

# WHY THE CRANE HAS A LONG NECK

Story by Marvine Parton Watkins  
24 January 1992  
At Delaware Nation Complex

The story I want to tell is about the crane why he has his long neck. There was a crane and he'd been married and he had two other small cranes. They use to have to go to the lake and fish. So he got tired of taking care of his little ones, so decided that he was going to go away. So he told his wife he was going to die, but he wanted her to bury him in the ground and leave his head out. And he wanted a dish of dry corn that's roasted and beat up like corn meal put in front of him. So she did. And so it went on.

And the little ones had to go and fend for themselves then. So one day they were way out in the lake fishing, and they saw their dad out there, and he had a new girlfriend. He was fishing and he had frogs all around his neck where he had been fishing. They went home, and they said, "Momma, we saw daddy!"

And she said, "No, don't talk about daddy. Daddy's dead."

They said, "No! It was daddy! He was fishing." So they finally convinced her to go with them, so they went down, and sure enough there was daddy. He had just frogs around his neck, and she went over there, and it was him. So they got into it, and they were just fighting. Finally she got hold of his head and was pulling on his neck, and he was going the other way. She stretched his neck, so that's why the crane has a long neck.

