

HOONAH KAHWOO

From Glacier Bay they crossed the waters
In ships of wood carved by hand.
The angry sea rose up to stop them,
but they got through to claim this land.

At their back there stands a forest
At their feet, the restless sea;
All around the mountains guard them
While cloudy skies watch silently.

Overhead there soared the Ravens,
Eagles, too, did share the sky.
The people loved these feathered watchmen
And took their names as time went by.

At their back there stands a forest
At their feet, the restless sea;
All around the mountains guard them
While cloudy skies watch silently.

From salmon deep in salty waters,
From deer and bear in forest glade
Came food for life and clothes for body.
The land was good, the people stayed.

At their back there stands a forest,
At their feet, the restless sea;
All around the mountains guard them
While cloudy skies watch silently.

Then to this land came other peoples
With different ways from other lands.
The Old and New learned from each other;
Some things changed, but some still stand.

At their back there stands a forest,
At their feet, the restless sea;
All around the mountains guard them
While cloudy skies watch silently.

This poem and the song to which it was set were written in
tribute to David Williams by his adopted uncle, Ed Lauritsen