

Brief Biographies of Úrsula Calderón and Cristina Calderón

Cristina Zárraga

Úrsula Calderón Harban was born on the 7th of September, 1925 in Mejillones Bay, Navarino Island. After the death of her mother, when she was barely 7 years old, she lived with her half-sister Dora and her brother Juan. When she was 14, she worked on the Róbaló Ranch, and at age 15, she married José González. Together, they worked hunting sea otters, and during eight years they lived moving from one place to another by boat. They resided in their tent in Puerto Navarino or simply where they anchored at night. Later, they

set up residence on Mascar Island, but, as their children needed to attend school, Úrsula moved to Puerto Williams with the children. José remained on Mascar, raising cattle and sheep. Later, he too lived in Puerto Williams, where he died in 1987, brought down by lung cancer. Today, Úrsula lives with her three children in her house in Villa Ukika in Puerto Williams, and she dedicates herself to handcrafted artistry – weaving baskets of rush, building canoes, needlepoint and knitting – in addition to speaking her native language.*



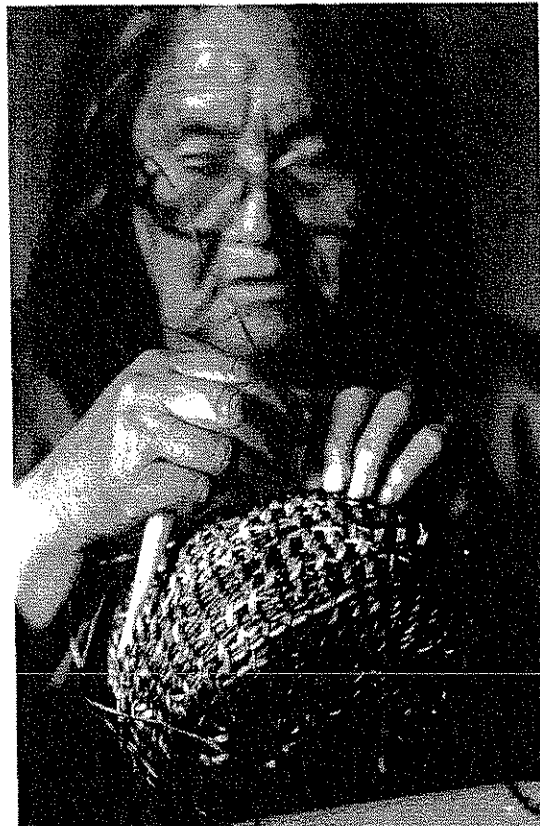
Grandmother Cristina Calderón (left) and her sister Úrsula in the house at Mejillones Bay, Navarino Island, during a break while recordings were made for this multi-ethnic guidebook in February 2001.

*Grandmother Úrsula Calderón died in January 2003. Today she rests in the Cemetery of Mejillones, Navarino Island.

Cristina Calderón Harban was born on the 24th of May, 1928, in Róbaló Bay, Navarino Island. Her infancy passed between the bays of Róbaló and Mejillones. At a very early age her mother died in the latter place. As a result, she remained in the care of her grandfather, Alapainche, who in a short time also passed away. Then she lived with her cousin Clara and also her aunt Kerti. At the age of 16, she was required to live with Felipe Garay, a good man who, although quite a bit older than she (50 years), cared for her during the years that they lived together at Eugenia Ranch at the northern coast of Navarino Island, until

the death of Felipe. From this union three children were born. At age 19, she met Luis Zárraga, a man descended from the disappeared Ona ethnic group. With him and the children, they lived at Harberton Ranch in Argentina for nine years, where six more children were born. Then, they moved to Puerto Williams on Navarino Island, building their house in Villa Ukika in 1960. Later, Luis became sick, dying later in Punta Arenas. In 1964, Cristina united with Teodocio González, with whom she shares her life until today. From this union one daughter was born. Cristina dedicates herself to handcrafted artistry – traditional weaving of rush baskets, making Evergreen Beech bark canoes, knitting and painting – in addition to fluently speaking the Yahgan language.

Villa Ukika, August 2001



Grandmother Cristina Calderón weaving a basket made of rush or ushkulampi (Marsippospermum grandiflorum) in her craft working place in Villa Ukika. Navarino Island, June 2001.

Short Biography of the Mapuche Bird-Man or Ññümche

Lorenzo Aillapan Cayuleo

He is born in the community of Rukatraru (habitat of the *trarú*) on Lake Budi (*Furi leufi*), which lies back to back with the great Pacific Ocean on the southern cone of South America, and is the region's only saltwater lake. He is born with the name *Llankaleu* (precious stone or pearl of the water).

He is the son of farming parents and the grandson of the powerful *lonko* (chief) Aillapan (nine lions or pumas). The *lonko* Aillapan is and was a warrior poet of the Mapuche style before and after the so-called "Pacification of the Araucanía" (when Chile finally took control of the Araucanian or Mapuche territory in about 1880).

The child *Llankaleu* (u) later will be named Lorenzo by the Civil Registry due to the demands of the Chilean law that require "saint's names" for people. At the age of 8 to 9 *Llankaleu* is consecrated and initiated through a dream (*pneuma*) as a bird-man (*ññümche*), bird spirit of the ancient Mapuche cosmovision. This consecration was guided by renowned masters: Master Huaiquián, Master Imio, Master/nuke Kayuleu (six rivers). The university of life with the guidance of wise masters gave him the title of *ññümche* (bird person) as an inheritance for his whole life; the

community and all the people approved the title of Mapuche Bird-Man – until today.

At age 11, Lorenzo went for the first time in primary school (the Methodist School of Rukatraru), and he began to understand the Chilean/Spanish language. After completing his primary education, with the help of the North American benefactors Rann Crawford, Husell Sargent and Nancy Sargent, Lorenzo went to the Methodist Farming School of Nueva Imperial. He also studied at the Men's High School of Nueva Imperial. Later, he completed his higher education and worked in Santiago, the capital of Chile.

Traytrako, August 2001

The poet Lorenzo Aillapan Cayuleo, Mapuche Bird-Man or Ññümche, with photographer Oliver Vogel (center), and ornithologist Steven McGehee (left) at the entrance of the Omora Ethnobotanical Park, Navarino Island, on February 27, 2001, after completing the recordings for this multi-ethnic bird guide.



The voices and stories must continue



For the grandparents and grandchildren
of the birds, *pij*, *ünüm* or *aves*
and the *che*, human beings, *yaganes* or *seres humanos*
that fly (or would like to fly)
as *omora*, *pinda*, hummingbird, *picaflor* or *Sephanoides*
sephaniodes,
from flower to flower in the forests of austral South America,
feeding ourselves and feeding many other living beings,
captivated by the beauty, mystery and delicacy
of the odors, tastes, colors, textures and sounds
that emanate from this inexhaustible fount of biological and
cultural diversity,
flying over the indifference and the dogmatism,
determined to live the risk and vitality of sharing the life with
whom we co-inhabit
these rainy and fecund forests, *ashuna* or *mawida* of the planet,
we must continue listening and permitting the expression of
their multiple voices.

