### The University of Maine

# DigitalCommons@UMaine

Dr. Edward D. Ives Papers

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

2024

# Regional Folk Beliefs

Edward D. Ives

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ives\_papers



Part of the Cultural History Commons, Folklore Commons, and the Oral History Commons

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Dr. Edward D. Ives Papers by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

#### Cp80: American Folklore Spring Semester, 1965

Text: Dorson, Richard M., Buying the Wind (Chicago, 1963).

On reserve: Dorson, Richard M., American Folklore. Thompson, Stith, The Folktale.

In the reference room: Thompson, Stith, Motif-Index of Folk Literature
R398.012/T377
Thompson, Stith, The Types of the Folktale
R016.398/Aa74a.

I. Feb. Aims of the Course

Feb. Some Definitions. Collecting Folklore.

Beading: BW 1-20; T 3-10,406-412.

II. Feb.9: Indices and Archives.
Reading: T 406-427

Feb. 11: Belief and Superstitition.
Reading: BW 27-39, 333-340.

Feb.18: Birth and Infancy.

Feb.18: Death and Forerunners

Reading: BW 63-64.

IV. Feb. 23: Luck
Feb. 25: Water-Witching
Reading: BW 319-323.

V. Mar. 2: Plants and Animals
Reading: BW 118-128
Mar. 4: Folk Medicine

Reading: BW 323-332.

DECISION: COLLECTION OR PAPER.

VI. Mar.9: Haalers and Second Sight.
Reading: BW 261-269, 455-459.

Mar.ll: Witches and Wonder Workers.
Reading: BW 55-62, 111-117, 314-319.

VII. Mar.16: Legend: A Definition.

Reading: BW 62-63, 436-441; %(recommended) T 234-271

Mar. 18: The Devil in Belief and Legend

VIII. Mar. 23: MIDTERM PRELIM

Mar. 25: Ghosts and Haunted Houses. PROGNESS REPORT Reading: BW 191-192, 300-313.

#### SPRING VACATION

IX. Apr.6: Guest Lecturer: Ellen Stekert: Wayne State Univ. Apr.8: Legends: Conclusion Reading: BW 295-299.

X. Apr.13: Jokes and Anecdotes Reading: BW 78-94, 129-135, 181-189, 351-358,442-454

Apr. 35: Jokes and Anecdotes.

XI. Apr. 20: The Tall Tale Reading: BW 347-351; AF 199-243

Apr. 22: Tall Tale Heroes
Reading: \*BW 21-161

XII. Apr. 27: Characters and Folk-Heroes.

Reading: BW 40-54, 65-77, 512-522.

Apr. 29: Characters and Folk-Heroes. Reading: \*BW 163-286

XIII. May 4: The Marchen . PAPER DUE.

May 6: The Marchen.
Reading: Bw 168-180, 203-212, 246-260, 341-346
423-435.

IIV. May 11: The Marchen.
Reading: Northeast Folklore IV(1963),1-70

May 13: North American Indian Folklore Reading: \*BW 289-414.

May 203 North American Indian Folklore.
Reading: \*BW 415-535.

Quizzes: You should expect a quiz on any day for which reading has been assigned. Missed quizzes count as zero; in order to have the zero removed, you must give me a written excuse within a week of the cut.

Readings: Assignments that are starred and underlined follow Dorson's regional plan for the book. You will already have read much of the material in each of these sections when we took up the particular genres along the way. Nevertheless, you should either re-read or (at the least) review this material, and of course you should read carefully Dorson's introductions and the material not previously assigned.

Paper: The paper for this course may be either a first-hand collection of tales and legends or a study based on other people's first-hand collections. Let's consider these separately:

l. A Collection: Turn in a collection of about two dezen items (not counting beliefs and superstitions) of folklore interest, following carefully the mimeographed "Guide for Collecting Folklore and Writing the Report for Cp80: American Folklore." There is only one additional instruction: a third to a half (though it could be more) of your collection must be on some special topic. For example, you might include a dozen variants of Max one joke or legend. Or it might be a collection of tales about one specific type of person ("athlete" or "professor" stories). You should have settled on a "special topic" by the March 25

progress report. If there is any aspect of this assignment that you do not understand, please come talk to me about it at your earliest opnvenience.

2. A Study: Usually a study will involve working with material to be found in the Northeast Folklore Society Archives. You should settle on a topic by March 4. Make an appointment with me before that date for this purpose.

Student: Put this page in place of page 7 in the "Guide"

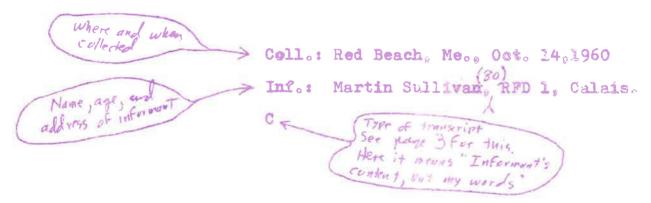
Your name

Harriet Farnham-14- Page number in your collection

(Pulpit Rock)

Title of story. Since title was supplied by the rellector, not the informant, it's in parentheses.

The Devil preached a sermon to the fish on Pulpit Rocks at Robbinston. The Devil did not like the attitude of the haddock. He jumped in and caught one with his thumb and finger. To this day the haddock has dirty marks on each side of its neck where the thumb and finger touched and marks on its sides where the haddock was scratched as it was trying to get away.



Note: Mr. Sullivan did not believe the story; said it was "just a yern he'd heard," but he'd often told the story to his children. He wasn't sure that this is how Pulpit Rock gotz its name, but that's where the story is supposed to have taken place.

This is Motif A 2217.3.2 Marks on certain fish from Devil's fingerprints.

Pot any thing in the notes that hear on informant's attitudes. Also include here any comments he might have made on the story.

And any comparative material you can give.