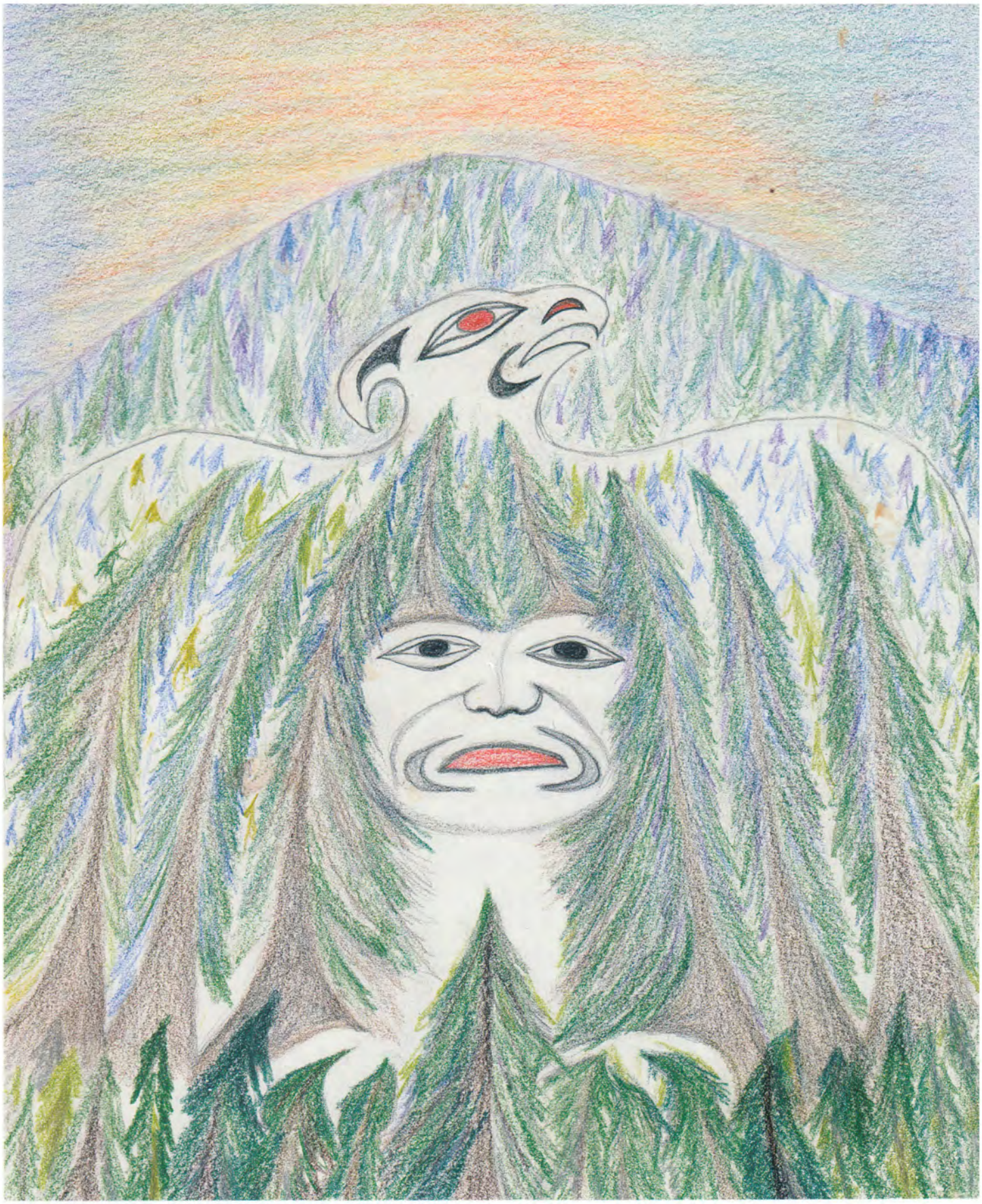


ŁÁUWELNEW

by Earl Claxton and John Elliott



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ŁÁUWELNEW





ŁÁUWELNEW

In the beginning, XÁLS (Our Creator) taught the Saanich People how to take care of this land.



For many years, the Saanich remembered XÁLS words.
They were happy and had plenty of food.



But as many years passed, some people broke XÁLS words and forgot his teachings.



XÁLS became unhappy and told the people that there would be a flood over the land. They were to prepare.



They prepared a long rope of cedar bark. They gathered food and possessions.

The tide waters began to rise. The people packed their belongings into their canoes.



Some people did not heed XÁLS teachings. They were not prepared and were washed away. Their canoes were destroyed.



The water rose higher and higher.



The people paddled to the highest mountain nearby. The trees were still above the water.



They tied themselves to an arbutus tree on top of the mountain.



Soon the tops of the trees were covered with water.

They were afraid and prayed to survive the great flood.
They asked XÁLS to take pity on them.



After many days, a crow came and landed on the bow of the canoe. He was carrying a stick and was talking to the people.

The crow had brought the good news.



Suddenly a mountain began to emerge in the distance. One of the men said, “NI QENNET TŦE W̲SÁNEĆ”, (translated means, “Look at what is emerging”), as he pointed to the mountain emerging in the distance.



Before they left the mountain, they gathered around the huge coil of cedar rope and gave thanks. They said from now on this mountain will be called ŁÁU, WELNEW (Place of refuge, escape, healing). They further said we will be called the WSÁNEĆ (The emerging people).



XÁLS heard their prayers. XÁLS said he would not punish the people by flood again.



The good people who were saved are the ancestors of the Saanich Tribe today.

This is our heritage.

IN MEMORIAM

"Naming our school "ŁÁUWELNEW" is a declaration that ŁÁUWELNEW is our sacred mountain and through the use of this mountain all the spirit symbols will help our people find a new clear vision for the Saanich people and pass it on to all our children through our education system."

Philip Paul
July 15, 1989
School Opening Ceremony

Thanks

Special thanks goes to our elders who have kept the memory alive. To mention a few: thanks to Philip Pelkey, Chris Paul, Dave Elliott Sr., Agnes Smith, Violet Williams, Gus Bill, Henry Smith, Elsie Claxton, Gabe Jack and Baptist Jimmy.

Earl Claxton (YELḰÁTŦE), Author

Earl Claxton's first language is SENĆOŦEN and he is dedicated to passing the language on to Saanich youth. He is a cultural historian and researcher with the Saanich Indian School Board who has worked on land claims and curriculum research. He is a teacher in the Saanich SENĆOŦEN Instructors Program and a SENĆOŦEN instructor in ŁÁUWELNEW Tribal School.

John Elliott (STOLȻEŁ), Author/Illustrator

John Elliott studied commercial art before apprenticing as a linguist and cultural historian with his late father, Dave Elliott, and his cousin Earl Claxton. Like Earl, he joined the Saanich Indian School Board as a researcher in 1981 and teaches in the school and the SENĆOŦEN Instructors Program.



Searching for a Saanich Vision