

**Xintthe siyil genitht'uq**  
**The first time I flew in an airplane**

Told by Ellen Savage at her home in Anchorage, AK, October 2002.

Told in Deg Xinag (Deg Hit'an, Ingalik Athabascan)

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Transcribed and translated by Donna Miller MacAlpine (DMM), Ellen Savage, Hannah Maillelle (HM), Edna Deacon,  
 Louise Winkleman, and Alice Taff.

Recording	Translation	Begin Time - mm:ss.ms
<b>Gila, he'?</b>	OK?	00.060
<b>(DMM) E.</b>	Yes.	00.880
<b>Gogide che che.</b>	Here's some more.	03.087
<b>Siqay,</b>	(In) my village,	05.671
<b>gits'i dixidiyoq.</b>	something bad happened.	07.192
<b>Q'idaghidhilih yozr</b>	A young man	10.060
<b>ditiltel,</b>	got shot,	12.867
<b>sanh yix.</b>	(in) the smoke house. [lit. 'summer house']	16.349
<b>Yitots'i, anh yit xidineyoninh</b>	So then, the one who went in there	18.703
<b>xildi dina ilne.</b>	told us.	21.086
<b>Toxin tr'idelanh;</b>	Three of us went;	23.009
<b>se, se, me,</b>	me, me,	25.133
<i>Genevieve and Esther.</i>		28.262
<b>"Atthet</b>	"Down there	30.518
<b>ayiggi lo che,</b>	down there sure enough,	32.297
<b>vilaltingh q'i dingit'a,"</b>	he appears to be sleeping,"	34.364
<b>dina ilne.</b>	he told us.	36.460
<b>{tr'anitl} "Tr'antatldhit ine'</b>	"I started trying to wake him up but	38.440
<b>vinasinek," xiyilne.</b>	I couldn't do it," he said.	40.995
<b>"Ooo," tr'ine.</b>	"Ooh," we said.	43.464
<b>Yuxudz xo'in xildi,</b>	That's the reason then,	47.196
<b>{tthitr'indiy} tthitr'iliggok yuxudz,</b>	we all ran out,	49.033
<b>3 of us.</b>		51.932

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

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<b>Ngitthing yitots'i smokehouse</b>	Down to the smokehouse	54.200
<b>xiditr'ixindiyet.</b>	we all ran in.	56.669
<b>Diyiggiy xoqodz,</b>	That one across over there,	58.831
<b>yiggiy iy,</b>	that thing,	01:02.161
<b>bed xiq'i iy,</b>	like a bed,	01:04.141
<b>viq'i ditr'athtanh hiy,</b>	the bed,	01:06.036
<b>q'idz</b>	on top	01:07.557
<b>dhitanh.</b>	he was lying.	01:09.538
<b>Gho ninigiggok ts'i xildi vitth'e,</b>	I ran to his head,	01:11.634
<b>idhitlyil.</b>	I grabbed it.	01:14.160
<b>Diggandhitldonh yitots'i.</b>	I sat him up then.	01:15.882
<b>Yitongo</b>	Meanwhile	01:18.850
<i>Auntie Esther</i>		01:20.217
start		01:21.652
<b>yit'osin xildalning'.</b>	patting his back.	01:25.551
<b>And Genevieve xildik</b>	And Genevieve then	01:30.000
<b>vanhts'e xildik che</b>	(from) his nose then	01:31.378
<b>dil tr'inelingh.</b>	blood was flowing.	01:33.674
<b>Genevieve xildik che yanhts'e,</b>	Genevieve then his nose,	01:35.942
<b>yuxudz...</b>	all...	01:41.195
<b>(HM) Yanhts'e iyil.</b>	(HM) Blows in his nose.	01:42.585
<b>Yanhts'e iyil.</b>	Blows in his nose.	01:43.865
<b>Dal'ine',</b>	Even so,	01:45.840
<b>ghidithino gits'in'.</b>	he didn't move.	01:46.920
<b>Ndadz go di'asrolel.</b>	We didn't know what to do with him.	01:49.056
<b>Yuxudz yeg...</b>	Just like...	01:51.143
<b>{q'udiyo} dadz go dasrolel.</b>	we don't know what to do.	01:53.150
<b>Xidigal xezron che,</b>	Finally at last,	01:55.170
<b>nq'oxdina' ye dixitathdatl.</b>	people start to come in.	01:56.990
<b>Yuxudz xo'in xildi yeg</b>	That's why	02:00.395
<b>itsa'a ghiluq ye yil,</b>	dear old grandmas too,	02:01.770

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>xiyughininedatl.</b>	they come to him.	02:03.323
<b>Yuxudz xo'in vitr'idighenek.</b>	That's why we quit working on him.	02:05.562
<b>Tthingo'ot</b>	Outside	02:08.174
<b>{xildi xitthe do' ta}</b>		02:09.710
<b>ttheting xidoz</b>	outside near the door	02:10.947
<b>nazritliyo xingo.</b>	meanwhile we were standing.	02:12.824
<b>Dina longh ts'i dixideyoq.</b>	Lots of people congregated.	02:14.708
<b>Yitots'i,</b>	Then,	02:17.484
<b>{xiyi} xiyenitl-'an'.</b>	they start to look at him.	02:19.032
<b>Deg xidhi'onh xiyil,</b>	While we're waiting,	02:21.837
<b>giliggi dina ilne,</b>	one person was telling us,	02:24.408
<b>"Go lo che ditltilin anh.</b>	"Sure enough, he's been shot.	02:26.482
<b>{virz vivizr} Vidoghon didltil,"</b>	He got shot in his chest,"	02:30.273
<b>dina xi'ne.</b>	they tell us.	02:35.299
<b>Che getiy.</b>	That's too much.	02:36.906
<b>Yuxudz yit dina yuxudz tr'itathtrax yuxudz.</b>	We all start crying.	02:39.886
<b>Dideyoq lo che go yuxudz.</b>	He's actually dead already.	02:43.918
<b>Gitr'otr'ighil'an'.</b>	We tried to revive him.	02:46.635
<b>Xildi xeledz dontidinel,</b>	He'd get better,	02:48.570
<b>tr'ivitr'inedhinh ts'in'.</b>	we are thinking about him.	02:50.380
<b>Yuxudz xo'in an at</b>	It's all because,	02:52.647
<b>xonh detth'at</b>	we were the first	02:54.980
<b>tr'inagil'an'.</b>	to see him.	02:57.351
<b>Ts'i yitots'i,</b>	After that,	02:59.221
<b>xandinalchithin ye,</b>	the policemen [lit. the ones who tie us up],	03:01.442
<b>nedatl.</b>	they came.	03:03.341
<b>Axa xildik,</b>	And then,	03:06.146
<b>dinayil xinxadilighusr.</b>	they're talking with us.	03:08.045
<b>Go xildit,</b>	Here then,	03:10.530
<b>tri'nagil'an ts'i yuxudz xiyan',</b>	how we saw him when we first entered,	03:11.785
<b>xivinughil ditr'ine.</b>	they're asking us.	03:13.813

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>{oxo kidh} Yuxudz xiyān' xāntr'ixuniyh.</b>	We know only that part.	03:16.060
<b>Yitongo,</b>	Meanwhile,	03:19.350
<b>ndadz sre' axa didiyoq.</b>	I don't know how he died.	03:20.337
<b>Yuxudz xo'in xildik.</b>	Or why.	03:23.340
<b>Yit,</b>	That time,	03:25.720
<b>xulegg an go didiyoq.</b>	in spring it happened.	03:29.921
<b>Sanh tixighedhit.</b>	Summer went by.	03:32.434
<b>Yit yitots'in,</b>	And then,	03:36.145
<b>xiyhts'in'.</b>	falltime.	03:40.820
<b>{q'inagh q'i}</b>		03:42.955
<b>(HM) Xiyh nonxididhit.</b>	(HM) Winter arrived.	03:45.760
<b>Hah?</b>	Huh?	03:47.622
<b>(HM) Xiyh nonxididhit.</b>	(HM) Winter arrived.	03:48.652
<b>Xiyh nonxididhik ts'i yitots'i,</b>	Winter arrived and,	03:49.800
<b>iy Q'unodle chux</b>	that Christmas	03:52.012
<b>ghinonxididhit.</b>	came.	03:53.707
<b>Iy totl'ogh xiyil,</b>	After that,	03:55.720
<b>tthe xingo gilegik naghinedatl</b>	before then we got a letter	03:58.148
<b>ngine'</b>	from up river	04:01.228
<b>Qay Xichux xits'in'.</b>	Big Village. [Fairbanks]	04:02.630
<b>Gogide.</b>	Here it is.	04:05.050
First of New Year.		04:08.415
<b>Yuxudz,</b>	All of us,	04:10.548
<b>ngine' tr'itodil</b>	we are going to go up there	04:11.541
<b>xildik dina idiliqit xo'in</b>	because of questioning us	04:13.270
<b>xi'ne ts'in'.</b>	they said.	04:15.614
<b>Ts'i yitots'i,</b>	And so,	04:17.460
<b>a xildik {yi} yit nonxidedhidi.</b>	then the time came.	04:22.014
<b>Q'ugandiyil iy</b>	An airplane	04:26.470
<b>chux</b>	big	04:28.442
<b>ninot'ux.</b>	came.	04:31.042

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>Iy xildi ye tr'ighedatl.</b>	Then we went in.	04:34.800
<b>Atthe,</b>	Down there,	04:37.528
<b>Genevieve yil,</b>	with Genevieve,	04:39.690
<b>Benjamin, his wife yil,</b>	Benjamin and his wife,	04:42.261
<b>Lucius,</b>	Lucius,	04:46.841
<b>che itthedz neyo,</b>	came from over there,	04:48.230
<b>Anvik xits'i go xits'in'.</b>	from Anvik to here.	04:50.406
<b>Anh yil.</b>	Him too.	04:52.509
<b>Xiyi qat di'ne.</b>	They want him he says.	04:54.160
<b>Xivoxo, {giq}</b>	For them,	04:56.366
<b>xivixo xitehal,</b>	for them he'll translate,	04:59.270
<b>xalne ts'in', xildik,</b>	they tell him, then,	05:01.240
<b>gashigh xiq'i xinay ts'i, deg xiq'i che.</b>	white man talk he speaks, Deg Xinag also.	05:03.495
<b>Xinayh ts'i yeg.</b>	To interpret. [lit. talking shadow or echo?]	05:06.138
<b>Giditthighinh oxo xitexal.</b>	For those who can't understand, he will talk.	05:08.183
<b>Xalne ts'i xo'in.</b>	They tell him that's the reason (for him to go).	05:10.550
<b>Dinayil giyigheyo.</b>	He went with us in it.	05:12.270
<b>Itsa'a,</b>	Grandma,	05:15.663
<b>{diva a} xiday iy?</b>	where is she?	05:16.900
<b>"Yith q'i dathdo," vidisne.</b>	"Sitting on the bank," I tell them.	05:19.315
<b>Anh yil</b>	That one	05:21.857
<b>vitthey iy Billy</b>	her grandchild Billy	05:23.347
<b>Painter ghitiniyil.</b>	Painter was with those guys.	05:27.087
<b>Yuxudz airplane ye tr'ighedatl, but</b>	We all went in the airplane, but	05:29.010
<b>airplane iy,</b>	...that,	05:31.590
<b>eight, eight peoples, eh, viyet,</b>	... inside,	05:33.342
<b>ghilal iy.</b>	it carried.	05:37.813
<b>Iy xildi ye tr'ighedatl.</b>	And then we went inside.	05:39.536
<b>Deg yuxudz dinayil genitht'uq.</b>	The airplane took off with us.	05:44.900

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>Iy!</b>	Oh, no.	05:48.039
<b>Tthe</b>	Before	05:49.207
airplane ye tr'ithdal xingo xildik,	...we go in it then,	05:50.201
sitsiy neg,	my nice grandpa,	05:52.947
Old Man Workman,		05:54.496
engosin nineyo.	from the other side (Lower Village) he came over.	05:56.320
<b>Xildik,</b>	Then,	05:59.000
<b>dina xidineyo.</b>	he came in our house.	06:00.250
Mama xildi yilne, “Gogidet,	Then mama told him, “Here she is,	06:02.358
ngitthey.	your granchild.	06:04.725
Q'ugandiyil xiye tohol,	In the airplane she will go,	06:06.799
ngine' xits'i,” yilne.	upriver,” she told him.	06:09.166
“Agidet,” ne.	“OK,” he says.	06:11.386
Sughinineyo ts'in' xildi, gile axa disaghil'an'.	He came to me then, he did his Indian medicine on me.	06:13.420
Ts'i yitots'i airplane ye tr'ighedatl.	And so in the airplane we went.	06:19.120
Ngine' dinayil genitht'uq yitots'i.	Then we're flying upriver.	06:22.401
Ndagh sre'!	I don't know where!	06:24.827
Yuxudz yeg iy {q} q'ugandiyil iy	It's like that airplane	06:27.352
dinayil nighidinogh.	is wobbling around with us. [turbulence]	06:31.990
Yuxudz getiy ndadz go ditasnel ts'i.	I really don't know what to do.	06:34.539
We don't have tied up thing, too.	[seatbelts]	06:40.237
We just sit there.		06:43.100
Yitots'i yuxudz yeg deg xidhi'onh.	Then it was a long time.	06:45.620
Dran xiyil getiy nilq'idz.	The days were really short.	06:49.650
Deg xidhi'onh xiyil,	After a while,	06:54.527
sighilda tidhi'on'	it's getting dark	06:56.251
dinayil ginot'ux xingo.	while it is flying with us.	06:58.610
Ndagh sre'.	I don't know where.	07:00.700
Deloy,	Mountains,	07:02.180

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

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just like <b>deloy tux xiq'idi</b>	...among the mountains	07:03.550
<b>deg xidhi'onh xiyil.</b>	the sun is going down.	07:07.383
Like, a, Anvik, a, Yukon.		07:10.743
I see		07:17.024
that river.		07:21.712
<b>Dina yitots'i</b>	And people	07:24.108
<b>qay</b> I see <b>qay</b>	village I see a village [Ruby]	07:25.832
<b>deloy q'i dixidhi'onhdi</b>	on the mountain top	07:28.958
<b>xelanh</b>	it was	07:30.940
<b>yigidigh q'un'.</b>	lighted up.	07:31.997
<b>Yitots'i yit niginaghilt'uq anh,</b>	Then he landed there,	07:35.211
<b>q'u'idina'elahin.</b>	the person who is taking us (the pilot).	07:38.280
<b>Ts'i yitots'i,</b>	And then,	07:42.457
<b>dina ilne,</b>	he told us,	07:44.765
<b>"Gogide tr'enoxildi.</b>	"Here is the place where we'll camp.	07:46.053
<b>Venhdida xildik,</b>	Tomorrow then,	07:48.332
Fairbank <b>xitsits</b>	...to it.	07:49.851
<b>tr'itodil," dina ilne.</b>	we will go," he told us.	07:52.072
<b>"Go tr'enoxel.</b>	"We'll camp here.	07:54.438
<b>Gil yuxudz nuxdal.</b>	Everybody go ahead and get out.	07:55.899
<b>Ngidiq</b>	Up there	07:57.740
<b>xandinalchithinh</b>	the marshall	07:59.814
<b>yoxo yix, yix</b>	their house	08:02.239
<b>yix oxo</b>	(is where) you guys	08:05.103
<b>{eno} enuxil," dina ilne.</b>	you guys will camp," he told us.	08:07.761
<b>Ts'i yitots'i yit</b>	And so there	08:10.978
<b>izre!</b>	it's cold!	08:12.410
<b>{ith yiq} Ngittheh tinh q'idz nazritliyo.</b>	Down there on the ice we're standing.	08:14.133
<b>Xidigal xezron che,</b>	Finally at last,	08:18.428
<b>giligginh,</b>	one person,	08:21.555
<b>chel dina ghinineyo.</b>	a man came to us.	08:23.395

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

<b>“Izredi ndadz uxt’a?” dina alne.</b>	“It’s a cold place, what’s wrong with you all?” he says.	08:26.111
<b>“Ngo xadinalchidhinh, davo ditr’et’a, xalne.</b>	“Well, the marshall, we are to wait for him, they said.	08:30.232 08:32.660
<b>Xidan ixan at?”</b>	Where is he?”	08:35.348
<b>“Ngidiq go dughitux siyil didinuxdal,” dina ilne.</b>	“You all go right up there with me,” he said to us.	08:36.955
<b>“Soda dodiggidhedo,” ne.</b>	“My older sister stays right up here,” he says.	08:40.549
<b>Anh xildik yit xidinanelo.</b>	Then he brought us in there.	08:44.464
<b>Nq’olonh neg, yuxudx yeg</b>	A pretty woman, just like	08:47.386 08:50.016
<b>getiy nq’olonh xezrenh gho xitr’inedatl.</b>	a really nice woman we went in to.	08:53.025
<b>Yitr’ididlitthe, xiyil anh, xadinalchidhinh,</b>	We stayed in there, then someone, the marshall	08:56.619 08:58.550
<b>dina gho, dina ghidineyo.</b>	he came in to us.	09:00.800
<b>“Ay’ot, ‘n a enuxdril,” dina ilne.</b>	“Over there, that’s where you are going to go to bed,” he told us.	09:03.470
<b>“Gil one’,” dina ilne.</b>	“Come along,” he told us.	09:06.410
<b>Viyil tr’itathdatl yitots’i.</b>	Then we went with him.	09:09.127
<b>Yix xichux, xidi dinanelo.</b>	A big house, he brought us in there.	09:12.867 09:14.591
<b>“Gogidet ngidiq xildik, enuxdril,” dina ilne.</b>	“Here it is up there (upstairs), (where) you’ll go to bed,” he told us.	09:16.928 09:19.693
<b>Gila.</b>	OK.	09:22.333
<b>Ngidixi, ngidix tr’itodil</b>	Up there, we start to go up	09:25.335 09:26.592
<b>“Enuxdril xiyix yixe yixatasnel,” dina ilne.</b>	“Where you’ll go to bed I’m showing you,” he told us.	09:28.315 09:32.055
<b>Ts’i yitots’i, viyil ngidiq tr’itathdatl.</b>	And then, we start going up with him.	09:34.390 09:35.941
<b>Tr’enodril xildi dinanol didaghine.</b>	He told us where we’d go to bed.	09:39.096

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]



<b>Ay’ot che che dinanol.</b>	Over there he tells us again.	09:42.778
<b>“Gogidet.</b>	“There it is. [The bathroom]	09:44.794
<b>O,</b>	Oh,	09:46.920
<b>Yuxudz, tthe didhuxtret xingo,</b>	Everyone, before you go to bed,	09:49.250
<b>gon axa duxt’anh,”</b>	use this one,”	09:51.790
<b>dina ilne.</b>	he told us.	09:53.430
<b>Nitl-’an.</b>	I loook at it.	09:56.310
<b>Yiq’i, inisdhinh.</b>	What’s that, I wonder.	09:58.227
<b>Agide ngiyixi didlth’en,</b>	Now the ones downstairs,	10:01.220
<b>xiviq’idz</b>	on top of them	10:04.129
<b>te ditot’el xiye xiviq’idz,</b>	water will drip down on them,	10:06.788
<b>xinotr’idighalvinh,</b>	If we fill it up.	10:09.827
<b>denisdhinh ts’i yuxudz.</b>	I’m thinking of all this.	10:12.635
I don’t wanna go.		10:16.462
<b>Ngiyixi an downstairs didlth’en,</b>	The ones staying downstairs,	10:19.997
<b>xiviq’idz tr’itolitr, inisdhinh ts’i.</b>	I might pee on them, I’m thinking.	10:23.416
<b>Yan’ tthe,</b>	Still,	10:27.740
<b>yixi tr’ididlth’e xiyil an.</b>	we’re just sitting around.	10:30.545
That was New Year’s eve.		10:34.957
And ah...		10:38.806
<b>xadinachidhinh <i>he tell us</i></b>	the marshall...	10:40.530
<b>dina ilne <i>that</i></b>	he tells us...	10:43.510
<b>gasrilnol.</b>	we’ll eat.	10:46.461
<b>“Gila nonuxdidal ngiyiq vav</b>	“Go on downstairs (where there’s) food	10:48.419
<b>yuxoxo</b>	for you	10:51.165
<b>tlits’enh,” dina ilne.</b>	it’s made,” he tells us.	10:52.334
<b>“Ganxitlnek,”</b>	“They cooked,”	10:54.087
<b>dina ilne.</b>	he tells us.	10:55.840
<b>Yitots’i,</b>	Then,	10:57.564
<b>yit xiditr’inedatl.</b>	we go in.	10:59.573
<b>Xiviq’idz galnon chux xildi yit,</b>	(There was) a big table in there,	11:02.056

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

long one,		11:04.481
<b>yix tr'ididlth'e.</b>	(in) the house where we are staying.	11:06.848
<b>Vav neg viq'i dighisdlo.</b>	Nice food was on it.	11:08.718
<b>A yiq'i tax iy.</b>	There was one thing.	11:11.932
<b>Gan yiggin?</b>	What's that thing?	11:13.802
<b>Dits'in dighulchux xiy.</b>	Such a big goose.	11:15.670
<b>Ine' che yuxudz yeg, liq'uł che.</b>	Yet it's all white (meat). [It was a turkey.]	11:18.126
<b>Denisdhinh ts'in', dal'ine.</b>	I wasn't thinking, even so.	11:21.661
<b>Gitr' aghilno' yitots'in'.</b>	Then we ate.	11:23.736
<b>Yitots'i yit gitr' aghilno' ts'i tr'inathdrit.</b>	Then we ate and we went to bed.	11:26.310
<b>Yit vinixilyiq xildi che.</b>	Then morning again.	11:30.283
<b>Iy,</b>	That,	11:32.417
<b>{q'an} q'ugandiyil xiye ntr'itidatl.</b>	we went back into the airplane.	11:33.673
<b>Ngine' xildi Fairbanks,</b>	Then upriver to...	11:36.594
<b>dinayil</b>	with us	11:39.253
<b>niginot'uq.</b>	it starts flying.	11:40.480
<b>Yit che che xildik,</b>	There again then,	11:42.350
<b>{xi} yeg</b>	like	11:44.337
<b>xididinaxinelo</b>	they brought us to	11:46.879
<b>nq'olonh neg,</b>	a nice woman,	11:50.180
<b>vigisraqay longhin,</b>	her children were many,	11:53.135
<b>gho ghisdo'.</b>	I stayed with her.	11:54.829
<b>Yitots'i,</b>	Then,	11:58.364
<b>gee.</b>		12:00.556
<b>One month yi tr'idoltth'e!</b>	...we stayed there!	12:01.812
<b>Ndadz sre' yuxudz yeg</b>	I don't know what all	12:04.325
<b>dixit'anh xingo.</b>	they're doing meanwhile.	12:06.341
<b>Xiday mama?</b>	Where is mama?	12:08.561
<b>“Xighexal an.</b>	“Don't talk.	12:10.680
<b>Yuxudz xinangil'an dixeyan',</b>	Only what you saw,	12:13.178
<b>xoxinexayh,” silne.</b>	tell them,” she told me.	12:15.690

(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

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<b>Yuxudz xildi digist’anh.</b>	So that’s how I did.	12:17.940
So that’s how I did.		12:20.339
<b>Gila.</b>	OK.	12:22.355

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(words added for clarification), {false start}, [note]

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All errors are the responsibility of Alice Taff. Please address comments and corrections to [alicetaff@gmail.com](mailto:alicetaff@gmail.com).