

Stories of the Cahto Tribe

The Diving Contest

(This is a line-by-line translation (within the limits of English readability))

Mallard and Otter swam underwater in the lake, they say.

They were catching fish, they say.

They watched him, they say.

Duck surfaced, they say.

He had strung two strings with fish, they say.

They watched him, they say.

Otter surfaced, they say.

He had strung three strings with fish, they say.

They all went back home, they say.

They dragged the fish into the house, they say.

That is all.

Professor P.E. Goddard's Translation

Duck and Otter, rivals in love, engaged in a diving contest to see which could secure the more fish. The watching people saw Duck come up with two strings which he had filled. Otter dived and the people waited. After a long time he came up with three strings he had filled. They went home dragging the fish into the house.

(Based on Cahto oral traditions and beliefs)