and we’re carrying it on our backs this butt

neihooowbeetohtok[oox]uuseebe.
we don’t want to cross over

neebehnoh’uhcesinebe.”
we might slip

“ ‘oo heetni’ooxotii-
yes I can carry it I will carry it across for you

neihooow3i’isin.” heehehk.
I don’t slip he said

kookon he’ih’iisiwohe’i.
just for no reason he was sliding on the ice

“heetni’ooxuuxotone3enee.
I will be able to carry it across for you

heetnii---”
I will

wohei ne’ni’oobei3i’.
wohei then they agreed to that

“wohei heet[n]ooxuuxotiin; niiyou.”
wohei you will carry it across here it is

ne’3ei’iwoonooto’ nehe’ nihoo3oo ne’ehce3ei’oot.
then he put it on his back this nihoo3oo then he set off for the other side

3oo3oonihihi’ hee3ebno’useet, ne’noh’uhcesi’.
right in the middle he arrived there then he slipped
“œeiiii”
yikes!

ne’koh’usetiit nuhu’ beso’o.
then he cracked it in half this butt

noh huuwoonhehe’, ne’nii’eebe3kouhu’tineeno’, nii3i’.
and today that’s why we have a big crack in our butts they say

nee’eesoo’ nuhu’ hoo3itoo.
it is thus this story

nohuusoho’.
that’s now it is
Translation

Wohei I’m going to tell you another one, about long ago, when they wandered all over; [about] those days when they moved their camps all over nomadically.

So two young men had a butt with them. They kept it cleaning. It was a nice, round butt. They handled it very carefully. They kept it nice and clean.

Wohei the Indians were moving their camp farther along. They moved camp farther along to wherever they found buffalo. They would move on over there because they needed to hunt. They would kill a bunch [of buffalo], and the women would prepare the meat to be dried. They stored up the meat for later in the winter, so they would have food then. In addition, berries were dried, of various sorts, chokecherries and so forth. And also they dug up roots. They would store them up for the winter, so that they could use them for food. Yes, that’s how it was.

They were constantly moving their camp farther along. And wherever they moved to, [the two young men] would move along behind them. And wherever they were, they kept the butt nice and clean.

Wohei at this point they were getting real close to the arrival of autumn, those times of year. The cold season was starting to set in. The rivers were freezing over.

Wohei once again they moved camp farther along. Wohei they were going to move farther along over there where the buffalo were. They’re going to move so that they will have meat. They will...Now there are a lot of them who will move camp on over there. That’s where they will spend the winter. So once again they moved camp farther along.

But the river [was frozen so hard that it] appeared smoothly polished. And the young men didn’t want to go across it. They’re packing the butt on their backs. They would pack it on their backs. Someplace the others had already crossed over to the other side, but the two young men didn’t want to go: “We might slip and fall with it, we might shatter this butt on the ice.”

“Wait! Wait!” Wohei Nihoo3oo suddenly showed up from who knows where. He slid to a stop. “Well, what’s up? What are you two doing?”

And [they said], “we’re packing this butt on our backs. We don’t want to go across the river. We might slip and fall.”

“Oh! I can take it! I can take it for you. Look here! Watch me closely! I don’t slip,” he said. He was skating around [on the ice] just to show off. “I can take it across for you. I will do it.”

Wohei then they agreed to this: “Wohei you’ll take it across. Here it is.”

Then Nihoo3oo loaded it on his back, and he set off for the other side. He made it right to
the middle, and then he slipped and fell. “Oops!” He cracked the butt. And today, that’s why we have a big crack in our butts, they say.

That’s what the story says. That’s it.