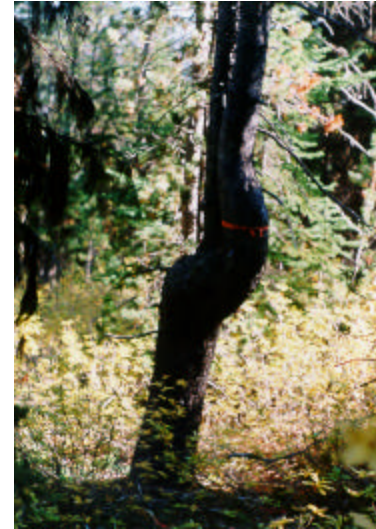


Knotted Trees of the Interior Plateau



A



B

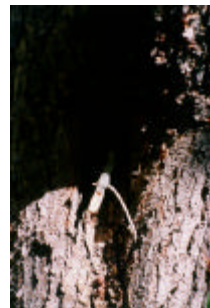


C



Teit, in The Thompson Indians of British Columbia, describes knotted firs at p. 312 as part of a women's puberty rite as follows: "She split small fir trees in two from top to bottom, so that she might be strong of muscle and body. Somewhat larger ones she bent over or twisted around, sometimes tying the ends of the trees into knots. The trees thus treated were from three to five feet high."

Dawson also records knotted firs (1991, Notes on the Shuswap People of British Columbia. Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada Section 11, Part 1, p.13) from Shuswap country "Young fir trees a few feet in height are thus often split and torn apart for several feet or the branches or growing tops tied in knots."



D



A. Knotted tree from two views

B. Knotted tree from two views

C. Trail from knotted tree B to A which leads to cliff viewpoint

D. Underside of knot has a cavity in this case with a branch growing out. Some times small rocks with paint are in the cavity (Teit p.317).a

Photo Credit: Marjorie Serack, Aboriginal Affairs Liaison Officer, Lillooet Forest District